

R. v. Hades

A One Act Play
Approximate running time: 1 Hour

Written by:
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Cast of Characters:

speaking parts:

Witnesses	Crown Lawyers	Defence Lawyers	Court Personnel
Demeter (D)	Crown Counsel 1	Defence Counsel 1	Judge (J)
Persephone (P)	Crown Counsel 2	Defence Counsel 2	Court Clerk (C)
The Farmer : Tate Oldman (TO)	Crown Counsel 3	Defence Counsel 3	Sheriff
			Jury Foreperson
Hades (HA)			
Zeus (Z)			
Hermes (HE)			

11 jury members - non-speaking

Note: no gavels in Cdn courtrooms!

Stage Set-up:

Court clerk usually sits at desk in front of judge. Judge will start off stage. Witness box will be located to one side of judge, with the counsel's lectern located on the opposite side. Position will change depending on size of stage courtroom. Accused Hades does not sit with his lawyers, but to side with sheriff.

Trial Begins:

Lights up, all characters in place as mentioned above

[Court Clerk]: Order in Court.

Everyone stands as Judge enters the courtroom

[Court Clerk]: In the Supreme Court of British Columbia at
[INSERT OTHER
REGISTRIES/Vancouver] this
[first/23rd/etc.] day of [month],
[year], calling Her Majesty the Queen
against William Cosmo Hades .

[Judge]: You may be seated.

Everyone sits except the clerk

[Judge]: Are all parties present?

All Crown stand

[Crown Counsel 1]: Yes My Lord/Lady. I am [name] and
these are my friends [name] and
[name]. We are acting on
behalf of the Crown in this matter.

Crown sits; Defence stands

[Defense Counsel 1]: My Lord/Lady. I am [name] and
these are my friends [name] and
[name]. We are acting on behalf of
the accused, Mr. Hades. That's spelt H-A-D-E-
S.

Defence sits

[Court Clerk]: Will the accused please stand?

Clerk, defence, and Hades stand

[Court Clerk]: Mr. Hades, you are charged on one count -
that on or about April 4th, 2008, you did with
intent, and against her will, kidnap and confine
the goddess Persephone. Mr. Hades, how do
you plead, guilty or not guilty?

[Hades]: Not guilty.

[Court Clerk]: [*turning to judge*]

The accused pleads not guilty, M'Lady/M'Lord.

[Judge]: [to the jury]

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the jury. Before beginning this trial, I am going to make a few comments about your role here today. As the judge in this case, it is my role to interpret and judge the law. As the jury, you are the judges of the facts and it is your duty to assess the evidence that is presented by the witnesses today. In this sense we might be said to function as a "team".

There are two other principles that are important to your role as jurors. They are the presumption of innocence and the requirement of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

Mr. Hades is presumed to be innocent until the Crown has satisfied you beyond a reasonable doubt that he is guilty. The responsibility is on the Crown to prove each element of the crime Mr. Hades has been charged with beyond a reasonable doubt. Because of the presumption of innocence, Mr. Hades is not required to prove he is not guilty or to explain the evidence presented by the Crown.

Mr. Hades is charged with one crime, the kidnapping of Persephone.

In order for you to find Mr. Hades guilty of kidnapping, the Crown must prove the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

That on or about April 4th, 2008 Mr. Hades kidnapped the complainant, to wit the goddess Persephone;

That this kidnapping was against her will;

That Mr. Hades possessed mental intent in any one of the following three forms:

- Intent to confine Persephone; or
- Intent to cause Persephone to be sent out of Canada; or
- Intent to hold Persephone for ransom or service.

The legal definition of kidnapping requires a movement of a person from one place to another and not simply the placement of a person in an area of confinement.

In the event that you find that the Crown has not proven the elements of kidnapping beyond a reasonable doubt you may consider the included offence of “forcible confinement”. In order for you to find Mr. Hades guilty of forcible confinement, the Crown must prove the following elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

- That on or about April 4th, 2008 Mr. Hades confined, imprisoned, or forcibly seized the complainant, to wit the goddess Persephone;
 - That he intended to confine, imprison, or forcibly seize the complainant; and
 - That he did so without lawful authority.
- The legal definition of forcible confinement does not require total physical restraint of the victim, it is an intentional deprivation of liberty to move from point to point.

I will discuss these matters with you further in my charge to you after the Crown and defence have had their opportunity to present their cases.

I now call the Crown to begin their case.

CC1 stands and goes to lectern

[Crown Counsel 1]: [to the jury]

Members of the jury, myself and my colleagues seated with me represent the Crown in the matter before you. I will keep our opening very brief.

We intend to call several witnesses to testify before you to prove that the accused—Mr. Hades—kidnapped Persephone on April 4, 2008. We would ask as well that you keep in your mind the included charge of forcible confinement as his/her Lordship has advised you. If you find we were not able to prove the charge of kidnapping beyond a reasonable

doubt you may find that the charge of forcible confinement has been proven.

At the end of this trial, we will ask you to return a verdict that the accused, Mr. Hades, is guilty of kidnapping, or the lesser included charge of forcible confinement. Thank You.

CC1 sits

[Judge]: Is the Crown ready to call its first witness?

CC2 stands and approaches lectern

[Crown Counsel 2]: Yes, thank you my Lord/Lady. The Crown calls the goddess Demeter to the stand.

Demeter enters from offstage and goes to witness box

[Court Clerk]: Please take the scroll in your right hand and raise your left hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you Zeus?

[Demeter]: I do.

[Court Clerk]: Please state your full name and address for the record.

[Demeter]: Demeter Goddess of the Earth, 658 Soil Lane, Delta, BC.

[Court Clerk]: Thank you, you may be seated.

CC2 stands and approaches the lectern

[Crown Counsel 2]: Ms. Earth, may I call you Demeter?

[Demeter]: Yes, that's fine.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Demeter, what is your relationship to Persephone?

[Demeter]: She is my daughter.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Can you tell us a little bit about your daughter?

[Demeter]:

Oh, Persephone is the best daughter a mother could ever ask for. She is gentle and kind, and loves nature. Her smile is like sunshine. Not to mention she is extremely beautiful – she takes after me in that department.

[Crown Counsel 2]:

So you get along well with your daughter

[Demeter]:

Oh yes, we are very close. She is my heart's joy.

[Crown Counsel 2]:

Does Persephone talk to you about her life and ask you for advice?

[Demeter]:

Yes, we tell each other everything, and she always listens to my wisdom and advice.

[Crown Counsel 2]:

Demeter, can you tell us about what happened on April 4th, 2008?

[Demeter]:

Yes... that was a horrible day. I was out for a walk in the fields, when I saw Persephone picking flowers in the distance. All of a sudden I saw a golden Porsche chariot drawn by four black horses burst through the earth. The driver of the chariot got out and snatched Persephone into the chariot, and then plunged back into the ground. She was gone within seconds.

[Crown Counsel 2]:

What happened next?

[Demeter]:

I realized that my daughter had been taken into the Underworld. I was very angry. I left town, and took time off work to mourn the loss of my daughter.

[Crown Counsel 2]:

You say that your daughter was taken. Is it possible that Persephone wanted to go to the Underworld?

[Defense Counsel 1]:

Objection.

DC1 stands and CC2 sits.

[Defense Counsel 1]:

M'lord/M'lady my friend is asking the witness to speculate about the state of mind of a third party.

CC2 stands and DC1 sits back down

[Crown Counsel 2]:

I'm asking the witness to give some context to what she saw, she was observing her daughter with whom she had a close relationship. She is fully able to testify as to her observations of her daughter's state of mind.

[Judge]:

Counsel, your objection is noted, but I will allow the question. The witness will answer the question, please.

[Demeter]:

No, Persephone would never do something so irresponsible. And anyway, she would never leave like that without asking me first.

[Crown Counsel 2]:

Thank you. I have no more questions.

CC2 sits

[Judge]:

Does the defence wish to cross-examine the witness?

DC1 stands

[Defense Counsel 1]:

Yes, M'lord/M'lady.

[Defense Counsel 1]:

Demeter, you say that you saw the chariot take away Persephone with your own eyes, is that right?

[Demeter]:

Yes, I saw all of it. It was awful.

[Defense Counsel 1]:

Demeter, I'm going to show you something now...

DC1 produces a piece of paper, shows it first to CC2 (who looks shocked) and then places it in front of Demeter.

...I've just shown my friend this, do you recognize this Demeter?

[Demeter]: Yes, this is from my Visa card, it's my credit card statement from April 2008.

[Defense Counsel 1]: M'lord/M'lady, the defence would ask that this be marked as the next exhibit.

[Judge]: Very well.

[Court Clerk]: Exhibit A, M'lord/M'lady.

Clerk makes note on paper, but leaves the paper in front of D

[Defense Counsel 1]: Demeter, can you please read to us the charges on your credit card statement on April 4th, 2008?

[Demeter]: ...\$50 at Athens Airport Lounge...\$120 at Toga Fashions, Athens...\$480 at Achilles Shoes, Athens...\$500 at the Olympus Hotel, Athens.

[Defense Counsel 1]: So, you were not actually in BC on April 4th, 2008, were you? You were on a shopping spree in Greece – isn't that right?

[Demeter]: Yes, I mean no, I mean...

[Defense Counsel 1]: Well, according to this Visa statement you were in Athens, Greece, isn't that right?

[Demeter]: ...Yes... That's right...

[Defense Counsel 1]: So you couldn't have actually seen what happened to Persephone on April 4th, 2008, could you?

[Demeter]: Well, no... but I know exactly what happened to her!

[Defense Counsel 1]: If you weren't there, how do you know what happened?

[Demeter]: Helios the sun told me. He sees everything, so I know for sure that is what happened.

[Defense Counsel 1]: He sees everything. So Helios is the one who told you about the Porsche chariot?

[Demeter]: Yes

[Defense Counsel 1]: Did Helios tell you the color of that Porsche?

[Demeter]: Yes. It was golden...

[Defense Counsel 1]: Helios—who sees everything—told you that Persephone was pulled into a golden Porsche?

[Demeter]: Yes, I'm sure that's what happened.

[Defense Counsel 1]: But you didn't actually see what happened with your own eyes, as you just testified in this Court, did you?

[Demeter]: No.

[Defense Counsel 1]: No further questions, M'lord/M'lady.

DC1 sits

[Judge]: Would the Crown like to re-examine the witness?

CC2 stands

[Crown Counsel 2]: No M'lord/M'lady.

CC2 sits

[Judge]: *[to witness]* You may step down.

Demeter leaves witness box and exits stage

[Judge]: Please call your next witness.

CC3 stands and approaches lectern

[Crown Counsel 3]: Thank you M'lord/M'lady. The Crown calls Tate Oldman to the stand

TO enters stage and sits in witness box

[Court Clerk]: Please take the scroll in your right hand and raise your left hand. Do you promise to tell the

truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you Zeus?

[Tate Oldman]:

I do.

[Court Clerk]:

Please state your full name and address for the record.

[Tate Oldman]:

Tate Oldman. I live at 57 Manure Lane in Delta.

[Court Clerk]:

You may sit.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Mr. Oldman, how old are you?

[Tate Oldman]:

What? You're gonna have to speak up sonny [missy]?

[Crown Counsel 3]: [Shouts]

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

[Tate Oldman]:

All right I heard you. No need to yell. My age, eh? When you're as old as I am, you stop keeping count. But last time I checked I was 84.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

So you're 84. And do you still work?

[Tate Oldman]:

You bet I do. Working – that's what keeps a man young! None of this, sittin' around business, watching the "Wheel of Fortuna" and other such nonsense.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Okay, then what is it you do for a living?

[Tate Oldman]:

Well, I'm a self- employed business man.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Could you please tell the court what you were doing on the afternoon of April 4, 2008.

[Tate Oldman]:

I was out walking.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

And I understand that you observed an incident which brings you to court today. Can you tell us about that?

[Tate Oldman]:

Like I said, I was out walking and I saw that Persephone girl out pickin' flowers. Like she had nothing better to do. You know in my day, kids worked, we were up with the sun, feedin' the chickens and...

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Yes, but if I could just get you back to the afternoon of the 4th...

[Tate Oldman]:

Yeah right, well I saw her and I saw this black chariot come racing out of nowhere ... kids these days have no regard for traffic rules!

[Crown Counsel 3]:

What happened then?

[Tate Oldman]:

Well it squealed to a stop right beside Persephone. She turns around and looks inside when the door opens. At first looks happy, but then this arm comes out and grabs her and she starts screaming like a banshee. She gets pulled in and then the chariot pulls away and roars off.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

And how far away were you when you saw this?

[Tate Oldman]:

Oh, I'd say about 20 yards.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Did you get a look at the driver or anyone else in the chariot?

[Tate Oldman]:

No, it had those fancy dark windows the kids are into these days.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Did you notice the make and model of the chariot?

[Tate Oldman]:

No, I don't know much about chariots anymore. The bureaucrats up at the Olympus DMV took away my license a few years back. Says I'm not fit to drive anymore...me, not fit...it's them that ain't fit to run this province...I don't even drink...

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Okay that's all the questions I have for you sir.

CC3 sits and DC2 stands at the lectern

- [Defense Counsel 2]:** So you're 84 years-old Mr. Oldman?
- [Tate Oldman]:** That's what I said, isn't it?
- [Defense Counsel 2]:** [Whispering] And you're starting to have some trouble hearing, isn't that right?
- [Tate Oldman]:** What, what did you say?
- [Defense Counsel 2]:** [Louder] I said you have trouble hearing, isn't that right?
- [Tate Oldman]:** Yes, these ears ain't what they used to be.
- [Defense Counsel 2]:** And you mentioned that the DMV took away your license; I assume that had something to do with your age?
- [Tate Oldman]:** Don't ask me why those idiots do what they do. And to think, it's my good tax dollars that pay them their salaries.
- [Defense Counsel 2]:** Could it be they took away your license because you have trouble seeing?
- [Tate Oldman]:** [Insulted] Young man [/lady], I see as good as the day I was born.
- [Defense Counsel 2]:** Yes, well, you said you were about 20 yards away from the incident?
- [Tate Oldman]:** That's right.
- [Defense Counsel 2]:** It is possible you have trouble seeing that far?
- [Tate Oldman]:** No, like I said, I've got 20/20 vision. Back in the Trojan War, it was my job to look out for snipers. They called me Eagle Eye's Tate and I was...
- [Defense Counsel 2]:** [interrupts] Yes, okay Mr. Oldman. Now what did you say your job is again?
- [Tate Oldman]:** Well, I'm a businessman.

[Defense Counsel 2]:

And what kind of business exactly?

[Tate Oldman]:

Well...[uncomfortable]...I deal with agriculture....

[Defense Counsel 2]:

You're a farmer aren't you Mr. Oldman?

[Tate Oldman]:

Yes, I am.

[Defense Counsel 2]:

It's been rough for farmers lately, what with Persephone gone and Demeter refusing to allow anything to grow until she returns?

[Tate Oldman]:

Yes, but not as rough as during the "Great Diet Depression" when Demeter decided nothing could grow because she was too fat and couldn't have any food around. Now those were some lean times, we had to make shoes out of clay and...

[Defense Counsel 2]:

Yes, but this latest depression has really put you out and made you angry with whoever **allegedly** took Persephone?

[Tate Oldman]:

You want to know if I'm mad? Sure I'm mad. Mad at the whole darn system which allows an emotional goddess to decide whether my crops grow or not.

[Defense Counsel 2]:

And you've come here today with a story that you hope will bring Persephone back and get your crops growing as soon as possible?

[Tate Oldman]:

I may be mad, but I ain't telling stories. I saw what I saw. And I'm telling it like it is.

[Defense Counsel 2]:

Yes, well. Those are all my questions.

[Judge]:

Anything arising?

CC3 stands

[Crown Counsel 3]:

No M'lord/lady.

CC3 sits

[Judge]: *[to witness]* You may step down.

Tate Oldman leaves witness box and exits stage

[Judge]: Is the Crown ready to call its next witness?

CC2 stands and approaches lectern

[Crown Counsel 1]: Yes, thank you my Lord/Lady. The Crown calls Persephone Earth to the stand.

Persephone enters from offstage and goes to witness box

[Court Clerk]: Would you like to swear or affirm an oath

[Persephone]: I'll swear

[Court Clerk]: Please take the scroll in your right hand and raise your left hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you Zeus?

[Persephone]: I do.

[Court Clerk]: Please state your full name for the record, and spell your last name

[Persephone]: Persephone Earth. E-A-R-T-H.

[Crown Counsel 1]: How old are you Ms. Earth?

[Persephone]: I'm almost 20—I'm, 19 years old. My birthday is March 27th.

[Crown Counsel 1]: So on April 4th, 2008, you were 19, the age of majority in British Columbia?

[Persephone]: Yes that's right.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And where do you live?

[Persephone]: 658, Soil Lane, Delta, BC

[Crown Counsel 1]: And what do you do for a living, do you work, are you a student?

[Persephone]: I'm taking a few classes in astrology right now, you know, for reading horoscopes and stuff... at the community college.

[Crown Counsel 1]: I see, can you tell us about the day of April 4, 2008, the day of the incident which brings us to court today? Describe what you were doing, what you saw....

[Persephone]: Well, I went for a walk in the morning before I was gonna go to class and I decided to go out past Ol' Man Tate's farm just down the road 'cause there is this wicked patch of flowers right in front of his place. I wanted to pick some to, uh, put in a healing herbal tea to give to my mom. I hoped it would make her chill out a bit.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Chill out?

[Persephone]: Yeah, she's so tense, stressed—she's a Scorpio you know. She's always like "Where are you going? Where've you been? Stop listening to your IPOD so loud!"

[Crown Counsel 1]: I see, go on—what happened next?

[Persephone]: So, like I said, I was picking flowers and then outta nowhere, this black Porsche Carrera GT rips up the road and pulls up to me, a door opens and I felt myself getting pulled in. I guess I must have fainted because the next thing I know, I wake up in this huge basement. I started freaking out and looked around a bit. It was, like, a castle, man—just huge.

[Crown Counsel 1]: So, you got a good look at the chariot—enough to see the make and model?

[Persephone]: Yeah, I'm in to fast chariots.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Did you see the driver?

[Persephone]: It was him (points to defendant)- Billy Hades! Lord of the No-Fun-derworld!!

[Crown Counsel 1]: How can you be sure? You say you fainted when you got in the chariot?

[Persephone]: Well, I'd seen him around, in town before—and it was Hades who kept me prisoner at his castle.

[Crown Counsel 1]: You saw him at the castle?

[Persephone]: Yeah, it was his pad. He owns the whole thing. He wouldn't let me leave. He said there was an invisible electric fence surrounding the house. Other than that, I was free to roam around and hang out, play the PS3 and the Nintendo Wii.

[Crown Counsel 1]: But, he just grabbed you and pulled you into his chariot, right out of the blue?

[Persephone]: Into his Porsche, yeah.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And you didn't want to go with him?

[Persephone]: No

[Crown Counsel 1]: And you wanted to leave when you woke up and found yourself in the castle?

[Persephone]: Um yeah, I wanted to get out of there.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Can you recall how many days that you were at the castle?

[Persephone]: 2 or 3 I think.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And how did you escape?

[Persephone]: Hermes came and saved me.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Thank you Ms. Earth, no further questions My Lord/Lady.

CC1 sits

[Judge]: Any cross examination?

DC3 stands at the lectern

[Defense Counsel 3]: Yes M'lord/M'lady

[Judge]: Go ahead...

[Defense Counsel 3]: You say you'd seen Hades "around" before?

[Persephone]: Yes.

[Defense Counsel 3]: In fact, isn't he related to you—he's your uncle?

[Persephone]: Yes.

[Defense Counsel 3]: Is it fair to say, Ms. Earth, that in fact, at the time of the incident, you were actually friends? BFF's in fact?

[Persephone]: No, not BFFs.

[Defense Counsel 3]: But you were friends.

[Persephone]: I guess....we'd hang out sometimes.

[Defense Counsel 3]: You say your mother was stressed? Is it fair to say that you didn't get along very well?

[Persephone]: (shrugs) I guess....

[Defense Counsel 3]: Didn't you mention this to Hades on a prior occasion—that you didn't get along with your mother?

[Persephone]: I might have.

[Defense Counsel 3]: (Aggressive) In fact, Ms. Earth, didn't you tell Hades before April 4 that you wanted to "escape from the clutches of your controlling mother"? Isn't that right?

[Persephone]: Woah dude, you are way tense right now—are you an Aquarius? You must be, the moon is pulling strong in that area right now—

[Defense Counsel 3]: Ms. Earth, please answer the question- Did

you speak to Hades about wanting to get away from your mother?

[Persephone]:

It might have come up, yeah.

[Defense Counsel 3]:

Alright Ms. Earth, let's move to the days that you spent at the castle- you remember these days?

[Persephone]:

Yes.

[Defense Counsel 3]:

You said you were allowed to play with the PS3 and the Nintendo wii?

[Persephone]:

Yeah, I played a lot of "Rockband"—I'm pretty good on the drums.

[Defense Counsel 3]:

And you had your own room, complete with queen size bed?

[Persephone]:

Ya, and a giant in room hot-tub shaped like the letter H.

[Defense Counsel 3]:

So is it fair to say that you were treated "like royalty?"

[Persephone]:

I guess so—except for the fact that I couldn't leave.

[Defense Counsel 3]:

Couldn't leave...right.. didn't Hades tell you the code to the electric fence?

[Persephone]:

No.

[Defense Counsel 3]:

Isn't it true that you actually wanted to stay there? That you liked this new regal life?

[Persephone]:

Well, I, uh...

[Defense Counsel 3]:

And that you knew, by eating something-just one thing- that you could stay forever?

[Crown Counsel 1]:

Objection M'lord/M'lady, I would ask that my friend be directed to let the witness finish her answer to the question.

[Judge]: Please let her finish counsel- Ms. Earth, please continue.

[Persephone]: I liked it there, sure, but I didn't want to stay forever.

[Defense Counsel 3]: Did you eat anything during your time in the Underworld?

[Persephone]: No, I didn't eat anything.

[Defense Counsel 3]: Not a snack, not one BC salmon roll on the sly, not one piece of fruit, not even some teeny tiny pomegranate seeds?

[Persephone]: (screams) I was starving ok! I hadn't eaten in 2 days, so I, I grabbed something off the buffet table in the great hall!

[Defense Counsel 3]: What did you grab?

[Persephone]: I don't know for sure, I think it may have been some pomegranate seeds.

[Defense Counsel 3]: And you ate them?

[Persephone]: (sobs) yes...but only 3 or 4 seeds, I swear!

[Defense Counsel 3]: (offers tissue) Didn't you see the sign beside the all you can eat sushi buffet in the great hall that read: "Warning: If you eat the food, you can't leave. Ever."?

[Persephone]: I don't recall, there may have been a sign at the fruit stand...but I don't remember.

[Defense Counsel 3]: Thank you, no further questions.

[Judge]: Any re-examination of the witness?

CC1 stands at the lectern

[Crown Counsel 1]: Yes M'lord/lady.

[Judge]: Go ahead...

[Crown Counsel 1]: Did you ever see a sign stating that you could not eat the food?

[Persephone]: No.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Did Mr. Hades lead you to believe that there might be such a sign?

[Persephone]: No, I remember him saying... he said that there are no rules in Hades... That's why I liked it you know, I didn't want to go but no rules and Rockband? That's a lifestyle I like.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And being stuck in the underworld for eating three seeds is a pretty serious rule isn't it?

[Persephone]: Well, yeah, I didn't want to stay, no matter the perks.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Why did you stay?

[Persephone]: He told me I had to, there's a moat and an electric fence and all that.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Are you inventing this story about being kidnapped?

[Persephone]: No why would I do that?

[Crown Counsel 1]: Did you at any time agree to be taken to the Underworld?

[Persephone]: No! It's a horrible place!

[Crown Counsel 1]: Did you at any time on April 4, 2008 even agree to a ride from Mr. Hades?

[Persephone]: Absolutely not.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Those are my questions.

[Judge]: Thank you [to the witness] you may step down miss.

P exits

[Crown Counsel 2]:

That concludes the witnesses for the Crown
M'lord/M'lady

CC1 sits

[Judge]:

Ok, [to defence] counsel would you like to
make your opening statement?

DC1 stands at the lectern

[Defense Counsel 1]:

Yes M'lord/M'lady

[Judge]:

very well, go ahead.

[Defense Counsel 1]: [to jury]

This is the first opportunity that we the Defence
has had to address you—members of the
jury—directly. As did my friend, I intend to
keep this opening brief.

You have heard the Crown's case, moreover
you have heard the problems with their own
witnesses testimony. I would ask you to keep
those inconsistencies in your mind as you hear
our side of the story. We will call witnesses to
tell you how Persephone wanted to go to the
Underworld, how she wanted to stay, and even
how Mr. Hades sought permission on her
behalf.

Most importantly, members of the jury, Mr.
Hades has a right not to testify at his own trial.
This is a very important right in our legal
system. Mr. Hades has given up that right so
that he might testify, in front of you, and tell you
his side of the story. I ask that you do not take
this lightly ladies and gentlemen, and I ask you
to listen carefully to his version of events.

At the end of this trial, we will ask you to return
a verdict that the accused, Mr. Hades, is NOT
guilty of kidnapping, or the lesser included
charge of forcible confinement. Thank You.

DC1 sits

[Judge]: Is the Defence ready to call its first witness?

DC2 stands and approaches lectern

[Defense Counsel 2]: Yes, thank you M'Lord/M'Lady. The Defence calls the accused, Mr. Hades, to the stand.

Hades moves to the witness box

[Court Clerk]: Please take the scroll in your right hand and raise your left hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you Zeus?

[Hades]: I do.

[Defense Counsel 2]: Mr. Hades, you reside in the underworld, is that correct?

[Hades]: Yes, that's right.

[Defense Counsel 2]: What is your occupation?

[Hades]: Lord of the Dead, Ruler of the Underworld.

[Defense Counsel 2]: And where is this Underworld?

[Hades]: It's located about 12 km underneath the Lower Mainland.

[Defense Counsel 2]: But you sometimes visit this "over"-world, don't you?

[Hades]: Yes. I meet with the other gods and goddesses from time to time.

[Defense Counsel 2]: Did you ever meet with the goddess Persephone?

[Hades]: Yes, she's my niece. We used to hang out every time I visited Mount Olympus. Persephone liked to go for rides in my chariot. Sometimes I let her hold the reins. She was really fun to talk to – so sunny and cheerful, in

contrast to all the dead people I usually hang out with.

[Defense Counsel 2]:

Could you describe in your own words the events of April 4, 2008?

[Hades]:

I was on a business trip to Mount Olympus. On my way to a meeting with Zeus I stopped to meet Persephone. She was very upset. She was usually so happy and positive, it just broke my heart. I wanted to do whatever I could to make her happy. I asked her what was wrong, and she told me that her mother was ruining her life. Demeter had all these strict rules that she had to follow – she had to do her homework *every night*. And she had a curfew of 11:00 p.m. on school nights! Worst of all, Persephone said that Demeter took her iPod away when she got a C- in Ancient History. She told me life without her iPod was like being deprived of *oxygen*. I don't know much about teenagers, but it seemed to me that the best way to make Persephone happy would be to let her do all the things that she wanted to do, whenever she wanted to do them. So I told her to stop crying, and said that I would fix this problem.

[Defense Counsel 2]:

Then what did you do?

[Hades]:

I went to my business meeting with Zeus. He is Persephone's father, you know. He and Demeter don't get along very well. But he's the King of the Gods, so what he says goes. I asked Zeus if Persephone could come live with me. He thought it was a fine idea.

[Defense Counsel 2]:

Did you ask Demeter?

[Hades]:

No. I didn't think I needed her permission. I didn't really need Zeus's permission, either. But he's my big brother so I always like to ask him for advice.

[Defense Counsel 2]:

What happened next?

[Hades]: I picked up Persephone in my chariot. We went for a ride, and I invited her to come live in the underworld with me. I told her she wouldn't have to obey any silly rules anymore. She could live in luxury and all she'd have to do in return was cheer the place up a little. The underworld can be pretty dark and dreary.

[Defense Counsel 2]: And did she agree?

[Hades]: Yes! She said she'd read the Twilight series four times, dark and dreary wasn't a problem. She said if the underworld was anything like Oregon, she'd want to stay forever. So, we headed back to my place.

[Defense Counsel 2]: Then what happened?

[Hades]: Well, I gave Persephone the grand tour. She had her own room, with a PS3, a Nintendo Wii and queen size bed. I told her she could do whatever she wanted, because there is only one rule in the Underworld: If you eat the food, you have to stay forever.

[Defense Counsel 2]: Forever?

[Hades]: Yes, forever. If you're not dead, you can come and go. But if you eat the food of the dead, you must remain in the land of the dead.

[Defense Counsel 2]: Who made this rule?

[Hades]: Not me. It's not really a "law", it's a "law of nature". Like gravity.

[Defense Counsel 2]: Who enforces this "law of nature"?

[Hades]: Nobody. Like I said, it's like gravity. If you eat the food of the dead, you just physically can't leave, no matter how hard you try.

[Defense Counsel 2]: Well, that's a pretty harsh law. What if somebody ate the food of the dead without knowing the rule?

[Hades]: Impossible! First, anyone who comes down to the underworld is my guest, and I tell all my guests about the rule. And second, at Black Spot – that’s the underworld banquet hall – there is a huge sign that says “Warning: if you eat the food, you can’t leave. Ever.” My lawyers made me put it up after that crazy woman snuck in here with her baby Achilles.

[Defense Counsel 2]: But Persephone ate the food, and she’s here today. Why is that?

[Hades]: Well, she only ate 3 pomegranate seeds. That’s practically nothing. So the force of this natural law isn’t strong enough to hold Persephone here permanently. She can spend up to 6 months away before she is compelled to return.

[Defense Counsel 2]: Did you trick Persephone into staying forever?

[Hades]: Absolutely not. I just wanted her to be able to do what she wanted to do! I didn’t realize what she wanted to do might not be so good for her after all. Let me tell you, being stuck with a whiny teenager for 6 months of every year for all eternity is no picnic!

[Defense Counsel 2]: One last question Mr. Hades, you said you picked up Persephone in your Porsche chariot on April 4, 2008, what color is that chariot?

[Hades]: I got it in “Midnight Black”

[Defense Counsel 2]: No further questions.

DC2 sits

[Judge]: Thank you, any cross examination?

CC2 stands at the lectern

[Crown Counsel 2]: Yes M’lord/M’lady

[Judge]: Go ahead

[Crown Counsel 2]: Mr. Hades, the Underworld isn't a very pleasant place, is it?

[Hades]: Well ... no. I wouldn't call it pleasant.

[Crown Counsel 2]: It's full of dead people?

[Hades]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Unhappy dead people?

[Hades]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Moaning unhappy dead people?

[Hades]: That's right.

[Crown Counsel 2]: In fact, you don't get any natural light in the Underworld, do you?

[Hades]: No, it's lit by candles that burn blue flames.

[Crown Counsel 2]: So it's safe to say that the Underworld is a pretty depressing place, isn't it?

[Hades]: It can be.

[Crown Counsel 2]: So depressing that you'd do anything to cheer it up, wouldn't you?

[Hades]: No, not *anything*.

[Crown Counsel 2]: But if you could, you would take measures to cheer it up, fair statement?

[Hades]: Sure, yeah I would.

[Crown Counsel 2]: And, in early 2008 you were miserable as Lord of the Underworld, living in your dark and gloomy underground palace with nobody but dead people to keep you company, weren't you?

[Hades]: I was.... It was a sad period for me, yes.

[Crown Counsel 2]: And because of that loneliness you hatched an evil plan to kidnap Persephone – the happiest person you knew – to force her to share your misery, didn't you?

[Hades]: No, not at all! I wanted to help Persephone!

[Crown Counsel 2]: How did you help her? Didn't you take her away from her mother?

[Hades]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 2]: And took her to a dark and gloomy place filled with dead people?

[Hades]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 2]: And that was helping her?

[Hades]: Yes... well, she hated the rules at home so I took her to Hades where there are no rules.

[Crown Counsel 2]: But, in fact, if she ever wanted to see daylight again, she had one pretty big rule to obey, didn't she?

[Hades]: Yeah, I guess she did.

[Crown Counsel 2]: But you didn't tell her about this rule before she went with you to the Underworld, did you?

[Hades]: No, I didn't.

[Crown Counsel 2]: I put it to you that you in fact *never* told her about this rule before or after you took her to the underworld.

[Hades]: I did! At least ... I think I did. I can't remember. But I always tell my guests about it.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Isn't it possible that you can't remember telling her because you didn't tell her?

[Hades]: Yes... I don't know...

[Crown Counsel 2]: Now, this warning sign of yours. You just have the one sign?

[Hades]: Yes.

[Crown Counsel 2]: But the “Black Spot” is pretty big, isn’t it?

[Hades]: Yes, it’s in a large cavern.

[Crown Counsel 2]: And there are seven tables of food, aren’t there?

[Hades]: Yes, right, and a desert cart.

[Crown Counsel 2]: And the light from those blue candles is pretty dim, isn’t it?

[Hades]: After a while, your eyes adjust to the dark.

[Crown Counsel 2]: So it would have been possible for Persephone to miss the sign, wouldn’t it?

[Hades]: Well, I guess it would be *possible*...

[Crown Counsel 2]: Do you think Persephone wanted to stay in the Underworld forever?

[Hades]: Why wouldn’t she? I gave her everything she wanted!

[Crown Counsel 2]: But even *you* don’t stay in the Underworld *all the time*. And even you got lonely and depressed there. Wouldn’t Persephone feel the same way?

[Hades]: But we had each other! Everything was going to be different.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Mr. Hades, I’m going to show you something, do you recognize this?

CC2 holds up small-ish sign with black background and blue letters. Sign says “Warning: if you eat the food, you can’t leave. Ever.”

[Hades]: I’m sorry, I can’t read that. Could you move a little closer, please?

[Crown Counsel 2]: [moves closer.] Can you read it now?

[Hades]: Yes, that's the sign from the Black Spot banquet hall.

[Crown Counsel 2]: [to Judge] Could this be marked as the next exhibit?

CC2 hands the sign to the Clerk

[Court Clerk]: Exhibit "B" M'Lord/M'lady

[Crown Counsel 2]: [to Hades] I have no further questions.

[Judge]: Re-examination?

DC2 stands

[Defense Counsel 2]: None M'lord/lady.

DC2 sits

[Judge]: [to witness] You may step down.

HA leaves witness box and returns to the accused box

[Judge]: Is the Defence ready to call its next witness?

DC3 stands and approaches lectern

[Defense Counsel 3]: Thank you M'lord/M'lady [booming voice, with arms outstretched] the Defence calls Zeus to the stand.

Zeus enters proudly (maybe some trumpets here), is stopped by the Sheriffs who scan him with a metal detector (which beeps like crazy). Zeus rolls his eyes and, in an impatient manner, dumps the Keys to Olympus and, after further rummaging in his robes, a lightning bolt in the bowl. He makes a dismissive gesture with his hand and walks to the witness stand

[Court Clerk]: Please take the [scroll] in your right hand and raise your left hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you Zeus... I mean... so help you... you?

[Zeus]: Of course. What I say is truth... even when it isn't.

[Court Clerk]: Please state your full name and address for the record.

[Zeus]: Zeus. King of Gods, God of Sky and Thunder. 1432 Pantheon Drive, Apartment A, Mount Olympus.

[Court Clerk]: Thank you, you may be seated.

[Defense Counsel 3]: Zeus, when you say you are the "King of Gods", what do you mean?

[Zeus]: Well, I am the boss... the Supreme God, head honcho, the "Big Guy". I sit on a throne, I have thunderbolts, a sceptre. I'm actually kind of a big deal.

[Defense Counsel 3]: So, as 'the boss', do people—even Gods—have to do what you say?

[Zeus]: You better believe it! And you only need to pick up any of the many myths, all true, written about me to know what happens if you don't! I turn people into mountains, hit them with lightning, tie them to fiery wheels for eternity... I have a bit of a temper, and what I say is the law around here!

[Defense Counsel 3]: What is your relationship to the accused?

[Zeus]: Hades is my brother... but I'm also his boss. I'm the successful one in the family.

[Defense Counsel 3]: So, if you told your brother he could do something?

[Zeus]: Then he could... he should... he MUST!

[Defense Counsel 3]: What did you tell your brother about taking Persephone for a, uh... field-trip to the Underworld?

[Zeus]: I told him he could. I even told him how. The whole Earth opening up thing was my idea. Successful and smart (pointing to himself). Hades could never come up with something like that on his own.

[Defense Counsel 3]: So it was your idea?

[Zeus]: Yeah.

[Defense Counsel 3]: You told him he could?

[Zeus]: Yup.

[Defense Counsel 3]: And your word is the law?

[Zeus]: Of course.

[Defense Counsel 3]: Thank you. No more questions.

[Judge]: Does the Crown wish to cross-examine the witness?

CC3 stands at the lectern

[Crown Counsel 3]: Yes M'Lord/M'lady

[Judge]: Alright go ahead.

[Crown Counsel 3]: Zeus, have you ever....

Zeus's phone rings

[Zeus]: [into his phone, oblivious to the Court] Yeah I Knoooooow... and then, like I told her, you better not mess with Heracles, and she was like, "no you didn't", and I got all like "do you *know* what happened to the Titans?"...

Zeus is looking around the shocked Court

[Zeus]: What? WHAT? Look, I'm busy, and my people need me.

[Judge]: [angry]

Order in the Court! I will remind the witness where he is. This is a Court of Law, cell-phones are not allowed and you will show this Court the respect it deserves.

[Zeus]: [angry]

RESPECT? Who do you think you're talking to? I'm ZEUS! On Mount Olympus I AM the Law.

[Judge]:

I will remind the witness we are NOT ON Mount Olympus. We are in the Supreme Court of British Columbia dealing with very serious charges... and HERE, in this Court, in this Province, in this Country the Law is what is written by the peoples' representatives in Parliament, not some self-appointed dictator in a toga!

[Zeus]:

I should smite you with my lightning bolt!

Zeus looks in pockets... then looks over at the sheriff and sees him holding the bolt, smiling and waving it at Zeus. He seems afraid and, turning to the judge, asks meekly

(ahem) ...So I show respect or you'll do what?

[Judge]:

You will be charged with contempt of court.

[Zeus]:

Okay [into the phone] I've gotta go, I'm at this...thing..[hangs up, to CC3] What was the question?

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Thank you. Do you recognize this book?

CC3 holds up the Criminal Code?

[Zeus]:

No.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Please let the record show I am holding a copy of the Canadian *Criminal Code*. So, Zeus, if I told you that this book includes all of the criminal offences in this country, including kidnapping, the charge your brother is facing, that's news to you?

[Zeus]:

I guess?

[Crown Counsel 3]:

So you didn't write this book, didn't inspire it, didn't demand it?

[Zeus]:

No.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

So, it would be safe to say then that in this Court, this country, you are NOT the law?

[Zeus]:

Well... I mean... maybe... okay no, I'm not.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

And, if you're not the law, telling someone they can do something against the law wouldn't make it okay, would it?

[Zeus]:

I guess... unless we were on Mount Olympus... maybe not.

[Crown Counsel 3]:

Thank you my lady/lord. No more questions.

[Judge]:

Any re-examination?

DC2 stands

[Defense Counsel 3]:

None M'lord/lady.

DC2 sits

[Judge]: *[to witness]*

You may step down.

[Zeus]:

Yes my lord/lady...

Zeus meekly leaves the court, picking up things from the sheriff as he leaves

[Judge]:

Is the Defence ready to call its next witness?

DC1 stands and approaches lectern

[Defense Counsel 1]:

Yes M'lord/m'lady. The Defence calls Hermes to the stand.

Hermes enters the witness box

[Court Clerk]:

Would you like to swear or affirm an oath?

[Hermes]:

I'll affirm.

[Court Clerk]: Do you solemnly affirm that the evidence you shall give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you Zeus?

[Hermes]: I do.

[Court Clerk]: Please state and spell your full name for the record.

[Hermes]: Hermes, H-E-R-M-E-S.

[Court Clerk]: No last name?

[Hermes]: I'm like Rihanna- I can pull off just one name.

[Defense Counsel 1]: How old are you sir/m 'am?

[Hermes]: I'm twenty-nine.

[Defense Counsel 1]: And your profession?

[Hermes]: Well, it's tough times out there with the recession- I've got a couple of jobs, including part-time bike courier, and part-time private investigator.

[Defense Counsel 1]: And who primarily employs you?

[Hermes]: Zeus.

[Defense Counsel 1]: Can you tell the jury about the events of April 7, 2008?

[Hermes]: Sure, I was biking across the Burrard St. Bridge, when I heard a fanfare of trumpets. That means Zeus' calling. So, I pulled over, and a big booming voice said "I have a job for you Hermes".

[Defense Counsel 1]: And what was the job?

[Hermes]: Well, he said that there was this lady in his office demanding her daughter return from the Underworld. Zeus was getting fed up with all her bothering him, so he sent me to talk to Hades and get the lady back to earth.

[Defense Counsel 1]:

Were you sent by Zeus down to the Underworld to get Persephone back because she wouldn't return on her own?

CC1 stands quickly, DC1 sits

[Crown Counsel 1]:

I'm sorry M'lord/m'lady but I have to object: My friend has asked a leading question.

[Judge]:

He/she is right counsel, I'll allow the objection. No leading questions on direct examination, only cross-examination.

CC1 sits, DC1 stands

[Defense Counsel 1]:

I apologize m'lord/m'lady. Whom is "the lady" that Zeus sent you to talk to Hades about and bring back to earth?

[Hermes]:

Persephone of course

[Defense Counsel 1]:

So what did you do after talking to Zeus?

[Hermes]:

I rang the doorbell of the Underworld. Hades answered. The place was looking better since Persephone had been living there. There was a lot more color and life in the place.

[Defense Counsel 1]:

What did you talk about with the accused?

[Hermes]:

I said "Hades, Zeus is mad. Persephone's mom is giving him a headache about this situation. Persephone has to come back to earth with me."

[Defense Counsel 1]:

And how did he react to that?

[Hermes]:

He just called Persephone over, and we headed out for Earth.

[Defense Counsel 1]:

Did Hades object at all?

[Hermes]:

No, no. Um, he just said "Well, Zeus is the bossman, so what he says goes"

[Defense Counsel 1]: And did Persephone object?

[Hermes]: Well, she cried... and she hugged Hades... She said something about not wanting to go or thanks for everything....

[Defense Counsel 1]: When the two of you left, did you notice if she was carrying anything?

[Hermes]: Yeah, she had some pomegranate seeds in her hands.

[Defense Counsel 1]: How did you know what they were?

[Hermes]: I have a pomegranate-kiwi-tangelo smoothie every morning- they sprinkle pomegranate seeds on top.

[Defense Counsel 1]: Did you see Persephone eat any of the seeds?

[Hermes]: Yep- she just popped one in her mouth like it was popcorn.

[Defense Counsel 1]: Mr. Hermes, did you see a buffet table in the Underworld?

[Hermes]: Sure. It's right by the door. It looked delicious.

[Defense Counsel 1]: Did you eat anything?

[Hermes]: Of course not. There's a huge sign right over the table that says "*Warning: if you eat the food, you can't leave. Ever.*"

[Defense Counsel 1]: Thank you. Please answer my friend's questions

DC1 sits, CC1 stands at the lectern.

[Crown Counsel 1]: When you first saw Ms. Persephone, what did you observe?

[Hermes]: Well... when she walked into the room, she was looking pretty sad. Her feet were dragging on the floor.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And when you said it was time to return to earth how did she react?

[Hermes]: She smiled. She looked pretty happy.

[Crown Counsel 1]: She looked happy. Now, Mr. Hermes, you are a god, is that correct?

[Hermes]: Yeah.

[Crown Counsel 1]: And what are you the god OF?

[Hermes]: Well... of athletes. Travelers. Stuff like that.

[Crown Counsel 1]: That's all?

[Hermes]: No.

[Crown Counsel 1]: You're the god of thieves, isn't that right Mr. Hermes?

[Hermes]: I am.

[Crown Counsel 1]: The "god of thieves". Have you ever been convicted of theft, Mr. Hermes?

DC1 stands quickly, CC1 sits

[Defense Counsel 1]: I'm sorry M'Lord/M'lady I'm going to have to object, I do not believe the witnesses criminal record is relevant to these proceedings...

CC1 stands, DC1 sits

[Crown Counsel 1]: It goes to the witnesses credibility M'Lord/M'Lady.

[Judge]: Overruled. Prior convictions go to a witness's credibility. I'll ask counsel to save your arguments on that point for your closing.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Have you ever been convicted of theft, Mr. Hermes?

[Hermes]: I.... I'd... rather not say.

[Crown Counsel 1]: [to the judge] Could the court direct the witness to answer the question?

[Judge]: Answer the question please.

[Hermes]: ...No...I haven't....

[Crown Counsel 1]: I'm going to show you a document Mr. Hermes, I will just show my friend...

CC1 takes a paper from briefcase, shows to DC1, DC1 nods, CC1 places the document in front of the witness

[Crown Counsel 1]: Do you recognize that document Mr. Hermes?

[Hermes]: Yes, well, it looks like a copy of my criminal record...

[Crown Counsel 1]: Are there any convictions listed there Mr. Hermes?

[Hermes]:Yes...

CC1 collects the paper and reads from it

[Crown Counsel 1]: This record states that in March of 2003 you were convicted of theft of cattle, contrary to section 338, subsection (2) of the *Criminal Code* which makes theft of cattle an indictable offence subject to imprisonment for up to ten years. Is this accurate Mr. Hermes?

[Hermes]: Yes...

[Crown Counsel 1]: So you WERE convicted of theft?

[Hermes]: ...Yes.... I was, it was so long ago...

[Crown Counsel 1]: And earlier when you said you hadn't been convicted of theft, that was a lie wasn't it?

[Hermes]: ...Yes.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Could this be marked as the next exhibit please?

CC1 hands the clerk the paper, The Clerk marks the paper

[Court Clerk]: Exhibit "C" M'Lord/M'Lady

[Crown Counsel 1]: Also in your evidence in chief you stated that there was a "huge sign" out front of the buffet in the Underworld, is that right?

[Hermes]: Yes

[Crown Counsel 1]: Could the witness be shown exhibit "B" M'lord/M'lady

[Court Clerk]: Exhibit B

The Clerk places the sign in front of Hermes

[Crown Counsel 1]: Is this the sign you saw?

[Hermes]: Yes, I think so, I can't be sure...

[Crown Counsel 1]: You're not sure?

[Hermes]: Well it was dark...

[Crown Counsel 1]: It was so dark that you can't remember what the so-called huge sign looked like?

[Hermes]: I...uh...I don't know... I'm not sure... I think that's the sign...yes.

[Crown Counsel 1]: Mr. Hermes, I put to you that Persephone was happy to leave the Underworld.

[Hermes]: She may have been...

[Crown Counsel 1]: I put to you further that you did not see her eat the pomegranate seeds on the way out of the Underworld.

[Hermes]: I did, she ate them right there in the car

[Crown Counsel 1]: Isn't it true, Mr. Hermes, that you are lying to this Court about parts of this story to get your boss's brother out of trouble?

[Hermes]: No! I'm no liar!

[Crown Counsel 1]: Did Zeus ask you to lie to this court?

[Hermes]: No! You've got it all wrong...

[Crown Counsel 1]: No further questions, M'lord/M'lady

[Judge]: Any re-examination?

DC1 stands

[Defense Counsel 1]: No M'lord/m'lady.

DC1 sits

[Judge]: Very well, [to the witness] you are excused.

Hermes leaves the witness box, DC2 stands

[Defense Counsel 2]: M'Lord/M'Lady, that is all the witnesses for the Defence.

[Judge]: Alright, is the Defence ready to proceed with closing argument?

[Defense Counsel 2]: We are M'lord/m'lady.

DC2 moves to stand closer to the jury (in order to address them) but without turning his/her back to the judge.

[Defense Counsel 2]: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury. This is the final opportunity that we, the Defence, will have to speak with you. I'm going to try and be as thorough as possible but if I miss something, if the Crown argues something that I failed to anticipate, I ask you to not hold that against my client. I ask you to think "What would the Defence have said to this point?" and not take my silence for any kind of agreement with the theory of the Crown.

The first thing that I want to point out is that there is evidence that Ms. Persephone went to the Underworld willingly. We heard that from Mr. Hades himself. Mr. Hades is not an evil

man, he is a concerned Uncle and I will remind you that he gave up a fundamental right to testify here, in front of you, and to tell you his side of the story: the truth.

I ask you to accept Mr. Hades' testimony as truthful, and if you do—as I'm sure his/her Lordship will advise you—you must accordingly find him not guilty of kidnapping and forcible confinement.

That said, the way our legal system works in Canada is that there is no onus on Mr. Hades to prove his innocence. The Crown must prove his guilt to you beyond a reasonable doubt. Let's look at their witnesses.

Demeter, Persephone's mother, is in clear denial about any of the realities of this case. She is in complete denial about the strained nature of her relationship with her daughter, even Persephone's testimony illustrates that. Demeter said that her and Persephone were "very close", that Persephone quote "always listens to my wisdom and advice." Persephone said that her mom was "tense" and "stressed", when asked she agreed that they didn't get along well and that she'd even spoken to Mr. Hades about leaving. Demeter's testimony is unreliable, and furthermore she lied to this court about seeing the event first hand. And I will stress that you are to give no weight to the hearsay evidence of Helios who quote: "sees everything". He didn't even get the color of the Porsche chariot right, three other witnesses testified here that it was black, not gold.

As for Tate Oldman, he says he saw Persephone get pulled in to a car and that she "screamed like a banshee". Well, as you saw in court I had to scream at Mr. Olman just to get him to hear my questions and I'm only a few feet away, not 20 yards. He's a billion years old, he's infirm, and his evidence is unreliable.

As for the young Persephone, her story is a clear fabrication. I submit to you that she agreed to go with Mr. Hades, and that she liked it in the Underworld. She said so herself, she had "Rockband"! Rockband! She liked it so much that when Zeus sent Hermes to get her she ate food she knew would result in her not being able to leave. She could have come and gone as she pleased at any time before that. We're here simply because she took her teenage rebellion one step too far.

Ladies and gentlemen, after you consider all of the evidence, we ask that you return a verdict of not guilty of the charge of kidnapping, and of the included offence of forcible confinement. Thank you.

DC2 sits

[Judge]: Crown, you may proceed when ready.

CC2 stands at the lectern facing the jury, without putting his/her back to the judge.

[Crown Counsel 2]: Teenage rebellion. Does that really make sense? Would anyone ever really commit themselves to an eternity in the death and decay that is the Underworld? After all we heard what it's like there, Rockband or not, but I'll get to that in a minute.

The Defence is correct on the point that we the Crown bear the onus to prove Mr. Hades' guilt to you. I submit to you that we have met this heavy burden.

We heard from Tate Olman that he saw Persephone taken away unwillingly, screaming like a banshee. I submit that that is accurate, he has no reason to lie, and screaming is definitely something he is capable of hearing.

When she took the stand Persephone herself told you: No, she didn't want to go to the Underworld; No, she didn't want to stay there. She testified here that Mr. Hades told her that

there was a moat and an electric fence. She couldn't leave, he didn't want her to. I urge you to find that as fact ladies and gentlemen.

We heard from Mr. Hades about his dark unhappy Underworld filled with the miserable moaning deceased. Mr. Hades said that he was only trying to help Persephone by taking her there. Ladies and gentlemen the only person Mr. Hades was trying to help was himself.

Mr. Hades saw Persephone picking flowers cheerfully and decided he wanted that vibe for his home in the Underworld. He asked Zeus for permission but what permission could Zeus give? You saw the extent of his legal authority here on the stand. Mr. Hades grabbed Persephone and took her down to the Underworld where he told her she couldn't leave. He never warned her about the food, we all saw the tiny sign presented here in court. Mr. Hades kidnapped Persephone for his own means and he confined her in the Underworld for selfish reasons.

We ask you, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, that after you consider all of the evidence that is before you, that you return a verdict of guilty of the charge of kidnapping or the included offence of forcible confinement. Thank you.

CC2 sits

[Judge]:

[to jury]

I will now turn to my jury charge.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, that concludes the evidence in this case. You have heard evidence from the Crown that the accused kidnapped the goddess Persephone.

When you retire to deliberate, the first question you must consider is whether the Crown has proven—beyond a reasonable doubt—the elements of the charge of kidnapping. If you remember, you must consider several

elements: you must decide whether a kidnapping occurred such that the victim was moved from place to place and more than simply confined; you must decide whether it was Mr. Hades that perpetrated that kidnapping; you must decide whether he did so with any of the three required intents: intent to confine, intent to move Persephone out of Canada, or intent to hold Persephone for ransom or service; Finally, you must decide whether this kidnapping was against Persephone's will. If you find that the Crown has proven all of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt you must find Mr. Hades guilty of kidnapping contrary to s. 279 of the Criminal Code.

If you find that the Crown has not proven the charge of kidnapping you may proceed to the question of forcible confinement. You must then consider whether the Crown has proven—beyond a reasonable doubt—the elements of the included offence of forcible confinement. If you remember, the elements you must consider include whether Mr. Hades confined, imprisoned, or forcibly seized the goddess Persephone on April 4, 2008; you must also determine whether Mr. Hades intended to confine, imprison or forcibly seize the goddess Persephone; and finally, you must determine whether Mr. Hades did so without lawful authority. If you find that the Crown has proven all of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt you must find Mr. Hades guilty of forcible confinement contrary to s. 279(3) of the Criminal Code. Remember: kidnapping includes confinement, confinement does not include kidnapping.

The standard of a reasonable doubt can be an elusive concept. Very briefly, it is something less than absolute certainty but more than the balance of probabilities. It is not beyond *any* doubt, as that might be impossible, but that doubt must be reasonable. The Defence does not need to prove that Mr. Hades is innocent;

all accused persons are presumed innocent. The Crown must have proven, through evidence led in this courtroom, to the standard of beyond a reasonable doubt, that Mr. Hades is guilty of kidnapping or the included charge of forcible confinement.

Normally I would canvass the evidence as I understand it and address some finer points of law at this point. But, you look like a sharp bunch so we'll just skip all that.

You may now proceed to the jury room for deliberations. Your verdict must be unanimous. That is to say, everyone must agree with the decision. When you have reached a verdict please inform the Sheriff. He/she will inform the Court that you are ready to return to the courtroom to announce your verdict.

Jury leaves the courtroom for deliberations. Defence, Crown, and Hades stand out of respect for the jury. Sheriff directs the jury to the Jury Room

[Judge]: Thank you counsel. We will now adjourn until the jury returns with the verdict.

[Court Clerk]: Order in Court. This court is adjourned to await the return of the jury.

All stand while the judge leaves the courtroom.

[Defense Counsel 3]: [to CC3] Well that's it for the easy part!

[Crown Counsel 3]: I know what you mean! Nice submissions by the way.

[Defense Counsel 3]: Thanks, you too.

DC3 walks over to Hades.

[Hades]: How long is this going to take?

[Defense Counsel 3]: It depends on how long it takes for the jury to reach a verdict. The clerk will let us know by saying...

[Court Clerk]: *[interrupting]* Order in Court.

[Defense Counsel 3]: That!

DC3 returns to counsel seat. Judge enters the courtroom. Everyone stands.

[Judge]: You may be seated. Madam Registrar, has the jury reached a verdict?

[Court Clerk]: They have, My Lord/Lady.

[Judge]: Sheriff, please bring the jury in.

Defence, Crown, and Hades stand as Sheriff directs the jury to their seats. Everyone can be seated when the jury sits

[Court Clerk]: Members of the jury, have you reached a verdict?

Jury Foreperson stands

[Jury Foreperson]: Yes, we have.

[Court Clerk]: Mr./Madam Foreperson, what is your verdict on the count of kidnapping contrary to s. 279 of the Criminal Code?

[Jury Foreperson]: Guilty/not guilty.

[Court Clerk]: *[to the Judge]* The jury finds the accused guilty/not guilty, My Lord/Lady.

****If the verdict is *not guilty* of the charge of *kidnapping*****

[Court Clerk]: Mr./Madam Foreperson, what is your verdict on the count of forcible confinement contrary to s. 279(3) of the Criminal Code?

[Jury Foreperson]: Guilty/not guilty.

[Court Clerk]: *[to the Judge]* The jury finds the accused guilty/not guilty, My Lord/Lady.

[Court Clerk]: Members of the jury, listen to your verdict as the court does not record it. You find the accused Hades guilty/not guilty of kidnapping

[and guilty/not guilty of forcible confinement].
This is your verdict, so say you all. Please
stand to confirm your verdict.

All members of the jury stand

[Court Clerk]:

The verdict is unanimous, My Lord/Lady.

[Judge]:

*[if verdict is **guilty**]*

William Cosmo Hades, a jury of your peers has found you guilty of kidnapping/forcible confinement. Sheriff, please take this man into custody pending sentencing.

*[if verdict is **not guilty**]*

William Cosmo Hades, a jury of your peers has found you not guilty. You are free to go.

[Judge]:

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we thank you for your service acting as jurors in this matter. Both society and law benefit from your contribution. In return, I hope you have found it to be an interesting and rewarding experience.

[Court Clerk]:

This Court stands adjourned. Order in Court.

All stand while the judge leaves the courtroom

All lights go out.

FIN