

## "CUSTODY" Script

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Rawlings addresses Martin.

RAWLINGS

Mr. Sanford, were you in any way forced out of your home or pressured by your wife to leave?

MARTIN

No.

RAWLINGS

(addressing the jury with a wry smile)

I am sure we all can see the logic of why Mr. Sanford, without any prior warning, would leave his wife and children, to go off somewhere and vanish for five years!

HEYDEN

Objection.

RAWLINGS

(changing direction)

Mr. Sanford, now that you, suddenly, and out of the blue, have returned to Chicago, do you plan to be a responsible parent?

MARTIN

Yes, I do.

RAWLINGS

How can you expect anyone to believe you, given that you abandoned your own children?

MARTIN

I don't know...

(suddenly defiant)

Does it matter? They are still my children... I made a mistake, but now I want to be there for them 100%.

RAWLINGS

Do you Mr. Sanford? Will you please tell us all

(MORE)

RAWLINGS (cont'd)  
(motioning towards the jury)  
how you came to the conclusion, that you all of a sudden are ready for that kind of commitment. Did your many affairs leave you lonely? Your last girlfriend ditched you less than a month ago, isn't that correct Mr. Sanford?

Heyden jumps up from his seat.

HEYDEN  
Objection!

JUDGE  
Overruled. The witness will answer the question.

MARTIN  
(barely audible)  
That has nothing to do with it.

RAWLINGS  
And isn't it true, Mr. Sanford, that your constant philandering has started to bore you and that 'responsible parenting' is nothing but your latest fad?

HEYDEN  
(furious)  
Objection!

JUDGE  
Objection sustained, please rephrase the question Mrs. Rawlings.

RAWLINGS  
Mr. Sanford, is your wish to resume your role as a responsible parent a fad?

MARTIN  
(loud)  
No!

RAWLINGS  
(a new attack)  
Mr. Sanford, how can you expect this court to grant you full custody of two children you barely know?

(MORE)

RAWLINGS (cont'd)  
Your wife is, and has been, an  
excellent mother, so doesn't that  
strike you as a crazy demand?  
(jokingly)  
And I don't recall you having plead  
temporary insanity, at least not  
yet.

HEYDEN  
Objection! The prosecution will  
stop harassing the witness.

JUDGE  
Sustained. Please make your point.

RAWLINGS  
No further questions, Your Honor.

JUDGE  
The witness may be excused.

Rawlings sits down next to Karen.

KAREN  
(leaning over and  
whispering)  
Did you really have to ridicule him  
like that?

RAWLINGS  
(tough and businesslike)  
If you want to keep full custody of  
your children, Mrs. Sanford.

Martin gets down from the witness stand and walks to the  
prosecution's table, momentarily exchanging looks with Karen.

# "CUSTODY" Blocking Diagram

