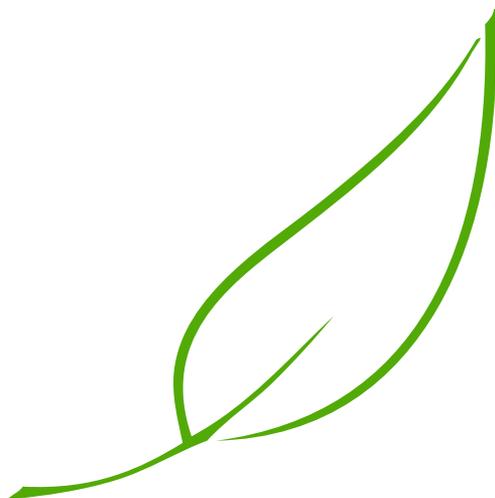


FAMILY COURT

by Ken Bradbury



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Cast (5): Mark (the son), James (the dad), Phyllis (the Mom), Hannah (the sister), Ralph (the dog).

MARK: *(entering and shouting offstage)* I will! I will! Mom, it's Saturday! I don't need my room cleaned up 'til Monday! Come on! *(to himself)* I give up! The whole world's against me. At least my family's out to get me. *(shouting off)* What? No, it's Hannah's turn to take out the garbage! Dad, I just did it last month! Come on! Gimme a break! *(to himself)* You'd think I broke the law or something. My sister ... the little Princess ... she gets everything she wants. Me? It's like I'm the family convict! *(shouting off)* Mom, make Hannah do something once in a while! *(he listens. Nothing)* Mom? That's weird. They always shout back to me. *(more quietly this time)* Mom? Dad? Where'd they all go? Hey, what am I complaining about? I finally got some peace and quiet!

PHYLLIS: *(barging in, loudly)* All rise!

MARK: What?

PHYLLIS: The 2nd District Court of the 3rd Jurisdiction of the 4th Sub-category will now come to order! The Honorable Judge James Papa presiding! *(to Mark, who sat during this)* I said, "All rise!"

MARK: *(standing quickly)* Mom! What's going on?

PHYLLIS: Out of order! Here comes the judge! *(James enters and takes a seat at center)* Be seated! *(to Mark)* I said be seated!

MARK: Mom? Dad? What are you guys doing?

PHYLLIS: You will address His Honor as Your Honor.

MARK: You mean Dad?

JAMES: I'll hold you in contempt, young man!

MARK: Yes, Dad! ... Uh, Your Honor! Yes, Your Honor? Now would somebody tell me ...

JAMES: Quiet! First witness!

MARK: What is this?

JAMES: Young man, you claim to have been treated unfairly in your family unit. We are here today to see if your complaint has any validity.

MARK: I'm in court!

PHYLLIS: You could hang.

MARK: (*standing*) I object!

JAMES: Sit down! Read the complaint!

PHYLLIS: (*reading*) "Mark, the son, hereafter referred to as "Son," claims that he has been treated unfairly in the family unit. He further states that he is constantly nagged by his mother, ignored by his father, and that his sister always gets her way."

MARK: (*standing*) Yeah! Yeah! All that's true!

JAMES: Sit down! (*Mark sits*)

PHYLLIS: The estate is counter-suing the Son for being a lazy, irresponsible, whining pain in the neck.

JAMES: How to you plead?

MARK: (*standing*) I didn't do it!

JAMES: That's what they all say! Sit down! (*Mark sits*)
Call your first witness.

PHYLLIS: I call Hannah the Sister to the stand. (*Hannah enters*)

MARK: (*standing*) Hannah!

JAMES: Sit ...

MARK: ... down. (*he sits*)

PHYLLIS: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you or we'll take away your cell phone?

MARK: Huh?

HANNAH: I do.

PHYLLIS: Hannah ... may I call you "Daughter?"

HANNAH: Sure, Mom.

MARK: (*stands*) This is ridiculous. (*they all glare at him as he sits*) I'm sitting. I'm sitting.

PHYLLIS: Is it true that on or about the last 30 days the defendant, Mark, has failed to do any of his chores around the house?

HANNAH: He's a jerk.

MARK: I object!

JAMES: Overruled!

PHYLLIS: Is it also true that the aforementioned Mark never does his share of the work around the house?

HANNAH: He's worthless.

MARK: The witness will answer the question!

HANNAH: I just did. Weren't you listening? He's a goofball and all he does is complain about how much he has to work which he really doesn't do at all because he's a lazy, no-good brother.

MARK: Where's your proof?

HANNAH: (*holding something up*) Right here.

MARK: What's that?

HANNAH: A picture of you!

JAMES: Guilty as charged!

MARK: Wait a minute! Wait a minute! Don't I get to defend myself?

JAMES: Oh, very well. It won't do a bit of good, but go ahead.

MARK: Your honor, I want to cross-exam the witness!

PHYLLIS: Good luck.

MARK: (*Xing to her*) Isn't it true that every time Mom has something that needs to be done, you suddenly get a stomach ache and have to go to your room?

JAMES: Oh, poor girl!

MARK: Judge!

JAMES: Oh ... carry on.

MARK: Answer the question!

HANNAH: I sometimes have a tummy ache.

MARK: Like every time we have to put the dishes in the dishwasher, vacuum our rooms, make our beds or take out the garbage.

JAMES: Oh, poor, poor girl!

MARK: Dad!

JAMES: What!?

MARK: I mean, Your Honor! Let me question her.

JAMES: But be nice. She's such a sweet little Princess.
(*Hannah sticks her tongue out at Mark*)



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