

THE CASE FOR THE DEFENCE- PART 2

Glossary of terms :

The defence : The lawyer who tries to show that somebody is not guilty of a crime.

To Plead mistaken identity : to claim that the suspect was mistaken for another person.

Court : The place where crimes are judged.

To cross-examine : To question a witness carefully

Read and listen to part II

PART 2

'I understand,' the lawyer for the prosecution said, 'that the defence intends to plead "mistaken identity". Adams's wife will tell you that he was with her at two in the morning on February 14. However, after you have heard the witnesses for the prosecution and examined carefully the features of the prisoner, I don't think you will be prepared to admit the possibility of a mistake.'

Mrs Salmon was called again. She was the ideal witness, with her slight Scottish accent and her expression of honesty and kindness. There was no malice in her, and no sense of importance. She told them what she had seen and how she had rung the police station.

'And do you see the man here in court?'

She looked straight at the big man in the dock, who stared hard at her with his bloodshot eyes, without emotion.

'Yes,' she said, 'there he is.'

'You are quite certain?'

She said simply, 'I couldn't be mistaken, sir.'

'Thank you, Mrs Salmon.'

The lawyer for the defence began to cross-examine Mrs Salmon.

'Now, Mrs Salmon, you must remember that a man's life may depend on your evidence.'

'I do remember it, sir.'

'Is your eyesight good?'

'I have never had to wear spectacles, sir.'

'You're fifty-five years old, aren't you?'

'Fifty-six, sir.'

'And the man you saw was on the other side of the road, is that right?'

'Yes, sir, he was.'

'And it was two o'clock in the morning. You must have remarkable eyes, Mrs Salmon?'

'No, sir. There was moonlight, and when the man looked up, he had the lamplight on his face.'

'And you have no doubt whatever that the man you saw is the prisoner?'

'None whatever, sir. It isn't a face you can easily forget.'

Tick **True** or **False**

- 1) Mrs Salmon saw the suspect's face in broad-day light.
•True •False
- 2) The defence wanted to prove that the accused person had been mistaken for another person.
•True •False
- 3) Despite her age, Mrs Salmon's sight was in perfect condition.
•True •False
- 4) If found guilty, the death penalty awaited Adams.
•True •False
- 5) There was nothing unusual about Adams and he could pass easily unnoticed.
•True •False.