CHUTNEY

He was my father.

ELLE

Did you actually see his murder take place?

CHUTNEY

No... I was in the shower. But when I got out, Brooke was standing over my father's body, drenched in his blood.

(The COURTROOM erupts with this revelation.)

ELLE

Miss Wyndham... On the day your father was killed, did you see anyone suspicious hanging around?

CHUTNEY

(sarcastic)

Suspiciously hanging around my shower?

(The COURTROOM laughs at ELLE along with CHUTNEY.)

ELLE

No, before that.

CHUTNEY

I was out getting a perm.

ELLE

(still puzzled)

And then you came home and took a shower?

CHUTNEY

(duh)

YES. I was in the shower.

ELLE

Thank you. Now, Ms. Wyndham, you claim on the day of the murder, you got a perm. Was this your first perm?

CHUTNEY

No. I've permed my hair since junior high, about three a year.

ELLE

Interesting.

(comes up with an idea)

My associate has just gotten a perm herself today. Exhibit A: Ms. Enid Hoopes.

(ENID looks confused and then steps forward, her hair permed exactly like Chutney's. PAULETTE fusses around her with a comb.)

(ELLE)

Ms. Wyndham, would Exhibit A's perm be similar to

Now Ms. Wyndham, would Exhibit A's perm be similar to your own?

CHUTNEY

Duh.

ELLE

And now, one more time, you didn't see the murder or hear the gunshot because you were where?...

(The COURT groans, exasperated.)

ALL

In the shower!!!!

ELLE

Thank you. Now, Ms. Hoopes, would you dump this bucket of water onto your head?

(ENID is about to dump the water on her head.)

CHUTNEY

Idiot. You can't get a perm wet for 48 hours-

ELLE

Exactly!

(#36 - SCENE OF THE CRIME (PART 1) begins with a chord.)

Water deactivates the perm's ammonium thiglycolate and completely ruins it.

(chord)

It's the cardinal rule of perm maintenance.

(chord)

Your perm is still intact so you couldn't have showered that day. Why would you *lie* about being in the shower?

CHUTNEY

I was-

ELLE

Why would you lie about NOT hearing the gunshot?

CHUTNEY

But I—

CHUTNEY

ELLE

YOU THINK I LIKED BEING OLDER THAN MY DAD'S NEW WIFE??? I didn't mean to hurt my father! I didn't mean to shoot him... I THOUGHT IT WAS BROOKE COMING THROUGH THE DOOR!

(#37 - SCENE OF THE CRIME (PART 2) begins.)

SCENE OF THE CRIME (PART 2)







JUDGE: (to BAILIFF regarding CHUTNEY) Take her into custody...
(to BROOKE) You're free, and we apologize. (gavel bang)



125