

I know this case got very complicated today. So let me simplify it. Right now we're just going to talk about the facts.

Jackie Owens admitted she has a gambling problem and owes casinos and bookies 5 million dollars. Jackie wanted to sell the Trifecta movie company to Dueling Lens Studios for 20 million dollars. If that deal went through Jackie would receive ten million up front and a million a year for three more years. More than enough to pay off her debts. But there was one problem and that was Jacob Bennett. Bennet refused to sell the company he had worked so hard to build. Did Jackie accept this? No! Jackie enlisted the help of her friend Casey Maxwell, who has confessed to conspiring with Ms. Owens to help her kill Jacob Bennett. Casey explained his part of the deal. He scheduled a meeting on his boat with Benet and placed a gun on the boat for Jackie to use. Detective Finch told you he found Jacob's fingerprints on the Yacht where Jackie and Jacob were to meet. Jackie met Bennet at the boat. Bennet walked in to speak with a colleague, a friend, and Jackie pointed the gun at his heart and pulled the trigger. (long pause, turn back to judge table and walk to prosecution table, slam hand down) And BANG! In one second Jackie destroyed the heart of a man who loved his work, his friends, and his wife Mariah. In one second Jackie took from Jacob Bennet that which is most sacred to all of us...life. Then Jackie stuffed Jacob into a duffel bag and drug his body to her car. She then lifted the body into her trunk and drove to Calkins Cliffs. Here Jackie buried the body of Jacob Bennett in a shallow grave. Crime scene investigator Lee explained how the mud he found on Jackie Owens' car chemically matched the mud found where Jacob was buried.

The state of Midlands must prove to you beyond a reasonable doubt for you to return a—a conviction of Murder.

The term Beyond a reasonable doubt contains three elements. The three elements are that:

- one Jacob Bennett is dead
  - No one here today denies that fact. The autopsy report of Jacob Bennet prepared by Dr. Ooms proves he died of a 9mm gunshot wound to the heart.
- two, there was a premeditated killing of Jacob Bennett
  - Jackie Owens manipulated Casey Maxwell into helping her carry out the logistics of this murder. She even attempted to point the finger at Casey by planning to meet Jacob on Casey's boat, and get Casey to plant the murder weapon. These two as admitted by Casey planned and carried out the murder of Jacob Bennet. Casey has accepted his guilt. Together these two planned this murder, but alone Jackie Owens pulled the trigger which brings me to my next point.
- The third element of proving beyond a reasonable doubt is that the death was caused by the criminal act of Jackie Owens
  - The physical evidence laid out by Investigator Lee proves that the soil found on Jackie Owens' car is chemically identical to the soil found at the burial site of Jacob Bennett.

- Detective Finch established that the fingerprints of Jacob Bennett were found on the boat where Casey had asked Jacob to be that evening.
- Casey admits to placing a 9mm Beretta on the boat for Jackie to use to kill Bennett.
- Most importantly Jackie wanted to and needed Bennett dead.

It is to these three elements, and these alone that the term, “Beyond a reasonable doubt”, applies.

But please remember this it is very important. While it is your duty to give the defendant the benefit of every reasonable doubt, you are not to search for doubt as the defense would lead you to believe. No your job is to search for truth. And the truth is obvious way beyond a reasonable doubt.

As has been mentioned time and time again throughout this trial and has been said by Ms. Owens herself. Jack Owens has a gambling problem. A problem ladies and gentlemen. She is not a casual gambler who plays poker with friends every now and then or takes a trip to Vegas. No, Jackie Owens places 10 thousand dollars, 20 thousand dollars or more on sports, or high-stakes poker. Jackie admits this is a problem. She will continue to gamble. She will gamble again and again and she will lose money again and again. And when she is in debt once more she will turn to murder again.

And Jackie is gambling again today. She is gambling she can beat the house. Beat the odds. She is gambling that you jury members are ignorant. She is gambling that her tale lies and her legal team can beat the house beat the system and beat the law. She is gambling that you will let her go free. She is treating this trial like another

game. Jackie is rolling the dice today and betting on walking free. The question you have to ask yourself is “Am I willing to gamble with the security of my family? Am I willing to roll the dice just like Jackie Owens? Am I going to gamble and play games when a man is dead?” Ask yourself those questions. I believe we all know the answers.

Murder in the State of Midlands must be proven by showing that beyond a reasonable doubt a person knowingly or purposefully killed another human.

Jackie Owens knowingly and purposefully killed Jacob Bennet when she lured him to the boat and shot him in cold blood. She did it for money and nothing else. She is guilty of murder.

Enough! English Poet W.H. Auden once said, “Murder is unique in that it abolishes the party it injures, so that society has to take the place of the victim and on his behalf demand atonement or grant forgiveness; it is the one crime in which society has a direct interest.”

Jacob Bennet is not here to tell you it was Jackie Owens. He is not here because her cold blooded hand took him from this earth. Jacob cannot stand for himself. So it is up to you and me to take the place of Jacob and demand justice.

Murder is the one crime in which I have a direct interest, you have a direct interest. Every one of us in this room including those sitting at the defense table has a direct interest in whether Ms. Owens goes free. This is not another poker hand or baseball game for Ms. Owens to gamble with, this is the security of my family and of yours. Because in the end Ms. Owens is no different than a mugger on the street who sneaks up behind a man and kills him just for his wallet. Ms. Owens needed money and Jacob Bennet stood in her way. So she shot him. She killed him.

So in the end it is your choice will you gamble with your. Or will you decide that a man's life is worth more than games of chance. Don't leave this to chance; don't let her gamble with the society that you as jury members are charged with protecting today. Bring back a verdict of guilty for the charge of Murder.