

SYNOPSIS

WHO SHOT THE SHERIFF ©

By: Casey Bell

Who Shot the Sheriff is a laugh out loud pleasantry from beginning to end.

The show begins with an empty stage and soon a gun shot is heard followed by a loud screeching scream. Sooner or later we find out we need to discover who shot the Sheriff. *Cook, Butler, Maid, Nurse, Gardner, Pool Boy, and Wife* are all suspects in this crazy comedic mystery. Detective enters just in time to figure out who had enough motives to shoot Sheriff and who had the opportunity to do so. *Cook* a former jail bird with shooting experience admits if she shot him she would have killed him. *Butler* who affirms he forgives *Sheriff* for marrying his girlfriend assures everyone that he was not the shooter. *Maid* who is the “Love Child” of *Sheriff* although jealous of *Wife* makes sure everyone knows she is not the shooter. *Nurse*, who is experiencing some uncomfortable treatment from *Sheriff*, assures *Detective* she is not the shooter. *Gardner* who recently had an argument with *Sheriff* about a raise is looked upon as a suspect, affirms as well that he could never shoot *Sheriff*. *Pool Boy* who is said to be jealous of *Sheriff's* time at the YMCA makes his bold statement of innocence. Lastly, *Wife*, *Sheriff's* daughter-in-law, who has been known to try to shift him off to a nursing home mentions her love for him is what keeps her not guilty. With everyone's sob story of how they owe their life to *Sheriff* and everyone's motives, and with everyone pleading not guilty *Detective's* job of finding out who did it couldn't be any harder.

Through out the play we learn about the crazy lives each character lives. However, there is just not enough information or evidence to solve the case. It is only towards the end of the play that two phone calls sum up the shooter, the one character no one expects. Join these crazy people and find out just *Who Shot the Sheriff*.

Technical Requirements:

The entire play takes place in the living room of a very wealthy family. The only technical difficulties you may have are the doors. There are 5 doors that the actors enter and exit and one doorway (downstairs) and at least one upstairs).

WHO SHOT THE SHERIFF? A ONE ACT PLAY
CHARACTERS

COOK: 30 something year old female from the streets. Ebonics is her first language. She used to be a gang member, but fixed up her act, but still has the attitude.

BUTLER: 50 something year old male. Very distinctive, speaks great English. Just by his speech you can tell he is greatly educated. Grew up with Sheriff. (May speak in British accent. But make sure your words are clear).

MAID: 40 something year old female. From the deep south. And has the accent to prove it. She is Sheriff's love child.

NURSE: 20 something year old diva. Wears revealing nurse's outfits unconsciously. Used to be a stripper.

GARDENER: 30 something year old Hispanic male. Speaks with Spanish accent.

POOL BOY: 18 year old Surfer dude who parties more than he works.

WIFE: 40 something year old wealthy female. Sheriff's daughter-in-law.

COP: Any age, gender, ethnicity

E.M.T. : Any age, gender, ethnicity

DETECTIVE: 50 something year old male. Not that bright, but bright enough to solve the case.

BABY GIRL: 9 year old female. She is Little Red Riding Hood on the outside but the wolf on the inside.

WHO SHOT THE SHERIFF?
ACT ONE SCENE ONE

This play takes place within a day. The scene opens empty. There is no one on stage just a set. This play takes place entirely in WIFE's living room. It's the home of a wealthy family. (Set designer be creative). The play begins with a silent stage. Within minutes (or seconds) a gun shot is heard then a scream.

COOK

(Enters; frightened she looks around to see what happened. Soon BUTLER enters).
Yo, what the hell was that?

BUTLER

It sounded like a gun shot.

COOK

Hell naw! Not in da house.

BUTLER

I am unaware. Are you okay?

COOK

Yeah, just tryin' ta figga out what's going on.

BUTLER

Were you the one who screamed?

COOK

Naw. Should we call the po-po?

BUTLER

I do not know...I am unaware of the actions we should take. We are unaware of what is taking place.

MAID

(Enters). Lawd, have mercy! Did ya'll hear that? It sounded like a gun.

BUTLER

Were you the one who screamed?

MAID

Yeah-yes.

COOK

Whatcha screaming fo? Did your ass get shot?

MAID

No.

BUTLER

Then why would you produce such an ear piercing noise?

MAID

It was a good sound effect. Are ya'll okay?

COOK

We fine. How you doin'?

MAID

I'm fine. I was just in the bathroom over yonder. I wuz cleaning like I'supposed to and "Bang!" I jumped and spilled bleach all over the place. It smells like crazy in there.

COOK

I can imagine.

BUTLER

Did you open the windows?

MAID

Yeah, but it'll take a mighty long time before that strong smells go away. Whatch ya'll think happened

COOK

We don't know.

MAID

Should we phone the police?

BUTLER

We don't know.

MAID

Well, then what shall we do?

COOK AND BUTLER

We don't know!

NURSE

(Enters) Oh my goodness, oh my goodness! Was that like a gun shot? Because if it was that would totally be as if.

BUTLER

I believe it was.

NURSE

Well, who is like shooting guns like in here?

COOK

We don't know a damn thing.

NURSE

This is like totally far out. Is everyone like totally okay?

COOK

I'm fine.

BUTLER

I am a bit startled.

MAID

I'm bleached.

NURSE

Oh, this totally can't be good. I am totally too pretty to die.

COOK

What makes you think you gonna die?

NURSE

Because if the murderer is still like in the house he might totally come after us.

MAID

Well, what makes you think there's a murderer in the house. It was just a shot. And we don't even know if it was from a gun.

NURSE

Da, where else would a gun shot like come from?

BUTLER

It could have been fireworks or even a car back firing.

GARDENER

(Enters) What is goin' on? Whatch you doin'?

COOK

Yo, we just chatting it up 'bout the gunshot we just heard.

GARDNER

Whatcha ya doin' just standin' around? We should do sumting.

MAID

What weze supposed ta do?

GARDNER

I zon't know, call thee cops.

COOK

What the hell we tell 'em? We don't know what's up.

GARDNER

Just szay you hear a gun.

BUTLER

But what if it was not a gun shot.

MAID

Like maybe it was totally Sheriff just practicing or something.

GARDENER

Well where iz he? Where iz Sheriff?

BUTLER

I am under the impression that no one has the knowledge of his location.

GARDENER

Well, someone should see if he's okay.

COOK

Yo, I'm not going up there, I can get shot.

MAID

Well, I's can't go. Butler, I thank you should go on up dem stairs and see that Sherriff is alright.

BUTLER

What? That is a despicable idea. I will not stand the chance of getting shot.

NURSE

Well, I totally cannot go. Besides, Gardner it was like totally your idea, so you should go.

GARDENER

I no go up dem stairs.

COOK

Yo, we gots ta figga out who gonna be going up dem stairs.

BUTLER

And how are we going to make that decision?

GARDENER

Well, let's takey vote. On zee count of tree we will all say someone else's name. The name that is heard thee most will go.

COOK

That sounds fair.

GARDENER

Okay on zee count of tree. One, tu, tree...

POOL BOY

(Enters). Yo dudes did you hear that?

COOK, GARDENER, BUTLER, MAID, and NURSE

POOL BOY!

POOL BOY

Yeah?

COOK

Yo, you won the vote, man. You gotta get up dem stairs and see what's up.

POOL BOY

Yo, what vote? Whatcha ya talking about?

NURSE

Like didn't you totally hear the gun shot?

POOL BOY

Yeah, dude, but what vote?

GARDENER

Someone hastee go up the stairs and see what's going on. We voted djew, which means, djew have to go up zee stairs and see who shot twho.

POOL BOY

Yo, this is totally bonkers. I didn't even know you dudes were voting.

WIFE

(Enters with shopping bags) Oh, my goodness. That is the last time I go shopping on a Monday morning. That place was full of people. You would think everyone would be at work. *(Short pause, frustrated)*. What's going on? Why is everyone just sitting around? Shouldn't you all be laboring hard at work?

NURSE

We're totally not sitting, we're standing.

WIFE

Sitting standing it doesn't matter. You're supposed to be working. I pay for you to work. What is going on? What are you doing, having a social party?

COOK

Wife. Child, I got some bad news for you.

WIFE

What? Oh no, they took Susan Lucci's Emmy away from her. Why!? And after 19 nominations. They are so unfair.

COOK

No, girl. It's much worse than that

WIFE

Well, then what is it?

COOK

Yo, someone got shot.

WIFE

Shot? What do you mean shot? Who?

BUTLER

We do not have any solid information at the moment. All we know is that a sound that familiars a gun shot was heard in the upper section of the house.

WIFE

Well, what are you doing standing around? Go upstairs and see what's going on.

NURSE

Are you like totally crazy? What if the shooter is totally still in the house? He may just try to shoot us, like totally.

WIFE

Well, where is Sheriff?

GARDENER

No one knows, signora.

WIFE

(To the audience) Do you know where the Sheriff is? *(Frustrated)* My goodness. Must I do everything in this house? *(She walks upstairs and she opens the door to Sheriff's room, she enters then screams, she exits).* Someone shot Sheriff. Dial 9-1-1.

BUTLER

(Dials the phone). Yes, this is an emergency. Someone has shot the Sheriff. Please arrive immediately.

MAID

(Sirens are heard. COP enters) Well, what took ya'll so long?

COP

(Enters) Okay everybody freeze. *(Everybody freezes).* Okay somebody start talking. Who shot the Sheriff? Okay someone needs to talk. Stop playing around, start talking. Who the hell shot the Sheriff? Okay, damn it, everyone unfreeze. *(Everyone unfreezes)* Now start talking.

MAID

We don't know a thang, officer. We just heard the shot, but didn't see a thang.

COP

(An E.M.T. enters, he runs upstairs). Okay, by the time that guy returns with the Sheriff, someone had better told me something.

BUTLER

Cop, we seriously do not have any substantial information.

WIFE

(The E.M.T. returns, he runs down stairs and exit with a dummy). Nooooo! Why?! Who did it? Which one of you ingrates shot my father?

MAID

In law, your father-in-law.

COP

Okay, somebody better start talking.

Simultaneously

BUTLER : After hearing the shot I came to see what had transpired.

MAID: I wha-en't even upstairs when I heard the shot.

GARDENER: I was outside planting in dee garden.

NURSE: I was totally in the study when I heard the bang.

WIFE: I was at the supermarket.

POOL BOY: Yo, dude, I was cleaning the pool.

COOK: I was cooking.

COP

Okay, one at a time.

WIFE

This is hopeless. Shouldn't you be upstairs searching for clues? Apparently one of Sheriff's workers shot him.

COOK

Yo, how we know you ain't shoot 'em?

WIFE

Why would I shoot my own father?

MAID

In law, your father-in-law.

WIFE

I was at the supermarket.

COOK

So, you say. Who's ta say you weren't here the whole time?

WIFE

Did you not see me come in with the bags?

MAID

You could have stuffed those bags with things from the cooler.

WIFE

How? Cook was in the kitchen the whole time.

BUTLER

And how would you know that information?

WIFE

She's the cook. Where else would she be?

MAID

You could have prepared those bags last night knowin' you was gonna shoot 'em.

WIFE

This is ridiculous. Cop, are you going to arrest them and take them all in?

COP

No.

WIFE

Then what are you going to do?

COP

I am going to make way for...Detective.

NURSE

Like who?

COP

Detective.

POOL BOY

Dude, who's that?

DETECTIVE

(Enters). That is me.

GARDENER

Who is me?

DETECTIVE

Detective. Sly Detective. I like my drinks stirred, not shaken, my ladies rough and my cases...hot. For I am Sly Detective and I will solve this case. Now tell me, who shot the Sheriff?

COOK

No one knows, Detective. That's why you're here.

DETECTIVE

If that's the case then that means it time to figure out...Who Shot The Sheriff?
(Blackout).

ACT ONE SCENE TWO

The scene opens with WIFE, MAID, COOK, NURSE, POOL BOY, BUTLER, and GARDENER sitting waiting patiently. Within minutes DETECTIVE enters.

DETECTIVE

So, I have evaluated the scene and came to a conclusion.

MAID

What?

DETECTIVE

Well, there was a bullet cap on the floor next to Sheriff's bed, there is also a bullet hole in the wall next to his bed, last, but not least, there is a gun that has been fired on the floor. I have come to the conclusion that someone has shot the Sheriff.

COOK

(Sarcastically) Wow. You figga-ed that out all by yo-self?

WIFE

By the way, have you heard from the doctor? How is my father-in-law doing?

DETECTIVE

He is doing just fine. He is unconscious at the moment, but he is breathing. He was shot in the ear.

MAID

In the ear?

DETECTIVE

Much blood was lost, but they think they can save him.

WIFE

Oh my word, that is horrible. Is there anything we can do for him?

DETECTIVE

No, but next time don't wait so long to call the police.

WIFE

This is just horrific. Detective, you have to hurry up and find out who shot the Sheriff. Were there any clues in the room? Were there any finger prints on the gun?

DETECTIVE

No. There were none. Which means the shooter was wearing gloves.

WIFE

Then that could have been anyone of you. You all wear gloves while you're working.

You wear gloves too. COOK

I didn't shoot my father. WIFE

In law, your father-in-law. MAID

Why do you keep implying that I shot him? WIFE

What makes ya think I implied ya shot 'em? Is your conscience feelin' guilty? MAID

My conscience is innocent, but you keep implying that I shot my father. WIFE

In law, your father-in-law. MAID

See, there you go again. Why do you keep mentioning that he's an in-law? As if because he's an in-law and not my real father, I would shoot him. WIFE

I'm not implying anythang. MAID

You implied that and you know it. WIFE

I didn't imply anythang. MAID

Whoever denied it implied it. Okay that's enough of that. What we have to figure out is after the shooting, who came in from outside. DETECTIVE

Wife, came in from the outside. MAID

So did Gardener and Pool Boy. BUTLER

Then that means one of you shot him. DETECTIVE

What do djew mean? GARDENER

DETECTIVE

In Sheriff's room, the window was opened and the screen was missing. Which means either the shooter entered the room from the window or made his or her escape from the window.

WIFE

Well, which one of you made *his* escape through the window?

POOL BOY

Yo, brah, I'm petrified of heights.

GARDENER

I told you I was in the garden, signor. Besides I don't know how to use a gun.

COOK

You wouldn't have to. Whoever shot him had bad aim.

GARDENER

How do we know it wasn't you?

COOK

Oh, please, if I was gonna shoot him I woulda shot 'em dead in the ass.

WIFE

Detective, I think you should go back upstairs and find more evidence.

DETECTIVE

Please, don't tell me how to do my job.

POOL BOY

Dude, I agree with Wife. You need to find more evidence so you can figure out that I didn't do it, brah.

GARDENER

I no shoot 'em either.

WIFE

And neither did I.

BUTLER

We are not getting any closer to solving the issue.

WIFE

Butler is right. Detective you have to hurry up and find out who shot my daddy.

MAID

In law, your daddy-in-law.

COOK

Can we hurry this up, I gotta finish cooking.

DETECTIVE

No one is going anywhere. Not until I figure out which one of you shot the Sheriff.

COOK

But that can take forever. You already doin' a bad job.

DETECTIVE

I don't care. I know one of you shot him which means one of you is lying. Now everyone just sit quietly. I am about to interrogate you so the audience knows your motives.

BABY GIRL

(Enters skipping. She is wearing scarf and gloves). Hi mommy.

WIFE

Hey Baby Girl, how are you?

DETECTIVE

And who is this?

COOK

That's Baby Gurl. Wife's and Husband's daughter.

DETECTIVE

How did she get in the house? The door was locked.

WIFE

She lives here, Detective. She has a key.

BABY GIRL

Mommy, who is this strange man?

WIFE

This is Detective. He's here to figure out which one of these workers shot your grandpa.

BABY GIRL

(Gasps) Oh, no. Gramps was shot?

WIFE

Yes he was.

BABY GIRL

He's dead, right? I mean he's not going to die is he? I just couldn't survive without him.

DETECTIVE

No, he's fine Little Girl.

BABY GIRL

The name is Baby Girl.

DETECTIVE

Oh, sorry. Baby Girl. *(Beat)* Baby Girl, where were you today around 1PM.

BABY GIRL

I was in school Detective.

WIFE

Wait a second. What are you implying?

DETECTIVE

I am simply doing my job.

WIFE

You don't actually think Baby Girl shot the Sheriff? She's Baby Girl; she doesn't know how to use a gun.

COOK

Again, just to remind everyone, the shooter had bad aim.

WIFE

And what are you implying?

GARDENER

You must stop accusing people of implying things.

WIFE

And what are you implying by that?

DETECTIVE

Okay, that's enough. From now on during the rest of this play you cannot use the word imply in any form. Now Baby Girl are you sure you were in school?

BABY GIRL

Of course.

DETECTIVE

Baby Girl, if you were in school then tell me what you learned.

BABY GIRL

I learned many things in all of my classes. Which class do you want me to talk about?

DETECTIVE

What did you learn in Algebra?

WIFE

For goodness sake Detective, she's a nine year old girl. She's not in Algebra yet.

BABY GIRL

Mommy, what's Algebra?

WIFE

It's annoying. *(Beat)* Look this is getting ridiculous.

COOK

It's been ridiculous.

WIFE

Detective, would you please just hurry this up. You're wasting time questioning Baby Girl. She was in school when Pool Boy or Gardener shot him.

POOL BOY AND GARDENER

Hey.

COOK

I really need ta get back ta the kitchen and finish cookin'. When is you gonna 'rest somebody?

DETECTIVE

When I figure out which one of you shot him.

COOK

Well, could we at least take a break?

BUTLER

Yes, please, this is becoming strenuous.

DETECTIVE

Fine. We will take a short break. Lights please *(Blackout)*.

ACT ONE SCENE THREE

The scene is a continuation of the prior scene nothing changes. When the lights come up everyone continues.

MAID

Well, that was a nice break.

POOL BOY

Dude it was short.

DETECTIVE

You know what, why don't you guys watch TV? Relax enjoy the nice fresh homely air. I am going to go upstairs and do some more research in Sheriff's room. And absolutely no one is allowed to leave this room. Understand? *(All agree with adlib. BABY GIRL turns on the television. Everyone sits and relaxes. Detective talks to himself)* Before I go upstairs I think I will interrogate someone. Who should I pick? *(DETECTIVE thinks for a bit).*

MAID

(To Butler). You wanna help me clean the bleach up off the floor in the bathroom over yonder?

BUTLER

Sure. *(MAID and BUTLER exit to bathroom).*

DETECTIVE

(He approaches COOK. COOK is reading a book, the cover reads, "How To Shoot People in the Ear"). Hi, Cook. How are you?

COOK

Yo, just chillin' And how you doin'?

DETECTIVE

A little backed up. I had too much cheese on my omelet this morning. But other than that I'm fine. *(Beat)* So, Cook. Tell me about yourself.

COOK

Is you flirtin' wit me?

DETECTIVE

No. I just want some information. To see if you have a motive to shoot Sheriff.

COOK

I love Sheriff. Besides, I shot him once before. And I made a vow that I would never shoot him again. And I don't break my vows.

DETECTIVE

Why did you shoot him?

COOK

Because I needed a job. I told ‘em if he didn’t get me a job I would shoot ‘em. I shot ‘em, he gave me the job, end of story. Besides Wife shot him.

DETECTIVE

Why would she shoot her father? Well, her in-law, father-in-law.

COOK

That’s just the thing. She tryin’ ta act like she love ‘em and everythang, but she begged Husband to move ‘em into a nursing home. She kept sayin’ she didn’t wanna take care of his ass. That’s why Husband hired Nurse. But Wife was against it from the start.

DETECTIVE

That’s some vital information. Thank you Cook.

COOK

Uh um.

DETECTIVE

(Looks over towards WIFE and walks towards her. He sits next to her. WIFE is holding a newspaper (or magazine) up to her face; it reads “I Didn’t Do It.”) Hey, Wife, may I talk to you? *(WIFE nods yes)*. Do you really love Sheriff as your father?

WIFE

He’s like a second father to me and I love him. He is such a great man. He was one of those parents that said I am not losing a son, but gaining a daughter. Sherriff went to a father daughter dance with me *(Reminiscing, still angry)* that my real father could not attend because he was too busy for his own daughter. Can you believe that too busy to accompany his own flesh and blood to a dance? *(Attacking DETECTIVE)* Is that fair daddy?!

DETECTIVE

(Everyone reacts by looking in confusion) Girl, calm down, I’m not your father.

WIFE

(Collecting herself). Sorry. Either or I owe Sheriff a lot for making me feel special that day. So, you see I just could not shoot him. But Gardener, however.

DETECTIVE

Why do you think that?

WIFE

Well, I overheard a conversation him and Sheriff was having a few days ago. I was afraid something like this would happen, but I didn’t know what to do. You see, Gardener has been working for Sheriff for years, decades. He was one of the staff members that moved here with Sheriff when he fell ill. Maid, Cook, and Gardener were all his staff at his home. Well, anyways, Gardener asked him for a raise and Sheriff told him no. And then Sheriff reminded him that he was an illegal alien and could have him shipped back if he

didn't watch his tone. Then they started arguing and then the last thing Sheriff said was only over my dead body. And Gardener said, then so be it, watch your back.

DETECTIVE

Wow.

WIFE

I know, isn't that amazing. When you said that either Pool Boy or Gardener shot him I knew it was Gardener

DETECTIVE

I also said you could have shot him.

WIFE

I did not shoot my father-in-law.

DETECTIVE

Well, thank you for talking to me.

WIFE

Any time Detective. You just better find out who did it.

DETECTIVE

Oh, I will.

WIFE

How do you know?

DETECTIVE

Because I read the end of the play. *(MAID and BUTLER enters in all white garments (including shoes) looking amazed at what the bleach did to their clothing. COOK looks at them in confusion and they return the look as if nothing happened. DETECTIVE approaches GARDENER. NURSE exits to study).* May I speak with you for a moment?

GARDENER

Si, signor?

DETECTIVE

Grace-e-us. So, Gardener, what do you do for Sheriff?

GARDENER

I plant and harvest all of his food. I pretty much grow everything Cook cooks.

DETECTIVE

Do you grow the meat? *(He laughs. GARDENER looks confused. SHERIFF giggles)* It was a joke. *(No response).* Never mind. So, Gardener, how much do you like Sheriff?

GARDENER

Oh, I really like him. He done a lot per me and me Madre. You know he paid per me Madre's surgery.

DETECTIVE

What kind of surgery?

GARDENER

Me Madre's boobs were lop-sided. He paid for her to have a surgery to make them even. I could never shoot such a generous hombre. *(Whispering)* Besides, I have a feeling Nurse shot him.

DETECTIVE

Really, why?

GARDENER

Well, it all starts back when he first got sick and Husband had to hire Nurse. When Sheriff met Nurse he realized she was dee stripper he met down at dee club.

DETECTIVE

Nurse is a stripper? And she dresses so humbly.

GARDENER

Well, Sheriff still requests lap dances. But she refuses and every time she does Sheriff tells her He is going to tell Governor that she used to be a stripper. Governor is her father and he would be devastated if he found out his lola was a stripper. I think she shot him to put an end to the lap dances.

DETECTIVE

Wow, this is just amazing. This house is just full of psychos. Thanks for the information.

GARDENER

No problemo, signor.

DETECTIVE

(NURSE enters with wine bottle and wine glass. She pours herself a glass of wine and then drinks from the wine bottle. DETECTIVE approaches NURSE. WIFE exits to room). Hey, may I speak to you. *(She nods yes and takes another sip from the bottle).* So, how are you doing?

NURSE

I'm totally as if about this shooting thing. I just totally hope it will like end soon.

DETECTIVE

Oh, it won't be soon. We have a couple of more scenes to go through. So, why should I believe you didn't shoot him?

NURSE

I could totally never shoot anyone. And you know why? Because I am a Johnson and we Johnson's totally don't go around shooting people. Besides, I kinda knew this would totally happen. I knew Butler could not work here any longer without doing something to Sheriff.

DETECTIVE

Butler? Why Butler?

NURSE

Well, Butler and Sheriff are really totally old friends. They grew up together. But, they separated because Sheriff totally stole Butler's girlfriend.

DETECTIVE

Secretary was Butler's girlfriend?

NURSE

Yes. And Secretary is her middle name. Her first name is Administrative. Anyway, Sheriff and Administrative eloped and when they returned Butler and Sheriff had this totally drama-gantic argument and vowed never to see each other again. Husband had no clue about this when he hired Butler, and Butler didn't even realize that Husband was Sheriff's son. When Sheriff got the sniffles and moved in that's when Butler and Sheriff reunited. And the tension in here ever since has been like, oh my gosh.

DETECTIVE

This is interesting information. Thank you.

NURSE

Like totally.

DETECTIVE

(WIFE enters with a shirt that reads: "I Love My Father-in-Law." She sits back down and reads her newspaper (or magazine). BABY GIRL exits to kitchen. POOL BOY exits to backyard (pool) DETECTIVE walks towards BUTLER). Hey Butler, may I talk to you?

BUTLER

And what shall the content of this conversation include?

DETECTIVE

What was your relationship like with Sheriff?

BUTLER

Why? What did you hear?

DETECTIVE

What makes you think I heard anything?

BUTLER

I'm not fatuous. I have observed you approaching each individual in interrogation. I'm

sure someone mentioned that Sheriff married Administrative.

DETECTIVE

Yes. Where is she, by the way?

BUTLER

Business trip. And I truly have forgiven him. So, to answer your question I did not shoot the Sheriff. Besides, it is difficult to remain irate with someone as courteous as Sheriff.

DETECTIVE

What do you mean? He stole your girlfriend.

BUTLER

When we were children I made a foolish mistake. One day Bully, one of the town tyrants asked me what I would do for a Klondike Bar. I really wanted that Klondike Bar. So, I went skinny dipping in the lake. When I came out Bully ran away with my clothes. Sheriff gave me his shorts and walked me all the way home. It was a dreadful thing to see us. Two boys walking home one wearing nothing but a pair of shorts and the other wearing a t-shirt, underwear, and sandals. Not only did he lend me his shorts, but he gave me a Klondike Bar, a bar I never received from Bully. He has always brought wonderful companionship to our relationship. His only mistake was when he married Administrative. But I forgave him and Administrative. However, I do not believe Maid has forgiven him.

DETECTIVE

Excuse me?

BUTLER

She despises him. You notice how she kept mentioning that Sheriff is Wife's father-in-law? (*DETECTIVE nods yes*). Well, Maid is envious that Sheriff loves Wife more. (*Beat*) You see, years ago Sheriff cheated on Administrative with Waitress. Maid is their love child. Administrative never knew, but Waitress made Sheriff see his daughter. The only way Sheriff knew he could keep Maid in his life without his wife being aware of Waitress was to have Maid labor for him. So when she became the age of seventeen she commenced to labor for Sheriff, but he still never treated her like his daughter. I believe she shot him in anger.

DETECTIVE

I don't believe this. Thank you.

BUTLER

You are welcome.

DETECTIVE

(*GARDENER exits to back yard (garden)*). (*BABY GIRL enters with Klondike Bar and returns to spot in front of the television*). (*DETECTIVE walks towards MAID*). Hello. May I speak with you?

MAID

Sure. Did ya find out who shot ‘em yet?

DETECTIVE

No. Not even close. So, tell me about your relationship with Sheriff.

MAID

Well, there is nuttin’ much ta say. He and my mother were really close friends. When she died from a squirrel attack, he helped me pay for her funeral and he even let me live wit ‘em. I love him. I really do. I just can’t believe Pool Boy shot ‘em.

DETECTIVE

Pool Boy Shot him?

MAID

Yeah, it’s so obvious. Last week Sheriff caught Pool Boy swimming instead of cleaning the pool one day and Sheriff gave ‘em a good ol’ fashion spankin’. Pool Boy was very furious about the spankin’. He said he would kill ‘em when he gets the chance.

DETECTIVE

Well, thank you for the information.

MAID

Yes sir.

DETECTIVE

(POOL BOY enters wet. He wipes himself off with a beach towel. DETECTIVE walks towards POOL BOY. COOK exits to kitchen). Hey Pool Boy, how are you?

POOL BOY

Totally awesome dude.

DETECTIVE

Explain to me why you would not shoot Sheriff. I’m trying to narrow this down.

POOL BOY

Sheriff is a great dude, dude. He gives me money when I ask for it. If I shoot him that’s the end of the money. I work for Husband, so any extra money I want I get it from Sheriff.

DETECTIVE

Do you have an idea who shot him?

POOL BOY

Yeah Dude, Cook blasted him.

DETECTIVE

And why do you think that?

POOL BOY

Because she's a thug. She shoots people. *(He walks away to the bathroom. As he enters he reacts badly to the bleach smell. He walks away).*

DETECTIVE

(To himself) Well, here I am back at square one. Everyone has a motive and everyone thinks someone else did it. How can I narrow it down to one? Who in here is unbiased? *(GARDENER enters with a batch of strawberries in one hand and an apple in the other. He takes a bite out of the apple and shares the strawberries with WIFE. DETECTIVE looks over at BABY GIRL. He walks towards her).* Hello, Baby Girl, may I talk to you?

BABY GIRL

Sure.

DETECTIVE

What do you think about all that is going on?

BABY GIRL

It's just horrible. My gramps is a wonderful man. It's a shame Burglar shot him

DETECTIVE

Who's Burglar.

BABY GIRL

Oh, he is a mean man. He's been on the news the past couple of weeks. He burglarized the supermarket, he burglarized the gas station, and he burglarized the bank. I think he knows my gramps is rich so he came here to burglar my gramps too. He came through the window and shot gramps. Then he escaped through the window. I don't know where he is, but if you can find him, I would greatly appreciate it.

DETECTIVE

I will do that. Just for you.

BABY GIRL

Thank you *(COOK enters with two Klondike bars. She offers one to BUTLER, he covers himself as if he is naked. In confusion she shrugs her shoulder and offers it to MAID. MAID takes one and COOK eats the other).*

DETECTIVE

Well, that didn't help any. I guess, I'll go upstairs and find some more evidence. *(He exits upstairs. Blackout)*

ACT ONE SCENE THREE

All are still watching the television. DETECTIVE enters from upstairs.

GARDENER

Did you find anything?

DETECTIVE

Maybe. Wife, do you mind if I use your phone?

WIFE

Not at all.

DETECTIVE

(Picks up phone and dials) Hello, Hi. This is Detective. Yes. I need you to do me a favor. *(Whispering)* I need you to do a background check on the following people for me. You have a pen and paper? Okay, you ready? Alright, the names are Wife, Gardener, Maid, Pool Boy, Cook, Butler, and Nurse. Okay? I need an extensive research done, okay. And when you're done can you send it to me? *(Pause)* Oh, right, of course. Um...oh, maybe you can fax it to me. Hold on, let me ask. Wife do you have a fax machine.

WIFE

Yes.

DETECTIVE

Perfect. Yes, there's a fax machine here. Oh, yeah, of course, hold on again. Wife what's the fax number?

WIFE

732

DETECTIVE

732

WIFE

867

DETECTIVE

867

WIFE

5309

DETECTIVE

5309. Okay, that's 7-3-2 . 8-6-7-5-3-O-9. Okay, please send it as soon as possible. Thank you Assistant. *(Hangs up phone)*. Okay, this is perfect.

BUTLER

Are you any closer to solving the case?

DETECTIVE

Of course. Well, not exactly. Well, I think so. No.

MAID

How long is this gonna take?

DETECTIVE

Why? Are you in a hurry to leave?

MAID

No. I got work ta do. This ain't gonna take all night is it?

DETECTIVE

I don't know. You know it would be over if one of you would just confess.

Simultaneously

POOL BOY: Dude, I didn't do it.

GARDENER: I no shoot him.

WIFE: I did not shoot my father-in-law.

COOK: I didn't cap his ass.

BUTLER: I could never shoot him.

NURSE: I totally did not shoot him.

MAID: Sir, I's promise ya, I did no sucha thing.

DETECTIVE

None of you shot him, but yet you were the only ones in the house.

GARDENER

I was outside in the garden.

POOL BOY

I was in the pool...cleaning the pool.

WIFE

I was at the supermarket.

DETECTIVE

You know what; let's not talk about this right now. I have some paper work coming over that will help the case. Until they fax them there's not much I can do. So, let's just not talk about it until they come.

COOK

Yo, I can do that.

BUTLER

I have not observed any problem in the conclusion of your decision.

DETECTIVE

Good. *(There is a long moment of silence)*. So, what do you guys want to talk about?

POOL BOY

Dude, the TV is on. How 'bout we just watch TV.

DETECTIVE

Okay. *(Another pause)*. So, what do you guys want to watch?

BABY GIRL

Well, I'm watching *Sesame Seeds Street*.

DETECTIVE

Well, that's fine. *(Another pause)*. So, is anyone hungry?

POOL BOY

Very.

MAID

I sure could nibble on summin'.

COOK

Did ya'll want me ta cook sum'in?

WIFE

That would be a great idea. That's if, of course, Detective is okay with it.

DETECTIVE

Yeah, that's fine. *(COOK exits. Another pause)*. So, what do you think of Obama? Change of history, right?

WIFE

Yes.

GARDENER

él muy buen.

MAID

I'm glad I got ta see it happen.

POOL BOY

He ain't all that.

NURSE

His wife like totally uses my designer.

BUTLER

Inspiring.

BABY GIRL

Is that the dead guy?

DETECTIVE

No, that's Osama. We're talking about Obama, the president.

WIFE

Can we just watch the TV in silence?

DETECTIVE

Sure. *(Pause)* So, did anyone watch the game last night?

POOL BOY

Which one?

DETECTIVE

Is there more than one?

MAID

Which sport ya talkin' 'bout, baby?

DETECTIVE

I don't know just trying to make conversation.

BUTLER

Select another topic.

DETECTIVE

(Pause) So, what do you think about the Jersey Shore?

POOL BOY

Dude, it's totally awesome.

MAID

I hate it. It's one hundred percent garbage.

NURSE

Like how could you hate it? It totally has like some of the best beaches in America. And they may have garbage on them, but what beach doesn't

MAID

Oh, I thought you were talking about the TV show. Not the actual shore.

DETECTIVE

There's a TV show about the shore. What is it about?

GARDENER

Nothing really.

NURSE

It's totally about a bunch of girls and boys getting down at the shore.

MAID

It's trash. All they do is show all of the sluts of New Joisey.

WIFE

Are you talking about the Housewives of New Jersey?

MAID

No.

POOL BOY

That's not all they show. They also show the thugs of New Yawk.

WIFE

Are you talking about the Housewives of New York?

POOL BOY

No.

MAID

We talkin' 'bout a show called Jersey Show. It's a reality show on MTV. All theys do is show a bunch-a sex crazed boys who come from New York ta have sex with the sluts of New Jersey.

WIFE

So it's a reality show about politicians?

NURSE

Like no.

BUTLER

Can we not discuss this matter any more? Besides we all came to the agreement to watch television in silence.

DETECTIVE

(Pause. Thinking of another subject, finally he gives up. Within seconds he begins to unconsciously sing). On top of spaghetti--

POOL BOY

(Unconsciously singing) All covered in cheese.

DETECTIVE and POOL BOY

I lost my poor meatball-

GARDENER

In somebody's sleeves.

MAID

What? It's when somebody sneezed.

GARDENER

Oh, I'm sorry.

DETECTIVE

(Pause. Begins to sing again). This is the song that doesn't end.

BUTLER

It just goes on and on my friend.

MAID

Some people started singing it not knowin' what it was.

NURSE

And they totally continued signing it like forever just because this totally is like the song that really totally doesn't end.

DETECTIVE

You just totally ruined the song.

WIFE

I thought we agreed to watch the television in silence.

DETECTIVE

I don't know if that's a good idea.

WIFE

Why not?

DETECTIVE

Because, the audience might get board.

WIFE

Well, what else are we supposed to talk about?

BUTLER

Why are we ignoring the obvious? Shouldn't we be discussing who shot Sheriff?

GARDENER

I thought we decided not to talk about that until the fax came in.

DETECTIVE

Yes, we did, but I do not know how long that will be. You know, you would all make my job much easier if you would just confess.

GARDENER

Maybe Cook did it. She probably escaped from the kitchen door.

DETECTIVE
She wouldn't do that.

BUTLER
She sure would, if she shot him.

DETECTIVE
Cook! Cook! Get in here. *(No response)* Oh my gosh she ran away. *(He goes to exit, Cook enters).*

COOK
What the hell is ya'll yelling for?

DETECTIVE
Oh, good you didn't leave. Everyone thought you tried to make an escape.

COOK
WHAT THE PEBBLES!

DETECTIVE
They thought that you shot him and then tried to escape through the door in the kitchen.

COOK
Ya'll accuse me behind my back? I should shoot ya'll. *(Beat)* I did not shoot Sheriff.

DETECTIVE
Well, what about the rest of you.

BUTLER
I don't even have a gun.

DETECTIVE
The gun used was Sheriff's.

MAID
That thang is locked up. And I ain't gots the password for it. So, that let's ya'll know I didn't shoot 'em.

BABY GIRL
Not necessarily. Gramps keeps many things in the safe. He could have opened it and the shooter could have taken the gun. *(Everyone looks at her in suspension)*. It's just a guess. And no, I did not shoot gramps. I was in school.

POOL BOY
I wouldn't shoot him. I couldn't shoot him. I did not shoot him.

WIFE
I could never shoot my father

MAID
In-law, father-in-law.

WIFE
Why do you keep insinuating that I shot my father?

MAID
I ain't insinuating that you shot your father-*in-law*.

WIFE
(Frustrated) You are insinuating.

MAID
I ain't insinuating.

WIFE
You are too insinuating!

DETECTIVE
Okay that is enough. Insinuating is a word added to the list of words you cannot use. In fact you cannot use any words that begin with the letter "I." And that goes for everyone. No one may use any word that begins with the letter "I."

WIFE
That is insane.

DETECTIVE
What did me just say?

WIFE
That be ridiculous.

BUTLER
You cannot be serious Detective.

DETECTIVE
Me be very serious.

COOK
Detective, you have lost your damn mind.

DETECTIVE
Can you blame me? Me've been hanging around the likes of you people. Going back and forth about how you didn't shoot the Sheriff, but yet he has been shot. (*Pouting*) Now one of you shot him and one of you better tell me who shot him.

NURSE
Like we should all totally take a lie detector test.

COOK
Where the hell we gonna get the machine from?

NURSE
Well, like maybe someone can like totally fax the thing over.

BUTLER
Me would gladly take the test to prove that myself did not shoot him.

POOL BOY
Me cannot believe this be going on right now.

GARDENER
Esto es estúpido.

COOK

Me about to shoot somebody.

WIFE

Me can't believe we are actually using sentences without "I" words.

BUTLER

Can we please venture back to using words that begin with the letter "I"?

DETECTIVE

Absolutely not.

WIFE

How will this solve the answer of who shot my dad?

MAID

Your dad by-law.

WIFE

Me be getting sick of you suggesting that me shot my dad.

MAID

Me ain't suggesting nothing. Me just pointing out the fact that Sheriff be your father-by-law and not your father.

COOK

Would you two please shut up?

WIFE

Me won't shut up until Maid stops suggesting me shot Sheriff.

DETECTIVE

Okay new rule. Wife and Maid you two may not speak to each other until we figure out who shot the Sheriff. Now, Cook, go back to the kitchen and continue cooking. Me be hungry. *(Cook exits)*.

WIFE

How much longer will this take?

DETECTIVE

There's only 12 pages left of the script.

WIFE

Oh, thank God. Me don't know how much longer me can speak without "I" words.

DETECTIVE

(Fax rings). What's that?

WIFE

That be the fax machine.

DETECTIVE

Oh great. *(Thinking hard while saying sentence without "I" words)*. What room...does the machine be located?

WIFE

The fax be located...um...be located...uh...it's, I mean, um... damn it, it's in the den.
(*DETECTIVE exits*). This is just ridiculous.

NURSE

Ooh, me telling. You're totally not supposed to use "I words." Like totally.

WIFE

This is my house. I can do whatever the hell I want.

COOK

(*Enters*). The food be just about ready. Butler you might want to set the table.

BUTLER

Me will do that. (*Exits*).

DETECTIVE

(*Enters with pages and pages of faxes. He's reading them as he enters*). Oh my goodness. Me don't believe that. What? Are you serious? You have to be kidding me? Oh my gosh. Really? No. Me don't believe what me be reading.

GARDENER

What be that?

DETECTIVE

Just some vital data that me needed.

WIFE

Will this data solve the case? I want to know who shot my daddy.

MAID

You're daddy-by-law.

WIFE

I thought Detective said you were not supposed to talk to me.

MAID

Me thought detective said you were not supposed to use "I" words.

DETECTIVE

(*Pouting*) Ladies, please stop. (*New idea*) How about this. We will all go to the dinning room and eat. After we eat we will return and me will solve the case.

POOL BOY

That's bodacious dude.

NURSE

Yeah, me totally be hungry. Me haven't eaten like all day.

GARDENER

Mi quiero Taco Bell.

COOK

(Every one exits to dining room). Pool Boy can you help me bring out the food me cooked? (POOL BOY agrees. Both exit to kitchen)

DETECTIVE

(DETECTIVE places his pages of faxes on a table. As he does so the phone rings. He answers it). Hello, Husband and Wife residents, how may me direct your call? (Slight pause) Oh, she's not available may me ask who be calling? (Pause). Oh, did you want me to take a message? (Beat) Ok. (Pause). Really. Are you serious? Oh my word. Okay. Me will give the message as soon as me sees her. Okay, have a great day. Bye. (Hangs up phone) Well, would you look at that? (POOL BOY enters with Taco Bell and then exits to dining room. As DETECTIVE proceeds to exit his cell phone rings). Hello. Speaking. (Pause). Oh really. What did he say? Seriously? Wow. That be amazing. Sure. Me will let them know. Me'll be down there soon. Okay. Bye. (Hangs up phone) Oh my goodness. Cook!

COOK

(Enters with a pizza box and soda) Yes, Detective.

DETECTIVE

Me need you to go to the dinning room and tell everyone to come here.

COOK

Um...okay. *(Exits to dining room)*

WIFE

(Soon everyone enters) Detective what is going on?

NURSE

No "I" words, Wife.

WIFE

Okay that's enough with the stupid restrictions. This is my house and I have declared that it is now okay to use "I" words.

DETECTIVE

Alright, we can all use "I" words once again. Everyone gather 'round. I have good news. And it has nothing to with car insurance.

COOK

Well, what *is it?*

DETECTIVE

Me, I mean, I...I have found out who shot the Sheriff.

WIFE

Oh, that's great. Well, who did it?

DETECTIVE

You all had great motive to do it, but only one of you did it.

MAID

Well, yeah, we know that. Who did it?

DETECTIVE

Do you really want to know?

WIFE

Yes.

DETECTIVE

Are you sure?

POOL BOY

Yeah, dude. Hurry up.

DETECTIVE

Are you positive?

COOK

Detective, if you don't say it Imma shoot you.

DETECTIVE

Do you really want to-?

ALL

JUST SAY IT!

DETECTIVE

Sure thing. But not until after this little break. Ladies

NURSE, MAID, COOK

(Stand in girl group formation and sing). After this little break, we'll be right back.

(Blackout)

ACT ONE SCENE FOUR

This scene opens with every one sitting except DETECTIVE.

WIFE

Detective, I wish you would hurry up and tell us who shot my daddy.

MAID

Your daddy-in-

ALL

Shut up, Maid!

DETECTIVE

Speaking of the Maid. Maid.

MAID

Yes sir.

DETECTIVE

Why are you so concern to let everyone know that Sheriff is Wife's father-in-law? Are you jealous of Wife?

MAID

No. Why would I be jealous?

DETECTIVE

Because you are upset that Sheriff treats Wife more like a daughter then he treats you.

GARDENER

Why would he treat Maid like a daughter to begin with? It's not like Maid is his daughter.

MAID

I AM TOO.

DETECTIVE

Ah-ha.

WIFE

WHAT? How can that be?

DETECTIVE

Sheriff had an affair and Maid is the result of it.

COOK

Well, damn.

MAID

Yeah, it's true. I'm his daughter. And he loves me more than you Wife. Always remember that. I will always be his daughter. Always!

DETECTIVE

And that was your motive to shoot him. You hated the fact that he loves Wife more than you.

MAID

If I was gonna shoot anyone it woulda been Wife.

DETECTIVE

Exactly. And that's why you did not shoot the Sheriff. Wife.

WIFE

I didn't shoot him.

DETECTIVE

Didn't you try to have Sheriff moved to a nursing home?

WIFE

Because, they could take care of him better then I could. That's the only reason. I was not trying to get rid of him.

DETECTIVE

Then why did you try to drown him a week earlier?

WIFE

That was an accident. How did you know about that?

DETECTIVE

The faxes I received told me a lot about you guys. Now why did you try to drown him?

WIFE

I didn't try to drown him. When he told me he wanted to go swimming, I took him to the pool. I did not realize he was sedated and was talking to his imaginary friend Pascal. If I knew that I would have never taken him into the pool. I truly love my father-in-law. I wouldn't shoot him. Besides, I was at the supermarket.

DETECTIVE

I know that's why you didn't shoot him. Butler. Isn't it true that Sheriff's wife used to be your girlfriend? And you haven't forgiven him yet, have you?

BUTLER

Yes, me have. And yes that be a motive, but me promise you me did not shoot him.

COOK

You can use "I" words now.

BUTLER

Sorry, I forgot.

DETECTIVE

Yeah, I know, you didn't shoot him either. Cook.

COOK

What is you gonna do, accuse everyone until you get to the shooter?

DETECTIVE

Yes. Cook, isn't it true that you did some jail time?

COOK

Yeah. So.

DETECTIVE

You've been to jail six times. Can you tell everyone what you went to jail for the sixth time?

COOK

I...I shot a man...in the ear.

BUTLER

So, you did shoot him.

COOK

I didn't shoot Sheriff. My past has nothing to do with my present. Besides, there was no time for me to shoot him and then end up in the kitchen.

DETECTIVE

You could have gone out the window and then ran to the kitchen door.

COOK

But Pool Boy or Gardener would have seen me.

DETECTIVE

I know that's why you didn't shoot him. Gardener, isn't it true that you and Sheriff recently had an argument over you getting a raise?

GARDENER

Yes, but I wouldn't shoot him over a raise.

DETECTIVE

No. But you are in this country illegally, aren't you? And Sheriff threatened you, didn't he? Sheriff had all the power to get you shipped back. And you were afraid so you shot him.

GARDENER

Yes. No. Yes, I mean, yes, he threatened me, but I wouldn't shoot him. Besides, it's not like we're in Arizona.

DETECTIVE

I know. Nurse.

NURSE

Like what?

DETECTIVE

Isn't it true that Sheriff was mistreating you?

NURSE

He like totally didn't mean any harm. Besides he's totally sedated half the time. He doesn't know what he's doing.

DETECTIVE

But that didn't stop you from getting upset and shooting him.

NURSE

As if. I did not shoot him. Besides I never held a gun in my life.

DETECTIVE

Oh no. What about the super soaker you use to lose the “Best at Aim Water Gun Shoot.” You came in dead last making you a perfect candidate.

NURSE

That was totally just for shittles and giggles. I would totally never shoot anyone for real.

DETECTIVE

Of course not. That’s why you didn’t shoot him either.

WIFE

Well, that only leaves one other person.

ALL

Pool Boy.

POOL BOY

I didn’t shoot him.

DETECTIVE

Pool Boy, isn’t it true that Sheriff gave you a spanking?

POOL BOY

Yes, and it still hurts to sit, but I wouldn’t shoot him over that.

DETECTIVE

I know.

MAID

This isn’t making any sense. There is no one left.

BUTLER

Detective, have you realized yet, that you are wasting time.

WIFE

And spreading all of our dirty laundry. The audience did not need to know all of that information.

DETECTIVE

There is one suspect left. *(Slight pause. Everyone looks around)* Baby Girl.

ALL

(Gasp) Baby Girl?

DETECTIVE

Yes, Baby Girl.

WIFE

Now, stop it. Detective you have gone too far. Baby Girl did not shoot him. Besides she was in school all day.

DETECTIVE

I have a question for you Baby Girl. When you entered the house today why were you wearing a scarf and gloves when it is in the middle of summer?

NURSE

Yeah, I just like totally noticed that.

BABY GIRL

Well, Detective the air condition in my school gets so high that it gets so cold. So I bring a scarf and gloves. It's so I stay comfortable while I am in school. It's difficult to learn when you are freezing.

DETECTIVE

Oh really. Were you even in school Baby Girl?

BABY GIRL

Yes, Detective.

DETECTIVE

Then tell me; what did you do in class today?

WIFE

Oh please, don't start that again. I told you before she doesn't know what Algebra is.

BABY GIRL

Yes I do mommy, it's annoying.

DETECTIVE

Are you sure you were in school, Baby Girl?

BABY GIRL

(Frustrated) Yes, Detective.

DETECTIVE

Oh really. Wife, when you guys left to the dining room Principal called and I took a message for you.

WIFE

(DETECTIVE hands WIFE the message, she reads it). Wife, this is Principal. Just called to see if everything is okay with Baby Girl. She was absent all day today and you or Husband did not call to release her today. Please call back as soon as possible. Thank you. *(To BABY GIRL)* Oh, my goodness, Baby Girl is this true?

BABY GIRL

No, mommy. They must have gotten me mistaken with someone else.

DETECTIVE

Oh really, then why did I find a piece of fabric from your scarf in Sheriff's room?

BABY GIRL

I go in there all the time. I'm sure many of my stuff shows up in there.

DETECTIVE

Even on the window where the shooter escaped? And when I was talking to you earlier, how did you know the shooter used the window to escape?

BABY GIRL

Uh...because you said so.

COOK

Yeah, man, you told us that.

DETECTIVE

Yes, I did, but Baby Girl wasn't here when I said it.

BABY GIRL

Oh, then it was guess.

DETECTIVE

No, it wasn't a guess. You shot Sheriff.

BABY GIRL

(They all gasp) No, I didn't, honestly, I didn't.

DETECTIVE

This is what happened. First, you waited until your mother left and everyone was out of sight. Second, you went into his room, punched in the code to the safe, took the gun and shot him. Third, you escaped the window using your scarf. You then hid so neither Gardener or Pool Boy would see you. Fourth, you then waited until Gardener and Pool Boy left, and then you ran far away and came back just in time to make everyone think you were in school.

BABY GIRL

That's not true and you have no proof.

BUTLER

And she doesn't even have the password for the safe.

WIFE

Yes she does, gramps gave it to her.

BABY GIRL

Shut up, mother!

COOK

But there's no motive.

DETECTIVE

This is a play we don't need a motive.

WIFE

There is still no hard evidence. I'm not going to have you accusing Baby Girl of such horrendous actions. You have completely lost your mind. Please leave my house.

DETECTIVE

I have one last huge piece of evidence that proves Baby Girl shot the Sheriff.

BUTLER

And what might that be?

DETECTIVE
I got a call on my cell phone from the hospital. Sheriff awoke and said Baby Girl shot him.

BABY GIRL
I didn't shoot him.

DETECTIVE
You did to.

BABY GIRL
(Louder) I didn't shoot him.

DETECTIVE
(Louder) You did to.

BABY GIRL
I DID NOT SHOOT HIM!

DETECTIVE
YOU DID TO!

BABY GIRL
Okay, okay, okay. I shot the Sheriff, but I did not shoot the deputy. *(To the audience)*
Ya'll was waiting all night for that, weren't you?

WIFE
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO! Baby Girl, how could you shoot grandpa? I can't believe Baby Girl did such a bad thing.

BABY GIRL
Get over it.

DETECTIVE
Well, it's time for you to go to jail. *(Calls)*. Cop.

COP
(Enters) Yes, Detective.

DETECTIVE
It's time to arrest the shooter of the Sheriff.

COP
Okay. *(Walks towards BABY GIRL)*. Let's go shooter.

DETECTIVE
Wait a second. How did you know she was the shooter?

COP
I heard everything from backstage. *(Handcuffs BABY GIRL)*.

BABY GIRL
That's alright. You haven't heard or seen the last of me. I'm going to get you; I'm going to get you all. *(BABY GIRL bursts into the "evil laugh" COP and BABY GIRL go to exit)*.

WIFE
Wait a second.

DETECTIVE

What's wrong?

WIFE

The show is about to end and we don't have a moral or even a message.

NURSE

Like what do you totally mean?

WIFE

Every play has to have a moral or a message so the audience goes home thinking differently about life. We're not just supposed to entertain them, but we are to educate them about life and the meaning of life. We need a moral or message.

BUTLER

Well, isn't the playwright supposed to have written it already in the script?

WIFE

Yes, but this playwright has not.

COOK

You know, playwrights can be so damn annoying sometimes.

WIFE

Yes, just like Algebra, but either or we need a message. So, start thinking.

POOL BOY

Yo, dude, I got one. You shouldn't shoot people.

WIFE

No, that's too boring.

NURSE

Like you totally shouldn't lie about shooting people.

WIFE

No, that's even more boringer.

MAID

You shouldn't get caught shootin' peoples.

BABY GIRL

You shouldn't skip school.

BUTLER

You shouldn't steal your friend's girlfriend.

COOK

(Not sure) You shouldn't go to the supermarket on a Monday morning?

WIFE

No, keep thinking

DETECTIVE

No matter what bad thing you do in life, in the end you will always get caught.

WIFE

No, no, NO. Come on now, think better.

BUTLER

Well, how can any of us think? We are all famished. We haven't dined all day.

WIFE

That's it, that's the message.

MAID

What?

WIFE

Never think on an empty stomach. *(Everyone adlibs and applauds in agreement)*. Okay, we have our message for the audience.

DETECTIVE

Good. Okay, Cop, take her to jail. *(COP and BABY GIRL exit)*. Well, my work here is done. It was nice meeting all of you weird, demented, and crazy people. It is time for me to go. *(Exits)*

MAID

Wow, that is just horrible. Who woulda thought such an innocent girl would do such a thang.

BUTLER

It is very depressing.

NURSE

It's like totally heart breaking.

POOL BOY

Dude, my tears fall for her.

WIFE

I can't believe my baby is going to jail.

GARDENER

I pray she gets the help she needs.

COOK

(Pause) Well...dinner's ready.

Simultaneously

BUTLER : Oh, good, because I'm hungry

MAID: Yes, Lawd. It's time to eat

GARDENER: Thank God, I thought we would never eat.

NURSE: Like totally awesome.

WIFE: Oh good, let's go eat.

POOL BOY: I am starving, dude.

COOK

I made some really good tacos. *(Everyone exits to dining room)*

THE END