

LARRY, THE DOG LAWYER

Written by

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INT. POLICE STATION INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Larry, The Dog Lawyer walks into the interrogation room at his local police station. The client John Jacobs is there waiting.

LARRY

Nice to meet you, John Jacobs.

JOHN

Nice to meet you too.

LARRY

I'm Larry, The Dog Lawyer. I'm your public defender.

Larry paws at his tie.

LARRY (CONT'D)

Bark, bark!

Larry has several items in his inventory: John's phone, a notepad, a pen, a full water bottle, and the relevant police reports.

LARRY (CONT'D)

So, what happened?

JOHN

Should I start at the beginning? Well, I was arguing with a neighbor of mine because he called the police on me a month ago claiming I stole his Christmas decorations, but shockingly that's not why I'm here today. I didn't steal his property, and I've never broken the law--aside from this murder I'm about to tell you about.

Nodding, Larry is already thinking about how to spin this case to get his client the best deal. He brings out the police report.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I know everything that police report will say. But let me tell you what it doesn't say. So, a few weeks ago, once I learned it was my neighbor who called, I drove past his house to confront him. There he was standing outside his house with his hands on his hips. It was like he was waiting for me.

(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)

We shouted at each other for a while, and then he furiously tossed his keys into my truck. I'm not sure why he did that, but I drove off as soon as he did. There was two keys on the key chain. One for the house, and the second was a small key that I didn't recognize at the time, but that small key was his gun lock.

LARRY

Are you sure he was the one that called? It wasn't anyone else?

JOHN

I'm sure it was him. But that's beside the point. The point is, about a week later I used the keys he gave me to break into his home where I found his gun case and took his gun. I kept it in my truck for a few weeks, I was looking to sell it, actually.

Larry points out that the police report doesn't include any information about finding a gun.

LARRY

Why didn't you sell the gun, or get rid of it some other way?

JOHN

I didn't sell it because I couldn't find anyone to buy it. But that's beside the point. The point is, I used the gun to kill my ex-wife's boyfriend. I don't know what happened to the gun after that.

Larry has a feeling that something happened to the gun, but decides to hold off on talking about it right now.

LARRY

Why did you kill your ex-wife's boyfriend?

JOHN

I killed him because my ex-wife and I got divorced last year. I found out she'd been seeing him all these years we've been married, and I had no idea.

(MORE)

JOHN (CONT'D)

I mean, I knew they were seeing each other, but she told me it wasn't serious. And I was also in another relationships that wasn't serious. But she was lying! She and her boyfriend were very seriously dating! And on top of it all, she asked him to never mention the relationship to me!

Larry hands John a water bottle from his briefcase. He quickly drinks half of the bottle, and hands it back.

LARRY

I'm so sorry about what happened.

JOHN

Before I killed him, I put him in handcuffs and drove with him out to this hidden lake that's surrounded by thick tree coverage. It was really private, and romantic. We talked for a few hours. He explained what had happened. He pleaded for his life. I wasn't interested in listening to any of that. I took his life, not because I had to, but because I knew it'd hurt my ex-wife. And so, even if I end up in jail, it was worth it.

Larry scribbles in a notepad and taps his paws. He thinks, "I could really go for a bone right now, something to calm my nerves. My client just admitted to first-degree murder, and he seems totally lucid and in control. It would be difficult to convince any jury that my client is innocent."

Larry looks John up and down, noticing his shoes. John is wearing fashionable leather boots with pointed tips.

LARRY

You're a shoe fan?

JOHN

Yeah of course! I rotate between twenty different shoes, replacing each pair after they get a certain amount of use.

LARRY

What do you do with the shoes after your done with them?

JOHN
I donate them to unhoused people.

LARRY
That's wonderful!

Larry thinks for a moment. He notices how expensive John's phone is.

LARRY (CONT'D)
I have an idea, how much money can you gather?

JOHN
I have about 20,000 in savings, and another 250,000 in stocks.

Larry paws John's phone as well as a small scrap of paper over to John.

LARRY
The police are allowing me to give you your phone. You should call your stock broker, we need to make a political donation.

Larry stands up, concluding the meeting.

LARRY (CONT'D)
Call me when you hear back, I'm on my way to talk with the District Attorney about your case.

EXT. NICE PATCH OF GRASS - DAY

Larry walks to the District Attorney's office. During his walk, he gets a call from John who says he can take out \$150,000 right now, and that "other thing" was tossed into the lake after it was used. Larry is happy to hear about the money, but doesn't mention any "other thing". On Larry's way to the District Attorney's office, his sees a nice patch of grass and goes to the restroom there.

INT. D.A'S OFFICE - DAY

The District Attorney's office is climate controlled. It felt like it could be 65 degrees Fahrenheit in there.

LARRY
Hey District Attorney! Think we can talk about my case?

DA

Be quick, I have an
important meeting with the
mayor.

The District Attorney was wearing a thick grey suit jacket over a nice light blue button down and sea blue bolo tie.

LARRY

I have a client who is in trouble,
totally innocent, and has the money
to back that up!

DA

Well we do have a tiered system
with that sort of thing. How much
money does he have?

Larry, for a moment, thinks. Larry offers \$75,000 to drop the case.

DA (CONT'D)

I'll take that! Thank you.

The District Attorney types into his computer. The computer beeps, boops, and bops.

DA (CONT'D)

The case is dropped!

LARRY

Thanks again, have a good one!

INT. POLICE STATION INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

LARRY

Your case was dropped,
congratulations! I did have to give
the District Attorney the full
amount, just so you know.

JOHN

Hurray!

Larry nods, satisfied that he could help his client while also secretly helping himself.

JOHN (CONT'D)

But wait, Larry, how'd you do it?

LARRY

That's a great question, let me
start at the beginning.

DOG POLICE

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INT. CITY BANK - DAY

Richard CRASHES through a glass window into a bank robbery gone wrong. Richard's partner, Natalie, is already there, AIMING her SNOUT at the two robbers. One robber is holding a HOSTAGE. The other robber is holding a LARGE BAG OF MONEY.

NATALIE

Let go of that hostage!

RICHARD

LCPD! Drop the bag!

The robber holding the LARGE BAG OF MONEY jumps out of a nearby open window.

NATALIE

Go get 'em, Richard!

EXT. LARGE CITY - DAY

Richard follows the robber with the BAG out the window. Richard jumps on top of the getaway car as it races away from the bank.

RICHARD

Woof! Hey! Slowdown! I'm trying to save the day!

Richard holds on tight to the roof of the getaway car. Positioning his HIND LEGS over the thin roof.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Now I'll have to cite you for speeding!

Using his HIND LEGS, Richard cuts through the thin roof, just enough to fit a handful of CRACKED PEPPER into the car.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Let's get sneezing!

The driver sneezes, crashing into a fire hydrant and stopping the car. Richard handcuffs both robbers. Natalie walks out of the bank with the freed hostage, and with the robber in handcuffs. Standing together triumphantly, Natalie and Richard call their Sergeant.

SERGEANT MCKAY

I'm proud of you two pups! Head back to HQ when you're all done there.

INT. LC POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

Natalie and Richard are met with high praise by their colleagues and superiors. Natalie sighs and slouches over her desk and takes a sip of sparkling dog water. Richard is standing nearby.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Surrounded by other dogs barking loudly, Natalie drinks from a dirty water bowl.

INT. LC POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

Natalie bunches up her paw into something like a fist. She pours some coffee into her water bowl, making the water slightly brown. Sergeant McKay approaches.

SERGEANT MCKAY

I know you're shift is about to end, but I have another mission for you.

SERGEANT MCKAY (CONT'D)

We just got a tip about a con man stealing money from hardworking rats.

Richard and Natalie look at each other in disgust.

SERGEANT MCKAY (CONT'D)

I need you two to park outside this address and figure out how he's been lying to these poor rats!

EXT. CRIMINAL'S HOUSE - EVENING

Richard and Natalie trade sips from a thermos of hot coffee. Using a pair of binoculars, Natalie sees different people coming in and out of the house. They come in with a BAG OF MONEY, then leave holding loose BARS OF GOLD.

RICHARD

Something's happening in there, but I don't know what.

NATALIE

Whatever it is, it seems pretty popular. Think he knows every customer?

Natalie hands Richard a BAG OF CASH. Richard exits the undercover car and walks over to the house, knocking on the door. Someone opens the door, and they let Richard in.

INT. EMPTY HOUSE - EVENING

Richard takes a deep breath. The person who let him in is silent, waiting for Richard to say something. There's a window behind the person that Natalie is peeking through.

RICHARD

Hey... so I need to buy gold from you, please. I'm desperate. My son's school only accepts payments in gold. And my husband and I are separating, but because he's so selfish, he's making me pay for his apartment, and his apartment only accepts payments in gold! So, you see my situation, I need a steady supply of gold. Can you help, or what?

Richard puffs his chest out and stands there looking at the person sternly. The person nods, gently taking the BAG OF CASH out of Richard's trembling hand. Richard stands there quietly while the person counts the money. Natalie walks away from the window (heading towards the front door). Once the person finishes counting, they hand Richard BARS OF GOLD.

PERSON

Thank you for...

RICHARD

LCPD! You're under arrest, villain!

Natalie kicks the door open with her HIND LEGS.

NATALIE

Yeah, villain! We're arresting you!

The villain is arrested and taken to jail by other officers. Now, Richard and Natalie are searching around the empty home looking for clues. Natalie finds a few PAY STUBS in a closet next to some GOLD.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Think I found something useful
behind the GOLD BARS!

Natalie grabs a few PAY STUBS and reads them.

NATALIE (CONT'D)
These are PAY STUBS for the rats!
But look, instead of a cash amount,
it says 'cheese that looks like
gold.'

RICHARD
The rats were probably promised
gold in exchange for their labor.

Natalie shakes her head in disgust, collecting all the PAY STUBS and leaving with Richard to bring the evidence to Sergeant McKay.

INT. LC POLICE STATION - NIGHT

SERGEANT MCKAY
Another great job! Good work you
two! But I have another case that
needs solving.

Sergeant McKay takes a big swig from his COFFEE MUG.

SERGEANT MCKAY (CONT'D)
I'm calling this case, 'The Man Who
Hanged, Was Murdered.' You're going
to investigate the murder of
someone who was recently hanged
after spending 3 years on death
row.

Richard and Natalie look at each other, confused.

RICHARD
I thought...

NATALIE
Isn't that normally how we do
executions?

SERGEANT MCKAY
Normally, but his body was found in
his old house. According to
forensics, he didn't die by
hanging. The victim was stabbed to
death.

Sergeant McKay bites down on a donut.

SERGEANT MCKAY (CONT'D)
First, I need you two to head to
our execution parlor and see what
they have to say.
(MORE)

SERGEANT MCKAY (CONT'D)
Then, I want you to go to his old
house, where his body was found.

Sergeant McKay tosses the rest of his donut into the trash.

SERGEANT MCKAY (CONT'D)
Now get out there. That's an order!

INT. LC POLICE STATION EXECUTION PARLOR - NIGHT

The two pups walk down into the execution parlor, in the basement of the police station. The only other person there is a janitor.

RICHARD
Alright if we look around?

JANITOR
Glad you finally showed up, I was told to wait, off-the-clock, till someone came to investigate. You're lucky you showed up when you did, I was about to walk out.

NATALIE
How long have you been waiting?

JANITOR
Too long, hurry up.

Richard and Natalie walk around the tiled room. Richard notices some TOOTH FRAGMENTS on the floor near a drain.

RICHARD
These... TOOTH FRAGMENTS. Huh.

Natalie notices a bucket of BLEACH.

NATALIE
BLEACH too. Smells awful.

RICHARD
That's all we needed to see, thanks for waiting for us.

JANITOR
Have a good night, then. Hope they're paying you overtime for this.

EXT. VICTIM'S CONDO - NIGHT

Richard and Natalie walk to the fourth floor apartment. In the center of the apartment is a caulk outline of a dead body. On one side of the room there is a fire roaring in the fireplace.

NATALIE

Wonder why no one shut this off.

RICHARD

Probably didn't want to mess with the evidence.

Richard tightens the valve controlling the gas fireplace, stopping the fire and revealing GOLD BARS STAMPED WITH A LOGO. Richard picks up the GOLD BAR with his paws.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

It says, 'Modern Bank, Paris, France.'

NATALIE

These aren't the same GOLD BARS we saw earlier. We better call Sergeant McKay.

INT. LC POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Sergeant McKay is sitting alone at the police station, surrounded by papers, when his work phone rings.

SERGEANT MCKAY

That's a perfect clue, Natalie! Great job to you both. I bet this clue will lead us right to the culprit. I need you both on the next flight to France. That's an order!

INT. AIRPLANE OVER ATLANTIC OCEAN - NIGHT

Most of the passengers are asleep, aside from Natalie and Richard.

NATALIE

Since neither of us know French, we should find someone who knows the language and can translate for us.

RICHARD

Sergeant McKay already called them.
The translator is meeting us there.

INT. MODERN BANK, PARIS FRANCE - DAY

Natalie and Richard meet with the translator inside the bank.

TRANSLATOR

Good to meet you both! I've already spoke with the bank, you're meeting with the manager in the bank vault, they are comfortable with speaking you both in English.

INT. MODERN BANK VAULT - DAY

RICHARD

Thank you both for meeting with us today on such short notice.

NATALIE

We appreciate your cooperation.

MANAGER

You're both welcome! Actually, I must admit, I've always wanted to meet the LEGENDARY POLICE DOGS of Large City.

NATALIE

So you've heard of us?

MANAGER

Yes, I love listening to PODCASTS about American police. Did you know that Large City spends more on police dogs than it does on education?

RICHARD

Yes, we know.

NATALIE

We were both born and raised there.

MANAGER

And you're both okay with working for them now?

Natalie and Richard exchange tired glances.

RICHARD

We're supposed to be the one asking
questions.

NATALIE

Do you recognize this GOLD BAR?

Richard slides the GOLD BAR across the table.

MANAGER

I recognize this symbol as ours,
this GOLD BAR came from our
reserves.

MANAGER (CONT'D)

We often store our wealth in gold.
Our owner loves MAGICIANS, and
MAGICIANS only accept payments in
GOLD.

RICHARD

And were you aware that you had
GOLD BARS in America?

MANAGER

No, but once the GOLD leaves this
building we can no longer take
responsibility.

Natalie and Richard look at each other, exhausted.

NATALIE

Thank you for your time, that's all
the questions we have.

Natalie and Richard stand up, heading toward the door.

RICHARD

What's that PODCAST called, by the
way?

MANAGER

It's called, 'Crime Crime - Crime,
No More.'

EXT. FRENCH HIGHWAY

While driving, returning to the airport, Richard and Natalie
tune into the podcast the bank manager told them about.

PODCAST

Today I will be talking about a criminal who was last heard of over a century ago. He was called 'The Bad Tooth Bandit,' because of his CHIPPED FRONT TEETH. He was a MAGICIAN who's claim to fame was his ability to survive corporal punishment. In fact, he was hung twice and survived both times. He was eventually killed by guillotine, but today we're going to talk about how he survived being hung twice...

END

Season name: Pirate Bonfire Festival

Season theme: A Season of Firsts

Name	Profession
Alix	Ship Captain
Fatima	Dock Worker
Xavier	Wizard Intern
Javiera	Assassin

Name	Story Quest
Alix	Alix wants a fun festival. Sell music makers, elixirs, and flaming oil so the festival is a success!
Fatima	Fatima is a new artist. Fatima needs paint, paint brushes, a canvas, and something to inspire her!
Xavier	Xavier is rushing to help a charity! They're preparing burn potions for the festival.
Javiera	Javiera needs poison darts and disappearing elixirs. Work silently, she prefers discretion.

Name	Introductory dialog
Alix	<p>"Oi! I'm Alix, the Captain of Blossomwood... the prettiest ship in the sea! My crew and I are here for the famous bonfire festival. I love this festival... the fire... the laughter... Oi! And the heat!</p> <p>I've been telling my crew about it for months! This will be their first time seeing a bonfire! Oi! How about we make this a festival to remember?"</p>
Fatima (first)	<p>"Hi! I'm Fatima! You must be [player]. I see your business is new! Well I'm also doing something new... I want to make a painting. You see, I just started dating this amazing woman. She's so deep and... morose? That's a word, right?</p> <p>Anyways, she's also an artist! She makes these beautiful abstract oil paintings, they remind me of the beach at sunrise... but also home? Hard to describe.</p> <p>I'm taking her to the bonfire festival tonight and I want to make her something, but I'm not too confident in my painting! Maybe... a landscape? or a portrait? Do you have anything that can help me?"</p>
Xavier	<p>"Ah! ah ah ah! I'm in a rush. Have you ever heard of the... nevermind. I don't think anyone has actually heard of these rare ingredients. Maybe you have something that would... pass for this? It's just that...</p> <p>I don't think we need all of these rare ingredients, especially when common ingredients work just fine and are much more plentiful. But, ugh... I'm just venting now.</p> <p>I hope you never have to deal with this man I'm interning for. He's nice, and he's doing good work. It's just... he thinks being a wizard makes him special, but anyone can make these potions... I... *sigh*"</p>
Javiera	<p>"Heh, business is good. My... clients... love my work. Ah... well it's no secret that I'm the town assassin. Might as well call me the town... boogeyman. At least that's how I see it.</p> <p>Anyways. I won't stay long. Wouldn't want to... scare away your business. But, I do have a lot of work to do tonight during the bonfire festival. Think you could... set aside some things for me?</p> <p>I promise, I'm a reliable customer. Oh, and... Take your time and be discrete. If not, I'll focus my... business... elsewhere."</p>

Name	Dialogue between characters
Alix	<p>Alix: Oi! Oi! I think I'm on fire! My coat! It's supposed to be fire-proof!</p> <p>Javiera: Hold on. Stop for a second! Look, I'll just pour some no-more-flame oil on it.</p> <p>Alix: Oi! Thank you! By the way, who are you?</p> <p>Javiera: I'm the town's assassin. Or, were you asking for my name?</p> <p>Alix: Oh you're an assassin? That's perfect! I have the perfect job in mind for you! My name is Alix, I'm a visiting ship captain.</p> <p>Javiera: Well then, I'm Javiera! We should... talk about this further on your ship. I'll follow you there...</p> <p>Alix: But should we be seen together? Wouldn't that spoil the project?</p> <p>Javiera: I doubt it! With my varied skill set, they'll never know who's next!</p>
Fatima	<p>Fatima: Oh! Excuse me! Do I... Do I know you from somewhere?</p> <p>Unknown: Oh... uh... You might know me from the dock? I moved here not too long ago...</p> <p>Fatima: Oh... oh! You're the new cart guy! I give you fish guts! Hehe. Do you cart anything else?</p> <p>Cart guy: Last season I would cart water balloons filled with... what I hope was... fake blood? I swear, this town is odd. Tonight, they're having me cart gallons and gallons of flame oil to the center of town. If I didn't know better, I'd say--</p> <p>Fatima: We sure do love our celebrations!</p> <p>Cart guy: What do you think it'll be next season? Pumpkin sledding? Gasoline swimming? Or maybe something easy like ax juggling?</p> <p>Fatima: I'm sure they'll announce it on the last day of the festival, pumpkin sledding sounds fun! But gasoline swimming? I doubt that'd get approved.</p>
Xavier	<p>Xavier: Lets see... lets see... What did the wizard need again? Hold up, where is the list?</p>

Name	Dialogue between characters
	<p>Wizard: *cough*</p> <p>Xavier: Josh! Oh! Josh the Wizard! Why... why are you here?</p> <p>Wizard: Forget something? Hmph... forget something you might need? Something I repeatedly told you not to forget?</p> <p>Xavier: Well I—</p> <p>Wizard: You forgot the credit card! And the tax exempt information!</p> <p>Xavier: Oh, yes, of course!</p> <p>Wizard: Now I'm in a rush, I have important business. If [player] doesn't have the rare ingredients we need, bring whatever the closest approximate item is.</p>
Javiera	<p>Javiera: *mumbles to self*</p> <p>Fan boy: Oh wow! Is that really you? You're the assassin Javiera? I hear about you all over town! You assassinated a cousin of mine!</p> <p>Javiera: Oh! I'm... sorry for your loss?</p> <p>Fan boy: Don't be! You did a spectacular job! It was all we could talk about for months!</p> <p>Javiera: Really? You... don't miss your cousin? You aren't traumatized by having seen him killed?</p> <p>Fan boy: Not at all! Seeing you behead him so silently, I couldn't even make a cut so cleanly without at least grunting! Besides, I have plenty of cousins.</p> <p>Javiera: Thank you! ...I think?</p> <p>Fan boy: I was wondering if—</p> <p>Javiera: Oh, we really shouldn't be talking! I don't have the time.</p>