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"AMOS AND ANDY"
by
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No. 917.

Back to the court room for the trial. As the scene opens we find a crowded court room and Madam Queen's attorney is about to call Lightning to the witness stand. We find Amos and Andy seated near their attorney. Madam Queen and her sister are both dressed in an array of color and just before the judge calls for order we hear Amos and Andy. Here they are:--

Amos---Lightnin' cert'n'y is dressed up, ain't he? He bought a new suit.

Andy---You done told him not to git up on dat thing an' act crazy, ain't yo'?

Amos---Yeh,---you can't tell him whut to say though.

Andy---Look at Madam Queen sittin' oveh dere. Dere's a gal fo' yo'.

Amos---She dressed up, ain't she son?

Andy---Yeh, dat's de dress she had on de fust night we had a date--- 'member I told yo', she was all full o' colors?

Amos---She sittin' dere tryin' to look sweet fo' de jury, dat's whut she doin'.

Andy---I look at her now an' think of de time when I loved her---but boy, I don't love her no' mo'.

Amos---'Scuse me Mr. Collins, but how yo' think ev'ything is comin' 'long up to now?

Collins--Well, things are coming along pretty good.

Andy---Dat's de best news I done heard yet.

Amos---Wait a minute---dere go de judge.

Collins--Quiet boys.

Judge--(ffg) (raps) Quiet please. Call your next witness Mr. Smith.

Smith--(ffg) Lightning, take the witness stand please.

Andy---Dere he go. I hope he shows some sense.

Amos---Why don't you shut up?

Bailiff--(cjc) Do you swear dat the testimony that you are about to give in this case is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Light--Whut you say mister? Yessah.

Bailiff--(cjc) Sit down.

Light--Where must I sit?

Bailiff--(cjc) In that chair.

Light--Yessah.

Andy---He kind-a nervous too---look at him.

Amos---You goin' be nervous when you sit in dat chair too.

Andy---Dey ain't but one worse dan dat---dat's de 'lectric chair.

Smith--(ffg) Whut is your name?

Light--Talkin' to me Mister?

Smith--(ffg) Yes, I'm talking to you.

Light--My name is Lightnin'.

Smith--(ffg) What is your real name?

Light--Lightnin'.

Smith--(ffg) What is your last name?

Light--I think my last name is Williams, but I ain't sure 'bout it.

Smith--(to Judge) If the court please I will refer to this witness as Lightning, and just let his testimony go into the records as the testimony given by Lightning.

Judge--(ffg) I see no objection to that if the witness doesn't know his name.

Smith--(ffg) What is your occupation at the present time?

Light--You talkin' to me Mister?

Smith--(ffg) Yes, all of the questions I'm asking now are directed to you.

Light--Yessah.

Smith--(ffg) Will you answer the last question please?

Light--Whut was it?

Smith--(ffg) What do you do for a living at the present time?

Light--I works in a lunch room.

Smith--(ffg) And who owns this lunch room?

Light--Mr. Amos, Mr. Andy, an' Mr. Crawford.

Smith--(ffg) Do you know the owners of this lunch room?

Light--Yessah, I know 'em.

Smith--(ffg) Do you know them well?

Light--I know 'em well enough to draw my money 'fore Sat'day.

Smith--Do you know Andrew Brown, the defendant in this case, very well?

Light--Yessah.

Smith--(ffg) Did you know that Andy Brown was engaged to marry Madam Queen?

Collins--(cjc) I object, your honor. Whether or not the witness had heard a rumor of Madam Queen being engaged to Andy doesn't mean anything in this case.

Andy---Dat's de stuff.

Collins--(cjc) Counsel for the plaintiff in this case can establish the fact that these two people, the defendant and the plaintiff, were engaged to be married. I see no objection to that, but your honor, I do object to Mr. Smith asking a witness what he had heard.

Judge--(ffg) Objection sustained. Scratch that from the records. (to Smith) Go ahead Mr. Smith.

Smith--(ffg) Did you know that Andy Brown was in the taxicab business?

Light--Yessah, I knowed it. I driv de taxicab one day.

Smith--(ffg) Then you have been in the taxicab office.

Light--Yessah.

Smith--(ffg) Did Andrew Brown ever say anything to you about Madam Queen?

Light--Yessah, I done heerd him talk about her.

Smith--(ffg) Whut did he say to you?

Light--I don't know, he done said so many things----lemme see---he told me dat he was goin' show me how to handle a woman.

Andy---(soft) My pal.

Light--He told me dat he wanted to gimme some revise. He say dat he knowed how to make a woman crazy 'bout him by tellin' her a lot o' sweet things, an' I know dat he called her sweet dumplin'.

Smith--(ffg) Did Andrew Brown ever send you over to Madam Queen's on an errand?

Light--Whut yo' mean?

Smith--(ffg) Did you ever take a letter from the taxicab office to Madam Queen's beauty shop?

Light--Yessah, I believe I is.

Smith--(ffg) Who gave you this letter?

Light--Andy gimme de letter.

Smith--(ffg) And who did he tell you to give the letter to?

Light--He told me to take the letter over to Madam Queen an' I 'member dat he said not to give it to nobody but her 'cause he told me dat it was a love letter an' he didn't want it to git out.

Andy---I sent it to de wrong one though.

Smith--(ffg) He told you this was a love letter.

Light--Yessah, he told me he was goin' show me how to write a love letter some day. If you don't believe it, ast him--- dere he is.

Smith--(ffg) He told you it was a love letter.

Light--Yessah, he told me dat alright---(to Andy) Didn't yo' Mr. Andy?

Judge--(ffg) Quiet in this court room please. You have your witness answer your questions only.

Light--(to judge) You talkin' to me Mister?

Smith--(ffg) The court was speakin' to me.

Light--Sir?

Smith--(ffg) I said the judge addressed his remark to me. I'd like to ask you, Lightning, if you delivered the letter to Madam Queen.

Light--Yessah, I give it to her.

Andy---He ain't he'pin' me none.

Smith--(ffg) Was the letter addressed to Madam Queen?

Light--He had a M. Q. on de envelope, an' I ast him whut de M. Q. was an' he said he was 'brevilatin' fo' Madam Queen.

Smith--(ffg) Cross examine.

Light--Is yo' all through wid me?

Collins--(cjc) Just keep your seat---I'd like to ask you a few questions.

Light--Yessah.

Amos---Lightnin's rarin' to git off dat seat.

Collins--(cjc) Did you see Andrew Brown write the letter that was in the envelope he gave you?

Light---NOSAH.

Collins--(cjc) Did you know the envelope had a letter inside of it?

Light--Nosah.

Collins--(cjc) Did you know that Andrew Brown was

interested in helping Madam Queen in her beauty shop business by giving her advice?

Light--Yessah, I heard him say once dat he was goin' show her how to run de bizness, dat she didn't have sense enough to make no money.

Andy---(very soft) Oh--oh.

Collins--(cjc) Then you knew that he was helping her in a business way by giving her advice.

Light--Yessah.

Collins--(cjc) Then this letter that you carried from the taxicab office to Madam Queen's beauty shop could have been a business note.

Light--Yessah.

Collins--(cjc) Did you ever carry a note to anyone else for Andy?

Light--Yessah, I done carried a lot o' notes fo' him over to de Kingfish, over to de barber shop, an' places like dat.

Collins--(cjc) Then why did you think that the envelope you carried to Madam Queen was not a business note?

Light--Well, of all de notes I done carried ev'ywhere fo' him, she is de first one dat kissed it. De Kingfish never kissed none, but when I give her de envelope she kissed it an' say "from my ducky wucky", an' 'fore he sealed it up he shook some talcum powder in dere an' told me to always make my letters smell sweet when I write 'em.

Andy---Oh--oh.

Judge--(raps) Quiet in the court room please.