

Gary Duehr  
9 Oliver Street  
Somerville, MA 02145  
(617) 230-8102  
gduehr@comcast.net  
www.garyduehr.com

## **Johnny Depp Vs. Amber Heard**

**A 10-Minute Verse Play**

**Gary Duehr**

## Johnny Depp Vs. Amber Heard

### Character List

**LAWYER:** 35-45, female, a no-nonsense interrogator

**JOHNNY DEPP:** 59, a movie star, a roguish figure like an ex-pirate

**AMBER HEARD:** 36, a blond actress who's appeared in Marvel movies

### Tag Line

A defamation trial lays bare the raw details of a celebrity marriage, in which truth is a victim.

### Synopsis

Inspired by the real-life legal travails of Johnny Depp and Amber Heard, their tales of betrayal and violence—as well as moments of tenderness—are set to breezy iambic couplets. After each side makes its case, Depp and Heard go after each other with a vengeance.

**LAWYER**

Please state your full name for the record.

**DEPP**

Johnny Depp.

**LAWYER**

Mr. Depp, regarding Amber Heard,  
Your ex, do you remember  
An argument you had two years ago, the 18th of September?

**DEPP**

I do.

**LAWYER**

And why is that?

**DEPP**

We used our phones to tape our fights  
To help with therapy.

**LAWYER**

You both gave up your rights  
To privacy?

**DEPP**

We did.

**LAWYER**

She said she used them as a tool  
To show how you could act, how cruel  
That drink and drugs could make you. Do you accept this version?

**DEPP**

I don't. I think it's her distortion.  
We'd have a conversation, and then later she'd get caught  
In inconsistencies of who said what.  
Her stories don't match up.

**LAWYER**

Hold on—the court reporter has to catch up.  
Could you please raise your voice a little?  
These acoustics aren't ideal.

**DEPP**

Of course I will.

I tend to talk too quietly.

I'm very sorry.

**LAWYER**

On page F923,

You see the words, "Go listen to the tape, that's what  
They're there for"?

**DEPP**

Yes.

**LAWYER**

And have you got

An idea who—

**DEPP**

It's me.

**LAWYER**

And then Ms. Heard is quoted.

"*You* go listen to the fucking tape." That's what she said?

**DEPP**

She did.

**LAWYER**

Then at the bottom, she goes on. "I won't sit here  
And refight every fight we had. Is that completely fucking clear?"

**DEPP**

And then I said, "Let's go ask Travis what he heard."

**LAWYER**

He's your assistant?

**DEPP**

Yes. I told her, "He heard every word.

He knows the truth."

**LAWYER**

"What truth?" Ms. Heard replied.

"What are we even arguing about? I know I haven't lied."

**DEPP**

The night before, I'd called for Travis to come upstairs.  
As was so often the case, where there's  
A glass or two of wine, the fight had gotten physical.

**LAWYER**

You felt a witness was essential?

**DEPP**

I did. I told her, just tell Travis what you've done.  
I said, "Amber, please tell everyone.  
Did you just punch me in the fucking jaw?"

**LAWYER**

And what did Amber say?

**DEPP**

She said, "You told me to, you made me, ha!  
But I don't sit and bitch about it, do I?  
That's the difference. I don't make a face and cry."

**LAWYER**

And what was your reaction?

**DEPP**

As was my practice in that situation,  
I left the room and went back into my own corner.  
Round One, as they say, was over.

**LAWYER**

I'd like to ask about another time from 2016.  
Could you please set the scene?

**DEPP**

It was at the Ritz in San Francisco.  
I was touring with my band, and we'd just done a show.  
I got a room so we could talk.

**LAWYER**

Did you or she  
Request the meeting?

**DEPP**

Amber did. It couldn't have been me.  
She'd just filed for divorce, as well  
As a court restraining order.

**LAWYER**

In the hotel,  
Did Ms. Heard stay at least ten feet away?

**DEPP**

No, she did not.

**LAWYER**

In fact, what did she say?

**DEPP**

She asked me for a hug.

**LAWYER**

And did you hug her?

**DEPP**

No. She'd told the press  
How she feared for her life, and how I was this drunken mess—  
A monster, in her words. But that was not the case.  
Exactly why she wanted an embrace  
I couldn't fathom.

**LAWYER**

Was this a long discussion?

**DEPP**

It was. Four hours that led to pure exhaustion.  
She said she wasn't feeling well.

**LAWYER**

What did you do?

**DEPP**

I told her, go lie down for an hour or two,  
And then I'll wake you up.

**LAWYER**

And did she?

**DEPP**

She did get into bed, but she said she wasn't sleepy.  
I pulled the covers up. She asked if I  
Could get in too. I wasn't certain why.

**LAWYER**

She asked if you could get in bed?

**DEPP**

Yes, that is what she said.  
She wanted me to hold her, that was all.  
But I said no. I felt we'd hit a wall.  
I left the room. I needed time to process  
Everything: our lives, *my* life, the heavy stresses  
We were under. I'd kept it all inside.  
I sat there and I thought. I sat there and just cried.

**LAWYER**

Thank you. I'd like to call Ms. Heard to testify.  
Your full name? Nice and loud.

**HEARD**

I'll try.

Amber Laura Heard.

**LAWYER**

I want to ask about the incident  
On March 8 in Australia. There was a disagreement, isn't  
That right? And he'd been trying hard all day  
To keep his distance.

**HEARD**

It didn't happen that way.

**LAWYER**

You screamed at him. Agree or disagree?

**HEARD**

I disagree completely.

**LAWYER**

You grabbed a whiskey bottle and threw it at his head.  
Agree or disagree?

**HEARD**

So that's what Johnny said?

I disagree.

**LAWYER**

Because you'd work yourself, wouldn't you,  
Into a rage.

**HEARD**

A rage? No, not a rage, but I'd get angry, I'd do  
Anything in order to escape.

**LAWYER**

Including throwing objects?

**HEARD**

No, never that.

**LAWYER**

And yet the tapes made with your ex  
Suggest that throwing things is something  
That you do.

**HEARD**

When Johnny would take a swing,  
Sometimes that was all I had.

**LAWYER**

And when you threw the whiskey bottle, you were mad—  
It smashed into the mirror  
Behind his head, correct?

**HEARD**

I don't remember.  
I do recall some bottles that were broken  
Earlier that night. We'd spoken  
About his drinking, whether he would drink  
The rest of the bottle in his hand. He said, I think,  
"You want it so bad, take it from me."

**LAWYER**

He offered it to you?

**HEARD**

He did, but it was a fakeout, see?  
When I reached out, he snatched it back.  
He kept teasing, taunting me. He had a knack  
For making me half crazy. I thought back to the times he said  
I'd saved his life. Without me he'd be dead.

**LAWYER**

What happened next?



**HEARD**

Something in me snapped.  
I lunged for it and grabbed it  
By the neck and smashed it on the floor between us.

**LAWYER**

And what did he do then?

**HEARD**

He went completely nuts.  
He took the bottles from the bar, one by one,  
And threw them at my feet, laughing, like it was fun.  
They shattered. I was terrified.

**LAWYER**

How many did he throw?

**HEARD**

A couple dozen, all except a magnum of pinot  
Left over from our wedding. It was weird. We'd screamed and cried  
Our lungs out, and there it was, resting on its side.

**DEPP**

Remember our little island?

**LAWYER**

Please sit down.  
You had your turn.

**HEARD**

Johnny, what the fuck?

**DEPP**

The one we found  
In the Bahamas?

**HEARD**

Sure, I do. I was your fiancée,  
And you had started detox.

**DEPP**

I think back to the way  
You helped me, day and night. Made sure I had my meds,  
Talked to the nurse. Though we had separate beds  
It was a kind of honeymoon.

**HEARD**

I wouldn't call it that.

**DEPP**

Why not?

**HEARD**

For one thing, you were crazy as a bat.  
Delirium, the shakes. Plus you were paranoid  
That I would steal your drugs. That's funny. Go read Freud.

**DEPP**

But didn't you? You've been a user  
Your whole life.

**HEARD**

And you're a serial abuser.

**DEPP**

On the island you were wasted every day, you eked out  
Lines of cocaine on the balcony.

**HEARD**

Remember when you freaked out?  
You started screaming, pushed me away? I ran to get the nurse.

**DEPP**

I don't.

**HEARD**

We had to hold you down until the worst  
Was over and the meds kicked in.

**DEPP**

You said that I attacked you.

**HEARD**

Why would I say that if it wasn't true?

**DEPP**

As an insurance policy.

**HEARD**

Insurance? For what?

**DEPP**

What this is all about. Money, darling, your best shot.  
This case is all a hoax, a fantasy, mirage.

**HEARD**

The only hoax is what we called a marriage.  
We were never married, not really.

**DEPP**

Remember what your mother called me?

**HEARD**

Her son-in-outlaw. Johnny, I have a letter,  
That summer that you wrote to her.  
You want to hear it? "I can't explain the horrors  
I've put her through, a tour de force  
By this old junkie. It was only Amber's heroism  
That stopped me from going for a swim  
And taking a big gulp of ocean."

**DEPP**

Yes, that was true.

**HEARD**

And now the fairy tale is done.

**END**