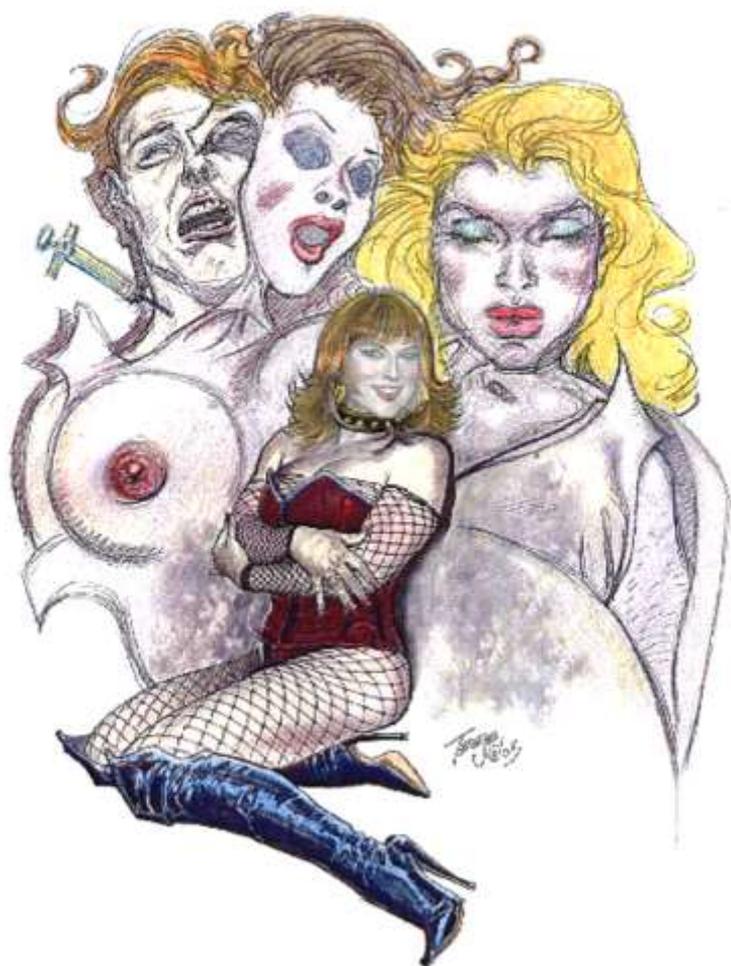


LET THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME



SARAH THORPE

LET THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME
by
SARAH THORPE



©2005 MAGS INC.

Written by Sarah Thorpe Illustrations by Teeje

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by information storage and retrieval system, without written permission by the author and Mags Inc.

All incidents and persons depicted in this book are fictitious. Any resemblance to persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental and unintentional and is intended for purely parody purposes.

CHAPTER I

Kelly Sutter took a good look at herself in the full-length mirror. She liked what she saw; it was obvious even to her that she was a very beautiful woman. Her medium brown hair was thick and fell down below her shoulders. Her make-up was perfect, and her clothes were just right for the first day at the office. She wore a light gray two-piece suit, and on her feet she had black pumps with 3" heels. She was 21 years old and had finished college, at least for now, a few weeks earlier. She had graduated with a minor in law and economics, and had decided to seek employment at this point. Depending on how well she liked her work, she would decide later if she would carry on with her education.

Once again she took a good look at herself in the mirror, and was satisfied that everything looked perfect. She called for her mother to ask her opinion. Her mother, Ellen, came in to her daughter's room and took a good look at Kelly. "You look absolutely fantastic. I'm sure you will knock the office down when you arrive. Now, please come down and have breakfast with your father and me. He would also like to have a look at you before you leave." "I'll be right down, mother," Kelly replied.

As Kelly walked into the kitchen her father took a good look at her. "You really look good," he said, "a little overdressed for normal office work, but quite appropriate for your first day at work. You remind me so much of your mother when she was your age." "Thank you, dad, I really appreciate your comments."

On her way to her new workplace, Kelly started thinking about her new situation. It was several months ago when she had the interview. The interviewers were from a consulting company, so she had no idea what kind of people she would be working with.

Six weeks after the interview she received a letter that her application had been accepted, and that she was offered a job in Bosworth & Co.'s new Los Angeles office. She had her father check of the company, and according to what he told her, it was a very respected Law Firm from the East Coast who was expanding all over the country. With that in mind she had

accepted the offer for a job. Two weeks after that she received instructions on how to find the office, along with parking instructions. She was supposed to report for work on a Monday, but due to some family business in another part of the country, it had been accepted that she showed up one day late.

It was easy to find the building where she would work. She drove into a garage located under the building and found her assigned parking spot. She displayed e decal in the window, locked the car and took the elevator to the office. Both the entrance to the garage and the activation of the elevator required a special card that had been sent her earlier.

When the elevator came to a halt, the doors opened and she stepped right into the lobby of Bosworth & Co. She walked up to a counter and presented herself. The girl behind the counter checked her files, and told her that Ms. Groves was waiting for her. She pointed Kelly to a door and told her to go straight in.

The moment she stepped through the door, she was greeted by a tall, elegant woman in her mid-forties. She was dressed in a red skirt and an elegant white blouse. A red jacket to go with the skirt hung on the chair behind her. “Welcome to Bosworth & Co,” she said, “my name is Elizabeth Grove and I am the manager of this branch office. I understand that you’ve already met Penny at the front desk. And you must be Kelly Sutter. Please sit down in a chair by the table. And please call me Elizabeth. We are all on first name here, except when we deal with customers.”

“Thank you, Elizabeth,” Kelly said and sat down. She looked Elizabeth over one more time. She was tall, almost six feet barefooted Kelly thought. In addition she wore shoes with two-inch heels. Her voice was a little gruff, but Kelly thought it suited the woman well and didn’t think more about it. It was coffee on the table and Elizabeth poured the cups for the both.

“As I told you,” Elizabeth said, “I run this office on behalf of Mr. Bosworth. I moved here from the DC Branch and I brought with me Jennifer Clarke who is responsible for administering us. That includes accounting. She is also my live-in mate; in fact we are legally married. I hope you don’t have any problems with that.” “Not at all,” Kelly replied.

“Fine. You see, in this company we make no

discrimination against sexual orientation, race and religion. And we are very open about these issues. If you have any problems with this, please tell me right away.”

“No problems. I’ve been brought up in a very liberal family and have seen it all. I have a cousin who’s gay, and my mother’s youngest sister was actually born a boy. Both are an integral part of our family.”

“Fine. Now let’s talk a little about Bosworth & Co. We are a law firm like many others, but we also have a policy to help people who are less fortunate and normally cannot afford a lawyer. We take many cases where we help the poor against the establishment, and we charge them only a symbolic sum. That is possible because Mr. Bosworth’s best friend happens to be amongst the ten richest persons in the country and he has devoted himself to spend money on the less fortunate. And since you don’t have a full bar exam, your main task will be to prepare cases like that before they go to court. We also take high profile cases if they should happen to come our way. You will be involved with them as well. To help me along with the big ones I have brought with me Nancy Wong. She is from California so she took this opportunity to move closer to home. And now, please tell me a little about yourself. Are you in any way related to someone in Sutter Real Estate?”

“Sutter Real Estate is run and owned by my parents Ellen and Karl Sutter. I have one older brother, Eric. He is 24 and will soon start working with our parents. He just had to play some seasons in professional baseball first. I have a second brother Earl. He is 17 and still in High School. His interests are more in the direction of electronics and computers. Finally there is Kirsten. She is 14 and already a raving beauty. Her hair is honey blonde and her body is fully developed. Most of the boys are ogling over her. But she is a sensible girl and keeps the boys at a safe distance. She wants to get into modeling and I think she will succeed. But she also wants an education, so she plans to go to college. Modeling will only be part-time.”

They talked for almost an hour before Elizabeth said that she would introduce Kelly to her new colleagues. First stop was with Jennifer. There they made sure that Kelly’s data were correct in the company files. Elizabeth also told Jennifer that Kelly was the daughter of the owners of Sutter’s Real

Estate. “That’s great,” Jennifer said, “They really did a wonderful job getting us these premises. They have also agreed to use us as their new legal advisors as soon as the contract with their present one is over. That will take place on Oct. 1st.”

Next stop was Nancy Wong. As Kelly suspected, Nancy looked like an East Asian. She was short, but very charming. Kelly understood right away that she was a very shrewd lawyer.

Then Elizabeth took Kelly to an area where three young men were sitting reading. They looked up as Elizabeth and Kelly came along. Kelly saw they were her age. “These guys are Craig Lowe, Joseph, or Joe, Everett and James, or Jim, Westerman. They have just arrived just like you, and are now reading some of the local laws and regulations. They’re all from out of state and need a fresh-up.”

Kelly noticed that all three were relatively small and skinny. Craig seemed to be the most withdrawn of them, while Jim acted like he was the dream boy to all girls. Elizabeth had to calm him down since it was obvious that his hormones had taken over as soon as Kelly came in sight.

Finally Kelly was taken to two girls her own age. They were introduced as Audrey Fillmore and Abigail, or Gail, Benson. Kelly liked them right away. “I will place you with Gail and Audrey,” Elizabeth said, “then you can teach them about California law. You have now been introduced to my whole staff. I hope to get a few more experienced lawyers soon. A few have contacted me and seemed interested in working for Bosworth & Co. I will now leave you girls to yourself for a while. After lunch I would like to see you all in my office. I’ll meet with the boys in 10 minutes.”

The three girls became instant friends. They realized right away that they were on the same wavelength. It turned out that Gail was a fully trained lawyer while Audrey had the same background as Kelly. They had lunch together and stepped right into Elizabeth’s office when they came back. After they sat down, Elizabeth went straight to the point. “I just will make one thing clear,” she said, “and that is the dress code we have in our company. During normal daytime and as

long as you have no contact with customers, you can dress casual. But don't overdo it. When you are in contact with clients you have to have a proper appearance. In court you always have to look your best. If you are out amongst our less fortunate customers, I advise you dress down a little. Don't look like you make a million dollars a year. This approach has proved very successful back in the East. This makes it easier for your clients to trust you. To accommodate this we have a wardrobe with a locker for each of you. Any questions?"

Kelly, Audrey and Gail looked at each other and shook their heads. "It seems very clear and logical to us," Gail said.

"Good. You will find lockers with names on in the Ladies' room. The key's in the lock. One more thing, Friday next week, at the end of the day, we will have a little party here in the office. I plan to have such a get-together once a month. It will make us feel more like a family. Some food and some drinks will be provided. We start at 3 PM."

On her way home Kelly thought about her first day at work. She liked her new girlfriends, but was not quite sure about the boys. Elizabeth was a puzzle. She looked and acted like any other woman and if it hadn't been for her voice and something she had said she wouldn't have started thinking about it. She wondered if Elizabeth might be a transsexual just like her aunt Sheila, and that her marriage had survived her change of status. Or even more bizarre, she might still be a man under all that feminine finery. Thinking about it she came to the conclusion that Elizabeth was still male, but living as a woman full time. That could also explain her somewhat larger hands and feet. But that was not conclusive, especially the feet. Tall women very often had large feet.

CHAPTER 2

Kelly soon found the rhythm with her new work. She taught her new colleagues some of the peculiarities about California and L.A. law. On Friday she had her first client. At nine in the morning a black woman in her fifties entered the office and asked for some help. Penny saw that Kelly was not busy, so she sent the woman to her. Kelly offered her a chair and started listening to her story. It soon became evident to Kelly that the woman had been a victim of some unfair

treatment by the city. She decided to follow the woman to her home and see for herself what had happened, she just had to change into something more casual first. On her way out she told Penny where she was going and followed the woman home.

It took several hours before Kelly was back in the office. What she had discovered was alarming. Something was obviously going on between the house owner and somebody in the city administration. She went straight to Elizabeth to report her findings. She didn't like what she heard. When Kelly was finished she said: "Good work, Kelly. We have to do something about this. I will call for Nancy and have her evaluation as well. She is after all a Californian."

Two minutes later Nancy entered Elizabeth's office. Kelly repeated her story. When she had finished Nancy said: "I'm ashamed that something like this goes on in my home state. We have to do something about it. I think we need some deeper investigation." "I agree," Elizabeth said, "and on Monday I will call in our investigator, Pete Simpson. He will know exactly how to handle it. On Monday we will also get a new employee, Claude LeClerc will join us. He is a distant relative of Mr. Bosworth and has been longing to start working for us. He has 10 years local experience so I will let him handle the case. Kelly, I would like you to dig out all the references you can and prepare yourself to get Pete and Claude up to date Monday morning. And Nancy, I would like you to follow the case. This can be a good opportunity to familiarize yourself with California law again."

Nancy and Kelly nodded and went back to work.

Monday morning after the formal introduction, Kelly briefed Claude and Pete on what she had found. They both understood the gravity of the situation and went to work right away.

Another thing also happened that Monday. Kirsten, Kelly's sister started to take classes in modeling, and those classes took place in the same building. That gave her many opportunities to visit Kelly during breaks, and she soon knew all her sister's colleagues. To her all of them seemed nice

enough except Jim. She didn't like the way he looked at her. It was obvious that he had lust in his eyes, and very much wanted to get her to bed. But since Kirsten was only 14, he'd better stay off.

During that week more people came to the office for help, so soon everybody was busy with work. Kelly coordinated all the findings of Claude and Pete and soon a case was built up. The only issue was on how to attack the issue. That would have to be discussed amongst them all. Claude had even gone so far as to talk with his old boss and asked him for advice. This was something even he had never seen before.

On Friday they all assembled for a company get-together. During the afternoon Craig, Joe and Jim tried their best to impress Kelly, Audrey and Gail and did so well that they all agreed to meet again the next day for a night out on the town.

Saturday evening started out very good. They all went to a restaurant for dinner. During the meal the boys acted as perfect gentlemen so the girls felt very much at ease. They left the restaurant for a nightclub located just across the street. After a few drinks they started dancing. Kelly was dancing with Jim and after a few drinks he became very pushy. It was clear that he wanted Kelly in bed as soon as possible. Kelly, on the other hand, kept a straight line and was not at all interested in going to bed with a man as drunk as Jim. Especially since this was their first date. She left Jim in the bar and drove home alone.

Audrey was dancing with Craig. He acted as he had very little experience with girls and thereby didn't know what to do. Audrey felt a little pity for him, and tried to help him as best she could. It was obvious that he needed more practice amongst the girls, and Audrey did her best to coach him. When they were at his car ready to go home, Audrey gave Jim a light kiss on the mouth. Craig blushed, got into the car and drove home.

Gail and Joe seemed to hit off very well. He acted as the perfect gentleman and Gail was almost falling in love. That lasted til they were ready to leave. Then Joe wanted to push Gail into his car in order to take her home, Gail was not

interested, and managed to get away from him. That made Joe angry, but he realized that he wouldn't get anyway with brute force, so he apologized and drove home alone.

The girls met again on Sunday at Gail's place. She had rented an apartment not far from the campus where she had spent her last two years. It was about 45 minutes' drive from the office, but she considered that to be all right.

Over the meal the girls discussed their experiences the previous night. They all agreed that Jim was a jerk as soon as he had had too much to drink. Joe seemed OK, but needed to learn that decent girls don't go to bed on their first date. Craig, the shy one, needed some help to become comfortable amongst girls and Audrey was willing to teach him. They thought it was important so he didn't get too much influence from Jim.

The following days were very busy at the office. More work was coming in every day. It helped when two more experienced lawyers started working for Bosworth & Co the next weeks. Kelly liked what she was doing. Helping that poor woman was for her very rewarding. She had mentioned the case to her parents, and they promised to help any way they could from where they stood.

All was fine until one Friday evening when Kirsten came to the house sobbing and with her clothes torn apart. "What has happened?" her mother asked.

"I've been raped," Kirsten answered.

"What!!" screamed her father, "Do you know by whom?"

"Yes and no. They wore ski masks, but I have a pretty good idea who they were."

"They!? How many?"

"Three."

"Give me their names and I will see to it that they go to jail for ever."

"Calm down a little," Ellen said, "let's try to get rationale. Let's call the police and then go to the hospital for a check-up. Let's also get hold of Kelly. We keep the boys out of it until we have more information."

“I guess you’re right, darling. Can you do the phone calls? I feel a little too agitated at the moment.”

“Certainly dear.”

Ellen called the 911 and explained the situation. There they promised to send someone over right away.

Ten minutes later the doorbell rang. Ellen went to open. Outside was a police officer. He presented himself and asked what had happened. Ellen took the officer to Kirsten and explained as best she could. “We’d better get the girl to the hospital,” he said, “I’ll also call for some help. I have colleagues who are much better at this than I am. I’ll tell them to come directly to the hospital. Shall we go?”

At that moment Kelly came bursting through the door. “What has happened to my sister? Where is she?” she screamed with tears in her eyes.

“In her room,” her father said, “and we are on the way to the hospital right now.”

“I have to see her. And I have to go with you. What about Eric and Earl?”

“We keep the boys out of it at the moment. We’ll notify them later. Go to your sister and take her with you. We’ll leave right away.” They arrived at the hospital 15 minutes later. A second police officer was already there waiting for them. It was a woman in civilian clothes and she presented herself as Annie Wolfe.

The Sutter family was glad it was a woman who showed up. She would probably have a better grasp of the situation.

Kirsten was taken in for examination right away. Her mother, her sister and the policewoman followed her in while the father had to sit and wait in the lobby.

One hour later Kirsten came out to her father. She threw her arms around him and sobbed. “How are you doing?” he asked.

“I’m doing fine, dad. Let’s get home and talk it over.

They all drove home in silence. At the Sutter’s house they sat down in the living room. Annie, the policewoman opened the conversation. “Kirsten, can you give us a brief

description of what happened?”

“I’ll try. I was coming home from a friend’s house and took a shortcut through the park. Then suddenly these three guys jumped me and soon were all over me. All three raped me, one after the other while the other two held me down. It was over very quickly. They ran away in the direction I had come. I got up and came straight home I didn’t see their faces, but I’m sure I know who they are. Can I get some rest now?”

“Of course, Kirsten,” Annie said, “but can you tell me who you think they were?”

“It was the three goons at Kelly’s office.”

“You mean, Craig, Joe and Jim?”

Kirsten nodded. She stood up and went to bed.

Kelly was shocked. What kind of guys were they? She had to inform Elizabeth, Audrey and Gail right away. She walked over to the phone and made the calls. When she was finished they all had promised to come over the next day at ten. At the same time Ellen called her two sons and told them to be home as soon as possible. Luckily they were both in area and would be there later that night. Annie said goodbye and promised to be back at noon the next day to give family and friends some time alone before she started interrogating Kirsten again.

The next day at ten the whole Sutter family except Kirsten was assembled in their living room along with Elizabeth, Audrey and Gail. Elizabeth was furious. Never had she imagined that some of her employees could do such a thing to a minor. She wanted to have them mutilated right away and then sent to prison for the rest of their lives.

Big brother Eric was also furious, he would like to string the three guys up from their balls and let them hang. It was Ellen that seemed to be the most rationale of all them at the moment. She managed to calm the discussion so it became unbiased. So after some time they agreed to wait for what Kirsten herself had to say, and what advice they would get from the police.

A little after noon the doorbell rang. It was Annie Wolfe from the police that were back. She was welcomed into the house and sat down amongst the others. At that same

moment Kirsten entered the room and sat down between her mother and sister. She looked a little better than last night, but still had a sullen look in her face.

“Care to tell the whole story now?” Annie asked.

“Yes,” Kirsten replied.

“Fine. Please go ahead.”

“As I said yesterday, I was on my way through the park when suddenly three men stopped me. They were wearing ski masks and looked rather threatening. Suddenly one of them took me by the arm and dragged me behind some bushes. I wanted to scream, but another man tied something over my mouth to keep me quiet. Behind the bushes I was pushed down on the ground and held down. One person unbuttoned my jeans and pulled them down my legs. My t-shirt was pulled up over my head along with my bra. Then one of them started fumbling with my breasts. A few seconds later my panty was pulled down and someone did his best to penetrate me. I understood that he had some problems, but he managed at last. It didn't last long before he pulled himself away. A second man took over. He was obviously more experienced. He seemed to know what to do and was basically very gentle. He withdrew before he ejaculated. When the third man entered me two things were clear right away; he was much more brutal than the other two and he was wearing a condom. I'm sure he ejaculated because he was limp when it came out. Then they just ran away.”

“Thank you, Kirsten,” Annie said, “as you remember from the hospital they took several samples from you. They didn't find any semen on you, but they found traces of skin under your fingernails. They are now up for analysis. The place in the park you pointed out to us has been thoroughly searched for evidence and I expect some results by tomorrow. Anything you can tell me about the guys?”

“Not much. I didn't see their faces and their clothes were quite ordinary, jeans and t-shirt. None of the shirts had any logo. I could see their eyes though, and that was the thing that gave them off to me. The first one seemed very nervous and timid. It looked to me that he was forced to do it. His eyes were green. The second had blue eyes and he seemed to be very indifferent to the whole thing. It seemed to me that he

was not the kind of guy that would do such a thing. Maybe he was coerced to do it because someone had something on him. It also seemed clear to be that they all were high on something, most probably drugs. I don't know. The third had brown flaming eyes and it looked to me that he enjoyed what he was doing. It was as if he was doing it to get some kind of revenge. I've seen that look before, and that was in the elevator in your building when I was there alone with Jim. I have never liked that guy."

"I bet he wanted to get even with me because I turned him down a couple of times. One time I did it rather forcefully as well," Kelly butted in.

"Could be," Annie said, "but we must now decide where we go from here. In order to arrest someone for rape I need hard evidence, and I hope the biological evidence can give me what I need. Then I will have a warrant issued and bring the guys in for questioning. That might lead to a formal arrest and later a trial. What do you think?"

"I have thought this over very much since last night," Kirsten said, "and I'm not sure if I really want to go to court. I know what will happen there. These guys will get themselves some smart defense lawyer and he will then have the opportunity to cross-examine me. He will do his best to discredit me and my reputation will be ruined. I don't want that."

"I understand. Do you have any suggestions?"

"Maybe. I wish that they should suffer for what they did, but since we can't take the law into our own hands, I think there is now way out."

"You're right. I wish there was a way."

"I have thought about one thing, though. Is it possible that these guys can go through the same, or a similar ordeal, as I did? That would make me happy."

The others looked at each other. They all wished they could fulfill Kirsten's wish. "It was Elizabeth that broke the silence. "I might have something," she said, "Can I just borrow the phone. I need to call someone and would like to do it in private."

"No problem," Karl said, "just come with me." He

took Elizabeth to his office. He offered her a chair and the phone. As Karl left the room Elizabeth took out a notebook and looked up a number before she dialed.