Comm Plag report

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Claim

From the arguments Elle made in the clip I watched, her main claim is that Chutney was lying about not hearing the gunshot that led to her father's death. Elle then proceeds to add further that it must have been Chutney who shot her father and not Brooke, as the prosecution had argued.

Grounds

Elle bases her claim on the grounds that Chutney must have heard the gunshot that killed her father because she was not in the shower as she had testified. As Elle argued, once Chutney heard the gunshot, she would have immediately rushed downstairs to see what was happening. That would not have left Brooke with any sufficient amount of time to hide the weapon used to commit the murder. Consequently, Chutney would have found Brooke with the gun still in her hand to make her story more plausible. This was, however, not the case, as she did not find Brooke with a gun in her hand. On the contrary, given she is the one who took the shot, she would have enough time to hide the gun to cover up her crime as nobody else was in the room with her.

Warrant

The warrant to legitimize the claims by showing the relevancy of the grounds discussed above is that Chutney could not have been in the shower, given she had only done her perm that morning. Elle points out that the cardinal rule of a perm hair-do is that a person should not wet their hair for at least twenty-four hours, lest they risk deactivating ammonium thioglycolate. She proceeds to give, as an example, the story of a sorority friend who got a perm and was later hosed down in a wet t-shirt contest, leading to her curls getting ruined. Chutney herself agrees that such an action will ruin a freshly done perm.

Backing

Elle backs the warrant explained above by pointing out that Chutney's hair could not have been washed as she had claimed on the day her father was shot, as it was still intact. Furthermore, she proves that Chutney could not risk washing her hair on that fateful day because she had had roughly 30 perm hair-dos over 15 years.

Qualifier

When asked how she knew that Chutney was lying, Elle pointed out that the rules of hair care are simple and finite. Any girl who reads Cosmo would have known that if you wash your perm within a day of having it done, you would ruin your curls. Consequently, being a Cosmo

girl, as she referred to those who read the magazine, she knew that Chutney must have been lying about being in the shower on the same day she did her hair.

Rebuttal

Within the video clip from *Legally Blonde*, there is no evident rebuttal as once Chutney realized her lie had been found out, she immediately confessed to the murder of her father. However, a most likely counter-argument to Elle's claims would have been that even though she was not in the shower, she still did not hear the gunshot. A likely rebuttal from Elle would have been to ask Chutney to provide an alibi regarding what it was she was doing that might have prevented her from hearing such a loud noise. Elle could argue the fact that she was the only one in the house; therefore, it must have been relatively silent enough to hear low noises, let alone the sound of a gun.

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