

R v. Gothel (2010), Superior Court of Corona. 235



The Story

Gothel is a very old witch who wishes to be young forever, through any means necessary. For over a hundred years, she had been using a magic flower by singing a unique and special song.

Each time she used the flower, its magical effects would rejuvenate her for a limited time, but required her to sing to the flower again once the effects wore off. Meanwhile, the Queen of Corona is giving birth and falls terribly ill. The King alleges that he sent out search parties to find the flower, and one of the search parties returns with the flower. The flower is immediately used to heal the Queen. The Queen of Corona gives birth to Rapunzel, who possesses the rejuvenating powers of the magic flower. In the middle of the night after



Rapunzel is born, Gothel enters the baby's room through the balcony window without the express permission of the guards or royalty and attempts to rejuvenate herself by singing to the baby. Rapunzel's hair glows similar to how the flower glowed when Gothel sang to it, and rejuvenates her. While the hair is imbuing Gothel with its magical powers, Gothel attempts to cut some of the hair and take some of the power, but cutting the hair results in the snipping losing its rejuvenating power. Shortly after her hair is cut, Rapunzel begins to cry, waking the King and the Queen, who allegedly see Gothel, with Rapunzel in their arms, climbing out of their balcony. The Queen and King organize a search to

find Rapunzel, but the search fails. Gothel takes Rapunzel to a tower deep within the forest, and raises Rapunzel as her own child. While living, mostly alone but with occasional visits from Gothel, in the tower, Rapunzel alleges that she grew up with Gothel's strict rule that she may never leave the tower.

The Charges: The Criminal Code of Corona (AKA Canada) Le Code Criminel De Corona

- Gothel stands charged that s/he, on or about the 12th day of April 1992, in Corona, did commit the act of kidnapping, contrary to section 279 (1) of the Criminal Code of Corona

Agreed Statement of Facts

- Both the Crown and the Defence have agreed to the following:
 - Any and all statements witnesses may give are admissible;
 - There are no Charter arguments to raise;
 - The evidence does not carry anybody's fingerprints;
 - No evidence other than what has already been submitted can be admitted

Collected Evidence

Rapunzel's Hair

- The lock of hair that Gothel cut when Rapunzel was a baby
- It doesn't respond at all when you sing the special song to it
 - The DNA matches Rapunzel's DNA



Knife

- The knife Gothel used to cut Rapunzel's hair, found at Rapunzel's crib
- Has wisps of hair on the blade
- The DNA of the hair matches Rapunzel's DNA

Tower

- Where Rapunzel was held for the 18 years of her life
- Rapunzel had freedom strictly inside the tower and would frequently paint the walls



The Defence Witnesses



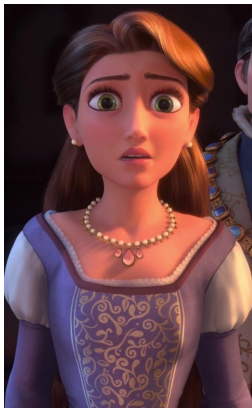
Gothel

- An old witch who has been alive for over a hundred years
- Allegedly appears to be younger from the magical power of the flower
- Raised Rapunzel as if she were her own child
- Claims to have wanted Rapunzel to leave the tower once she grew mature enough
- Depicted to be manipulative and inconsiderate

Prosecution Witnesses

The King

- Rapunzel's father
- Is a very kind and considerate husband and ruler
- Is a loving parent
- Has sent out thousands of floating lanterns every year on Rapunzel's birthday
- Alleges that he saw an old woman's face holding his baby the night Rapunzel was abducted



The Queen

- Rapunzel's mother
- Is a very kind and considerate wife and ruler
- Is a loving parent
- Has sent out thousands of floating lanterns every year on Rapunzel's birthday
- Alleges that she saw an old woman's face holding her baby the night Rapunzel was abducted

Rapunzel (18 years old)

- Alleges that Gothel has been forced to live in relative solitude for the first 18 years of her life in a tower and could not leave
- Alleges that she would sing the song every few weeks when Gothel asked her to
- Alleges that the knife is Gothel's
- Had asked to go outside a countless number of times
- Somewhat naive, but also incredibly brave and compassionate



Jurors

Shopkeeper

- As a resident of Corona's middle-class, this shopkeeper represents the views many of Corona's middle-class have about the situation in Corona's royalty. His socioeconomic status means that he interacts with the royalty through representatives, but is disconnected from the King and Queen.
- Although he knows of Rapunzel's existence, his knowledge of Rapunzel is limited to simply knowing that she was not in the kingdom and has no personal ties to her or the royal family.

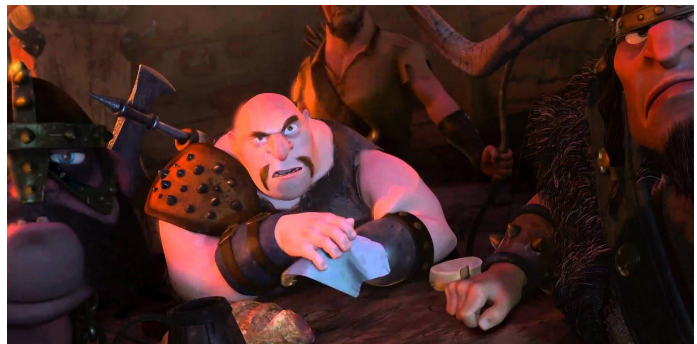


School Teacher

- This school teacher brings a perspective that slightly leans towards protecting the nation's children, but is impartial as she hasn't ever had any contact or connection to royalty or Rapunzel.

Bartender

- As a bartender for more than 7 years, he represents the voices of Corona's working-class citizens and has interacted with the King's guards on multiple occasions.



Construction Supervisor

- Supervises the construction of many of the kingdom's buildings, and brings an objective perspective that leads her to focus on the details of the possible economic effects of Rapunzel's and Gothel's actions.

Community Organizer

- Organizes many of Corona's large community events for festivals like the floating lantern festival. He is more connected with Corona's average citizen in how they see their community improving and can be an impartial asset to the jury.

The Crown's Case for R v. Gothel

The Crown's case relies on two arguments: Gothel abducted Rapunzel for her to be confined against her will, as contrary to section 279(1) (a) of the Criminal Code of Canada (aka Canada) (CCC), and the danger that allowing people like Gothel to walk away from kidnapping Rapunzel as a baby poses to society. As explained in the testimony of both the King and the Queen, an old woman who looked exactly like Gothel when she does not have the magical powers of the flower to make her appear younger held their baby in her arms and escaped through their balcony window. Not only does this constitute Gothel breaking and entering into the royal family's sleeping quarters, contrary to section 348(1) of the CCC, as Gothel entered the room with the original intent to steal some of Rapunzel's hair, but then kidnapped Rapunzel altogether once her original plan failed, it also speaks to Gothel's dangerous dedication in acquiring Rapunzel's magical rejuvenating abilities. Once her original plan failed and Rapunzel began crying, Gothel chose to remain in the room and kidnapped Rapunzel rather than seeking an escape, which would have brought about lower charges. Such a large deviation from her original plan (taking some of Rapunzel's hair to kidnapping Rapunzel) shows Gothel's gross disregard for human life, even if the human is an innocent baby. By kidnapping Rapunzel purely for her rejuvenating abilities, Gothel ripped the joyful life that Rapunzel could have enjoyed and was entitled to as being the princess away from her and locked her in a desolate tower, where she may have been free within the tower, but would be scolded and threatened for trying to leave the tower.

This dangerous dedication for acquiring the magical powers of the flower at any cost, including the most formative years of Rapunzel's life, demonstrates that Gothel is a danger to society. Allowing her actions to be excused in any form would set a dangerous precedent that allows for the most vulnerable group of society - babies - to be abducted from their homes in the middle of the night.

The King's testimony presents a personal perspective that strongly supports the Crown's theory of the case. The King personally saw Gothel with Rapunzel in her arms climbing out of their balcony window. The King is well-known to be a kind and considerate ruler, valuing the needs of the public along with the best interests of society. His good-hearted nature would have made him a warm and loving parent, who would have done anything to protect his daughter. His testimony would reflect this through an explanation of the search he organized to find his daughter, as well as the yearly floating lantern festival, which speaks to his love and dedication to his daughter.

The Queen's testimony similarly presents a personal perspective that supports the Crown's theory of the case. The Queen, like the King, saw Gothel with her baby daughter in her arms climbing out of their balcony window, which, coupled with the King's testimony, provide two testimonies that place Gothel climbing out of the royal family's sleeping quarters' balcony with Rapunzel in her arms. Similar to the King, she feels deeply for her daughter and would be able to convincingly explain why, through the floating lantern festival and personal ambitions she had of motherhood.

Rapunzel's testimony presents perhaps the strongest support for the Crown's theory of the case. Rapunzel would explain the lies she was told growing up about how people outside her tower wanted to take her hair for themselves, when in reality, Gothel was the only person who wanted Rapunzel's hair for personal gain, as well as how Gothel psychologically detained her by constantly scolding her for even mentioning wanting to leave

the tower, even for innocuous reasons. She would also be able to link evidence to Gothel, such as Gothel's knife.

Gothel's testimony may be problematic depending on the specific challenges she raises. If Gothel explains that she did not match the description of the old woman the King and Queen may have seen immediately after groggily waking up, Gothel can provide enough doubt as to whether she was truly the one who abducted Rapunzel, suggesting that some other old woman abducted Rapunzel. By challenging her appearance, she can then challenge Rapunzel's testimony, stating that the woman who she met and lived with only interacted with her at specific times during the day and at specific intervals. This could make it possible for someone to bear a striking resemblance to Gothel through synthetically modifying their facial structure to match Gothel's.

Most of the evidence establishes basic details about the case and supports the Crown's theory of the case. Rapunzel's hair, once cut, losing their rejuvenating powers demonstrates that Gothel's dangerous dedication to acquiring the powers of the magical flower required her to abduct Rapunzel. The knife, coupled with Rapunzel's testimony stating that Gothel had a similar knife, places Gothel in the royal family's sleeping quarters, which strongly suggests that she kidnapped Rapunzel. Finally, the tower in which Rapunzel grew up in, although Rapunzel made it her own, is where Rapunzel was confined and could not leave under any circumstance.

Many of the jurors were selected for their impartiality, but everyone who resides within the kingdom is aware of the floating lantern festival, its purpose, and sees both the great loss the King and Queen have suffered as well as how deeply the loss has affected them. The festival promotes implicit biases that support the King and Queen, in addition to their benevolence, which would sway citizens, subconsciously, to support them. Moreover, Gothel's nature of being a recluse or manipulative results in her not having many connections and appearing like a danger to society. The shopkeeper, chosen to represent the views of Corona's middle class is aware of the King and Queen's loss as well as the princess' history, which would make him more likely to support the King and Queen. The school teacher most likely sees similar aspects to the royalty as the shopkeeper, but also values, subconsciously, the lives of children higher than the average citizen. Her focus on this would make her more likely to vote against the Queen because of the danger she poses to the nation's babies. The bartender lives relatively farther away from the castle than the other jurors and would therefore be somewhat more disconnected from the royalty than the other jurors. However, his regular interaction with the King's guard would sway his beliefs towards royalty if the guards were fair and acted as they should or against royalty if not. The construction supervisor would have similar implicit biases as the shopkeeper given his status. Finally, the community organizer would have similar implicit biases as the shopkeeper, but his involvement in community organizing events like the floating lantern festival gives him unique insight into how unifying the royal family can be, especially Rapunzel, which may sway his beliefs slightly.