

Start

BOLLANDER Lillie *Richmond*. My name's Bollander; hers ain't.

LILLIE I am that man's wife. I signed a written contract with him and thought it was a legal marriage. He lived with me nearly two years on the strength of it. He deserted me, and I tried to kill him.**

HAGGERTY So in addition to impersonating a man and dancing in the street, we add concubinage to the charges.

BOLLANDER And attempted murder.

LILLIE He's the one committed a crime.

BOLLANDER Officer, this woman's been stalking me and spreading gossip for weeks, and now she's tried to kill me.

HAGGERTY So basically a domestic dispute. Not a concern of the police. Are those your clothes, Mr. Bollander?

LILLIE Of course they're not his clothes. Look at the size of him. Now look at me.

HAGGERTY Is that your pistol, sir?

LILLIE I'm not a thief.

BOLLANDER Just a would-be murderess.

HAGGERTY Since you two are so well acquainted, allow me to introduce myself: Special Policeman Haggerty of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway.

LILLIE We're not on a railway; we're on a street corner. So aren't you out of your jurisdiction? Please, Special Policeman Haggerty, let me go.

HAGGERTY Don't you worry, miss. The patrol wagon will be here in short order to take you to the station.

Speedy scene change from street to court room.
Haggerty leaves and Judge enters.

JUDGE Order. Order in the court.

[He bangs his gavel again. This time, he uses it to play the xylophone. He plays a scale and checks his docket.]

Next case: Bollander versus Richmond.

[BOLLANDER tap-dances angrily toward the podium. LILLIE approaches, taking tiny steps en pointe. The JUDGE clangs a few more notes.]

Miss Richmond. You've been arrested on the charge of impersonating a man.

BOLLANDER And attempted murder.

JUDGE Let's deal with the lesser charge last. Miss Richmond, you're dressed in men's clothes, thereby challenging the status quo, the hierarchy of the sexes, the sanctity of marriage. How do you plead?

LILLIE Guilty.

JUDGE Guilty? Don't you want to offer an excuse? Extenuating circumstances? After all, you do look fetching in that suit.

LILLIE I dressed like a man so that Tom wouldn't notice me on the street when I went to shoot him.

JUDGE You tried to be unobtrusive, but you attracted the attention of the police.

LILLIE I was dancing. Couldn't help it. I suddenly felt so free.

End