

A woman with long brown hair is lying on her back on a sandy surface. Her hands and feet are bound together with thick, light-colored rope. She is looking down, and her expression is somber. The background is a dark, textured sand dune.

A True Story...

MIRANDA'S VICTIM

The Rape That Changed America

Written by George Kolber | Directed by Michelle Danner



Logline

It's 1963 when eighteen-year-old Patricia "Trish" Weir is kidnapped and brutally raped at knife-point. Committed to putting Ernesto Miranda in prison, Trish's life is destroyed by America's legal system as she triggers a law that transforms the Nation.

SYNOPSIS

A Never-Been-Told True Story

It's 1963, when Trish, 18, walks home at night from her job at a Phoenix theater. Suddenly, a stranger brandishing a knife, ties Trish up and forces her into the back seat of his 1953 Packard. He then takes her to a deserted road and brutally rapes her.

Determined to have her assailant jailed, Trish reports the rape to the skeptical police. It's only after Trish undergoes a polygraph test and an extremely humiliating physical exam, -- that the detectives discover that other women have been similarly attacked. The detectives track down the Packard which leads them to Twila Hoffman, who lives with career criminal Ernesto Miranda.

During his interrogation, Miranda voluntarily confesses, and together with Trish's testimony, a jury finds him guilty of kidnapping and first-degree rape. He is sentenced to twenty years.

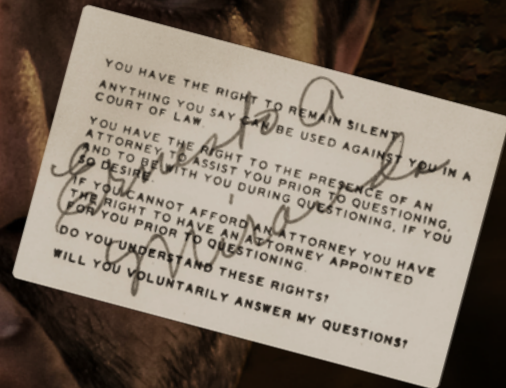
Since Miranda did not have a lawyer when he confessed, the ACLU petitions the US Supreme Court to overturn his conviction. Despite overwhelming public sentiment, the deeply divided Supreme Court, in a controversial five to four decision, finds that Miranda was denied his Sixth Amendment Right to an attorney and his Fifth Amendment Right against self-incrimination. In its decision, Chief Justice Earl Warren set forth a rule requiring that arresting officers give every suspect a verbal warning. The "Miranda Warning," changes America forever, and Miranda gets a new trial.

Now, while suffering PTSD, Trish must testify again in Miranda's retrial; knowing this time it will be his word against hers, since his confession can no longer be used. Then, just as Miranda is about to walk, Twila provides surprising last-minute testimony, and then Trish makes a powerful, impassioned statement, resulting in Miranda's conviction.

After his release Miranda finds celebrity, as he autographs "Miranda Warning Cards" for cash. Then in 1976, Miranda is playing poker in a Phoenix bar when a cheating accusation turns into a fight, and Miranda is stabbed to death. In an ironic twist, the prime suspect is questioned and released after he exercised his "Miranda Rights." His killer flees, never to be found.

Meanwhile, Trish seeks a normal life and marries Charles Shumway. Together they raise five children; but visions of "that night" continually haunt her as triggers are found everywhere, -- especially on TV crime shows when Miranda rights are read. It gets worse for Trish when Miranda is released from prison early.

Today nearly every developed country has adopted a form of Miranda warning.





THE VICTIM

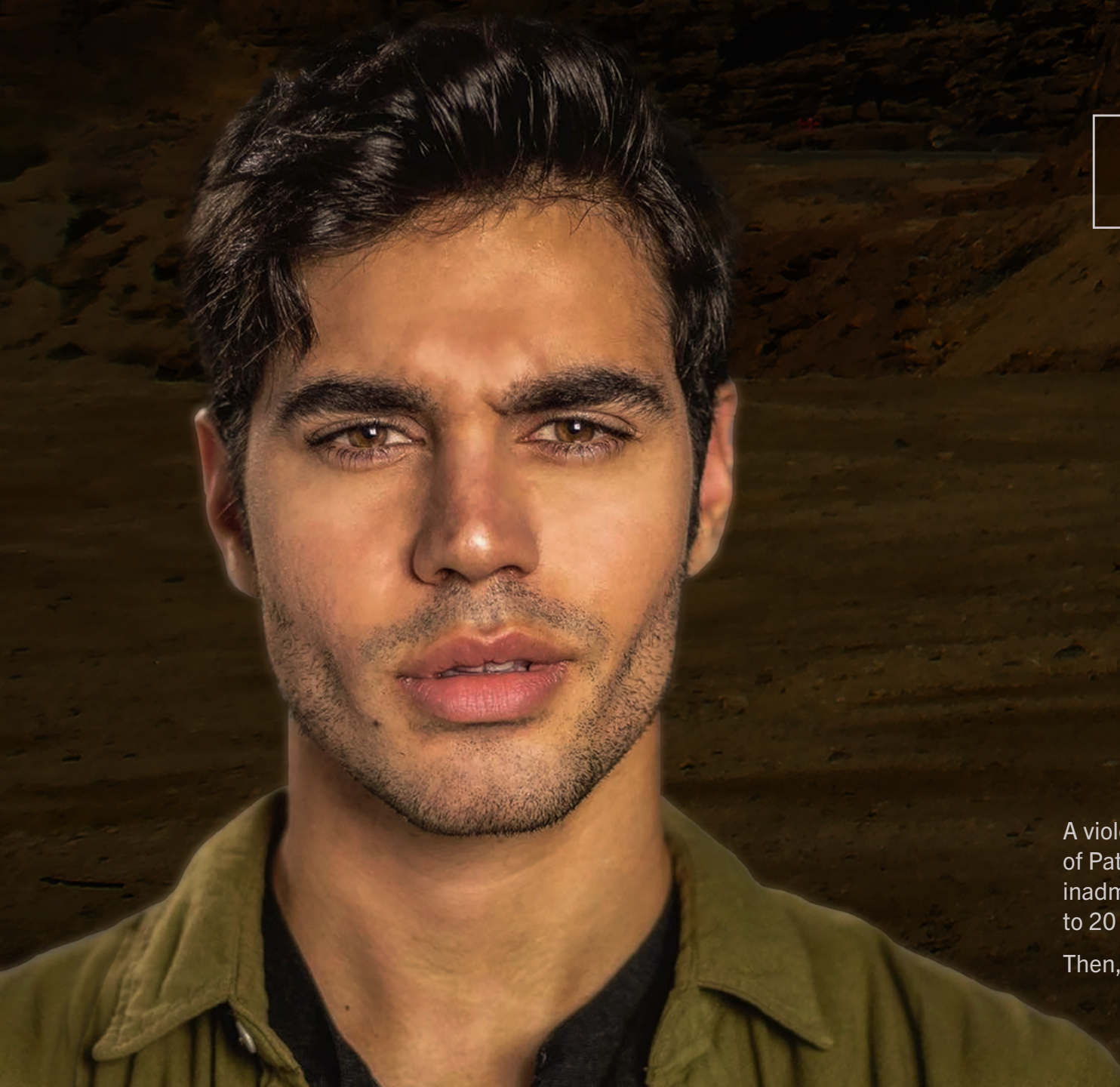


Patricia (Trish) Weir
[ABIGAIL BRESILIN]

It's 1963 when 18-year-old Trish is kidnapped, robbed, and raped by Ernesto Miranda.

Seeking justice, she later endures a fate worse than the rape; dealing with the police and the American judicial system.

Even though the US Supreme Court deals her assailant a victory, Trish ultimately prevails in her battle for justice. However, Trish later learns that while forgetting is difficult... remembering is worse.



THE RAPIST



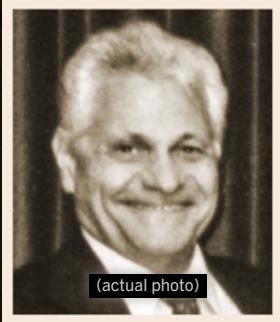
Ernesto Miranda

[SEBASTIAN QUIN]

A violent career criminal, who “voluntarily confesses” to the rape and kidnap of Patricia Weir. Later the US Supreme Court rules the confession was inadmissible. However, after being convicted at his retrial, he is sentenced to 20 years.

Then, while on parole, Miranda is killed in a bar fight. His assailant is quickly released when he exercises his Miranda Rights - never to be found.

THE PROSECUTOR



Lawrence Turoff
[LUKE WILSON]

Committed to getting rapists off the streets, and against all odds, he convinces Trish to testify twice. In the successful retrial, he has Miranda convicted and sentenced to 20 years.

THE ACLU ATTORNEY



John Flynn
[RYAN PHILLIPE]

Flamboyant, smart and passionate, he successfully represents Miranda in the US Supreme Court and inspires the "Miranda Warning."

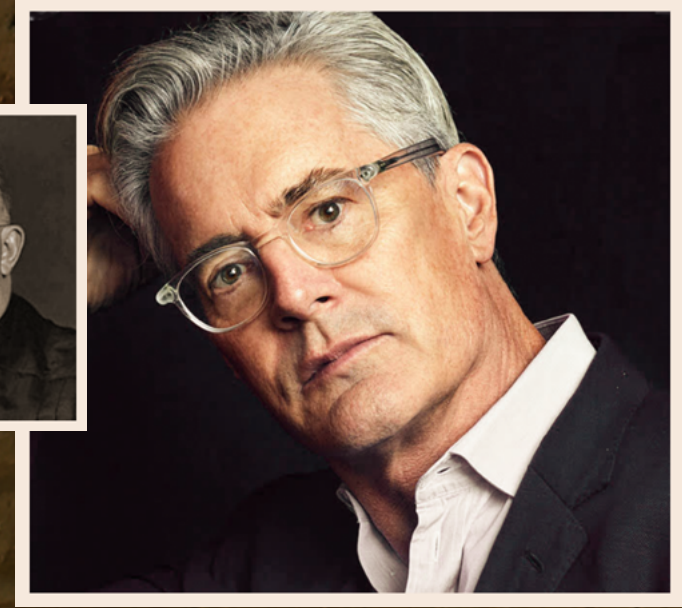
THE PUBLIC DEFENDER



ALVIN MOORE
[ANDY GARCIA]

Miranda's first lawyer realizes there can be no "voluntary confession" without a lawyer present. He sets the stage for Miranda's successful appeal to the US Supreme Court.

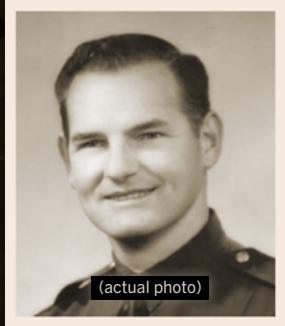
THE CHIEF JUSTICE



CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN
[KYLE MACLACHLAN]

A conservative, and despite strong public sentiment, he moves to the left and personally writes the majority five-to-four opinion. He defines the "Miranda Warning" and in an unprecedented move, he reads it publicly.

THE DETECTIVE



DETECTIVE CARROLL COOLEY
[ENRIQUE MURCIANO]

Focused and deliberate, once convinced of Miranda's guilt, he cleverly gets Miranda to "voluntarily confess."

THE HEAD OF DETECTIVES



LIEUTENANT NEALIS
[BRENT SEXTON]

Old school, tough policeman, who needs to be reminded not to cross the lines.

THE SISTER



Annabel (Ann) Henkel
[EMILY VAN CAMP]

Trish's older sister Ann, provides unconditional love and support throughout Trish's never-ending ordeal.

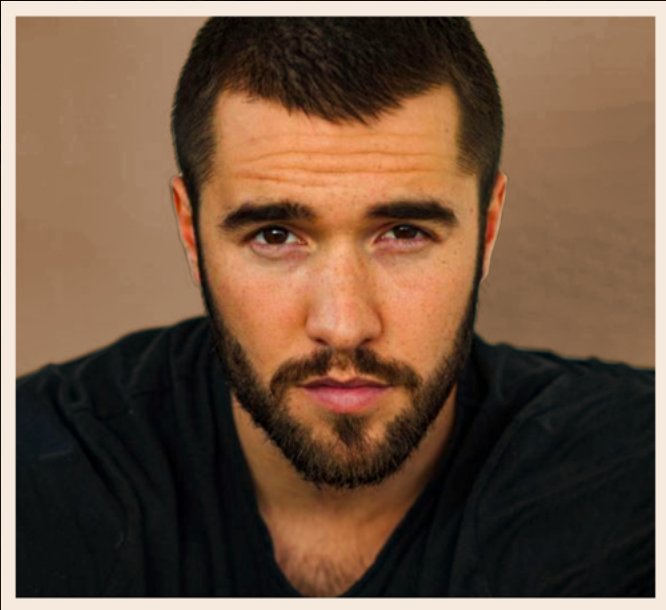
THE MOTHER



Zeola Weir
[MIREILLE ENOS]

Never supportive, she discourages Trish from reporting the rape. She's been there.

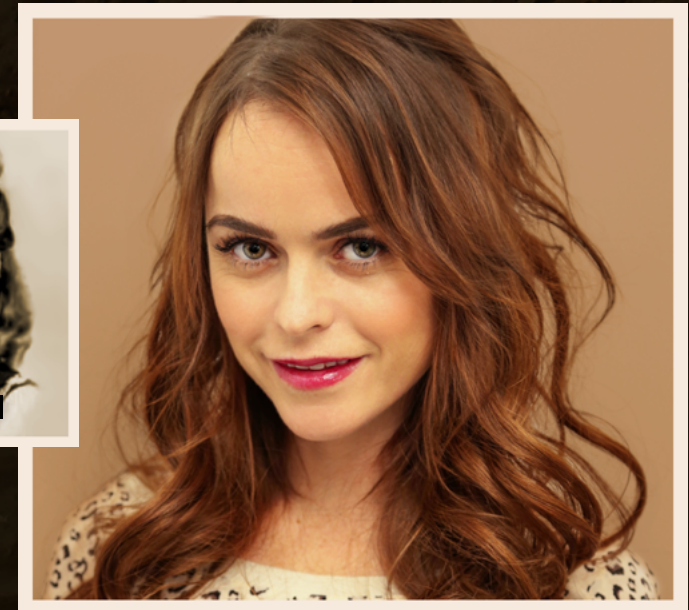
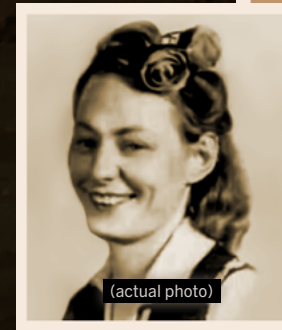
THE HUSBAND



Charles Shumway
[JOSH BOWMAN]

Large and intimidating, he first finds out about the rape just before Miranda's retrial. He then tries to prevent Trish from testifying at all.

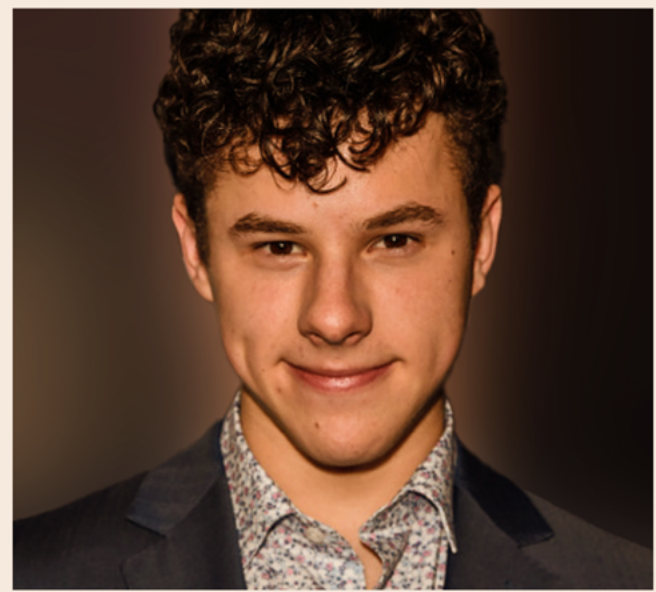
THE COMMON-LAW WIFE



Twila Hoffman
[TARYN MANNING]

Miranda's common-law wife; she has his baby. She surprises everyone when she suddenly testifies against Miranda, ensuring he would be found guilty of kidnap and rape.

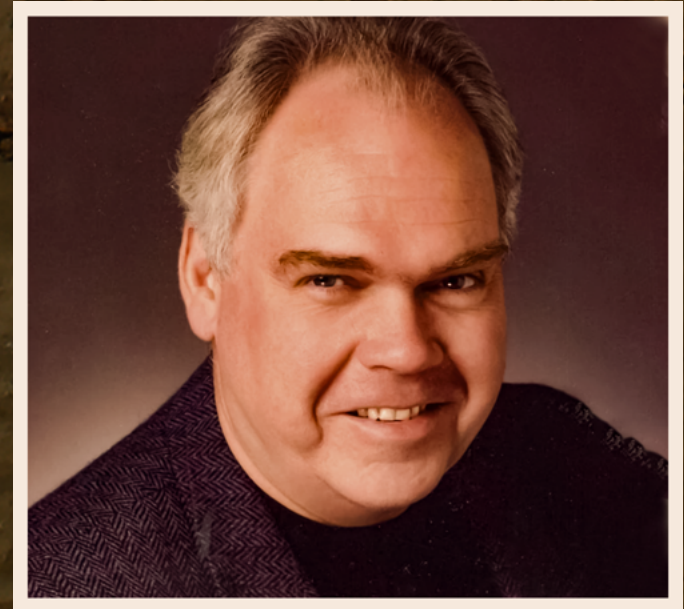
TRISH'S CRUSH



James Valenti
[NOLAN GOULD]

Trish had a crush on her good-looking coworker.

THE JUDGE



Judge McFate
[MICHAEL MULHEREN]

Rules Miranda's confession to be admissible, thus forming the basis Miranda's successful appeal. He later agrees that the Supreme Court was correct in overturning his ruling.

THE SECOND CHAIR

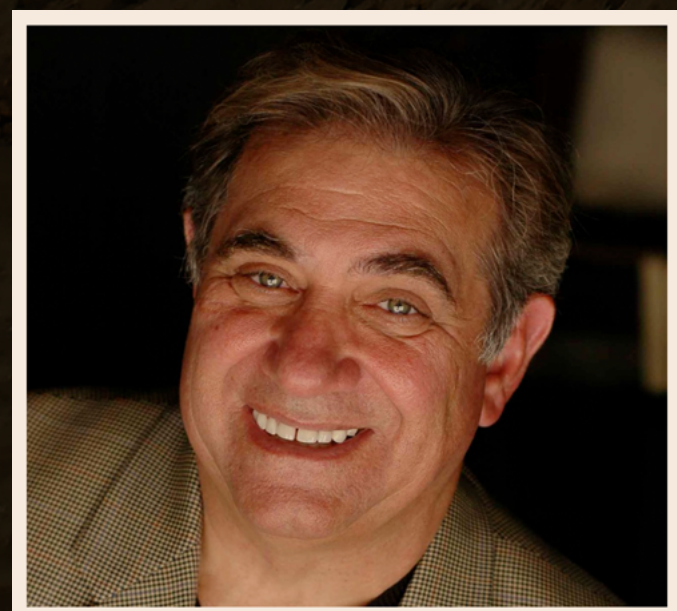


Andrew

[JOHN BUFFALO MAILER]

Young attorney who is eager to please Turoff, as he seeks to be a career prosecutor.

THE MEDICAL EXAMINER



Doctor Crawford

[DAN LAURIA]

Showing a total lack of compassion, he's not convinced Trish was ever raped as he conducts a humiliating physical examination upon her.



THE RETRIAL JUDGE



JUDGE WREN

[DONALD SOUTHERLAND]

Fair but always firm, he is in total control of what could easily have become a spectacle during Miranda's retrial.

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