

A woman with long reddish-brown hair is lying on her back on a dark, textured surface that appears to be sand or dirt. Her hands are bound together in front of her, and her feet are bound together behind her, using thick, light-colored rope. She is looking down, and her expression is somber. The background is dark and indistinct.

A True Story...

MIRANDA'S VICTIM

The Rape That Changed America

Written by George Kolber

The image is a promotional poster for the movie 'Nightcrawler'. It features a man in a dark jacket holding a large knife, standing next to a vintage 1963 Ford Mustang. A woman is visible in the driver's seat of the car. The background is a dark, rocky landscape at night. The title 'Logline' is written in a large, white, serif font on the right side of the image.

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.

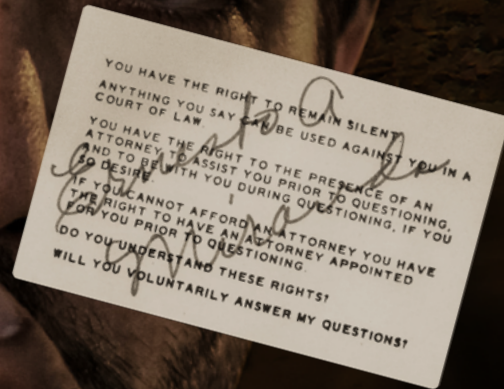
Since Miranda did not have a lawyer when he confessed, the ACLU petitions the US Supreme Court to overturn his conviction. Despite overwhelming public sentiment, the deeply divided Supreme Court, in a controversial five to four decision, finds that Miranda was denied his Sixth Amendment Right to an attorney 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.

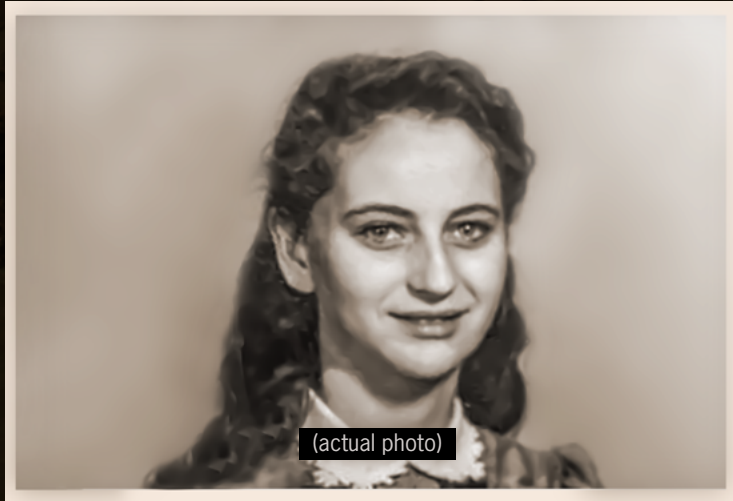
Now, while suffering PTSD, Trish must testify again in Miranda's retrial; knowing this time it will be his word against hers, since his confession can no longer be used. Then, just as Miranda is about to walk, Twila provides surprising last-minute testimony, and then Trish makes a powerful, impassioned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





Patricia (Trish) Weir

[The Victim]

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.

After the US Supreme Court deals her assailant a victory, Trish continues her battle for justice; but she never escapes her trauma, suffering a life of agony.



Ernesto Miranda

[The Kidnapper / Rapist]

Miranda is a violent career criminal, who confesses to the rape and kidnap of Patricia Weir. The ACLU is successful after taking his case to the US Supreme Court, claiming his confession should not have been allowed.

After his conviction is overturned, Miranda finds celebrity since law enforcement is now required to recite the "Miranda Warning," upon arrest.

After Miranda is released, he is killed in a bar fight. Ironically, since his assailant exercised his "Miranda Rights" he is released – never to be found.

The Victim's Family



Zeola Weir
[The Mother]

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



Annabel (Ann) Henkel
[The Sister]

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



Paul Henkel
[The Brother-in-Law]

Married to Ann, it's his duty to help Trish deal with the skeptical detectives.

The Spouses



Charles Shumway
[Trish's Husband]

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.



Twila Hoffman
[Miranda's Wife]

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.

The Detectives



Officer Carroll Cooley
[The Good Cop]

The "Good Cop" partner, who during the investigation, shows compassion and understanding.



Officer Wilford Young
[The Tough Cop]

The "tough cop" is hard-questioning and skeptical of Trish.

The Attorneys



Alvin Moore
[Defense Counsel]

The 70-year-old Public Defender assigned to Miranda. He is inept but takes on the case for a quick buck.



Lawrence Turoff
[County Prosecutor]

Convinces Trish to testify... twice. He is successful in getting Miranda sentenced to twenty years for Trish's kidnap/rape.



John Flynn
[ACLU Attorney]

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



Gary K. Nelson
[Arizona's Attorney]

At age 30, he represents Arizona during the Supreme Court arguments. Some Justices embarrass him during his less than compelling argument.

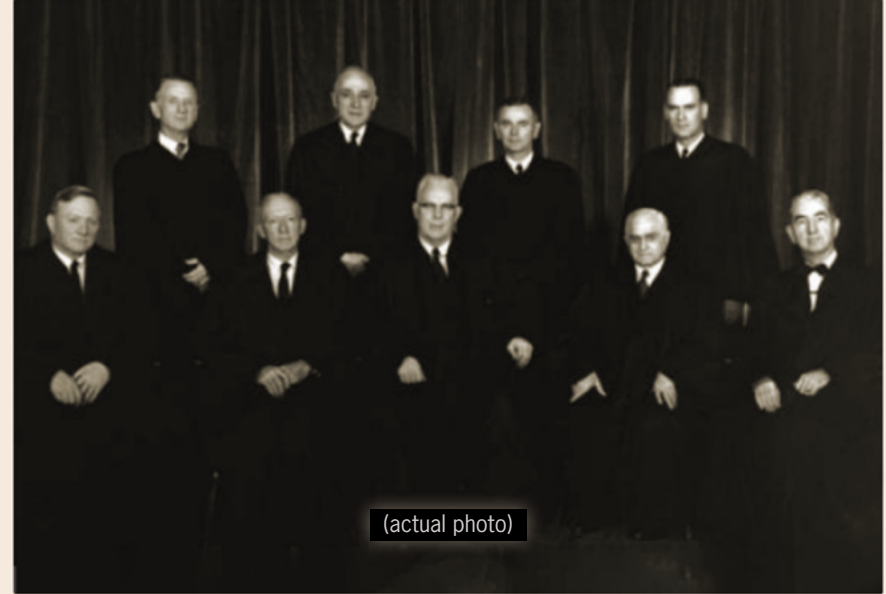
The Supreme Court Justices



(actual photo)

Chief Justice Earl Warren

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.



(actual photo)

Top from Left:

Justice Abe Fortas, Justice John Harlan II,
Justice William Brennan, Justice Byron White

Bottom from Left:

Justice William Douglas, Justice Hugo Black, Chief Justice Earl Warren,
Justice Potter Stewart, Justice Tom Clark

Other Supporting Characters



Barbara Sue McDaniel
[Another Victim]

Barbara confesses to Trish that she was raped by Miranda, but is afraid to admit the rape to her family or boyfriend.



Sylvia Smith
[Another Victim]

Sylvia admits to being assaulted, but is terrified of Miranda and leaves during the police line-up.



Dr. Crawford
[Callous Hospital Doctor]

After her rape, he performs an uncomfortable physical examination on Trish,



Mary Ann Estrella
[The Bartender]

A friend of Miranda, she witnesses his murder.

Other Characters

Doctor Farber

Psychiatrist

Judge McFate

Trial Judge

Theater Manager

Man in his 50s

Bishop Heber

Mormon Clergy

Sergeant Nealis

Officer in Charge

Judge Louis

Judge Preliminary Hearing

Bobby

The Bus Driver

Peter Gaffney

Polygrapher

MIRANDA'S VICTIM

Navesink River Productions LLC | All In Films | Kolber Productions LLC

For inquiries contact: +1 (646) 637-1707 | allinfilmsca@gmail.com

Copyright 2022 Project Ernesto LLC. All Rights Reserved.