

even if you believe you had not committed a crime
the cross examination begins.

the first question that matters is

what in the world were you thinking when you did this...

there it is.

over with

but we still must go through the formality.

never a good chair to be sitting in.

no way to soften the interrogation lights.

legal pad pencil tapping a torturous judgment day fugue.

neighborhood revenge voyeurs packing the room.

the daughter as a court artist drawing horses tearing papa apart on the wall.

matrimonial eyes of a wife as judge and jury.

no mitigating circumstances.

no surprise witnesses for the defense.

known associations with criminal elements from the bowling alley.

authority issues with house rulings and enforcement.

lurid facts.

wanton disregard for the impact on others.

even the dog loses faith and wants to go out.

something no son should ever have to witness happening to his father.

justice must be served.

the careless mix of whites and colors in the washing machine.

women know and have always known

that this type of crime

if left unpunished

only escalates.

so she prepares the brew for a chemical castration

the one every man fears...

chamomile tea served in a small flowery cup.

i may as well have shot the deputy too.

wf.h.

2022