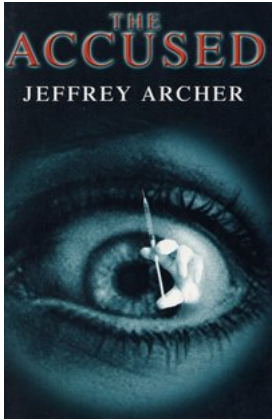


The Accused by Jeffrey Archer



Crime, the courtroom, and theatre come together in this remarkably tense play by Jeffrey Archer, which uses the audience as one its most crucial components. Dr Patrick Sherwood (originally played by Lord Archer himself) is accused of murdering his wife using a lethal injection of a prescription drug. It's thought that the drug was supplied by Sherwood's lover, Nurse Jennifer Mitchell . . . Evidence is given by several of the play's characters in turn, after which Sherwood himself takes the witness stand. Is he innocent or guilty? It is up to the audience to decide, and depending on which way they vote, the ending will go one way of two.

The Accused premiered at the Theatre Royal, Windsor, in September 2000.

'Interactive cliffhanger' *What's On Stage*

Genre:	Courtroom drama	Fee:	£56 plus VAT, per performance
Cast:	m14 f2	Scripts:	ISBN 9780413768407, £8.99
Set:	Jury room, Old Bailey	Length:	3 acts
Contact:	amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com		

EXTRACT

Barrington Where were you that night, Mr Sherwood?

Sherwood I was out on an emergency call visiting a patient in Westminster.

Barrington So why isn't that patient in court today to verify your story?

Sherwood Because he died later that night.

Barrington And what was the time entered on the death certificate?

Sherwood 10.27 pm.

Barrington And who signed that death certificate?

Sherwood I did.

Barrington So if it was signed at 10.27 pm, you would not have needed a more convincing alibi, as Ms Mitchell suggested.

Sherwood Ms Mitchell seems to think I could have been in two places at once.

Barrington Quite. So finally, let me ask you, Mr Sherwood, how do you answer Ms Mitchell's damning accusation that you used her as a courier over a period of three months, to collect ampoules of Potassium Chloride in order to poison your wife?

Sherwood Sir James, if I had wanted to poison my wife, I could have picked up any amount of drugs from the hospital pharmacy, without ever involving Ms Mitchell.

If you enjoyed this, you might like:

- *Albert's Boy* by James Graham (m2 f0)
 - *Early Birds* by Leo Butler (m1 f1)
 - *Loot* by Joe Orton (m2 f1)
-