

## **Introducing *A Measure of Truth* - Overview**

Title: *A Measure of Truth : Sua Sponte*

Courtroom Drama / Political Thriller / Moral Allegory

*A Measure of Truth*, a courtroom drama about truth, power, and the moral soul of the law.

### **Setting:**

A present-day American courtroom and adjacent chambers. Transitions occasionally dissolve into dreamlike sequences, internal monologues, and “witnessed truths” that break conventional realism. Time is linear, but memory and moral clarity interrupt it.

### **Thematic Premise:**

The play explores what happens when the law is weaponized against those without power. It challenges the notion that legal legitimacy flows from credentials, wealth, or influence and instead suggests that *truth itself*, honestly presented and logically argued, can be a radical form of resistance.

*After being abandoned by the attorney she hired to bring a civil case against two defendants: an individual backed by an insurance company, and a powerful institution with deep pockets, a woman stands alone, armed only with truth, logic, and a belief in the law’s higher purpose. This story is told through Liberty Price, a self-represented litigant who dares to seek justice against powerful institutional forces.*

Presiding is *Judge Miriam Everly*, an old-school jurist who treats *Liberty* with open disdain, seeing self-representation as a threat to the profession she reveres. *Everly* openly favors the defense, aware that prolonged litigation feeds the financial interests of both sides’ counsel, promoting exploitation of the Self-represented allowing a war of attrition to wear out and make the Plaintiff “Go Away.”

The defense is led by two lawyers: *Gregory Blaine*, a tall, sometimes awkward, egotistical insurance defense attorney whose refusal to settle is rooted in stinginess and stubbornness, and greed not strategy; and his co-counsel *Ted Dueschene*, a conservative institutional lawyer with a need to feel he's one of the boys. He sees the risks, but is dragged along by Blaine's stubbornness, stinginess and complete inflexibility. Though the two represent opposing parties, the individual defendant has a crossclaim against the institutional defendant, accusing them of negligence as a defense for wrongful actions taken against *Liberty* at their direction. Despite this crossclaim, pitting them against each other, constant collusion of these two attorneys points to deeper corruption.

As *Liberty* methodically presents her case with well-reasoned, record supported fact-based arguments, grounded in the law, she's met with procedural gamesmanship and judicial hostility.

As *Liberty Price* tries to have her voice heard, her arguments, grounded in logic, honesty, and case law, are inexplicably dismissed, without rhyme or reason. Disparate treatment is at the bottom of it. The judge, a self-appointed guardian of the legal profession, openly favors *the two attorneys*. She is clearly "on their side," while undermining *Liberty* at every turn. Yet *Liberty* refuses to be broken. Her unwavering belief in Justice and the law as a vehicle for truth begins to challenge the system that seeks to silence her.

The play weaves courtroom realism with moments of poetic introspection, as *Liberty* engages with a silent figure *The Law, as it could be*: impartial, principled, and elegant; rooted in integrity. The Law is seen as a woman dressed in a flowing gown much like the statutes of *Lady Justice* appear. *Lady Justice* sometimes hovers near *Liberty*, and whispers in her ear which *Liberty* then speaks afterwards. The others in the Courtroom can't see *Lady Justice*, only the audience can see her. During their conferences, everyone else in the Courtroom goes into a frozen position as though time stands still while *Liberty* thinks it out and confers with *Lady Justice*. Though the final ruling goes against her, *Liberty's* truth echoes beyond the decision, leaving a mark on the institution itself as she uncovers the intersection of judicial

discretion and constitutional guarantees. And most importantly refuses to give up.

### **Structure:**

The play unfolds in three acts, intercutting courtroom scenes with private chambers, flashbacks of the parties' pasts, and imagined conversations with great legal thinkers; *Blackstone, Holmes, Marshall, Ginsburg*, who appear not as ghosts, but as projections of conscience. The protagonist wrestles with how to maintain moral clarity while navigating a system that rewards strategy over sincerity against two men who only care about winning.

### **Characters:**

- ❖ **Liberty Price** – A former teacher turned reluctant plaintiff; articulate, principled, self-represented.
- ❖ **Judge Miriam Everly** – Strongly opposed to non-lawyers in the courtroom. Intolerant, behind closed doors refers to Self-represented as “ordinaries.”
- ❖ **Gregory Blaine** - Counsel for the Defense covered by a deep pocket insurer– Sometimes awkward and arrogant, used to getting his way no matter what he says or does. Intelligence is not his strong point, rather he is morally slippery, and manipulative, always looking to see what he can get away with, and likes to play the victim.
- ❖ **Ted Duchesne** - Counsel for the multi-million dollar Corporate Defendant, has an inferior complex and wishes he was taller. He sometimes disassociates when things are not going his way.
- ❖ **Jeffery** - The judge’s law clerk. A recent law school graduate, still idealistic, still principled, but having his eyes wide opened every day.
- ❖ **Lady Justice.** The Law Itself as a character. Sometimes voiced by different figures, sometimes silent, appearing as a presence that watches but does not speak unless invoked by thought provoking challenges.

*A Measure of Truth* explores what justice looks like when the odds are stacked against someone, and what it means to speak truth to power when power would rather not listen, gradually revealing deeper questions about justice, truth, and institutional integrity, and the right to represent yourself in court. The courtroom becomes a crucible, not only for legal arguments, but for philosophical confrontation, that explores the moral fault lines of the American legal system. A searing, timely examination of integrity, bias, and the power of one voice to expose a system's contradictions and call it back to its higher purpose. It's a courtroom drama about integrity, bias, and the courage it takes to confront a legal system that rewards power over principle.