

NOF Mock Trial
Fact Pattern:
State of Eve
V.
Yolanda Salvador

On March 31, 2024, around 10:30 PM, a guest at the Casa De Quiroz hotel reported hearing loud cries for help followed by a loud noise from across the hall. The guest promptly called the front desk, and the hotel manager responded to the scene. After knocking on the door multiple times without a response, the manager used a room key to enter. Inside, she found a window wide open, cash scattered on the floor, and a woman lying unconscious on the ground with blood surrounding her.

After ensuring no one else was hiding in the room, the manager screamed for someone to call the police. When authorities arrived, they identified the woman as Celine Gonzalez, a renowned Tejano musician. Ms. Gonzalez was rushed to the hospital but, despite emergency care, succumbed to her injuries. She was pronounced dead at 11:47 PM. The autopsy revealed that the cause of death was two gunshot wounds to major blood vessels in the chest.

During their investigation, police received multiple witness accounts describing a mid-sized, large-built masked individual climbing into Ms. Gonzalez's second-story hotel room. Witnesses from nearby rooms reported hearing two women yelling, followed by one shouting, "Enough, Yolanda, you need to leave now," and then two loud bangs.

Within 24 hours, the FBI and Ms. Gonzalez's security team had identified one key suspect: Yolanda Salvador, the president of the Celine Gonzalez superfan club. According to Ms. Gonzalez's security team, the two had been close friends for years. However, their relationship had recently soured after Celine accused Yolanda of stealing money and began pursuing a restraining order against her. Yolanda reportedly had a history of aggressive behavior toward Celine, including yelling and disregarding personal boundaries.

As part of the investigation, the FBI obtained critical evidence:

- Exhibit 2: A hotel reservation confirmation email found on Yolanda's phone, showing that she had booked a room at Casa De Quiroz on the night of the incident. Yolanda denies making the reservation, claiming she was set up.
- Exhibit 3: A gun discovered in Yolanda's hotel room 12 hours after Ms. Gonzalez's death.

Based on this evidence, the FBI concluded there was probable cause to take Yolanda Salvador into custody. The State of Eve has charged her with first-degree murder, arguing that the evidence strongly suggests premeditation.

The defense, however, contends that the FBI failed to investigate other possible suspects with known motives against Ms. Gonzalez, leaving room for doubt in the case.

Witness Statements

Prosecution Witness 1- Tate Harper

"Hello, I was Celine's long-time bodyguard. I knew Yolanda and her relationship with Celine well from observing them over the years. After this tragedy, I worked closely with the FBI to provide insight, which has been a rewarding experience. I've always dreamed of becoming an FBI agent, and I'm hoping that through this process, I might impress them enough to secure a new career. Being unemployed after something like this has been tough—there aren't many opportunities for a security guard when the person you're hired to protect is tragically taken out. I remember that night vividly. In the days leading up to the incident, Celine had been receiving hate mail from various people, especially on Twitter (Exhibit 4). That evening, I personally observed Yolanda check into the Casa De Quiroz hotel about 20 minutes before Celine arrived. I tried to stay calm, despite knowing Celine and Yolanda had a recent falling out. Celine was even in the process of obtaining a restraining order against her. At 9:56 PM, Celine told me Yolanda had called to apologize and said she would be coming to visit her. At 10:02 PM, Yolanda arrived and went into Celine's room. I stayed outside to give them privacy. Seven minutes later, I heard them screaming at each other. At that point, I intervened and escorted Yolanda out of the room at around 10:10 PM. At 10:15 PM, I took a bathroom break. By the time I returned, everything had escalated. The police were being called because Celine had been attacked. When I saw the scene—Celine lying there—it hit me: Yolanda must have done it. I knew she owned a gun, which was later confirmed when the FBI showed me Exhibit 3. No one else had access to Celine that night, and no one else hated her or was more jealous of her than Yolanda. I have a gut feeling she's behind this."

Defense Witness 1- Sadie Gaskins

"I'm a private investigator, and I was tasked with determining whether the police conducted a thorough investigation into alternative suspects who might have had a personal vendetta against the victim. My first step was to review social media activity. That's where I found **Exhibit 4**. One tweet, posted by @coolguy, claimed that someone had attempted to bring a gun into one of the victim's shows. This led me to conclude that there were individuals with personal grudges against Celine. However, my investigation revealed that the person involved in that incident was in jail on the night of the crime.

Next, I examined the events of the night in question. I discovered that paparazzi had breached the victim's private hotel and lingered at the entrance until around 9 PM. Because of this, it's plausible that anyone with a vendetta against Celine could have discovered her location.

Exhibit 2 is a hotel reservation confirmation email, which shows that Yolanda booked a room at Casa De Quiroz. However, Yolanda claims she never made the reservation and that she was set up. During my investigation, I found evidence that Yolanda's accounts had been hacked in the past, which raises questions about the authenticity of the reservation.

When I reviewed the FBI's report, **Exhibit 3**, the gun found in Yolanda's hotel room was tested and showed multiple fingerprints belonging to her. The report also revealed that the gun had been fired approximately five hours before the crime. Yolanda explained this by stating she had used it during a shooting course for anger management earlier that day.

Despite concerning social media activity from anonymous accounts like @CGWILLDIE, which had openly threatened Celine, the FBI provided no evidence of investigating alternative suspects. I conducted my own investigation and identified the individual behind @CGWILLDIE as Michael Ross, a convicted felon. However, it appears that neither the FBI nor the defense gave this individual serious consideration as a suspect."

Exhibit one can be accessed through the link below

 [State of Eve V Yolanda Salvador Exhibit One](#)

Exhibit 2

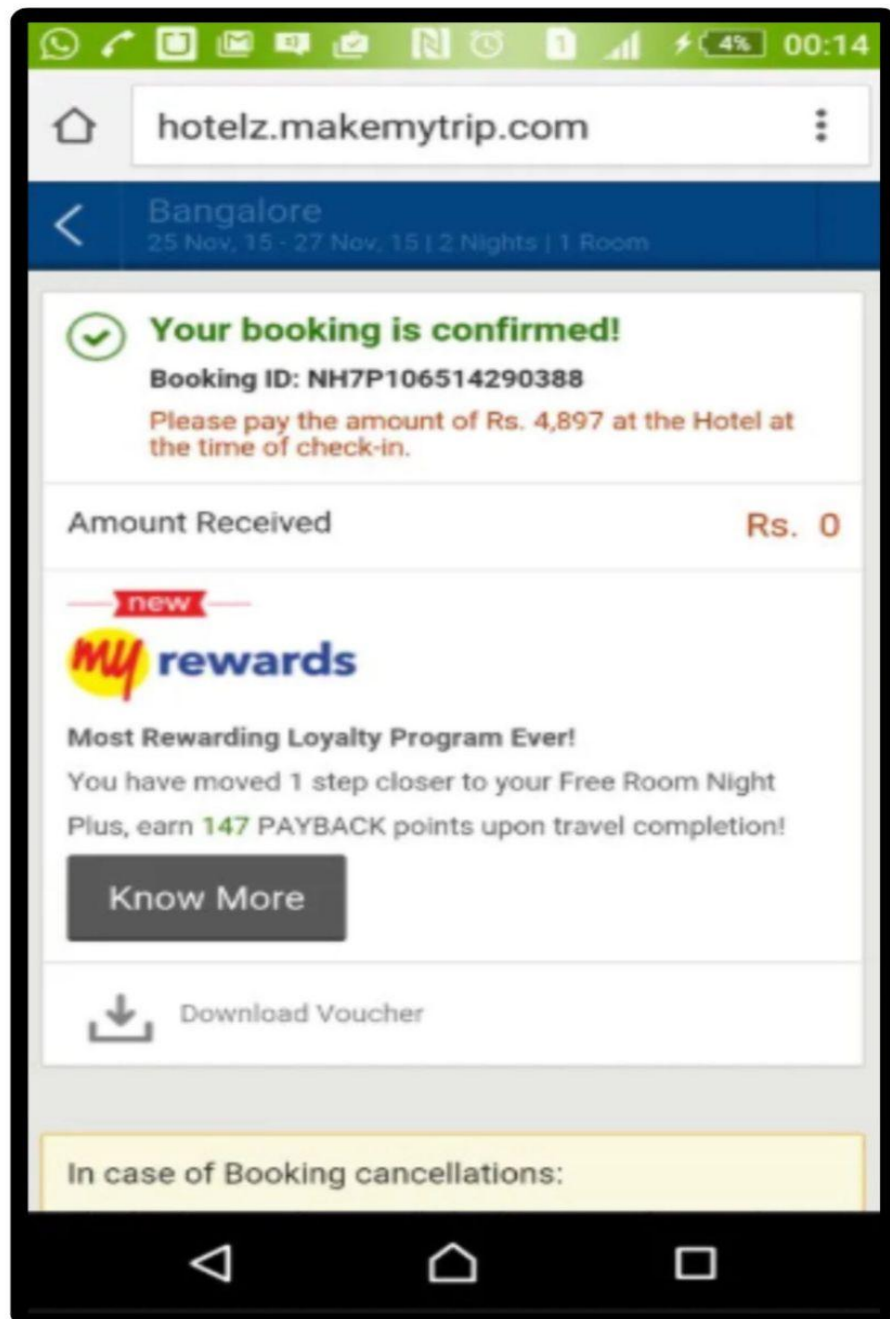


Exhibit 3



Exhibit 4



Thatonecoolperson ✓
@coolguy



I was at a Celina Gonzales concert yesterday, oof she has some crazy "fans" tbh..... this guy behind me was yelling that they'd see each other soon. Another person I heard tried to bring a gun into the show but the cops clocked that real quick #staysafecg #oddballs #staysafe



D1_Celine_Gozales_hater4life ✓
@CGWILLDIE



By know, everyone should know how I feel about Celine Gozales she is a selfish garbage of a person who frankly needs to not be famous anymore if anyone gets any sense knocked into them will soon see why she's going bye bye

8:26 PM · Mar 31, 2024 · **45.7M** Views