

QUESTION ONE

Annabelle gave her husband Ben, a wish list of items that she wanted for Christmas. The first item on the list was a WOC (a cooking utensil). Ben, a loving husband, suffered from the lifelong challenge of dyslexia.

Ben, perplexed, decided to get Annabelle the item that was at the top of the list, a COW. Ben knew how expensive it was to buy and care for a COW, but was determined to please his wife.

The night before Christmas, Ben, resolute to deliver his wife's wish, drove across town to the local farming truck and trailer dealership. He picked the lock to the security gate, entered and hot-wired a brand-new truck and attached a chrome trailer and drove off. He planned on returning it the day after Christmas.

Ben then drove to the midnight auction yard to bid on a COW. He soon realized that the Cow he was bidding on was far more expensive than he could afford. Ben decided to load up one of the free-range Cow's that was roaming the arena and bring her home to Annabelle.

On the way home Ben figured he would surprise his wife and get the COW a cowbell made of diamonds and gold. He stopped at the local feed store and peeked through the window to the security counter where the expensive items lay in rest. Ben kicked in the window to the store, breaking it, and grabbed the prettiest most expensive cowbell. He ran back to the truck and placed it around the Cow's neck. Carl, the night watchman lived on site, but slept through the ordeal.

On Christmas morning, excited to watch his wife's face fill with joy, Ben brought the COW to the bedroom where Annabelle was asleep. The Cow let out a loud "MOOOOO" that startled Annabelle awake. Furious at the sight of the COW, Annabelle ripped the hefty cowbell from the cow's neck and hurled it toward Ben. While avoiding being hit, Ben slipped and hit his head on the bed post causing major head trauma.

Annabelle decided that to make the most of this gift, she would kill the COW and use the meat for Christmas dinner. With COW in tow, Annabelle brought her to the front yard. She shot at the COW but missed, sending the bullet through the neighbor's open window, killing her elderly neighbor, Don, as he opened his Christmas stocking.

What crime or crimes have been committed by the parties, if any? Answer at common and modern law.

Question 2

Xavier was fascinated by fire. One evening Xavier's wife, Yana, wanted to surprise Xavier with a huge roaring fire upon his late night return from work. She was not very good at building fires, but she stacked the logs neatly in the fireplace and doused them with a large bottle of lighter fluid. After throwing in a match, the fire roared out of control. A large spark hit the sofa which quickly engulfed it in flames. Yana ran out the front door, as Xavier was entering the back door. Xavier could see the living room on fire and assumed Yana was in the upstairs bedroom asleep. Unbeknownst to Yana, Xavier had planned on announcing his desire for a divorce this very evening.

Xavier was able to extinguish most of the flames, but to make it easier to break the news to Yana, he encouraged the flames to creep up the banister and into the upstairs bedroom, hoping to kill Yana.

Yana ran to the neighbors, opened their garage door and searched for an extinguisher to stop the fire from spreading. Not seeing an extinguisher, she filled her pockets with shiny new screw drivers that she could later give to Xavier as a gift.

Once Xavier was convinced that Yana was dead, he tried to extinguish the remaining fire. In doing so, he burned his arm down to the bone. When Xavier ran outside to meet the arriving fire trucks, he laid eyes on Yana. He was so shocked to see her alive that he whacked her hard with the heavy extinguisher that he was holding, killing her instantly.

Later, it was determined that Xavier's arm could not be saved and had to be amputated.

What crime or crimes have been committed by the parties? Answer at Common law and modern law.