

*To Shewley's answer  
to the attached charge,  
accepted as true. D. J. S.*

A brief summary of the facts as I can recall them:

Over a period of several years I have been counselling these parents regarding an older boy and an older girl as well as the boy in question. You already seem to have knowledge that this is an extraordinary family. Only after several suicide attempts did I succeed in convincing the mother of the need for psychiatric services.

A year or two ago the boys uncle consulted me regarding the theft of large sums of money from their firm and indicated that the boys father was the culprit. I was loathe to become involved but finally succumbed to pressure and entered the case. The father came to see me and was obviously the victim of his wife's neurotic conviction that this was not theft. The father was and is in grave danger of criminal action, the family is in debt to an enormous amount. I felt that all members must share in a last ditch attempt to prevent this, that the children must be informed of the imminent notoriety, that certain extras must be forgone such as the boy's education at an expensive Catholic School. I called for a council of war. The father agreed but later demurred because 'the kids say they could never face you again'. This was two months ago. (The seduction scene was last August.) Because of the imperative need to continue direction of the boy and the girl I agreed, if at least the mother would appear. She did, a month ago, with a grim determination to be silent throughout the interview with her husband and brother-in-law. The boys uncle is an outstanding Catholic gentleman who was entranced at my ability to break down her silence and force her to admit that she concurred in and encouraged the thefts. My brilliance was my downfall. I was, perforce, blunt in limning in the picture of the consequences of such irrational behavior. The father has approached me twice in the past two weeks agreeing with my method and requesting that I continue to advise him. A week after the mother's visit the boy discontinued seeing me and this week I received your request to report to Chancery.

I have no intention of rashly judging their motives. If you can swear the uncle to secrecy I am sure he will be able to account for such unfounded accusations. I cannot even tell him the reasons for my withdrawal since I am sure he would immediately blow the whistle on this woman.