

Are you Ready for Sex with ...George Washington?

A Play for High School Students

by Justice Antonin Scalia and
Justice Clarence Thomas*

** DISCLAIMER: Any resemblance of the characters to real persons,
living or dead, is purely coincidental and not at all based in fact.*

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CHARACTERS

MARTHA DANDRIDGE portrayed by Antonin Scalia

GEORGE WASHINGTON portrayed by Clarence Thomas

SETTING

18th-century anti-fornication party / present-day high school auditorium

TIME

1750 / 2012

ACT I
SCENE 1

MARTHA: Georgie-porgie, I was so happy we were able to attend the anti-fornication and chastity services together. It was so inspirational—and it aroused normal sexual feeling that I am trying to repress.

GEORGE: *Normally* aroused, yes? Punch?

MARTHA: I think not—I am already overheated from the minister's bible reading and the flaming words of the Day of Judgment.

GEORGE: Sit. Relax in my lap.

MARTHA: Well, that does feel nice. Although, my judgment may be considered legally impaired as defined in several notable cases on the effects of Christian propaganda and alcohol intoxication.

GEORGE: Martha, let us engage in normal coitus.

MARTHA: But I'm only 16, which in most states and the protectorate of Puerto Rico is below the age of consent.

GEORGE: Then I will marry you, and you will honor and obey me. Now, how does this robe unbutton? (*Starts to unbutton Martha's gown.*)

MARTHA: [*Standing up*] Georgie, have you not noticed the alarming rise in premarital pregnancy and bastardy in 18th-century America? And I hope you do not share the common misconception that a man can rid himself of syphilis by having sex with an uninfected person...

GEORGE: (*Breaking character*) But George Washington believed that gonorrhoea was caused by having relations with *oneself*...

MARTHA: Is there no wording in the U.S. Constitution to guide 18th-century American teenagers in legal, not unusual sexual relations?

GEORGE: (*Breaking character*) Unfortunately, George Washington's own sexual practices were not documented by the framers of the U.S. Constitution.

MARTHA: How about birth control in the early American Republic?
What is the legality of condoms made from animal intestines?

GEORGE: (*Sighing, getting overheated*) Do you not, like your fellow 18th
century Virginians, have the “bawdy Itch of knowing secret
Things”? Which is to say, ‘Can’t we just fool around?’

MARTHA: Fool around how? You are aware of the anti-sodomy laws,
are you not?

GEORGE: The anti-sodomy laws were struck down in *Lawrence v.*
Texas, my dear!

MARTHA: (*Getting agitated, breaking character*) But you were a dissenting
opinion in that decision, Justice Thomas and so was I. *We*
believe in originalist sex practices and normal sexual ideas
from the 18th century as espoused by the Founding Fathers:
one man with his wife—or mistress—or other *not unusual*
property.

GEORGE: In the matter of *Martha v. George Washington*, I find that the
man may do as he pleases, as it pertains to original sex.
(*walks away*)

Curtain falls.

NARRATOR: As you can see, children, having a legally originalist sexual
relationship is more complicated than you may have thought.
When you wonder, “Is this sex legal?” always ask yourself
“What would a young George Washington and a young
Martha Dandridge do?”

THE END

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*Featured in the video by Mark Shoffner and Rebecca Herman, “Original Sex,”
commissioned for the exhibition “SexEd: Chapter 1” at Cuchifritos Gallery, New
York, NY. For more information: www.groupc.org*

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