

13 Stories III  
Story Options 2022

Option #5: Fred Law

Born in Oregon and raised in a Methodist family, Fred Law met Annie Turpin in Star, Idaho. Annie, married to George Turpin, alleged her husband abused her. Their defense attorney stated she was “forced by her inhuman husband to lead a life of shame.” Annie and Fred ran away on multiple occasions and the two pretended to be husband and wife. On one occasion George followed Annie and Fred to a cabin. There Fred shot George in the jaw, leaving him deaf. Later, the two approached J.F. Ayres, an old family friend of Annie’s. She introduced Fred to Ayres as her husband and asked him for a place to stay. Ayres provided the duo housing and employment. He considered Law a useful worker. Eventually a friend of Annie’s father turned them in to authorities. Both were arrested for adultery. George Turpin served as the prosecution’s main witness. The defense argued adultery laws were intended to stop plural marriage, rather than people in situations of abuse or spousal neglect. Their judge stated, “I am at a loss to understand how there can be different degrees of a crime of this character.” Annie Turpin received five months in county jail, while Fred Law was sentenced to seven months at the Idaho State Penitentiary.

