



### THE KALLIKAK CRUSADE

Written by

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A series of eight, 1-hour episodes.

Based on a true story.

Most character names and dates are exact,  
Many scientific discussions taken from characters'  
actual publications.

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True story of an illegitimate young girl, who is misdiagnosed, and kept in a mental institution for 81 years. Her well-meaning psychologist, who is lured by fame and wealthy socialite contributors, tries to fix all the problems of US society, but he and his successors are pulled down a slippery slope toward a utopian fascism.

ScriptHop link: <https://packet.scripthop.com/kallikakcrusade>

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EPISODE 1-  
THE CRUSADE ASSEMBLES

EXT. U.S. SUPREME COURT - DAY

SUPER- May 2, 1927

Reporters are waiting on the granite plaza outside the Supreme Court for a verdict to be announced.

The attorneys for the opposing sides have each attracted a gaggle of photographers and reporters around them, clamoring for comments while waiting for the decision. A news reporter, FLOYD GIBBONS (40), is holding a big, circular radio microphone with the label "WRC" and an NBC logo.

GIBBONS

This is Floyd Gibbons, live from Washington, D.C., coast-to-coast on the National Broadcasting radio network. Emotions are running high here at the Supreme Court in the case of Buck versus Bell. We're going to try and speak with Irving Whitehead, the attorney for the Plaintiff. Mr. Whitehead... over here... NBC Radio... Mr. Whitehead!

Gibbons manages to grab Whitehead's arm and turn him towards his microphone. Flash bulbs pop as he speaks.

GIBBONS (CONT'D)

Mr. Whitehead, our listeners across the country are following this case carefully. Carrie Buck is a very sympathetic little girl and many people don't think it's fair that she can be sterilized without her permission. You lost the original case in Virginia, and then their Court of Appeals ruled against you. What makes you think the Supreme Court will be any different.

WHITEHEAD

Because they are the ultimate guardians of our Constitutional rights. Our case is very simple.

(MORE)

WHITEHEAD (CONT'D)

The Virginia law which allows forced sterilizations is plainly in conflict with the Fourteenth Amendment, which demands equal protection of the law for all our citizens. To have a law which applies only to institutionalized epileptics and the feeble-minded is clearly unequal... and cruel.

REPORTER 2

Hey, guys... look... there's Harry Laughlin. He's here!

HARRY LAUGHLIN (40), a stocky blond man, is rushing up the stairs with a group of reporters on his heels. Laughlin is the Superintendent of the Eugenics Records Office in Cold Spring Harbor, NY, and has testified as an expert witness for the prosecution. He is trying to avoid the gaggle of newsmen.

REPORTER 2 (CONT'D)

Mr. Laughlin.... sir... over here... Mr. Laughlin! Sir!

LAUGHLIN

Gentlemen, please, I've made my opinions known in my deposition.

REPORTER 3

Why do you and Arthur Estabrook think that Eugenics has anything to do with this case? Who made you the expert?

Laughlin stops in his tracks, ruffled, his expertise challenged. He wheels, officiously addressing the reporters.

LAUGHLIN

Gentlemen, this case isn't really that difficult to comprehend. It's about every American's patriotic duty to protect our homeland. Some citizens sacrifice their lives on the battlefield... others like you and I and our families do simpler things, like get protected against spreading the contagion of smallpox. Both actions save other American lives. That is the simple message of this case, which I expect to be reinforced today. Thank you.

Laughlin spins and continues up the steps, as Gibbons turns to Whitehead for his reaction.

GIBBONS

Mr. Whitehead, what do you have to say to that?

WHITEHEAD

As I asked during my closing, who have we elected to play God? If this Act is found valid, then the limits of the power of the State to rid itself of those citizens deemed undesirable according to its standards, are unchecked. A reign of doctors will be inaugurated, and in the name of science, new "classifications" will be invented... even whole races may be brought within the scope of such arbitrary regulations, and the worst forms of tyranny would be practiced.

SHOUT FROM DISTANCE (O.S.)

It's out... it's out!

The group of reporters runs up to the entrance door of the court, where a man in a suit is standing, holding a paper.

COURT SPOKESMAN

A ruling in re: Case Number 274 U.S. 200, Carrie Buck versus John Hendren Bell, Superintendent of the Virginia State Colony for Epileptics and Feeble-Minded. The court finds in favor of the Defendant, and that Statute of the State of Virginia is upheld as constitutional and lawful. The vote was 8 to 1, with Justice Butler dissenting. The Majority Opinion was written by Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

INT. U.S. SUPREME COURT CHAMBERS - MOMENTS LATER

The nine justices are sitting atop the bench of the Supreme Court. At the center is Chief Justice and former President, William Howard Taft. On his left is an older man with grey hair and a distinctive, white brush of a moustache: renowned Associate Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

## HOLMES

We have seen more than once, that the public welfare may call upon the best citizens for their lives. It would be strange if it could not call upon those who already sap the strength of the State for these lesser sacrifices, often not felt to be such by those concerned, in order to prevent our being swamped with incompetence.

CROSSFADE TO

INT. INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL COURT, NUREMBERG GERMANY - DAY  
SUPER- November, 1947

GERMAN LAWYER is reading aloud the remainder of that Holmes verdict, to a defendant in the box at the Nazi War Crimes Trial, OTTO HOFFMAN (66), a former SS Lieutenant General in the Race and Settlement Office. Armed and white-helmeted US Soldiers are at attention on both sides of the witness stand. Hoffman is wearing headphones to hear the translation.

GERMAN LAWYER

"It is better for all the world, if instead of waiting to execute dangerous offspring for crime, or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those, who are manifestly unfit, from continuing their kind. The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover cutting the Fallopian tubes.

Three generations of imbeciles are enough!"

The lawyer puts down the paper and continues to address the witness, while turning to amble slowly in the direction of the panel of Justices.

GERMAN LAWYER (CONT'D)

Do you recognize that quotation, Leutnant Hoffman?

HOFFMAN

Nein, mein herr

## GERMAN LAWYER

There is really no reason why you should, since that opinion upholds a sterilization law from the State of Virginia, in the United States, and was written and delivered by that great American Supreme Court Justice, Oliver Wendell Holmes.

## CHIEF JUSTICE

Is it your intent to enter this into evidence, counselor?

## GERMAN LAWYER

Yes, your honor. Please enter this and mark it as Defense Exhibit 191, demonstrating that sexual sterilization was not a novel measure of the National Socialists. Herr Hoffman, as well as all the co-defendants in Case Number Eight, are not responsible for any measures taken after their office, the Rasse und Siedlungshauptamt, made health determinations using the basic precedents already established by the highest courts of other nations, such as the United States of America. No further questions, your honor.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. VINELAND WORKSHOP/LABORATORY BUILDING - DAY

SUPER: Fall, 1906.

Entering the door is DR. HENRY H. GODDARD (39). He is only in his 30's, but his hairline has receded completely, leaving him bald, to which he adds a pencil moustache. He wears pince-nez glasses and a rumpled tan suit. Goddard is working at the Vineland Training School for the Feeble-Minded in Vineland, N.J. His laboratory is on the previously unfinished second floor of the workshop building, where they teach manual arts by having the students build things. On the lower level of the building is the wood shop. There are large woodworking tools like a band saw, a lathe, a joiner/planer, as well as various hand tools like saws, hammer, etc.

We see patient EMMA WOLVERTON (17) with a grey workman's smock on over her dress, working on a wooden box. She is busy making sure the pieces fit together at the corners.

Supervising her is the Manual Training teacher, FREDERICK MARTIN (55).

At the far end of the room is a doorway to the outside. Across from it is a stairway leading up to the laboratory on the second floor. The door opens, and Goddard awkwardly enters carrying a wooden shipping crate, trying to turn the knob and get through the entry without the door slamming.

MARTIN

Can I give you a hand with that Dr. Goddard? Emma, hold those pieces together for a minute until the glue sets up. I'll be right back.

GODDARD

Thanks Frederick. It's just big enough to be awkward. I think I'll just sit this box here on the newel post before I head upstairs. Whew!

EMMA TEEN

Good morning, Dr. Goddard. It's nice to see ya. How ya likin' your new office upstairs?

GODDARD

Now that the paneling is done and the electric is wired, I can start some serious work. What's that project you're working on?

EMMA TEEN

This is gonna be a pretty box to keep shirtwaists in. Mr. Martin showed me how to finish the corners here real nice.

MARTIN

I'm very impressed. Emma is using mortise-and-tenon joints. It takes patience and attention to detail. When Emma sets her mind to something, she can do very well, but if she gets distracted by anything and loses her focus... well, you have to root for her to finish it to get her to snap back to attention. But, I'll tell ya, when she's good, she's very good.

GODDARD

That's an important thing to know. Thank you Frederick.

(MORE)

GODDARD (CONT'D)

(shouts to Emma)

Emma... when Mr. Martin is all done with you here, would you please come upstairs to the Lab for a few minutes. I have something to try.

EMMA TEEN

Sure thing, Dr. Goddard. So long's my hands don't get glued together.

Everyone chuckles, and Goddard gets his shoulder under the box, carrying it up the steps to the second floor.

CROSSFADE TO

INT. GODDARD'S LABORATORY - MOMENTS LATER

Goddard opens the door to the laboratory with one hand while he carries the wooden crate on his shoulder, held with the other hand. The room is brand new and looks it. The walls are paneled with a dark brown wood like mahogany, with beadboard wainscoting, chair rails, and many coats of glossy varnish. There are wooden workbenches all around holding different examples of the most "modern" scientific instruments made of oak, shiny brass and glass. At the far end of the room is a door marked "Photographic Darkroom- Do Not Enter."

Standing at one of the benches with clipboard and pencil is MISS CATHERINE BELL. She is Goddard's first assistant in the laboratory. Not a secretary, but a respected co-worker, whose specialty is statistics and managing data well.

GODDARD

Catherine, can you give me a quick hand with this box as I set it on the bench. I don't want it to drop it down too hard. It's the new Ergograph we've been waiting for! Now we can do those electronic muscle tests I have been anticipating. Oomphhhh! Whew!

Goddard picks up a hammer and crowbar from the workbench and starts prying the nails of the wooden crate lid. He works carefully to make sure he doesn't hurt anything inside. He reaches inside the box and lifts out a shiny new ergograph.

GODDARD (CONT'D)

Wonderful. This is the final instrument I've been needing to measure the correlation between muscle control and feeble-mindedness.

(MORE)



GODDARD (CONT'D)

We'll have a complete set of data points once we match these to the spoken tests.

MISS BELL

I'll plug it in to the electricity.

Suddenly, there is a knock at the laboratory door.

EMMA TEEN (O.S.)

Doctor Goddard? I'm all done with my work downstairs. Is now OK?

GODDARD

Oh... Emma... certainly. Now is just perfect.

Goddard strides over and turns the handle, opening the door all the way up.

GODDARD (CONT'D)

Please come this way. I want you to meet my assistant, Miss Bell. This is Emma Wolverton. She is one of our most useful helpers here at the School. Emma, Miss Bell is going to seat you over by my desk and we are just going to talk for a bit, and I am going to ask you some questions. You've done this before, I'm sure.

MISS BELL

Right over here, Emma.

Goddard sits behind his desk as Emma sits in the chair Catherine has placed in front of him. Catherine sits at the side, facing Emma, so what she is writing can't be seen.

EMMA TEEN

I didn't used to be so good with my numbers, but I been practicin'.

GODDARD

That's wonderful Emma. So let's start with that. Seven and nine are how many?

EMMA TEEN

Sixteen.

GODDARD

Good. Four less two are how many?

EMMA TEEN

Two.

GODDARD

Three ones are how many?

EMMA TEEN

Three.

GODDARD

Six books and two books are how many?

EMMA TEEN

Eight. Good, huh?

GODDARD

Yes, Emma. Now, I have five cents in one pocket and five cents in another. How many cents have I?

EMMA TEEN

Ten cents.

GODDARD

Miss Groff has three cents, and I give her two cents. How much has she?

EMMA TEEN

Five cents.

GODDARD

Miss Groff has three cents and I give her four. How much has she?

EMMA TEEN

Seven!

GODDARD

Very well. Miss Annie has five days' vacation coming to her. She goes away for two days. How many has she remaining?

EMMA TEEN

Three days.

GODDARD

If you have 5 ears of corn, and you pick another 10, how many have you?

EMMA TEEN

Fourteen?

GODDARD

If your table seats 14 people, and  
12 people have come in, how many  
are still to come?

EMMA TEEN

Two.

GODDARD

If you have picked 14 ears of corn,  
and give 2 away, how many have you?

EMMA TEEN

(long pause)

I don't know.

GODDARD

If your table seats 9 people and 7  
people have come, how many are  
still left to come?

EMMA TEEN

Two.

GODDARD

If you serve 9 butter balls on a  
plate, and 7 of them are taken, how  
many remain?

EMMA TEEN

Three.

GODDARD

There were 8 people at your table,  
and 2 have left, how many remain?

EMMA TEEN

(10 second pause)

Six.

GODDARD

Very good, Emma. Thank you very  
much for spending some time with us  
today. That's all for now, but we  
have some brand new tools up here  
now, that I think you will enjoy  
helping us... test out. I'll have  
Miss Bell come to find you one day.

EMMA TEEN

I'd really enjoy that, Dr. Goddard.  
You're so smart, I figger maybe I  
can soak some up if I hang around  
you enough.

(MORE)