answer Steven's question; and, upset by her lack of response, Steven kicked away Joyce's plate of food.

Joyce followed Steven into the bedroom and climbed onto Steven's back, pulled his hair, and said, "What are you going to do, hit me?" Joyce added, "I never did want to marry you and you are a lousy f— and you remind me of my dad [who had impregnated her when she was 14]. . . . What are you going to do?" She added that she had filed charges against him in the Judge Advocate General (JAG) and that he would probably be court-martialed.

Steven left the bedroom with his pillow and entered the kitchen. He took a long-handled kitchen knife, which he hid behind the pillow. Joyce continued taunting Steven, claiming that the marriage had been a mistake. Steven lunged at Joyce and stabbed her nineteen times. Steven was convicted of first-degree murder and, on appeal, claimed that he should have been convicted of voluntary manslaughter.

Do you agree with Steven? See *Girouard v. State,* 583 A.2d 718 (Md. 1991).

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