

MCCARTHY

1. MCCARTHY. The threat of Communism is as great a threat as this nation has ever faced! They are disguised as your friends, your neighbors, your government—um? —bureaucrats! And they must be destroyed before they, um, turn us into pawns or...oh goddamn it!

(beat)

Shit, shit, that's for shit!

2. MCCARTHY. This is a time of the Cold War! This is a time when all the world is split into two vast, increasingly hostile armed camps—a time of a great armaments race! Today we can almost physically hear the mutterings and rumblings of an invigorated god of war! Today we are engaged in a final, all-out battle between Communistic atheism and Christianity! At war's end, ours could have been the honor of being a beacon on the desert of destruction, a shining living proof that civilization was not yet ready to destroy itself! In my opinion the State Department, which is one of the most important government departments, is thoroughly infested with Communists! I have here in my hand a list of two hundred and five...a list of names that were made known to the Secretary of State as being members of the Communist Party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping policy in the State Department.

3. MCCARTHY. Oh yeah? You told me your husband died of a heart attack. Syphilis, that's what he died of. It was syphilis! Which ain't surprising, since he had 45 girlfriends all up and down the East Coast, not to mention young Miss Rita, a name you know all too well.

(beat)

Is the truth a smear, Maggie? Well how 'bout this then —your office boy is a faggot. That's right, I know everything SO DON'T KEEP THROWING YOUR GODDAMN CONSCIENCE AT ME! Rescind everything you said, just like the others are doing... And then maybe I won't tell the world about your syphilitic husband and your faggot office boy.

LEWIS

1. LEWIS. I first met her when I was chief counsel for the Congressional Naval Affairs Committee. The new members walked in and there she was—a woman seated at a table of men. She was newly elected and she barely uttered a word during the meetings, but when she did—she had twice the knowledge and ten times the savvy of any one else in the room. So I started slipping her notes, encouraging her to speak up. It was presumptuous of me, I know, but...-

2. LEWIS. They all felt a speech would be too big a statement. So I told them you won't be giving a speech, you're simply going to read a short statement into the Congressional Record. That's how I got to six.

(beat)

Just like McCarthy, I lied, yes. And just like McCarthy, it worked. Margaret, as soon as you came up with the idea for this speech, I thought-bad idea. But I wanted to ask around first, see what everyone was feeling, what they weren't saying publicly. And-they hate him, they hate him as much as we do. But they're also all terrified of him. Except for you. So to hell with them, I think you should give the speech anyway.

MISS KERR

1. MISS KERR. I know, it's surprising, right? People don't think a girl can be both pretty and clever. Not that I'm saying that I'm pretty, but well, I am, so- And I learned very early on that being pretty can be quite useful. And to tell you the truth, I don't think a woman who wasn't attractive in some way could ever get elected to office, do you? Men have to like a woman to vote for her, and men tend to like attractive women more, don't you agree?

2. MISS KERR. I read all that, yes. And he shouldn't have enhanced his war record when he campaigned—he admitted that, yes-but he wouldn't be the first or the last soldier to tell some tall tales about his service. And yes, when Joe's had a couple too many drinks, he does embellish the truth. But he won the election. And isn't that what's important? He proved himself a winner! And now look where he is—on the cusp of doing something great for his country. And to have someone in his very own party, who he put on an important committee because you begged him to-