

# 1963

*A new play about the year when everything changed.*

## CAST BREAKDOWN

J. Edgar Hoover - Head of the FBI, 66

Clyde Tolson - Companion to J. Edgar Hoover, 61

Bayard Rustin - Civil Rights Organizer, 49

Tommy Miller - A Hustler, 20

Annie Fields- Maid to J. Edgar Hoover, 49

William Fields - Husband to Annie Fields, 55

## LOCATION

The entire play takes place in various locations in and around Washington D.C. and the set does not need to feel realistic in fact I prefer it is not. I want each actor to be able to use all areas and furniture on the stage. So the bed, the desk, doorways, all areas and furniture pieces belong to everyone as opposed to belonging to a specific actor or set of actors. I want the staging to be dynamic and surprising and not repetitive. There should be absolutely no scene changes, no blackouts until the play is over and no furniture being brought on and off by stagehands.

## COSTUMES

The costumes should be historically accurate. It should feel like 1963 in America.

## DATE

The play begins on June 27th, 1963. In the two weeks leading up to the start of the play President John F. Kennedy gives a speech in support of the Civil Rights Act, George Wallace, the segregationist Governor of Alabama blocks the doorway of the University of Alabama refusing to allow African-American college students to enroll, and civil rights activist, Medgar Evers is assassinated in his driveway by the Klu Klux Klan. Meanwhile Martin Luther King Jr. and Bayard Rustin are planning the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

## STAGING

The play allows for multiple action happening at the same time. Though not included in the script, Annie, the maid could be cleaning other parts of the stage while Hoover is in his office area doing a scene.

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It would be more interesting and dynamic to have multiple things going on at once and that's how I would approach it.

Music Cue - Pre-Show Music - Popular songs from 1963

SCENE: HOOVER'S BEDROOM - 4AM

J. Edgar Hoover and Clyde Tolson are asleep in bed. J. Edgar Hoover suddenly bolts up from a bad dream. He sits on the side of the bed. He is severely shaken. He tries to collect himself.

HOOVER

Clyde? Clyde? I had a nightmare. I had a nightmare. Clyde. I had a nightmare. I had a nightmare there was a nigger in the White House.

CLYDE

What time is it?

HOOVER

I don't know.

CLYDE

Go to sleep.

HOOVER

I'm shaking. Look at my hand. I'm shaking.

CLYDE

It's 4am.

HOOVER

Clyde. I had a nightmare. There was a nigger in the White House. It was so real. And he was just walking around like he owned the place.

CLYDE

There's a lotta niggers in the White House.

HOOVER

Not workers, the Goddamn President. We had a nigger President. In the White House. Like Martin Luther King but not him. Much worse. It was too real.

CLYDE

Come back to bed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOOVER  
I'm sweating.

CLYDE  
This country ain't never gonna elect a nigger President. You get yourself all worked up over nothing. Come back to bed.

HOOVER  
I can't sleep.

CLYDE  
Come hug me. I'm getting cold.

HOOVER  
I need some milk. I'll be back. You want anything.

CLYDE  
I want you to come warm me up.

HOOVER  
I'll be back.

Hoover leaves. Clyde sits up. Looks at the clock. Gets out of bed. Starts to get dressed. Hoover returns with a glass of milk.

HOOVER (CONT'D)  
Where are you going?

CLYDE  
I'm gonna head out.

HOOVER  
It's still early.

CLYDE  
Well I'm wide awake now so I'm just gonna head home before it gets light.

HOOVER  
I'm sorry I woke you.

CLYDE  
It's fine.

HOOVER  
It was so real.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLYDE

Was the Vice President a nigger, too?

HOOVER

No. I don't think so. I'm not sure.

CLYDE

You're letting him get to you. Don't do that. He's getting under your skin. Don't let him rattle you. You're giving him too much power.

HOOVER

People love him.

CLYDE

Niggers love him. Niggers and Communists. That's it.

HOOVER

Cause they don't know him. They don't know he cheats on his wife. They don't know he's a Communist. They don't know his best friend is a pervert. They don't wanna know anything. They're ostriches. Black ostriches.

CLYDE

It's all gonna come out eventually. "You can fool some of the people some of the time" and...you know the rest...just be patient. Gimme a kiss.

HOOVER

That's you. Mr. Patient. Mr. Wait and See. You know that march is officially scheduled for August 28th.

CLYDE

Oh that march ain't ever gonna happen.

HOOVER

They already applied for the permit.

CLYDE

They're not gonna give him an event permit after what went down in Alabama.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CLYDE (CONT'D)

And once all those sheep find out who they're following...once they find out who he really is...once they find out that King is just a puppet and the true organizer of this whole civil rights bullshit is a dirty old pervert sitting in jail right now for sodomizing young kids in public parks. That's not gonna fly with the American public no matter what color their skin. Niggers are religious. Don't forget that. They love Jesus as much as we do and once they find out all the ugly details they're gonna run as far away from Martin Luther and Bayard Rustin and that stupid march as fast as they can. You just got to keep getting the word out. Jesus is the key to stopping that march, I'm telling you.

HOOVER

Oh please, if Jesus Christ got down off the cross and told 'em King is a Communist they'd say, "Hold on Jesus, I need to verify that with Dr. King." They follow him blindly. He's got them hypnotized.

CLYDE

Well you'll figure it out. I believe in you, handsome. I believe in you, you know that? I put my money on you. I know what you're capable of. You always win. Don't get nervous. No more nightmares. Do you know how handsome you are?

HOOVER

No.

CLYDE

You really don't.

HOOVER

Stop.

CLYDE

Cute as a button. Look at me. Cute as a button you are.

HOOVER

No. You're the handsome one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CLYDE  
You're my hamburger. I'm gonna eat you  
up.

He playfully bites his neck

HOOVER  
(laughing)  
Stop! Stop!

CLYDE  
No more nightmares. Repeat after me.  
There is never ever gonna be a nigger  
President. Say it.

HOOVER  
There is never ever gonna be a nigger  
President.

CLYDE  
Now say: I'm a handsome devil.

HOOVER  
I'm a fat devil.

CLYDE  
I'm a handsome devil.

HOOVER  
I'm a handsome devil.

CLYDE  
Yes you are.

They kiss.

HOOVER  
I love you.

CLYDE  
I love you, too. I'll see you this  
afternoon.

Clyde leaves. Hoover is alone. He looks in the mirror. He drops his bathrobe and now he is only in his boxer shorts. He stares at his reflection. He goes to the bed and reaches under it. Pulls out a box. Places the box on the bed. Opens it. Takes out a beautiful slip. He goes to the mirror. He puts it on. He looks at himself. He feels the fabric. He is becoming turned on by the fabric. He reaches under the slip and begins to masturbate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

He goes and lies down on the bed. He continues to masturbate. Finally, he cums. Exhales. Rests. He sits up. Returns to the mirror.

Music Cue: Transition Music or the sound of jail doors closing or maybe both.

During the transition a black male prisoner and a white male prisoner enter and sit in a jail cel behind bars.

During the next scene Hoover takes off the slip, puts it away and gets dressed in a 3-piece suit and tie.

SCENE: JAIL CEL

TOMMY

I'm scared.

RUSTIN

You ain't got nothing to be scared about.

TOMMY

I never did that before.

RUSTIN

There ain't nothing wrong with two adults hanging out together.

TOMMY

I'm not a pervert.

RUSTIN

Tommy, stop talking.

(whispering)

They got listening devices in here. It ain't legal but they do it. They want you to talk. Don't let 'em win. Let your lawyer do the talking.

TOMMY

You been arrested before?

RUSTIN

Many times.

TOMMY

Oh, Jesus.

RUSTIN

Just stay calm and trust me. I know some very important people. I'm gonna help you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

Who do you know?

RUSTIN

Don't worry about it right now. But I know some people.

TOMMY

Do they know what you like to do?

RUSTIN

Yes they do and there ain't nothing wrong with it.

TOMMY

It's against the law.

RUSTIN

That don't mean nothing.

TOMMY

It means something.

RUSTIN

It means the laws have to be changed.

TOMMY

Well that's not happening today. I'm not like you, you know. I'm not. I'm sorry but we are very different. I just lost my...senses.

RUSTIN

You didn't enjoy it?

TOMMY

Hell no. I like women. I ain't a pervert. You're a nice guy but we are very different. I got an uncle in the Klan. If he finds out I got arrested for...doing this...with a colored...

RUSTIN

So it would be better if I was white.

TOMMY

Well it wouldn't be as bad that's for sure.

RUSTIN

I'm pretty sure your Uncle wouldn't approve of us no matter what color I am.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TOMMY

So who do you know?

RUSTIN

What do you mean?

TOMMY

You said you know people...important people...who do you know?

RUSTIN

I know a lot of people that'd make your Uncle very upset.

TOMMY

Jews? You know Jews? My Uncle hates Jews and I don't even know what a damned Jew looks like. One day I said to him, "how can you hate people that you can't see" and he said, "I can spot a Jew a mile away." I said, "how." And my Mother said, "drop it." So I never found out how to spot a Jew. You know how to spot a Jew?

RUSTIN

Oh, Tommy.

TOMMY

Are they colored?

RUSTIN

Not usually.

TOMMY

So how can you tell?

RUSTIN

You go to movies?

TOMMY

Sometimes.

RUSTIN

You like, Marilyn Monroe? Jewish.

TOMMY

No way.

RUSTIN

Yep.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TOMMY

Oh, hell no. *Thee* Marilyn Monroe?

RUSTIN

The very one.

TOMMY

I don't believe you.

RUSTIN

I don't lie, Tommy.

TOMMY

Marilyn Monroe ain't a Jew.

RUSTIN

Okay. Don't believe me. I'm telling you she is.

TOMMY

My Uncle's got a picture of her hanging in his garage.

RUSTIN

Because your Uncle's an idiot.

TOMMY

Who else?

RUSTIN

Jerry Lewis.

TOMMY

No way.

RUSTIN

Tony Randall. Walter Matthau. Judy Holliday. Rod Serling. You like the Twilight Zone. Gotta thank a Jew, my friend. Shelly Winters. Kirk Douglas.

TOMMY

Now you're just saying a bunch of famous names.

RUSTIN

Lauren Bacall. Sid Ceaser. Milton Berle. All the Marx brothers.

TOMMY

Chico?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RUSTIN

Chico, Harpo, Groucho, Gummo...all  
Jewish, my friend.

TOMMY

Charlton Heston?

RUSTIN

Absolutely not. He just plays 'em in the  
movies.

TOMMY

Who else?

RUSTIN

Sammy Davis Jr.

TOMMY

No way. Jewish *and* black? That's double  
fucked up.

RUSTIN

There's lots of others. Should I keep  
going?

TOMMY

So which one do you know?

RUSTIN

I don't know any of 'em. I know  
politicians. I know people who want to  
make a change? I know people who want to  
fix the country.

TOMMY

You know the President?

RUSTIN

Sort of.

TOMMY

You know John F. Kennedy?

RUSTIN

No, but I'm sure he knows me or knows *of*  
me.

TOMMY

Who the hell are you? Are you famous?  
Should I know you?

(whispering)

Did I get a blowjob from a famous person?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

RUSTIN

Shhhh. I'm not famous. But I can introduce you to someone famous. You wanna meet a famous person? You wanna meet a famous person who's gonna change the world?

TOMMY

Is he a Jew?

RUSTIN

Does it matter?

TOMMY

I guess not.

RUSTIN

What are you doing August 28th?

TOMMY

What happens August 28th?

RUSTIN

Change. The world is changing. You should join me. August 28th.

TOMMY

So who's your friend?

SCENE: HOOVER'S OFFICE

Hoover sits at a desk with a bunch of papers in front of him. He is on the phone,

HOOVER

Roger Feldman?

(beat)

J. Edgar Hoover here.

(beat)

Yes, the J. Edgar Hoover. Nice to meet you.

(beat)

I need to talk to you about some very sensitive business. Is your office door closed?

(beat)

Good.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

HOOVER (CONT'D)

So I understand one Bayard Rustin has applied for an event permit for the Lincoln Memorial for Wednesday, August 28th for an all day event called The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom also known as The Negro March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Are you familiar with it?

(beat)

Good. And are you familiar with the hell that went down in Alabama just two months ago when they did the same thing there?

(beat)

Good. So I assume you will be denying that permit based on concern for public safety?

(listens for a while)

Really?

(listens)

Mr. Feldman, do you want a repeat of the Alabama riots in your backyard? Is that what you want?

(beat)

You want Alabama part 2, at the feet of the Lincoln Memorial, cause that was an ugly scene down there? Is that really what you want?

(beat)

Then why are you considering an event permit that you know is endangering the lives of not only our white friends but our colored friends as well. You want people to get killed, on your watch, is that what you want?

(listens for a bit)

Roger, stop. You really wanna debate the constitution with the head of the FBI, that is richer than a three layer cake. Free speech does not give you the right to say whatever the hell you want, pardon my French, and it doesn't give you the right to say it wherever you want. You can't yell fire in a crowded theater and you can't stand in front of the Lincoln Memorial and say that white people are evil and the good people of Alabama are evil and the FBI are evil. That is slander and slander is against the law. You know King is a confessed Communist, right?

(beat)

Yes he is.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

HOOVER (CONT'D)

(beat)

He is. The great Martin Luther King Jr. is a confessed Communist. I assume you're familiar with the Communist Control Act of 1954.

(beat)

Good, so you know if you grant him this event permit knowing what you know you are colluding with a known Communist. You're basically in collusion with Russia. Collusion with a foreign country to overthrow our government is treason. You could be charged with treason and collusion.

(beat)

And you know he cheats on his wife, right? Oh, you don't? Do you want to come to my office today and see the proof? Yes, he cheats on his beautiful wife, Coretta. With multiple women. Not just one. And men, too.

(beats)

I'm not gonna tell you how I know but I know and if you don't believe me feel free to come over this afternoon and listen to some very interesting recordings...I'll have Annie make us a nice lunch and you can kick back, put your feet up, have a nice cold Coca Cola and listen to Dr. King doing things that I'm not comfortable describing over the phone.

(beat)

Come on over and listen to him fucking this whore and then you tell me with a straight face that you're gonna grant him an event permit to spew his hatred about white people at the feet of Abraham Lincoln.

(listens for a while)

Roger, you listen to me. You grant that permit and it's on you. When all hell breaks loose and the Klan show up and the Communists show up and thousands of angry coloreds who hate white people get all worked up...that's a stew right there...that's a stew that is not gonna taste good and you're gonna...let me finish...let me finish...I've got his letter...the letter he wrote in jail just three months ago...it's on my desk right here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

HOOVER (CONT'D)

Let me just read you one line, he writes,  
"So the question is not whether we will  
be extremists, but what kind of  
extremists we will be."

(beat)

Are you there?

(beat)

Well? Let me read it again...I want to  
make sure you heard it..."So the question  
is not whether we will be extremists, but  
what kind of extremists we will be."

(beat)

Yes, he wrote that. Back in April. When  
he was in jail in Birmingham. You open  
this door and there's no going back.

(beat)

You there?

(beat)

You keep going quiet.

(beat)

No, Roger, you're right, I can't stop you  
from issuing an event permit...I can't  
officially stop you...but you can  
certainly deny it on the grounds of  
public safety...you have that power...but  
you're making me nervous.

(listens)

You know I'm losing sleep over this whole  
thing?

(beat)

Last night I dreamt that we had a colored  
Communist for President. I woke up in a  
cold sweat. I love this country and it's  
my job to protect it. But you know who  
also loves this country? You know who  
really loves us? Communists. Russians.  
Russia loves America. And you know why?  
Because we're stupid. Every time King  
makes a speech Russia throws a party  
because what Russia knows that nobody  
else knows...what Russia knows is that  
day by day we are all inching a little  
bit closer to Communism. Look how much  
is changed in the last 5 years. Hell, in  
the last two weeks. If you don't think  
it's possible for a Russian sympathizing  
Communist to weasel their way into the  
White House you need to have your head  
examined. They're very tricky those  
Russians. They're tricky and they're  
hungry and they're scared. It's a bad  
combination.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

HOOVER (CONT'D)

Democracy terrifies them even more than nuclear weapons. Roger, how can you issue an event permit to an avowed Communist? That's insane.

(beat)

So, what are you gonna do?

(he listens)

Well, that's very disappointing.

(he listens)

Roger, are you sure you office door closed?

(beat)

Okay, Roger, I'm gonna tell you something. Just between you and me. King ain't nothing. King is a puppet. King's just good at giving speeches. He knows how to fire everybody up. The man behind this whole operation...the guy who organizes and plans...you know who I'm talking about? Rustin. Bayard Rustin. That's right. His name is on the permit. Do you know who he is?

(beat)

Well, you're not alone...nobody knows who he is and you know why?

(beat)

Cause they don't want you to know. Cause he's a pervert. He's a pedophile. He likes little kids. He's a sodomite and he sodomizes young boys in public parks all around DC. These innocent boys are just hanging out enjoying the park and...he does his thing...and those boys are never the same...he turns them into homosexuals...and some of these poor boys are so disgusted by their betrayal of God and their families that they throw themselves out of windows and off bridges...they drink poison...I could show you pictures...it's a sad thing...and Bayard Rustin is sitting in jail right now for getting caught in a public park...you know what they do, right?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

HOOVER (CONT'D)

The perverts...the sodomites...they meet in parks and...they meet in public parks, where our children are playing...and we got undercover agents in all these parks and we work with the local police and we arrest these perverts...we keep 'em in jail as long as we can so no other boys get hurt...and they don't do well in jail but that's another story...it's a very sad thing...but occasionally we get an important guy like you, Roger...an important person...just like you...but we don't arrest him...they call me and they say, "what should we do...we just spotted so and so fooling around in the park and I say "who" and they say, "Roger Feldman, you know, the guy in charge of issuing event permits for the Lincoln Memorial, what should we do with him?"...And then I have to decide...it's my job to protect our parks and our kids but I gotta protect the government, too...if I arrested every pervert in government there wouldn't be anybody left to run it...it's a tough decision...it's a conundrum...so when an important person, like you, gets caught up in this nasty sodomy business...someone with a lot of power...someone in charge of issuing event permits for the Lincoln Memorial...someone who can make a difference for our country...we let you go...we look the other way...we've got your back, Roger...we're protecting you...we know how it'd destroy your family and your career...and nobody wants to see that happen to you, Roger, but you gotta stay out of the parks, man...

(beat)

Are you there?

(beat)

You gotta to stay out of the parks. It's a dead end road.

(beat)

Are you listening?

(beat)

Okay...Do you understand exactly what I'm telling you?

(beat)

No. No. You got nothing to worry about. I'm your friend, here, Roger. I've got your back.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

HOOVER (CONT'D)

But I'm asking you for this one little favor. Please do not issue that August 28th permit for the Lincoln Memorial Negro march or any other Negro march...anywhere. I'm asking you nicely on behalf of your country. I'm trusting you to do the right thing. And I'm gonna do the right thing for you and your family. Okay?

(beat)

You still there?

(beat)

Okay.

(beat)

You okay?

(beat)

No. You've got nothing to worry about. Just get right with God, okay. And no permits for Bayard Rustin or anyone who works with him.

(beat)

You know I'm looking at a picture of your wife right now and she is a beautiful woman. That's all you need, Roger. Stay out of the parks.

(beat)

And no permits for King or Rustin or any other colored organizer that comes knocking on your door, you hear? And I really appreciate your help. You have a good day.

(hangs up, exhausted)

Christ almighty.

SCENE: AN OFFICE AT THE JAIL

During the last paragraph of the last scene Clyde Tolson enters at sits at a table holding a manila envelope. Rustin enters. The two actors should be in place and ready to start before the last scene ends and that is how the bulk of the play should be staged.

RUSTIN

You're not my lawyer.

CLYDE

Nope. Just a friend.

RUSTIN

You don't look like a friend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLYDE

It depends on how you define the word friend.

RUSTIN

I know who you are.

CLYDE

And I know who you are.

RUSTIN

And we are certainly not what I would consider friends.

CLYDE

I'm here to help you.

RUSTIN

Somehow I doubt that.

CLYDE

I'm here to save you from yourself.

RUSTIN

I prefer to wait for my lawyer.

CLYDE

He's not coming today, he can't make it til Monday. He sends his apology. You and your little buddy could be stuck in here all weekend. I can help you. You need a friend. I could be that guy. Sit down. Let's talk.

RUSTIN

I don't believe we have very much to talk about...though rumor has it we have a lot in common...however, I'm not one for gossip.

CLYDE

Mr. Rustin, I want to show you a disturbing photograph? Would you like to see a disturbing photograph. It's provocative. It is of a homosexual nature. I think you'll really like it. Two grown men. One taking a bath. The other one just watching with a big smile on his face. Want to see it? Here. Take a look. Do you recognize those two men?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Rustin examines the photograph. He is amused.

RUSTIN

You a crazy motherfucker.

CLYDE

How long have you and Mr. King been involved in a homosexual relationship?

RUSTIN

Now that is downright comical.

CLYDE

We know he likes the ladies. We got plenty of recordings of him having a good time in various hotel rooms. But we didn't know he likes the boys, too.

RUSTIN

You have a good day.

CLYDE

What do you think all those sweet churchgoing Negro ladies in their nice Sunday hats are gonna think when they see this photograph of you and Mr. King fooling around in a bathroom?

RUSTIN

They'll probably think the good Reverend needed a bath. I don't believe bathing is illegal not even for colored folks. Correct me if I'm I wrong but is taking a bath against the law?

CLYDE

Sodomy is against the law, Mr. Rustin...in every state. But you already knew that. Why would Dr. King be taking a bath in front of a confessed sodomite? That's the part I can't get my head around. You did plead guilty to sodomy in 1953, in Pasadena, correct me if I'm wrong.

RUSTIN

You can't stop an avalanche with a photo and you can't stop an earthquake with a 10 year old arrest record.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RUSTIN (CONT'D)

The world is changing, my friend It's slow but you and I both know the way the winds are blowing and you're on the wrong side of history, my brother. It's not about me, it's not about him and it's not about you, it's about millions of people in this country who just want the same rights you have. Not more rights. Just equal rights. Just what the Constitution promises. We just want what belongs to us. All men are created equal. Our Founding Fathers got it right in spite of themselves. My grandfather Janifer was born into slavery. You think I'm afraid of a ridiculous photograph of a black man in a bathtub? If you know so much about Dr. King then you know damn well he ain't a sodomite. But he loves me. And he loves you. And he loves Hoover. And he loves this country. Dr. King is all about love. He's building a love train and it has left the station. You and Mr. Hoover are riding on the wrong train headed in the wrong direction.

CLYDE

It must hurt though. A little. Watching him get all the credit while you do all the work. Your own people don't even want you. King might love you but the rest of those Negroes don't. They don't want a sodomite on the team. Whites and Coloreds share a common enemy, the sodomite. Nobody likes a sodomite. Sodomy is a crime against God. Your Negro brothers and sisters don't want a sodomite representing them. Does that hurt?

RUSTIN

You have a nice day, my friend.

CLYDE

Your event permit has officially been denied.

RUSTIN

Don't matter. The right to free speech and the right to assembly are guaranteed in the Constitution. That's my permit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CLYDE

Mr. Rustin are you familiar with the Communist Control Act of 1954. Communism is officially against the law. Plotting to overthrow the government is against the law. Treason is against the law.

RUSTIN

Change is not treason.

CLYDE

This march is not happening. You either shut it down or we shut it down.

RUSTIN

I can't shut it down. Nobody can shut it down. I told you the train has left the station and nobody has have enough dogs and fire hoses to stop it.

CLYDE

Did you know Medgar Evers? Horrible thing that happened to him. Did you know him? Rumor has it the Klan got him. No one knows for sure. Tragic. Shot in the back. Being in the FBI you get lots of little details that don't end up in the papers. You know when he was shot he was holding a stack of T-shirts that said "Jim Crow must go." That's what I call ironic. He was a fighter, right to the end. You gotta admire that. The bullet went right thru his heart but he didn't die, not right away. His wife found him and drove him to the hospital. He lived a whole 50 minutes with a bullet lodged in his heart. That's impressive. Did you know all that?

RUSTIN

I know he was the first black man to be admitted to that hospital. Did you know that? So even on his deathbed he was breaking down barriers and making history, what is your point exactly, sir?

CLYDE

My point is that there's a lot of pissed off white people out there. I'd be worried if I were you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

CLYDE (CONT'D)

A lot of pissed off white people own guns and they don't want to see a bunch of angry Negroes marching on Washington. All it takes is one crazy guy. One gun. One bullet. I'm trying to help you. I'm trying to save you from yourself. We tried to protect Medgar Evers. We assigned two FBI agents to follow him home each day. But if someone wants to kill you bad enough there's nothing we can do. We don't want to see you or Mr. King go the way of Medgar Evers. The FBI have a civic responsibility to protect the life of every citizen in this country even if they are a Communist or a sodomite or a draft dodger or they cheat on their wife. We have credible evidence that multiple people are plotting to assassinate Martin Luther King Jr. and your little march on Washington is gonna making him a very easy target.

RUSTIN

Do you know who killed Medgar Evers?

CLYDE

Nobody knows.

RUSTIN

You know.

CLYDE

I don't know.

RUSTIN

Somebody knows.

CLYDE

The guy who shot him knows.

RUSTIN

I bet Hoover knows. He knows everything. Right? Did the FBI kill him? Did one of your guys pull that trigger. Just between you and me. I won't tell anyone. Tell me the truth.

CLYDE

We believe it was a member of the Klan.

RUSTIN

So it was the FBI.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

CLYDE

There are no Klansmen in the FBI I can assure you of that. The FBI has a zero tolerance for that sort of thing.

RUSTIN

And how many Negroes you got working over there?

CLYDE

You looking for a job? Can you pass the background check? Have you ever been arrested for having sex with a male prostitute? Have you ever pled guilty to "sexual perversion"? Are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist party? The Socialist party? Ever spend time in jail for sodomy or dodging the draft? As long as the answer to all these questions is NO we'd love to have you at the bureau regardless of your skin color.

RUSTIN

Anything else I can do for you today?

CLYDE

Call off your march.

RUSTIN

Anything else.

CLYDE

Call off your march.

RUSTIN

It's gonna be a glorious day. We're expecting a million people. All colors. Men. Women. Children. And Dr. King is gonna speak and it's going to be beautiful. You and your husband should join us. Is it true he likes to wear women's clothing? Does that turn you on? Some people might call that a sexual perversion but I say live and let live. Thanks for the visit...Mrs. Hoover.

SCENE: HOOVER'S OFFICE

Hoover sits at a desk and Annie enters with a sandwich on a plate.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOOVER

Ahhhh. Thank you, Annie. Thank you.  
You hungry? You want half?

ANNIE

I already ate.

HOOVER

Ahhh...what did you have.

ANNIE

I had a sandwich just like that but  
without the cheese.

HOOVER

You don't like cheese. I forgot.

ANNIE

I like cheese but it don't agree with me.

HOOVER

Well it don't agree with me either but I  
can't help myself. When I keel over from  
a heart attack you can blame the cheese.

ANNIE

You got a lot of years ahead of you Mr.  
Hoover.

HOOVER

I hope so. Lot of people are hoping  
you're wrong but I hope you're right.

ANNIE

I better get back to work.

HOOVER

Hold on hold on. I want to talk to you.  
I need your professional opinion. I need  
your unique perspective on something. I  
need you to be honest. I need you to  
help me. Can you help me?

ANNIE

I can try.

HOOVER

Can I ask you a very personal question?

ANNIE

You can me ask anything Mr. Hoover.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HOOVER

I appreciate that but you don't have to answer. I'm talking to you as a friend now, not as the FBI. We're just two friends talking. You're not under oath or anything.

ANNIE

I've always been truthful with you, Mr. Hoover.

HOOVER

I know you have, I know you have. So what do you think of this whole Martin Luther King Jr. man?

ANNIE

Oh, Mr. Hoover. I don't follow politics. You know that. First day in here you asked me if I was political and I told you no and I was being honest and the answer is still no.

HOOVER

But Martin Luther is becoming a very important person in your community, don't you agree?

ANNIE

I guess he is. I just really don't follow it.

HOOVER

But do you think he's a good person?

ANNIE

I wouldn't really know.

HOOVER

He fires your people up. Some white people, too. He inspires people. You agree with all that, right?

ANNIE

From what I hear.

HOOVER

Oh, he does. I've seen it. He's a wonderful speaker. He's very talented. Do you ever see him on TV? Talks about hope and dreams and change. He wants to change everything.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HOOVER (CONT'D)

I think a lot people trust him. Have you ever seen him give a speech on TV?

ANNIE

Maybe once or twice. I just really don't follow the news too much. I'm sorry.

HOOVER

I understand. The news is very depressing these days. People fighting in the streets. The Klan and Medgar Evers. That was a sad day. I'm sorry about that. I wish we could've stopped that.

ANNIE

Yes, it was a sad day. He had two little kids.

HOOVER

And I want you to know I'm doing everything in my power to destroy that organization. The Klu Klux Klan are a sick group of people. They have no place in this country. As head of the FBI it is my job to destroy them and that's what I intend to do.

ANNIE

I appreciate that, Mr. Hoover.

HOOVER

It's the right thing to do for your people.

ANNIE

And we appreciate everything you're doing for us.

HOOVER

So about Martin Luther King Jr. Do you think your people would still follow him if they knew he was a Communist? If they knew he was cheating on his beautiful Coretta? If they knew he was a draft-dodger? If they knew his best friend was a sodomite? If all that came out in the light would your people still go to his rallies? Would they still look up to him? What do you think?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ANNIE

I honestly have no idea, Mr. Hoover.

HOOVER

But what do you think?

ANNIE

I ain't given it much thought.

HOOVER

I know but I'm asking you now. I want you to give it some thought right now. Can you do that for me?

ANNIE

Does Dr. King really cheat on Coretta?

HOOVER

I have no idea. Just rumors. But people'll say anything, you know that. I was talking more hypothetically. If you heard that he did. Would you view him differently?

She thinks for a while.

ANNIE

I'm gonna be real honest with you.

HOOVER

I want you to be.

ANNIE

Okay.

She continues to think for a while.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

When I was 12 I went to a church with a wonderful pastor. We had a big choir full of wonderful singers. It was a wonderful church. Turns out the wonderful pastor was taking home some of the wonderful church money for himself. And then we found out he was doing bad things with the wonderful lady who played the piano. And she was married, too. It rocked our church. Lots of people left. But I said to myself. It don't change nothing. Everything he taught us about love and respect and getting our lives right with God. It was still true.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

He's just the messenger. He's not the message. He left the church and a new Pastor came in. Another wonderful Pastor. But I still held on to all the things our old pastor talked about. Love. Respect. Treating people right. So I don't know about Martin Luther and what he does when he's not speaking but I believe his message is important whether or not he cheats on his wife. Does that makes sense?

HOOVER

And what is his message, exactly?

ANNIE

Mr. Hoover, come on now. I know you know the answer to that question. I've heard you in here listening to his speeches. You know what he says.

HOOVER

But I want to hear you say it. I want to know if we hear the same things when we listen to him. What do you hear?

ANNIE

Justice. Justice. Equality. No more bathrooms for colored people. No more schools just for white people. But you know all this, Mr. Hoover.

HOOVER

Do you agree with those messages?

ANNIE

I believe you and me are the same in a way. You have a big heart. I have a big heart. You like cheese. I like cheese. You say you hate the Klu Klux Klan. I hate 'em, too. I think it's time for us to start focusing on all the ways we're all the same and stop focusing on all the ways that we're different. I feel that's what Dr. King is saying. And if he went away tomorrow or if it turns out he's got trouble at home and he goes away. The ideas wouldn't become untrue, would they? Do you know what I mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

HOOVER

I think I do. And I appreciate your honesty. I do. You inspire me, Annie. I consider you one of my closest friends. You're like family to me. If I had a daughter I would want her to be just like you. Clyde and I would do anything for you. You know that?

ANNIE

That means the world to me, Mr. Hoover.

HOOVER

Thank you, thank you.

ANNIE

I should probably get back to work.

Annie gets up to go.

HOOVER

Just one more thing. Are you planning to attend that All-Negro March at the Lincoln Memorial?

ANNIE

I don't even know what day it is.

HOOVER

August 28th.

ANNIE

Is that a Saturday?

HOOVER

It's a Wednesday.

ANNIE

Wednesday? Why would they have it on a Wednesday? Everyone I know works on Wednesdays. I doubt anyone'll be there on a Wednesday.

HOOVER

I could give you the day off if you'd like. Dr. King is gonna speak. I think you might like to hear him in person.

ANNIE

Is it gonna be peaceful?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

HOOVER

I hope so.

ANNIE

I don't want any trouble.

HOOVER

Nor do I but you never know til it happens. We expect the Klan to show up. Could be dangerous. I'd hate for something to happen to you.

ANNIE

I just haven't given it any thought.

HOOVER

Well, we'll see when it gets closer.

ANNIE

Okay. Do you need anything else? I have a lot of cleaning to do.

HOOVER

You know I love you. You know that right?

ANNIE

Mr. Hoover, I...

HOOVER

I love you like a daughter. You've been so good to us all these years. I'd be lost without you, you know that.

ANNIE

It's a pleasure working for you. You're one of the finest men I've ever known. And you need to eat your sandwich.

HOOVER

I'll let you get back to work.

ANNIE

If you need anything else, Mr. Hoover, just let me know.

SCENE: RUSTIN'S APARTMENT

TOMMY

You live here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUSTIN  
Is there a problem?

TOMMY  
I thought you were important.

RUSTIN  
I didn't say I was rich.

TOMMY  
Who posted the bail?

RUSTIN  
Don't worry about that. Just make sure  
you make your court date? Don't run off  
to Mexico.

TOMMY  
I don't like Mexicans.

RUSTIN  
And why don't you like Mexicans?

TOMMY  
They're lazy.

RUSTIN  
How many Mexicans do you know?

TOMMY  
My Uncle knows a lot of Mexicans and he  
says there all lazy.

RUSTIN  
But do you know any Mexicans?

TOMMY  
Well I can't ever tell if they're Cuban  
or Mexican but I can tell they're lazy.

RUSTIN  
How can you tell?

TOMMY  
You can just tell.

RUSTIN  
Okay.

TOMMY  
So are we gonna be in the paper?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RUSTIN  
Hopefully not.

TOMMY  
My family would disown me.

RUSTIN  
Nobody's gonna find out. Get comfortable.

TOMMY  
You got anything to eat?

RUSTIN  
I got a few eggs.

TOMMY  
That's okay.

RUSTIN  
Take your jacket off.

TOMMY  
So what is it you do exactly?

RUSTIN  
I'm a fighter. I fight with people.

TOMMY  
You don't look like a fighter.

RUSTIN  
I don't fight with my body I fight with my mind. I organize. I plan. I strategize. I make phone-calls. I push people. I annoy people. I harass people til they say yes or they slam the door in my face. I change things. I try to make people's lives better.

TOMMY  
Cut the bullshit. Just tell me what you do.

RUSTIN  
Martin Luther King Jr. You know that name?

TOMMY  
Is that you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RUSTIN

No. He's much better looking than me.

TOMMY

Yeah, I've heard of him. I've never seen him. I don't care for him. Sorry. I heard he hates white people.

RUSTIN

He loves white people.

TOMMY

That's not what my Uncle says.

RUSTIN

You need to stop talking to your Uncle.

TOMMY

My Uncle wants to kill him.

RUSTIN

A lot of people want to kill him. They're afraid of him.

TOMMY

My uncle ain't afraid of him he just don't like him.

RUSTIN

Do you know why?

TOMMY

I got nothing against colored people. I met some really nice colored people. But most colored people are angry. They blame white people for all their problems. They want what white people have. They're jealous. I got nothing against coloreds but you have to earn what you get. You can't just take what other people have. That's Communism. A lot of coloreds are lazy. That's common knowledge. I ain't talking about you, hell, a lot of white people are lazy, too. I'm not saying all coloreds are lazy but a lot of them are. Come on, you know that's true. I have a theory. Do you want to hear it?

RUSTIN

Sure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

## TOMMY

So they're sitting around Africa. Hanging out. Relaxing. Enjoying the sun. Looking at lions. They got no money but they're happy. They hear stories about America but they have no idea how to get here. Then a guy comes up and says, "do you want to go to America and work on a farm? It's hard work but your boss'll be rich and your kids will have a better life and you can be a real American and if you work hard you can have a new life. And by the way, white pussy everywhere. The streets are paved with gold and white pussy." So they go. But when they get here, they don't want to work. They just want the white pussy. They miss Africa but they're addicted to that white pussy. They're torn. So they get mad. They want both worlds. They want that lazy life they had in Africa but they want the good life in America, too. They want the good life but they don't want to work for it. They don't wanna better themselves. And they don't give a shit about America cause it's not their country. They're confused. They don't like working for other people. It makes 'em angry. But they don't have any money to go back to Africa. They're stuck in the middle. But they keep coming over here. And now there's so many of 'em here they start to organize and they get together and they have meetings and they try to figure out how to get the government to give 'em stuff, because they're black and because someone in their family was a slave like over one hundred years ago. See and that pisses me off. They're mad at me because their Grandpa was a slave but it don't have nothing to do with me...he wasn't my slave, I never had no slaves so why are they mad at me? Don't make any sense. They're not logical. Do you know what the NACP, is?

## RUSTIN

I do actually.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

TOMMY

Free college. Free college. Why? Because you're black. That's crazy. No one's offering me free college. "But, hey, I'm black, my Grandma was a slave so pay for my college." That don't make no sense and that's the problem. Who pays for the free college? Someone has to pay for it. The government. And where does the government get it's money? From taxes? From people like me. So basically I'm working to send black people to college, for free because a hundred years ago their Grandma was a slave. Does that sound right to you? Does it?

RUSTIN

Take your shirt off.

Tommy takes his shirt off.

RUSTIN (CONT'D)

Go like this.

Rustin indicates for Tommy to strike a muscle pose. Tommy does.

RUSTIN (CONT'D)

Turn around.

Tommy turns around.

RUSTIN (CONT'D)

Show me your butt.

Tommy pulls down his pants and exposes his butt.

RUSTIN (CONT'D)

Ok, what were you saying, again. Something about free college. Go on.

TOMMY

So why should I pay for free college for coloreds with my tax dollars? If you want to go to college you got to get a job and save your money and pay for your own damn college.

RUSTIN

Where do you work, Tommy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

TOMMY

Well right now I'm not really working. I just been doing some odd jobs.

RUSTIN

So how do you eat, when you aren't doing odd jobs?

TOMMY

Are you judging me?

RUSTIN

I'm not judging you, I'm asking you a serious question.

TOMMY

Sometimes I get money from men. It's easy. I don't have to do much. I ain't ashamed of it.

RUSTIN

I didn't say you should be.

TOMMY

I'd prefer to have women pay me but so far I only met one woman willing to pay. She was pretty old, too, but she was nice.

RUSTIN

I didn't pay you.

TOMMY

Not yet.

They both laugh.

RUSTIN

All I got is an egg.

TOMMY

So who comes first? The chicken or the egg?

RUSTIN

The chicken. Come here.

They kiss.

TOMMY

I gotta tell you something. I'm not a homosexual.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

RUSTIN

That's not a problem.

TOMMY

I just want to be clear.

They kiss again. Begin to get undressed.

Music Cue: The Theme song to the Beverly Hillbillies

We hear the theme song as Tommy and Rustin begin to have sex.

Annie's husband, William, comes out, puts his feet up and sits in a chair and watches TV.

TELEVISION

Come and listen to a story 'bout a man  
named Jed  
Poor mountaineer barely kept his family  
fed  
Then one day he was shooting for some  
food,  
And up through the ground come a bubbling  
crude  
(Oil that is, black gold, Texas tea)

Annie comes home from work. Takes off her coat and puts her purse away.

TELEVISION (CONT'D)

Well the first thing you know old Jed's a  
millionaire  
Kin folk said Jed move away from there  
Said California is the place you oughta  
be  
So they loaded up the truck and they  
moved to Beverly  
(Hills that is, swimming pools, movie  
stars)

Well now it's time to say goodbye to Jed  
and all his kin  
They would like to thank you folks for  
kindly dropping in  
You're all invited back again to this  
locality  
To have a heaping helping of their  
hospitality  
(Beverly Hillbillies, that's what they  
call 'em now,  
Nice folks Y'all come back now, ya hear?)

SCENE: ANNIE'S HOUSE

ANNIE

Have you been out of that chair today?

WILLIAM

How was work?

ANNIE

Can we have some peace and quiet for an hour, please? Please? William! Please?

She turns off the TV. They sit in silence and stare at each other for a while.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

So what did you do all day?

WILLIAM

Just sat here missing you.

ANNIE

Oh, you a smooth talker, is that all?

WILLIAM

I went over to Bob's and helped him install a ceiling fan. Almost got electrocuted in the process. He gave me 5 bucks. Went and had a beer. Came home. Vacuumed. Watched TV.

ANNIE

You're a busy man.

WILLIAM

Thank you. I work hard for you. How were the perverts, today?

ANNIE

Stop that.

WILLIAM

I mean, how were the happy couple?

ANNIE

Enough.

WILLIAM

Did you tell the buttfuckers I said hi.

ANNIE

You want me to get fired?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLIAM

You think he's listening right now? Mr. Hoover? Are you listening?

ANNIE

You are not funny. You think you're funny but you're just dumb. And they probably are listening.

WILLIAM

As long as they keep paying you you can work for as many cracker homosexuals as you want.

ANNIE

Did you know Martin Luther King is planning a big Negro march on August 28th at the Lincoln Memorial?

WILLIAM

Nope.

ANNIE

Well he is. I found out today. I really wanna go. You wanna go?

WILLIAM

What day is that?

ANNIE

The 28th.

WILLIAM

No, what day of the week? Saturday?

ANNIE

It's a Wednesday, actually?

WILLIAM

Wednesday? That don't make no sense.

ANNIE

Well I didn't plan it.

WILLIAM

Don't you have to work?

ANNIE

He says I can have the day off.

WILLIAM

Do you believe him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANNIE  
Why would he lie?

WILLIAM  
Why would a homosexual racist who hates Martin Luther King Jr. give his nigger maid the day off to go hear his enemy speak. That don't make no sense. He's playing you.

ANNIE  
He ain't playing me and I wanna go.

WILLIAM  
Could be dangerous.

ANNIE  
I don't care, I wanna go.

WILLIAM  
You think the Klan might show up.

ANNIE  
He said they might.

WILLIAM  
Well he would know.

ANNIE  
Thy want to stop the march.

WILLIAM  
The Klan?

ANNIE  
No. The FBI. Hoover. Mr. Tolson. They're trying to shut it down.

WILLIAM  
He told you that.

ANNIE  
No. I overheard him. I overhear everything. He was talking to somebody on the phone. He's trying to stop it.

WILLIAM  
Well that don't surprise me.

ANNIE  
You can not repeat that. To anyone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WILLIAM

They FBI killed Medgar Evers. Everybody knows that. They'll kill Martin Luther, too. Then Malcolm X. Who else? Probably kill you before you're done now that you know too much.

ANNIE

The FBI ain't killed no one. You don't know what you're talking about. The Klan killed Medgar Evers. He told me today.

WILLIAM

Cause that's what he wants you to think? Why do you think they wear those hoods? Cause if they took 'em off you'd see the Mayor, the police chief, half the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover himself and his boyfriend, Clyde. The FBI and the Klan are the same thing. You should know that by now you been working there long enough.

ANNIE

Hoover hates the Klan, he told me that today.

WILLIAM

But what does he say when you're not in the room.

ANNIE

I hear everything. I hear everything in that house. I believe he does hate the Klan. I never heard him say one good word about 'em not even in a whisper. But he hates King, too. I don't really understand it all. He tried to tell me today that King cheats on his wife. That he's a Communist. That he has sex with other men.

WILLIAM

Oh that is bullshit.

ANNIE

Which part?

WILLIAM

All of it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ANNIE

All I know is he hates King. Him and Clyde both. They hate him. But they love me. I believe that. So what does it mean?

WILLIAM

They love you cause they don't know ya. If they lived with ya for a week they wouldn't love you. If they knew the real you the rose would be off that bloom lickety-split.

ANNIE

It would would it?

WILLIAM

You ain't easy.

ANNIE

You ain't easy either.

WILLIAM

If you weren't such a sexy...sexy...mmmm...I can't think of the words...

ANNIE

I'm so sexy you can't even pull your lazy ass out of that chair and give me a kiss.

WILLIAM

Come here.

ANNIE

No, you come to me. I'm tired. I been working all day.

WILLIAM

Come sit on Santa's lap. Come on little girl.

She goes and sits on his lap.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

What do you want for Christmas, young lady?

ANNIE

It's July.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

WILLIAM

I know what I want for Christmas. But don't tell Mrs. Claus.

ANNIE

I want a long mink coat. I want a shiny new Cadillac. I want a diamond ring. And I want to see Martin Luther King speak on August 28th. That's all I want.

WILLIAM

I'll see what I can do. Now would you like a candy cane to suck on?

ANNIE

You're nasty.

WILLIAM

How 'bout some black licorice.

ANNIE

You're disgusting.

They begin to kiss.

SCENE: HOOVER'S BEDROOM

Hoover and Clyde enter in their suits and begin to get undressed.

HOOVER

I'm not sure we can stop this march. I talked to four different lawyers, today. It's complicated.

CLYDE

It's a public health hazard.

HOOVER

It don't matter. The people have the right to assemble, that's what they said. Even niggers have the right to assemble.

CLYDE

They have a right to get bombed, too. They want a repeat of Alabama? And when the Klan show up with bombs we're just supposed to sit back and say, "The people have a right to assemble. Go ahead and kill each other?"

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

HOOVER

They think I don't like niggers. That's what they're saying. Hoover hates niggers. I don't hate niggers. I hate Communists. I don't care what color they are. Martin Luther King Jr. is a Communist. Bayard Rustin is a Communist. Medgar Evers was a Communist. Malcom X is an anarchist Muslim. They all just happen to be niggers but they all hate America. They're learning how to fool people. They're getting better at it. Talking 'bout hope and change and dreams and equality. But what do white people have that black people don't. We got homes. They got homes. We got cars, they got cars. We got schools, they got schools. No, that's not enough. They want our schools. They don't want their schools. They want the white schools. But why? Why do you want to go where you're not wanted. I don't understand. If a restaurant or a movie theater or a bakery said, "Hoover, we don't want you in here." I'd just go somewhere else. But no. They want everything their way and we're just supposed to just step aside. And where does it stop? They're never satisfied. The more we give the more they take. Every day I hear more and more white people talking about Martin Luther king Jr. and what an inspiration he is. A Communist. A Goddamned Communist. We might as well just lower the drawbridge and turn the whole county over to Russia.

CLYDE

Niggers don't know what a Communist is. That's the problem. They can't even find Russia on the map. How can you warn people about Communists when they don't even know what a Communist it. Most people don't even know what a Jew looks like. They don't have the trained eye.

HOOVER

I think you're right. He's getting under my skin. I need to relax. I gotta keep it professional. It's getting too personal. I just love this country. I just want it to be great again.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

HOOVER (CONT'D)

I remember when I was in high school. On the debate team. I was good. I always won. We had this one debate about women having the right to vote and I was arguing that women shouldn't have the right to vote and I won but not because I was a good debater but because I was right. Women don't follow politics. They don't watch the news. Annie told me today, "Oh, Mr. Hoover, I don't follow politics. I don't watch the news." Like that's something to be proud of. Women embrace their ignorance. But then they want to vote even though they don't know what the hell is going on? Most women vote for who their husband tells 'em to vote for anyway. So now women get to vote. But that's not enough. Now they want to run for office. 1920, they get the right to vote. 1922, first female Senator.

CLYDE

She only served one day.

HOOVER

That's not the point. Things happen too fast and once they happen there's no going back. 1925, first female Governor.

CLYDE

Nellie Taylor Ross.

HOOVER

Nellie Taylor Ross. 1932, Hattie Wyatt Caraway, 2nd US Senator. Served two full terms. You don't think we're gonna have a lady president one day?

CLYDE

That's never gonna happen.

HOOVER

It's all gonna happen Clyde, that's the point. These seeds are being planted now and these seeds are gonna grow if we don't rip 'em out of the ground. Empires fall, Clyde. The British Empire fell. The Roman empire fell.

They are now both in their underwear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

CLYDE

I think you need a drink.

HOOVER

I need to stop time. I need to freeze the clock. A nigger Communist is gonna stand at the base of the Lincoln monument and talk down this country. And there's nothing we can do about it? Just let that sink in. A Communist. A puppet of Russia. Speaking at the feet of President Lincoln. Did he free the slaves so they could open the door to Communism? Russia is laughing at us.

CLYDE

No one is laughing at you. You're the most feared man in this country. You have more power than the President. Kennedy is terrified of you. Believe me, no one is laughing at you.

HOOVER

They laughed when I stuttered. In grade school. They laughed when I talked.

CLYDE

But they aren't laughing now. You won, baby. Now you make them stutter. They fear you. And every word out of your mouth is spoken perfectly. You won. And you will keep winning. Pretty Boy Floyd, Baby Face Nelson, Machine Gun Kelly. Where are they now?

HOOVER

Dead. All dead.

CLYDE

And who killed 'em?

HOOVER

I did.

CLYDE

Martin Luther King Jr. ain't nothing compared to those guys. They had guns. He just has a microphone. You just gotta unplug him. You'll figure it out. You always do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

HOOVER

When I was a boy this country was so great. The first car, the first football game, the first Hershey's bar. Everything just worked. Now it's Bye bye Patsy Cline, hello Bob Dylan, another Communist. I swear, this is the worst year of my life. This country was so great. What's happening to us? Can we be great again?

CLYDE

This is still your country, Edgar. You still own this country. Don't you get discouraged. Do you want to be beautiful tonight? I want you to be beautiful tonight. Be beautiful for me.

Hoover hesitates but then goes under the bed and pulls out the box, removes the slip. Puts it on. He is beautiful.

Music Cue: A Pawn in Their Game by Bob Dylan

As the music plays all three couples slow dance in their homes.

SCENE: VARIOUS HOMES - RUSTIN AND TOMMY

During the next scene we cut between the various couples conversations.

RUSTIN

You don't have a brain in your head but you sure are a beautiful man.

TOMMY

You think that's a nice thing to say?

RUSTIN

I'll take beauty over brains any day.

TOMMY

You think you're smarter than me.

RUSTIN

No. I'm just as dumb. Just a different kind of dumb. We're both dumb. But at least you got looks.

TOMMY

Why are you dumb?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUSTIN

Why am I dumb? I'm dumb for getting my ass arrested for having sex in public. I'm dumb for falling for boys like you. I'm dumb for dedicating my whole life to helping my community even though if some of them saw me right now, slow dancing with you, they'd put a bullet in my brain the same way the Klan put a bullet in Medgar Evers.

TOMMY

So why do you do it? Not for the money, obviously.

RUSTIN

I don't know. I don't know. I do all the work, he gets all the glory. Does that seem right to you?

SCENE: ANNIE AND WILLIAM

ANNIE

How come we never go out dancing?

WILLIAM

You want to go out dancing? I'll take you dancing?

ANNIE

When?

WILLIAM

Whenever you want.

ANNIE

I need a new dress.

WILLIAM

You should borrow one from your boss.

ANNIE

I told you never to repeat that. It's just a rumor.

WILLIAM

But I believe it. Faggots do freaky shit.

ANNIE

Stop that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLIAM

I don't care what faggots do as long as they don't do it to me.

ANNIE

Stop saying that word.

WILLIAM

Faggots?

ANNIE

Stop.

WILLIAM

Faggots, faggots, faggots. Rhymes with maggots. You think that's a coincidence?

ANNIE

I like you better when you don't talk.

WILLIAM

I like you better when you can't talk. Say awww.

She opens her mouth. He inserts his fingers.

WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Hmmmm.

SCENE: HOOVER AND TOLSON

HOOVER

You're a wonderful dancer, Mr. Tolson.

CLYDE

Why thank you. Have you been here before?

HOOVER

It's my first time.

CLYDE

Well you better be careful young lady. There's some shady men that come in this joint.

HOOVER

Shady? Like Mexicans?

CLYDE

Much worse. Cubans.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOOVER

You mean Communists?

CLYDE

Same thing. Be careful Senorita. They try to seduce you with their big Cuban cigars. But don't be fooled. They just want your American money so they can send it back to Papa Castro so he can buy more guns to kill the Americans in their sleep. Cuidado, mi amor.

HOOVER

Mi no gusta Communistas.

CLYDE

Your Spanish tongue is muy perfecto.

HOOVER

Gracias.

CLYDE

What else can you do with that tongue besides talk pretty?

HOOVER

I've been told I'm very talented.

SCENE: TOMMY AND RUSTIN

TOMMY

Do you want to blow me again?

RUSTIN

Do you want me to?

TOMMY

Of course.

RUSTIN

Okay.

TOMMY

I don't usually do it for free...

RUSTIN

I'm flattered.

TOMMY

I actually like you. Plus you posted my bail.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUSTIN  
I didn't. A friend did.

TOMMY  
Well you got me out of jail. So, thank you.

RUSTIN  
You're welcome.

TOMMY  
So you really like me or you just like my dick?

RUSTIN  
Both.

TOMMY  
You like sucking black dick or white dick?

RUSTIN  
I like 'em both.

TOMMY  
But which is better?

RUSTIN  
They're both the same.

TOMMY  
But if you had to choose between black dick and white dick. Which would you choose?

RUSTIN  
White.

TOMMY  
Why?

RUSTIN  
I don't know.

TOMMY  
Maybe you're the racist. You ever thought about that? Maybe deep down you don't like colored people either.

RUSTIN  
I'm pretty sure I'm not racist.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TOMMY

My Uncle says he knows lots of coloreds that hate coloreds. He says he knows coloreds that want to join the Klan.

RUSTIN

I'd like to meet your Uncle. He sounds fascinating.

TOMMY

Would you blow my Uncle if he were here. He's a good looking guy. Would you blow a Klansmen if he was really good looking...and he promised not to kill you afterwards? Would you? I want to know.

RUSTIN

This conversation is getting weird.

TOMMY

I won't tell anyone. Be honest. Would you blow a sexy Klansman? I think you would.

RUSTIN

Are there actually sexy Klansmen? It's hard to tell because of the sheets.

TOMMY

A lot of 'em look like me. Some look better than me. Big muscles.

RUSTIN

And when I blow him will he be wearing the sheet?

TOMMY

Maybe just the hood so you can see his body.

RUSTIN

Hmmmmmm. Maybe.

TOMMY

I think that's a yes.

RUSTIN

I might. I don't know. Maybe. Probably not.

Tommy goes and gets a pillow. He takes off the white pillowcase.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

He puts it on his head with the point at the top of his head so it looks like a Klansman's hood. Rustin is taken aback. Scared and turned on.

TOMMY

Get on your knees, nigger. Get on your knees and suck my white cock.

All at once, Annie, Hoover and Rustin all slide down to their knees while Clyde, Tommy and Annie's husband turn with their backs to the audience and unbuckle their pants as the lights fade to black.

Sound Cue: Brief clip of Martin Luther King Jr.'s I Have A Dream Speech.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

(voice over)

I have a dream, my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; one day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

SCENE: ANNIE'S HOME

Annie and William are returning home from seeing Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech. Neither speaks at first as they put their coats and hats away. Finally...

ANNIE

I feel different. I can't explain it. Something changed in me today. Something snapped. I've never experienced anything quite like that before.

WILLIAM

Too crowded. Too hot. Too many crying crackers. You're white. What you got to cry about?

ANNIE

I felt the world change today. The world changed. Our world...changed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLIAM

How? Here we are back in this old house. Same clothes. Some old chair. Same old dirty dishes in the sink. You still gotta get up tomorrow and make breakfast for that cracker cocksucker. What changed exactly?

ANNIE

Sometimes I can't tell if you're playing the fool or you really are a fool. We won today, William. We won. There is no going back for us. This year will be known as the year when everything changed. You can write that down. It's a new day in this country. I feel it.

WILLIAM

Can you make me a sandwich?

ANNIE

No. But you can make me one.

WILLIAM

I have a dream that you'll make me a sandwich. I have a dream that you will bring that sandwich to me. I have a dream that I will eat that sandwich while I watch the Beverly Hillbillies and that sandwich will be delicious.

ANNIE

I'm going for a walk. I'll be back later.

SCENE: HOOVER'S HOUSE

HOOVER

We lost today.

CLYDE

It was a setback

HOOVER

We lost.

CLYDE

It's not over.

HOOVER

It's over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLYDE

It was just a speech

HOOVER

It was magnificent. It was an earthquake. The world changed today. Let us not put our heads in the sand, Clyde. That is not the way to fight this battle. Communism won in this country today. Russia won today. Sodomy won today. Cheating on your wife in shitty hotel rooms won today. 1963 will forever be known as the year America began its long march toward Communism and immorality. This is not my country anymore. I'm moving to Canada. I'm gonna go to bed. I need to think. I'm very depressed. I need to sleep.

CLYDE

That's what he wants. He wants you to sleep. He wants you to give up. He wants us to roll over and play dead. Don't let him win. If you crawl in that bed and pull the covers over your head he wins. Fight back. Hit harder. You've got so much ammunition in that filing cabinet. It's not over. Play the long game.

HOOVER

And he issued the permit. Roger fucking Feldman issued the permit after everything we talked about. He told me he wouldn't and he did it anyway? Why? Who got to him? Did Kennedy intervene? I thought we had an understanding. I told him point blank if you issue that permit I will destroy you and your family and then he goes and issues the permit anyway. It was all done legally. We lost. Fair and square. These niggers are getting smarter. Bayard Rustin knows how to organize his people. He knows how to put on a show. He's learning how to maneuver in this town? And did you see all the white faces there? Tears running down white faces. In support of a draft-dodging Communist. What next?

CLYDE

I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HOOVER

Carnage, American carnage. That's what's next. I see it so clearly. I need to sleep. Wake me when he's dead.

SCENE: BAYARD'S HOUSE

Bayard enters. Stands alone. Fired up. Exhausted and exhilarated. His body explodes in celebration. He feels the victory in every fiber of his body. He can barely contain himself. He goes to the kitchen, comes back with a hard boiled egg. His last egg. He sits on his couch. He peels it. Eats it. He's still hungry but he can't stop smiling.

A knock at the door. Tommy enters before Bayard can answer the door.

TOMMY

Congratulations.

RUSTIN

Were you there?

TOMMY

I was.

RUSTIN

What did you think?

TOMMY

You organized all that?

RUSTIN

I did.

TOMMY

All those people?

RUSTIN

I did.

TOMMY

That's impressive.

RUSTIN

What did you think of the speech?

TOMMY

Not much. Angry black man. I've heard it before. But I was proud of you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUSTIN

Thanks.

TOMMY

How come you didn't speak?

RUSTIN

I'm behind the scenes.

TOMMY

How come you weren't on the stage at least?

RUSTIN

I'm behind the scenes.

TOMMY

You're behind the scenes or your invisible?

RUSTIN

My personal life is a...distraction...to the cause...I'm better behind the scenes.

TOMMY

Did anyone thank you?

RUSTIN

He thanked me.

TOMMY

Martin Luther?

RUSTIN

He thanked me. That's plenty.

TOMMY

So how much they pay you to organize all that shit.

RUSTIN

I don't do it for the money.

TOMMY

But how much?

RUSTIN

Not much.

TOMMY

How much?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RUSTIN

I just ate my last egg.

TOMMY

So nothing.

RUSTIN

It's not a job. It's a movement, my friend. The money comes later when we get equal pay, equal work, equal education. Today was an investment. It's a long game.

TOMMY

I see.

RUSTIN

You weren't moved at all? When he said, "little white boys and little black girls will hold hands together".

TOMMY

I don't believe in interracial marriage.

RUSTIN

Just interracial sex.

TOMMY

I just wanted to come by and congratulate you.

RUSTIN

That's it?

TOMMY

I told you I'm not gay. I like talking to you. That's it. We aren't boyfriends or some fucked up shit like that. Just friends. Can you deal with that?

RUSTIN

Sure.

TOMMY

Just friends.

RUSTIN

Will you take your shirt off?

TOMMY

Nah, not today.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RUSTIN  
Please.

TOMMY  
Okay.

Tommy takes his shirt off. Rustin stares. Mesmerized.

RUSTIN  
Thank you.

SCENE: HOOVER'S HOME OFFICE

Hoover sits at his desk. Annie enters with a sandwich.

HOOVER  
Good morning, Annie, how are you today?

ANNIE  
I'm fine. Thank you for asking.

HOOVER  
Did you enjoy your day off?

ANNIE  
Oh, no, Mr. Hoover. My husband woke up with the flu so I spent the whole day playing nursemaid.

HOOVER  
I see. That's too bad. I hope William feels better soon. So you didn't make it to the speech?

ANNIE  
Unfortunately no.

HOOVER  
I'm sorry to hear that.

ANNIE  
It's not your fault.

HOOVER  
Did you happen to see it on TV?

ANNIE  
No. I was too busy with William. Up and down the stairs.

HOOVER  
That's a shame.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANNIE

Did you see it?

HOOVER

Of course. It was magnificent.

ANNIE

That's wonderful.

HOOVER

And it went off without a hitch. We made sure everyone was safe and sound. No violence. No arrests. A good time was had by all.

ANNIE

Well that is wonderful.

HOOVER

Annie, I heard a rumor today. Hot off the presses. Nobody knows. You'd be the first. It's big news. Do you want to hear?

ANNIE

Sure.

HOOVER

President Kennedy was so inspired by the speech and the size of the crowd and the general reaction...it looks like the Civil Rights Bill is gonna pass sooner than later. He's promised to sign it right away. Won't that be wonderful for your people?

ANNIE

I don't know nothing about that bill. I'm sorry.

HOOVER

It's a wonderful bill. It would outlaw discrimination. Once he signs it, that's it. Discrimination ends. No more segregation. No more bathrooms for colored and whites. Kids can go to any school they want. Utopia.

ANNIE

Sounds wonderful.

There is a long awkward silence. The tone shifts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HOOVER

Why are you lying to me, Annie? It hurts. I love you, Annie. Why are you lying?

ANNIE

I'm not lying. I think it sounds wonderful.

HOOVER

Stop, Annie. Stop. I trust you. Please. You're hurting my heart. Clyde saw you and your husband at the march yesterday. Why are you lying? What's the point? I wanted you to go. I told you to go. I gave you the day off. There's no need to lie. Why lie?

She is unsure of how to handle this moment. We should see her struggle. It's a turning point for her but she is unsure how to proceed.

ANNIE

Because you tried to stop the march. You hate King. You call him a nigger. I overhear things. Things I don't want to overhear. I know you hate him. I didn't want to upset you. I'm sorry. Yes, I went. I lied. I'm sorry. But I've never lied to you before.

HOOVER

I don't hate him.

ANNIE

But you do.

HOOVER

I disagree with him on a few things. I don't hate him.

ANNIE

You asked me what they say at church. Do you really want to know? They think the FBI killed Medgar Evers. They think Martin Luther's next. They think you're gonna kill Kennedy before he can sign the Civil Rights Bill. That's what they say. They don't know I work for you. They'd consider me a traitor. I know you're a good man but people are afraid of you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

They say, "discrimination ain't never gonna end because Hoover hates Negroes and as long as he's running the country nothing's gonna change". That's what they say. They don't care if Dr. King cheats on his wife. They don't talk about that stuff. He could shoot a man on 5th Avenue and they'd still follow him because for the first time ever they feel they've got a powerful man on their side. "He's given us a voice. He says what we're are afraid to say." That's what they say. They talk about Medgar Evers. Shot down in his own driveway in front of his kids. Shot down by the FBI. They blame you. They don't trust the police and they say whatever the police do they're doing cause Hoover tells them to do. They hate you. They fear you. And they hate you. I'm sorry. I've said too much. But that's the talk at my church when your name comes up. And your name comes up a lot. You wanted to know so I'm telling you.

Hoover is stunned.

HOOVER

And do you defend me?

ANNIE

Who killed Medgar Evers?

HOOVER

We don't know.

ANNIE

I don't believe you. You know everything. They say members of the Klan work for the FBI? Is that true.

HOOVER

Absolutely not.

ANNIE

How can you be sure?

HOOVER

I'm sure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ANNIE

Is it true that the police in Alabama are also members of the Klan.

HOOVER

Who told you that?

ANNIE

Is it true?

HOOVER

Not all.

ANNIE

But some.

HOOVER

Some.

ANNIE

How many?

HOOVER

We aren't sure. That's the truth.

ANNIE

Are they gonna kill King?

HOOVER

I'm gonna be honest with you, Annie. A lot of people want him dead. It's a very dangerous time. There's a lot of angry people with guns and he made a lot more friends yesterday and a lot more enemies.

ANNIE

Do you want him dead?

HOOVER

I want law and order. That's all I care about. Law and order. It's my job to protect him whether I agree with him or not. It's not my job to like him it's my job to keep him alive.

ANNIE

Was it your job to protect Medgar Evers.

HOOVER

It was.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ANNIE

But you failed.

HOOVER

That's true. I failed.

ANNIE

Are you gonna fail King?

HOOVER

No. I give you my word. I don't like him but I will do everything in my power to protect him.

ANNIE

And me? Are you gonna fire me?

HOOVER

No. No, no, no. For what? For speaking your mind? I told you I consider you family. You're in my will. I love you more than I could ever express. My own nieces and nephews aren't in my will but you are. I'm just sad. I never want you to feel you need to lie to me. And I'm sorry that sometimes in this house you're exposed to ugly conversations. My job is not easy. Can you understand that my feelings about King are different than my feelings about segregation? I hate discrimination. But I also hate Communism. And King is a Communist. By his own admission. Annie do you even know what Communism is?

ANNIE

It's a Russian thing and it's bad. That's all I know.

HOOVER

Communists believe that what one person has should belong to everyone. So imagine coming home after a long day at work and finding a Russian eating the food in your kitchen. Or a Russian wearing your clothes. Or a Russian sleeping in your bed. That's how it is in Russia and Russia wants to take over America. They've got Russian spies in every city in this country. Just waiting. We find two spies, four more pop up. Russia hates us.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

HOOVER (CONT'D)

They're jealous of our freedom. They wanna destroy our Democracy. In Russia everything you have belongs to the government and the government decides who gets what. So say you buy a new car and I run the government and I like your new car so I go to your house and I take your new car and I give it to my Aunt Sally. That's okay because I'm the government and the people are no longer in charge of their lives. And there's nothing you can do cause the first thing a Communist government does is they take your guns away so you can't defend yourself and you can't fight back. The US Constitution guarantees everyone the right to own a gun. Communists hate that. They hate our Constitution. They don't want people to be able to defend themselves from the government. They want to control you. Every aspect of your life. They hate freedom. That's Communism. So when King talks about "equality" about everyone having the same stuff, everyone thinks he's talking about ending segregation but he's not. He's winking at Russia. He's winking at Castro. He's fighting for Communism. But he won't say the actual word cause he's smart, he's a weasel, but in his heart he's a Communist. He's not an American. He might as well have been born in a foreign country cause he hates America. And I can show you mountains of proof. He's a phony. He's a great speaker but he's a fraud. This country is crawling with Communists. They don't even try to hide it. Marilyn Monroe, Communist. Lucille Ball, I love Lucy, Communist. And where is Ricky Ricardo from?

ANNIE

Mexico?

HOOVER

Cuba. Communist Cuba. You see. That's what we do here. Connect the dots. I'm trying to help you connect the dots. Do you want to see the files on King? They're confidential files but I'll show you if you promise not to tell anyone. Not even Clyde. Do you want to see?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

HOOVER (CONT'D)

Can you keep a secret? He's a bad guy, Annie. You'll see. We have tapes of him cheating on his wife with multiple women. Coretta is a beautiful woman, why would any man cheat on her? You were honest with me. I'm being honest with you. Do you want to see the files?

ANNIE

Okay.

HOOVER

I'll be right back.

Hoover exits. Annie sits and waits. Nervous.

Hoover returns with two big files.

HOOVER (CONT'D)

Are you ready to have your eyes opened? I have never shown these files to anyone without a security clearance. You must not share this information with anyone. Not your friends. Not your family. Not the people at church. What I'm about to show you is very disturbing. Can you handle it?

ANNIE

I think so.

HOOVER

Two men. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. Just the facts. You ready? Let's start with Mr. X. 6 foot 3. 180 pounds. Served 7 years in prison for larceny. His hobby was breaking into homes in rich white neighborhoods. Drug dealing. Gambling. Racketeering. Pimping. Sex with men for money. All documented. All by the time he was 21. His nickname in prison was Satan. He tried to get into the army cause he wanted to...and I'm quoting him now..."organize them nigger soldiers, steal us some guns, and kill us some crackers". He's not even an American. He's a Muslim. Do you know what a Muslim is?

ANNIE

Not really?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

HOOVER

Well you can't be an American and a Muslim, you have to choose. It's like trying to be Catholic and Jewish at the same time. It don't work. Muslims are very bad people, Annie. Trust me, you don't ever want to come across a Muslim in a dark alley. They hate women. They'd tear you up. These are the words of Malcolm X. "Martin Luther King is a stooge of the white establishment. They call it a March on Washington, I call it a farce on Washington." Nice, right?

ANNIE

How do you know all this?

HOOVER

It's what we do Annie. We gather information. We investigate. It's how we keep the country safe. Malcolm X would be dead by now if it wasn't for us. We don't like him but we protect him. They hate him more than they hate Dr. King.

ANNIE

Who hates him?

HOOVER

Anyone who knows him. He's angry at white people. He's angry at coloreds. He thinks "all the coloreds should go back to Africa". You can piss off white people or you can piss off black people but you can't piss off both cause then you got nobody. Even the Muslims are getting sick of him. He's a very angry man. His Mother wound up in a mental hospital and he blames the Klan for the death of his Father even though it was an accident.

ANNIE

How did his Dad die?

HOOVER

Streetcar. He was run over by a streetcar. Trust me that's not how the Klan kill people. Now in his defense, they did burn down his house when he was 4 years old but nobody died.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

ANNIE

The Klan burned his house down when he was 4 years old?

HOOVER

Unfortunately, yes.

ANNIE

Oh my God...that's horrible.

HOOVER

I agree...but nobody died.

SCENE: CLYDE AND RUSTIN IN A PARK

CLYDE

Thank you for coming?

RUSTIN

I don't know what we're doing here.

CLYDE

I wanted to congratulate you in person on behalf of the bureau on your big success. 300,000 people at the Lincoln Memorial. "I have a dream". Amazing. Lincoln would be very proud.

RUSTIN

Lincoln believed blacks were inferior to whites and that we shouldn't have the right to vote and he opposed interracial marriage. He would not be proud. Learn your history.

CLYDE

His views evolved. I know my history. Go fuck yourself. I came here to make peace. I wanted to congratulate you. I saw your face in the paper. Nice to finally see you get a little recognition for something other than having sex in public.

RUSTIN

I'm not doing it for "a little recognition". I'm doing it because this country...

CLYDE

I know why you're doing it. Save the speech.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

A long awkward silence.

CLYDE (CONT'D)  
Are you recording this conversation?

RUSTIN  
Are you?

CLYDE  
I asked you first.

RUSTIN  
Yes.

CLYDE  
Me, too.

They both laugh.

CLYDE (CONT'D)  
We have a lot in common you and I. We both work for powerful men. We both do the heavy lifting. We're both invisible.

RUSTIN  
We're both sodomites.

Silence.

CLYDE  
Your latest arrest is taken care of. Tommy's too. Never happened. You can tell him.

RUSTIN  
Why?

CLYDE  
Because every time something bad happens to one of you people the FBI gets blamed and frankly we're sick of it. Things are changing in this country and not for the better. Every crime these days involving a colored person has ten conspiracy theory's attached to it, it was never like that before but people don't trust the police. They don't trust the press. They don't trust politicians. They're starting to question the FBI.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

RUSTIN

Cause they don't trust Hoover. Might be time for him to step down. "The fish rots from the head."

CLYDE

Kennedy can fire him anytime he wants.

RUSTIN

Can he? Really? Hoover's outlasted how many Presidents? 6? 7?

CLYDE

8.

RUSTIN

And why is that I wonder?

CLYDE

Because he's damn good at his job.

RUSTIN

Because he knows everybody's secrets.

CLYDE

Because he loves this country and he works his ass off keeping everybody safe. When was the last time a President was assassinated in this country.

RUSTIN

1901, William McKinley.

CLYDE

Very good. 62 years ago. Not one President has lost his life on Hoover's watch so I'd say he's doing a pretty damn good job considering all the threats we get. Trust me, it's not easy protecting a Catholic President. A lot of people hate Catholics.

RUSTIN

As much as they hate niggers?

CLYDE

I'd prefer you didn't use that word.

RUSTIN

I'm sorry. Which word do you prefer? Jigaboo? Porch monkey? Sambo? Negro? Colored? Communist?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

CLYDE

Why are you all so angry? You and King and Malcolm X...just so angry all the time. You know what they say when you guys walk away? "There goes another angry black man."

RUSTIN

Don't you mean, "There goes another angry nigger?"

CLYDE

I have never used that word in my life and none of my agents use it either and if they did they'd be fired. I give you my word on that.

RUSTIN

I hear it's the Vice President's favorite word.

CLYDE

You really don't know who you're friends are. Do you trust any white people? I just feel bad for you. Carrying all that anger around every day. Not every white person is your enemy.

RUSTIN

Hoover hates King. You gonna deny that? I hear you got stacks and stacks and stacks of files on everything he eats, everywhere he goes, everyone he sees, what he watches on TV. Same for Medgar Evers...you gonna deny that? But yet you couldn't save him. You knew everything about Medgar and you knew they wanted him dead and yet where were you when he was gunned down in his own driveway in front of his family? What good are all those files if you're gonna look the other way. Hoover hates King. Period.

CLYDE

Hoover hates Communism. Not civil rights.

RUSTIN

Do you even know what Communism is? It's about taking the power out of the hands of the government and giving it back to the people. That's why Hoover hates it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

RUSTIN (CONT'D)

It scares him. People fear what they don't understand.

CLYDE

So you don't deny that you and King are Communists?

RUSTIN

Why are we here?

CLYDE

Your hero is gonna get himself killed and everyone's gonna blame the FBI and we don't want that to happen and that's the absolute truth. That's why I'm here. We need to work together to keep him alive.

RUSTIN

I'm not sure I believe you.

CLYDE

I didn't say Hoover likes King I said Hoover doesn't want King dying on his watch. I'm not here to protect King I'm here to protect Hoover. As long as Hoover's at the FBI, King needs to stay alive.

RUSTIN

He's not afraid of dying. He knows he's gonna die. He talks about it all the time. There's too many crazy white people with guns in this country and most the police hate niggers too, and killing a nigger ain't no big thing. White lives matter, ours don't.

CLYDE

You're both so arrogant and condescending and you think you know everything. So smart and so damn stupid at the same time. You can get 300,000 people out to a march on a Wednesday but you can't keep your own dicks in your pants for more than 5 minutes. King is on a suicide mission. He has zero security. Not real security. Staying at the same hotels, in the same rooms. Eating at the same restaurants. Going to the same clubs. Over and over. Killers love patterns and routines. It makes their job very easy.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Do you know how many photos we have of him just standing around by himself. Completely vulnerable. Staring up at the sky. Like an idiot. He's begging to be shot.

RUSTIN

"Longevity has it's place but I'm not worried about that now." His words not mine.

CLYDE

President Kennedy is offering him full secret service protection.

RUSTIN

And how many brothers are in the secret service?

CLYDE

Abraham Bolden. Appointed by Kennedy two years ago. Things are changing. Let us protect him.

RUSTIN

Like you did Medgar Evers?

CLYDE

Kennedy's gonna sign the Civil Rights Act. Doesn't King at least wanna live long enough to see that?

RUSTIN

I'll ask him.

CLYDE

Can you talk some sense into him or not? I'm asking you to have a serious talk with him and Coretta. I think they'll listen if it comes from you. We can give you lots of tips and tricks on how to stay alive. We know what we're doing. We've been doing it a long time. Remember, no President has ever been shot under Hoover's watch. Let us help you.

RUSTIN

I appreciate your concern. I do. I'll talk to him. Anything else?

CLYDE

You're welcome.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (15)

Sound Cue: A Phone is Ringing.

SCENE: ANNIE'S HOME

ANNIE  
Can you get that? Hello? William? Can  
you answer that?

WILLIAM  
I'm in the shower.

ANNIE  
What?

WILLIAM  
I'm in the shower.

ANNIE  
William!!! Can you please get it?

William comes out in a towel and answers the phone.

WILLIAM  
Hello?  
(beat)  
One second. It's for you?

ANNIE  
Who is it?

WILLIAM  
It's work. It's important. You coming?  
(to phone)  
One second. I think she's coming.

Annie enters quickly, flustered, grabs the phone.

ANNIE  
Hello?

There is a long silence. She listens.

ANNIE (CONT'D)  
(shocked, horrified)  
What?  
(listens)  
Oh my God.  
(listens)  
Oh my God.  
(listens)  
Of course. I'll be right over. See ya  
soon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She hangs up. Quickly grabs her stuff.

ANNIE (CONT'D)  
I gotta go.

WILLIAM  
Who was that?

ANNIE  
Uhhh...

WILLIAM  
Hello?

ANNIE  
Uhhh...James...it was James...

WILLIAM  
Who's James?

ANNIE  
James. The...I can't find  
my...James...the chauffuer. I gotta go.  
Oh my God. I gotta go.

WILLIAM  
What's going on?

ANNIE  
They uh...can you find my purse...they  
uh...they...bombed a church?

WILLIAM  
Who?

ANNIE  
The Klu Klux Klan. They bombed a  
church...a Baptist church...in  
Birmingham...Alabama...this morning...4  
little girls are...4 little girls were  
getting dressed for church...4 little  
girls are dead. I gotta go.

WILLIAM  
What the hell?

ANNIE  
I gotta go.

WILLIAM  
You going to Birmingham?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANNIE

I don't know what's happening. I need my purse. I think we're flying out. I'll call you when I know.

WILLIAM

This country is losing it's damn mind.

ANNIE

Stay by the phone. I love you. Watch the news.

SCENE: RUSTIN'S HOUSE

RUSTIN

(on phone)

You see the news?

(listens)

They was in the basement. Just getting ready for church.

(listens)

4 little baby girls just getting dressed.

(listens)

14 and 11. Three were 14 years and one was 11. 11. 11 years old.

(listens)

August 28th. Today's the 15th so what is that?

(listens)

18 days? 19 days. We marched 300,000 in Washington and not one arrest. Peaceful. And 19 days later here we are again.

(listen)

1963 is the crazy year. The year of the crazy. The year America lost its collective mind. What else can happen this year? We got three and a half months left. What's next? I'm afraid to turn on the news. Every day is crazier than the day before.

SCENE: ANNIE'S HOUSE

William and Annie sit in silence. Finally she speaks. Annie is devastated.

ANNIE

So last week George Wallace, the racist Governor of Alabama...

WILLIAM

I know who George Wallace is...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANNIE

Ok, so George Wallace...

WILLIAM

The King of Redneckville. The Mayor of  
Inbreed Mountain.

ANNIE

You want to hear what he said or you  
wanna make jokes?

(beat)

So Mr. Wallace...

WILLIAM

Don't say Mr. Wallace. You give him  
respect when you say that. Say, so Okie  
McCracker Honkeydonk, Hillbilly in Chief  
said...

ANNIE

So Okie McCracker Honkeydonk, Hillbilly  
in Chief gave an interview with the New  
York Times and he said, "we need some  
high profile deaths and that will stop  
integration."

WILLIAM

He actually said that?

ANNIE

He actually said that. In the New York  
Times, "we need some high profile deaths  
and that will stop integration."

WILLIAM

What does that even mean?

ANNIE

I don't know. Hillbilly nonsense. I saw  
a report on the desk that said, "4 less  
niggers." I don't know who said it. I  
guess somebody was joking that that's the  
new state slogan. "Welcome to Alabama. 4  
Less Niggers."

WILLIAM

They know who did it?

ANNIE

No. They know it was the Klan but...he  
sent 200 agents down there this  
afternoon.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

One girl didn't die but she lost an eye.  
One girl...do you want to hear this...?

WILLIAM

No.

ANNIE

Okay.

They sit in silence for a long time.

WILLIAM

Go on.

ANNIE

Forget it.

WILLIAM

Tell me.

ANNIE

One girl's head was blown off from her  
body. I wrote down the names cause I  
don't ever want to forget them.

She pulls put a piece of paper from her purse.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Addie Mae Collins - age 14, Carol Denise  
McNair - age 11, Carole Robertson - age  
14, and Cynthia Wesley age 14. They was  
just getting ready for church. 14 years  
old. 11 years old. And there's more  
girls in the hospital. Apparently...you  
can not repeat this...

WILLIAM

I never do.

ANNIE

No. This is big. I swear to God, you  
can not repeat this. Ever. I will kill  
you. Or they will.

WILLIAM

Just tell me, already.

ANNIE

There are Klu Klux Klan members on the  
FBI payroll. They pay them for tips and  
information.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

But they participate in beatings and shootings and bombings and God knows what else and they aren't producing any leads...but they keep getting paid every week...basically they get paid to do Klan stuff...and Hoover's terrified of this coming out. He thinks if it comes out he'd be forced to resign.

WILLIAM

That is just wrong. They probably make more than you do.

ANNIE

And no arrests yet. 200 agents and no arrests.

WILLIAM

That is just so wrong.

CLYDE

And Dr. King is going down for the funerals and he's gonna give a speech and they're saying he's never coming back. They're saying he's never gonna make it out of Alabama in one piece.

WILLIAM

They all fuck each other down there, ya know. That's the problem. The brother fucks the sister, the Mom fucks the son, the daughter fucks the dad, and then they have fucked up babies without limbs and half a brain and they get all screwed up in the head. Their DNA gets all confused and they can't think straight so they turn out ugly. They think ugly. They come out semi-retarded from all the family-fucking. They ain't human. They wear hoods so no one can see how ugly they are. And they're so bored down there they go around killing little girls just for entertainment. It's a sick country. Your faggot boss is a sick man. And Alabama is the sickest state of all. I heard of 40 year old men dating 10 year old girls with their Momma's permission. Nothing changes. Speeches don't matter...it's just talk talk talk. You gotta fight fire with fire. An eye for an eye. Malcolm X is right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ANNIE

You don't know nothing about Malcolm X.

WILLIAM

And what do you know?

ANNIE

I know a lot more than you know.

WILLIAM

So what do you know?

ANNIE

He's a Muslim. Do you know what a Muslim is?

WILLIAM

Of course I know what a Muslim is.

ANNIE

Okay, what's a Muslim.

WILLIAM

You tell me.

ANNIE

They're very bad people. They ain't Americans. They hate America. They hate women. They hate Martin Luther King Jr. They hate Jews.

WILLIAM

Well Jews hate blacks, so what, fuck Jews.

ANNIE

I'm trying to teach you about Muslims. Shut up and listen. They're the most dangerous people on the planet. Worse than Germans.

HOOVER

How do you know all this?

ANNIE

I just know. I've seen things. And Malcolm X is a Muslim.

WILLIAM

Who told you this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ANNIE

I've seen things you ain't seen.

WILLIAM

Has Hoover been brainwashing you?

ANNIE

I have seen it with my own eyes.

WILLIAM

What have you seen?

ANNIE

I can't talk about it. I could go to jail.

WILLIAM

He's brainwashing you, Annie, that's how they do it. He's hoping you'll tell people. He's using you to help plant seeds. You tell one person, they tell 10 people, and it spreads. If you don't see that you're dumber than I thought.

ANNIE

Malcolm X had sex with men, for money. He was arrested for it. He confessed. I saw the confession. He was in jail for seven years.

WILLIAM

Malcolm X ain't no cocksucker.

ANNIE

How do you know what he is? Are you and him friends? Is there something you want to tell me? You been hanging out with Malcolm X?

WILLIAM

There ain't no way Malcolm X is a faggot. You outta your mind? Hoover done fucked you up. That's what faggots do. They don't want you to think they're a faggot so they tell you somebody else is a faggot. They want to distract you. Shine the light elsewhere. It's a faggot's magic trick.

ANNIE

Is that how it works?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

WILLIAM

That's what I've been told.

ANNIE

Is that why you always talking faggot  
this and faggot that? You trying to  
distract me? You want to tell me  
something?

SCENE: HOOVER'S BED

Clyde is already in bed. Hoover is looking at the newspaper.

CLYDE

Come to bed.

HOOVER

One second.

CLYDE

That's enough news for one day. Come to  
bed.

HOOVER

One month and no arrests. They're  
calling us incompetent. Saying maybe  
it's time for me to go.

CLYDE

Come to bed.

HOOVER

Listen to this...

CLYDE

I read it.

HOOVER

"As families begin to gather for  
Thanksgiving Dinner four families in  
Alabama will be hard pressed to find  
anything to be thankful for given that  
the Birmingham Church Bombing  
investigation is now going on its third  
month with no solid leads. Rumors that  
various Klan members acting as paid  
informants are on Hoover's payroll and  
yet still no arrests makes this writer  
think that the only turkey that should be  
carved up this Thursday is J. Edgar  
Hoover."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

CLYDE

Stop. Don't read that garbage. They have no idea what you do or how hard you work.

HOOVER

It's all changing. A few years ago the press wouldn't dare go after the FBI. But they're not afraid anymore. It's Medgar Evers. They say we looked the other way and we did not. It all started with Medgar Evers.

CLYDE

Just come to bed.

HOOVER

We did not drop the ball. It's all conspiracy theories. Lies and fake news. King gets everybody all fired up, like a nigger magician with his distractions: "Abracadabra, look at Hoover, look at Wallace, look at the Klan, look at Alabama and just ignore me while I fuck my mistress."

CLYDE

Mistresses. Plural.

HOOVER

The hypocrisy of it all makes my head explode.

CLYDE

And you're gonna outlive 'em all baby. Come to bed. I'm cold.

Hoover gets into bed and Clyde and Hoover begin to make love.

William comes out with a cup of coffee and sits down to watch TV.

SCENE: TELEVISION SEQUENCE

Sound Cue: Television Theme Song Intro - As The World Turns

The projection plays on the back wall of the set. These original 1960 clips are all readily available on YouTube.

As The World Turns - Intro

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

TELEVISION COMMERCIAL

(voice over)

And now for the next 30 minutes As The World Turns, brought to you today by gentle Joy, dishwashing liquid that you can see on your hands. And by comet cleanser, it bleaches out stains, wipes out germs as no other leading cleanser can.

As The World Turns - Show

SOAP ACTOR

Did you ask him?

SOAP ACTRESS

No, Bob did.

SOAP ACTOR

Bob? Where'd you hear this?

SOAP ACTRESS

He told me last night after he came home.

SOAP ACTOR

I'll say, I'm surprised.

SOAP ACTRESS

Frankly, I was a little suspicious

SOAP ACTOR

Of what?

SOAP ACTRESS

Well there must be a reason because it's the first time he has invited her here or anywhere else as a matter of fact since the divorce.

SOAP ACTOR

Did you ask him why he invited her?

SOAP ACTRESS

He said something about not wanting to have Thanksgiving dinner alone and he was right.

SOAP ACTOR

That was real nice of the boy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

SOAP ACTRESS

And I thought about it and I gave it a great deal of thought, Grandpa.

The show is interrupted. As the following bulletin plays the whole cast come on stage and stare forward as if watching TV. Maybe some of them were already on stage watching TV. They are all in shock and glued to the TV.

Breaking News - CBS Bulletin

CBS BULLETIN

Here is a bulletin from CBS News:  
 In Dallas, Texas three shots were fired at President Kennedy's motorcade in downtown Dallas. The first reports say that President Kennedy has been seriously wounded by this shooting. More details just arrived. These details about the same as previously. President Kennedy shot today just as his motorcade left downtown Dallas. Mrs. Kennedy jumped up and grabbed Mr. Kennedy, she called, "Oh no". The motorcade sped on. United Press says that the wounds for President Kennedy perhaps could be fatal.  
 Repeating: A bulletin from CBS News, President Kennedy has been shot by a would-be assassin in Dallas Texas Stay tuned to CBS News for further details.

Coffee Commercial.

Each actor continues to react to the news however they choose to react or are directed to react but we do not hear them. We only see them. We should only hear the sound of the coffee commercial and see it on the back while the actors react in horror, shock, paralysis, crying, rage, collapse, etc. No melodrama, please. We should feel we are eavesdropping on them in their private homes.

COFFEE COMMERCIAL

It takes more than an instant to make a real cup of coffee. That's why Nescafe has come up with a new kind of coffee. It's more than an instant. It's new Minute Brew Nescafe. Anybody can make a coffee more instant but Nescafe makes it more coffee. A new kind of coffee. Minute Brew. Minute Brew Nescafe is a new discovery. A new way to hold in extra rich flavor. So please help us.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

## COFFEE COMMERCIAL (CONT'D)

Let it brew in the cup a few seconds longer for all that extra flavor to come up. In other words, with Minute Brew Nescafe it takes a little longer but you get a lot more coffee. If you agree it takes more than an instant to make a real cup of coffee, buy this completely new kind of coffee today. New Minute Brew Nescafe. It's more than an instant yet costs no more. New Minute Brew Nescafe.

Sound Cue: Phones

A phone begins to ring. And another. And another til we hear a cacophony of phones ringing. Getting louder and louder. Suddenly they stop.

SCENE: HOOVER'S HOUSE

HOOVER

How soon til his brother has me fired?

CLYDE

He's not that stupid.

HOOVER

Is Oswald confessing?

CLYDE

Not yet?

HOOVER

I told them not to go to Dallas.

CLYDE

They're saying they never got that memo.

HOOVER

I warned them twice. I hate being right all the time. That's what happens when you think you're invincible. The Universe reminds you that you're not. He only won Texas by 2%. That's a lot of people who don't want a Catholic in the Oval Office but people forget how many enemies they have. Not me, I'm the opposite.

CLYDE

Five things.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOOVER

And now they wanna blame me.

CLYDE

Five things. Listen. One: Russia's official statement is that they are deeply saddened, they claim it's a coup, and they say we're using Oswald to fuel anti-Communist sentiment.

HOOVER

Why did he call the Russian embassy from the Cuban consulate just two months ago and say "please speak Russian, please speak Russian". His wife is Russian. He defected to Russia. You're gonna tell me Russia had nothing to do with this? The Russians are breaking out the Vodka tonight. Next.

CLYDE

Two: There's a new rumor gaining traction claiming Oswald was an FBI informant.

HOOVER

There's a lot of rumors gaining traction which is why we need that confession and we need to get it in every paper in this country. Next.

CLYDE

Three: Last night we received a call from our Dallas office from a man talking in a calm voice and saying he was a member of a committee organized to kill Oswald.

HOOVER

Contact the Dallas police department. Tell them to triple security for Oswald.

CLYDE

We have.

HOOVER

Call 'em again. If something happens to Oswald no one's ever gonna believe he acted alone. Next.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLYDE

Four: A British newspaper called the Cambridge News told MI-5 and MI-5 told the CIA and the CIA is telling us that the Cambridge News received an anonymous phone call twenty five minutes before the assassination telling them to call the U.S. Embassy for some, quote, "really big news". Thoughts?

HOOVER

What? Again. Slower.

CLYDE

(slower)

A British newspaper called the Cambridge News told MI-5 and MI-5 told the CIA and the CIA is telling us that the Cambridge News received an anonymous phone call twenty five minutes before the assassination telling them to call the U.S. Embassy for some, quote, "really big news".

HOOVER

Have two agents contact MI-5, the CIA, and the newspaper and find out more about this. I'm intrigued. Maybe Oswald called them. Next.

CLYDE

Five. I love you very much.

Hoover is taken aback and deeply moved. It's exactly what he needed to hear right now.

HOOVER

I failed, Clyde. I failed. People are blaming me. I know what they're saying. They're laughing at me. Just like when I stuttered in grade school.

CLYDE

You don't stutter anymore.

HOOVER

Fidel Castro is celebrating. This is just the beginning, Clyde. Russia is winning. Every Communist in this country has blood on their hands tonight. King has blood on his hands. Rustin has blood on his hands.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HOOVER (CONT'D)

Malcolm X, Bob Dylan, Lucille fucking Ball. They all have blood on their hands. They should all be in jail.

CLYDE

I need to go deal with this list.

HOOVER

I hope he's happy. I hope that Russian-loving nigger is happy. I hope he's next.

CLYDE

Don't say that.

HOOVER

61 years I kept this country safe. I could feel it unraveling. I asked Annie if she knew what a Communist is and she didn't even know. They don't know. She didn't even know what a Muslim is. Uneducated. Sheep. Will the press even tell you Oswald was a Communist or will they just say he was a crazy guy with a gun? He shouldn't have even been in this country. That Statue of Liberty was the worst thing to ever happen to us, "give us your tired, your poor" and they do...they send us murderers and Communists and rapists and Muslims but they keep the brightest for themselves. We got Mexicans flooding across the border and there's nothing to be done about it. If I were President I'd build a wall and if you leave or take a trip to Russia you can't come back. The day Eisenhower signed the Communist Control Act all travel to Russia should've been cut off. No American should even be going to Russia. Oswald should never have been allowed back in here after he went to Russia. We need Extreme vetting, that's what we need but they don't listen to me. I hate being right all the time. You believe in Mohammed? You can't live in America. Period. That's how you protect a country.

CLYDE

I think you should lie down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

HOOVER

He won today. King won. Johnson's gonna sign that Civil Rights Act, because of Oswald, because of King, because of those four little girls in Alabama and when they sign that Civil Rights Bill they should bring Oswald in and personally thank him. King doesn't care about Kennedy. He doesn't care who signs the bill as long as it gets signed. What do you think happens to a country when the people make the government Public Enemy Number One. It doesn't end well. "A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself from within." It's happening. Can you get me some water before you go?

Clyde goes off and Hoover sits alone. He tries to calm down. Sits and stares forward. Shaken. Trying to breathe. Clyde returns with a glass of water. Hoover drinks it. Puts the glass down. Looks at Clyde. Stands up. They hug. Clyde comforts him. They tenderly kiss.

CLYDE

Remember the first time we met? I fell in love with you right away. I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life with you. Together forever.

HOOVER

Together forever.

SCENE: RUSTIN'S PLACE

There is a knock at the door. Rustin comes out in a very nice three piece suit and answers the door.

TOMMY

Well ain't you fancy?

RUSTIN

Howdy stranger.

TOMMY

Where ya going?

RUSTIN

You won't believe it. I'm going to the white House.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUSTIN (CONT'D)

I'm gonna...it's crazy...but...I'm gonna meet the President...in 29 minutes. Do I look, okay.

TOMMY

You look like a back-up singer.

RUSTIN

I'll take it.

TOMMY

So can I go? You get to bring a friend? I never been to the White House before.

RUSTIN

I wish, I'm sorry, not today, amigo.

TOMMY

"Amigo?" Do I look Mexican?

RUSTIN

No, but there's nuttin wrong with knowing two languages.

TOMMY

This is America. Speak American.

RUSTIN

I really gotta run, my friend.

TOMMY

What's so important.

RUSTIN

Johnson's signing the Civil Rights Act today.

TOMMY

I heard something about it on the news last night.

RUSTIN

Most important day of my life. We won.

TOMMY

You mean you won.

RUSTIN

Everybody won.

TOMMY

What did I win? Tell me what I won.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RUSTIN

I can't debate with you right now. I'm really sorry.

TOMMY

Oh, now you're a big shot?

RUSTIN

I'll be back this afternoon.

TOMMY

You know my Uncle says JFK was shot cause he changed his mind about signing that law cause he knew most of the country don't want it and he was afraid that if he signed it he wouldn't be reelected so Malcolm X and your King friend hired one of their white Commie friends to shoot the President cause if a colored shot the President more people would hate coloreds so they hired a white guy, another Communist, but a white one, and he killed JFK, you do know Oswald was a Communist, right, just like you and King? And Hoover killed Oswald cause he hates Communists.

RUSTIN

Is that what they're saying?

TOMMY

My Uncle says LBJ was in the Klan when he was younger and that's why he's signing that bill now so when it all comes out he can say, "Hey. I'm changed, I'm changed. I like colored people now. Leave me alone." You care to dispute any of that?

RUSTIN

I just really have to go.

TOMMY

Exactly. That's what I thought.

RUSTIN

Tommy. All I'm gonna tell you is that today is the happiest day of my life.

TOMMY

So now white people have to do whatever you tell us to do, is that how it works now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RUSTIN

Basically.

TOMMY

That's a good deal for you.

RUSTIN

Equal rights. We just want the same things you have.

TOMMY

I ain't got nothing. You can have it.

RUSTIN

Tommy are you okay.

TOMMY

No I'm not okay. I can't find a fucking job. I got no fucking money. Yep, it's great being white.

RUSTIN

I'm sorry things aren't going your way.

TOMMY

No, you ain't cause now they're going your way.

RUSTIN

They'll keep going your way, too.

TOMMY

Nothing's going my way.

RUSTIN

Listen, I'm sorry you're having a tough time, my friend. I gotta run now but if you want to hang out here just wait for me and I'll be back in a few hours. There's some food in the kitchen. Help yourself. Here's three dollars if you decide to take off. Let me buy you lunch.

He gives him three dollars from his wallet.

TOMMY

Tell President Johnson not to forget about the white people.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RUSTIN

"The arc of the moral universe is long  
but it bends toward justice."

TOMMY

Whatever the fuck that means. So you  
can't suck my dick really quick?

RUSTIN

When I get back. I'm sorry, I'm gonna  
be late. I really gotta go.

Rustin goes. Tommy is alone in the house. He is unsure if  
he should stay or go. He sits down. Exhales. Bored.  
Lonely. Confused. Scared. Angry. Alone.

SCENE: HOOVER'S HOUSE

Hoover and Tolson enter reading papers to themselves. Hoover  
sits at the desk. Tolson stands.

Annie brings in a sandwich.

HOOVER

Thank you, Annie.

ANNIE

Anything else I can do for you?

HOOVER

I should make you a sandwich. We're  
equal now. LBJ signed the Civil Rights  
Bill. It's done.

ANNIE

He did?

HOOVER

An hour ago. Now you have equality. How  
does it feel? Are you happy?

ANNIE

I guess. We'll see, right?

HOOVER

No more discrimination. It's a new  
chapter. Congratulations.

ANNIE

Thank you, sir.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOOVER

Did you put mayo on this?

ANNIE

I believe so.

HOOVER

I don't see any.

ANNIE

Do you want more?

HOOVER

Yes, Annie, thank you.

ANNIE

I'll be right back. Mr. Tolson would you like one?

CLYDE

No, I'm fine. Thank you, Annie.

Annie leaves.

CLYDE (CONT'D)

He really signed it?

HOOVER

An hour ago. Niggers are gonna vote Democratic for the next 200 years. This is a bad day for Republicans.

CLYDE

I'm not so sure. I think he just turned every Southerner into a Republican. Robert E. Lee might've just won the Civil War after all.

HOOVER

And here come the nigger judges, nigger Senators, nigger Governors and a nigger President. I had a dream, too. Remember. I had a dream.

CLYDE

You had a nightmare and we are a long way off from having a Jigaboo President so don't get yourself all worked up.

Annie enters.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HOOVER  
Ahhhh...thank you.

ANNIE  
Anything else?

HOOVER  
No, that's all.

Annie leaves.

HOOVER (CONT'D)  
Close the door. I have gossip.

Clyde closes the door.

HOOVER (CONT'D)  
It's good. Jackie O. is furious. She hates King now. I played her the tape of King and his boys making jokes at the funeral. She says he's a fraud. She called him a trickster. She said every time she sees his face she sees a phony.

CLYDE  
I smell a backlash.

HOOVER  
Imagine if the American public heard a tape of King and his pack of pick-a-ninnys laughing about the death of the beloved JFK at his own funeral with the first lady only 20 feet away. They act like animals and they wonder why people don't like 'em.

CLYDE  
Uppity. That's the new word. Uppity. President Johnson uses it all the time. He thinks they're getting uppity. That's what he says. He says, "The more you give them niggers the more them niggers want."

HOOVER  
Actually he says negra. Negra and nigra.

CLYDE  
"Nigra?" Nigra. That's funny. I gotta remember that one. Nigra.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HOOVER

And Negra. That's a new one. Negra.

SCENE: ANNIE'S HOUSE - 1965

Annie comes home. Her husband is reading a magazine. Again, this scene should be in place and ready to start before the last scene ends.

ANNIE

What are you reading?

WILLIAM

Just more details. They were Muslim.  
The guys that killed him were Muslim.  
Three Muslims.

ANNIE

I don't care about him. He lost me when he blamed Hoover for the death of Kennedy. "The chickens have come to roost." Indeed. Fuck him. People hate us because of people like him.

WILLIAM

(reading)

"On February 19, 1965, Malcolm X told interviewer Gordon Parks that the Nation of Islam was actively trying to kill him. On February 21, 1965, just three days later, he was preparing to address the Organization of Afro-American Unity in Manhattan's Audubon Ballroom when someone in the 400-person audience yelled, "Nigger! Get your hand outta my pocket!" As Malcolm X and his bodyguards tried to quell the disturbance a man rushed forward and shot him once in the chest with a sawed-off shotgun and two other men charged the stage firing semi-automatic handguns. Malcolm X was pronounced dead at 3:30 pm, shortly after arriving at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. The autopsy identified 21 gunshot wounds to the chest, left shoulder, arms and legs, including ten buckshot wounds from the initial shotgun blast."

ANNIE

That's old news.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLIAM

Not to me. 21 gunshots?

ANNIE

31.

WILLIAM

Did you know all that?

ANNIE

I heard most of it.

WILLIAM

They really wanted him dead.

ANNIE

Everybody wanted him dead. He was begging for it. He pissed off everybody. What do you expect to happen? I knew he was dead when he started attacking Dr. King. He was a fool. You can piss off white people or you can piss off black people but you can't piss off both cause then you got nobody. Good riddance.

WILLIAM

You're cold.

ANNIE

What do you want for dinner?

Music Cue - Hello, Goodbye by The Beatles

We hear the first 30 seconds as we move into Hoover's house and Hoover slowly enters. He is getting older. We should get the idea that time has passed.

SCENE: HOOVER'S HOUSE - APRIL 4, 1968

Hoover is very somber. A few years older. Sits at his desk. Thinks. Picks up the phone. Dials a number.

HOOVER

Clyde?

(a few beats)

Frankie, how are you my friend? How is Clyde doing?

(listens)

Can I talk to him?

(listens)

Can you put him on, please?

(listens)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOOVER (CONT'D)

Hmmmm. I understand. Yes, wake him up please, it's very important.

(listens)

Thank you.

(listens)

Clyde.

(listens)

You sound horrible.

(beat)

You sound worse?

(beat)

Are they giving you lots of fluids?

(beat)

More fluids.

(beat)

Listen, I'm very sorry but I can't stop by tonight. I'm sorry. I'll try to make it over there tomorrow but no promises.

(listens)

I'm sorry. How are the doggies? I miss them but things are crazy here. But I thought having the doggies would cheer you up.

(beat)

And Frankie's taking good care of you, right?

(beat...louder)

I said Frankie's taking good care of you?

(beat)

That's good.

(listens)

Clyde, listen. Are you alone right now?

Is anyone in the room?

(beat)

Tell them to leave, please. Tell them all to go in the living room. I don't want anyone eavesdropping in the hallway.

(beat)

Okay, I'll wait.

He waits for a while.

HOOVER (CONT'D)

I'm here. Are you alone?

(beat)

Is the door closed?

(beat)

Okay sit down...

(a few beats)

Kings dead.

(beat)

Yes.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HOOVER (CONT'D)

(beat)

He's dead.

(beat)

The King is dead. Just now. I wanted you to hear it from me.

(beat)

Memphis.

(listens)

One bullet...thru his jaw and down his spine.

(listens)

Correct.

(listens)

Correct.

(listens)

No.

(listens)

Just now.

(beat)

Oh no, he's dead.

(beat)

He was down there for the sanitation workers strike...he tried to fly down this morning but someone called in a bomb threat so he had to change planes...from what I hear he was standing on the balcony of his hotel...alone...no protection...no security...

(listens)

I hate being right all the time.

(beat...louder)

I said, I hate being right all the time.

(beat)

Correct.

(beat)

Correct.

(listens)

Clyde, I have to go. I have a million calls to make. We're expecting riots later tonight in various cities. The blacks are very upset. You can imagine. Don't watch the news. Just get some rest and more fluids.

(listens)

I miss you too, buddy.

(beat)

Me too...go back to sleep.

(beat)

Bye bye.

Hoover sits. Thinks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Music Cue: Silly Love Songs by Wings

As the music begins. Hoover slowly rises and now for the first time in the play he is using a cane. He is very slow and fragile but still functioning and independent. He is preparing for bed, getting into pajamas, pulling back the covers, turning off lights and goes to sleep.

The next scene should start as Hoover is beginning the process of going to bed so the two actions are happening simultaneously but he should be in and the focus should shift solely to the next scene by about the second or third page of the scene.

SCENE: RUSTIN'S HOME - 1975

It is now 1976 and the clothing should reflect that.

Annie, now 64 years old, knocks on a door.

Bayard Rustin, now 64 years old and showing his age, answers the door.

Music fades out.

ANNIE  
Mr. Rustin?

RUSTIN  
Yes?

ANNIE  
My name is Annie Fields...and...

She waits for a reaction but he doesn't know her name.

ANNIE (CONT'D)  
...if you had a few moments...I'd really like to talk to you.

RUSTIN  
Ummm...Okay...can I ask what this is about?

ANNIE  
Can we go inside. I'm not some crazy person. I promise. Well, maybe a little crazy.

RUSTIN  
Well, aren't we all. Come in. Come in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ANNIE

Thank you, you have a lovely home.

RUSTIN

Thank you, thank you, all the credit goes to my partner. He has the eye.

ANNIE

It's lovely.

RUSTIN

I appreciate that. Would you like something to drink? Water? Tab? I can make some coffee.

ANNIE

No, I'm fine. Last time I had a cup of coffee was the day they shot JFK. It never tasted good to me after that.

RUSTIN

Ahhhh, yes. Nescafe. Minute Brew. Wow. I haven't thought of that in years but I remember that ad like it was yesterday.

ANNIE

One of the worst days of my life.

RUSTIN

Mine too, Sister, mine too.

ANNIE

So, Mr. Rustin, my name means nothing to you? Annie Fields?

RUSTIN

(thinking)

No. I'm sorry. Have we met?

ANNIE

No. But I'm a little surprised you never heard of me. Well maybe not surprised but disappointed. We've had a very real connection for decades. Are we alone? Is your partner here?

RUSTIN

No. He went to see Jaws for the 4th time. Twice was enough for me.

ANNIE

Great movie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

RUSTIN

I always enjoy watching white people being terrorized by a creature they don't understand.

ANNIE

All I could think when I saw it was how the shark was just like my old boss. Attack when they aren't suspecting, chew 'em up, spit 'em out and blood everywhere.

RUSTIN

But at least he dies at the end.

ANNIE

That he does.

A slightly awkward silence.

RUSTIN

So what is our connection other than the fact we both see Jaws as a big metaphor for our lives?

Annie is nervous...but keeping her composure.

ANNIE

Mr. Rustin...

RUSTIN

Bayard. Call me Bayard, please. Bayard. Like buying a yard. Buy yard. Mr. Rustin makes me feel old.

ANNIE

Bayard...Bayard...I'm sorry. I've thought about this moment for years. I'm not sure how to begin. Bayard, my boss, for almost 30 years was J. Edgar Hoover.

There is an awkward silence. They are both nervous.

RUSTIN

Wow, Sister, you weren't kidding. You really did work for a great white shark. Were you an agent?

ANNIE

I was the maid. But he treated me like family. We were incredibly close. He shared many things with me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Some intentionally and some unintentionally. I saw countless things I shouldn't have seen and he showed me a lot things he shouldn't have. I was with him almost everyday. I found him on the floor the last day of his life. I assume you know he had a massive heart attack.

RUSTIN

May 2, 1972.

ANNIE

You probably threw a party.

RUSTIN

I had mixed emotions but I did not celebrate.

ANNIE

He was very good to me. He included me in his will. He didn't even include his four nephews and four nieces. I'm telling you this because I want you to know how well he treated me and how much he loved me. And how close we were. He had three of us working at the house every day. His chauffeur. His cook. And me. All of us African-American and all of us treated like we were family. He treated us like gold. He loved us and we loved him. He was an evil son of a bitch. But not to us. He did horrible things to countless people. But not to us. He spent his whole life hating everybody but Clyde, me, his black chauffeur, his black cook, his two dogs and Ethel Merman.

CLYDE

Ethel Merman?!?!

ANNIE

He was best friends with Ethel Merman. I thought everybody knew that. She came by all the time. He loved her. He had such a huge capacity for love but he only shared it with six people and two dogs. Did you know he left his dogs over 7,000 dollars in his will. By comparison I got 3,000. He loved me, but not as much as his dogs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

CLYDE

Good lord.

ANNIE

He did love his dogs.

(bear)

I'd stand in the hallways with my ear on the door and listen to them in there playing with the dogs and they sounded so happy...but every other word was either nigger or Communist or nigger-Comunist. But when I was in the room, nothing but respect. A perfect gentlemen. He never even raised his voice to me.

(beat)

Bayard...

She has never spoken these words to anyone out loud before.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I know everything.

(beat)

Everything.

(beat)

Things I don't want to know.

(beat)

I use to look in the mirror after cleaning his toilets and say to myself, Annie, never forget, you are the most powerful women in America. I had so much power. I just never used any of it. It took me a year to prepare for this meeting. I had to be extremely careful. I wanted to reach out right after he died but I thought it was safest to wait for Clyde to pass before I contacted you. He passed in April.

RUSTIN

April 14th, 1975.

ANNIE

You're good with dates.

RUSTIN

Just those two. And King.

ANNIE

April 4th, 1968. That was another bad day.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

RUSTIN  
Toughest day of my life.

ANNIE  
I'm sorry.

RUSTIN  
Did you know when King died and they did the autopsy report it said he had the heart of a 60 year old man even though he was only 39.

ANNIE  
I did know that.

RUSTIN  
Because you know everything.

ANNIE  
Because I know...  
(beat)  
...everything.

RUSTIN  
I blame Hoover for the condition of King's heart. And Clyde. They were quite the tag team.

ANNIE  
Well Clyde suffered, he suffered for years, I promise you. And he suffered alone. If that's any consolation.

RUSTIN  
It's not.

ANNIE  
He had a stroke. Diabetes. He was frequently confused. He finally died of heart failure. After Hoover died Clyde left the FBI and his health went from bad to worse. I think after he lost Hoover that he felt he had nothing to live for. I wish they'd died on the same day but that's neither here nor there.

RUSTIN  
So is it true? The rumors?

Annie thinks for a very long time. She has no idea how to answer the question.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

ANNIE

I have a present for you. Well presents.

She reaches in her bag and pulls out stacks of well-organized manila folders.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I could go to jail for this. This is for your eyes only. I'm begging you. This information is only for you. You must never speak of it, share it and I'm asking you to burn it after you've looked at it. It'll take you a while. It's everything I could find. It's a lot. It's not pretty. But I feel it belongs to you. So much of your life is in those envelopes.

RUSTIN

Do I want to open them?

ANNIE

No. No.

RUSTIN

Sister. I'm with you.

ANNIE

Everything changed for me in 1963. When those four girls lost their lives in Birmingham, Alabama. Something in me changed. I've carried their names on a napkin in my purse for the last 12 years. But I never look at it. I know the names by heart.

RUSTIN

Addie Mae Collins.

ANNIE

Age 14, Carol Denise McNair, age 11.

RUSTIN

Carole Robertson, age 14.

ANNIE

Cynthia Wesley, age 14. Bayard, the Klu Klux Klan were on the FBI payroll. They were supposed to be informants but they didn't inform. They kept doing what they did and he kept paying them. It's all in here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

You'll have to piece things together. If you have any questions maybe we can figure out a way to discreetly communicate. I was so nervous about coming here. A lot of people are afraid of me. They'll be very relieved when I die. They don't know how much I know.

RUSTIN

And you know everything!

ANNIE

I know everything! But I'm a pretty good actress.

(in a heavy accent)

"I don't know nothing bout birthing no babies."

(no accent at all)

I'm just the dumb black maid.

RUSTIN

Wow. I don't know what to say. Thank you.

ANNIE

I always felt a deep connection with you, Bayard. We were both so powerful and so invisible. Except you used your power and I did nothing. Just kept cleaning the toilets. I wanted to be you but I was a coward. I could have made a difference but I just went along. But you fought so hard for us, you risked everything and you won, we won and nobody knows your name. That's not right. But I want you to know that I knew. And he knew. Hoover hated you more than he hated Dr. King cause he saw King as your puppet. Everybody who knew anything knew that march wouldn't have happened without you. And that march changed everything. You changed the world, my friend. And I want you to know that I know. And I pray that one day you get the credit you deserve and your name is as famous as Martin Luther King Jr. I've been following some of the work you're doing in the gay and lesbian community and I'm very proud of you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (11)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I know how badly so many of our black brothers and sisters treated you back then and it was disgraceful. Allow me to apologize on their behalf.

RUSTIN

"The new "niggers" are gays." You know who said that?

ANNIE

No.

RUSTIN

Me, yesterday, at NYU. Pretty good, right? It fires 'em up. I got a little MLK in me mixed with a little Malcolm X.

ANNIE

And Brother, you outlived 'em all. Congratulations. So that's it. I'll take that Tab now.

RUSTIN

One second.

He runs off. Comes back a few moments later.

RUSTIN (CONT'D)

Well, this is embarrassing. I thought we had a Tab but apparently my husband drank the last one. I am so sorry.

ANNIE

Why you low-down, double-talking...gimme my papers back.

They both laugh.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

BAYARD

Yes, it does, Sister, yes it does.

ANNIE

I have one last present. But we aren't discussing it.

She hands him a box. He takes off the lid. Looks inside. He is stunned, shocked, amused, intrigued. He pulls it out of the box to reveal a slip, a beautiful feminine slip.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

It is the same slip Hoover was wearing in the first scene. Rustin holds it up and studies it. He is respectful. And grateful. He looks to Annie but she neither confirms or denies. He returns it to the box and closes the lid.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I'll be in touch. Somehow. Burn those papers.

BAYARD

I don't get a hug?

ANNIE

You want a hug?

BAYARD

I'd love a hug.

ANNIE

I'll give you a hug.

They hug as lights cross-fade to Hoover's bedroom.

Bayard's area is now dimly lit.

Annie exits.

Bayard sits and thinks. Stares at the huge stacks of envelopes. He opens one and begins to read. He will stay on stage reading in a dim spotlight until the final blackout

SCENE: HOOVER'S BEDROOM

Lights cross fade to Hoover's bed. He has been in bed the whole time. He sits up. Slowly but suddenly. Disturbed.

HOOVER

Clyde?

(beats)

Clyde?

(beats)

Clyde?

He manages to get out of bed with his cane but he is disoriented.

CLYDE

Clyde? I had a nightmare. I had a nightmare. Clyde?

Looks around. Confused.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLYDE (CONT'D)

Annie? Annie? Annie?

He freezes. Stiffens. Collapses. Writhes around on the floor in pain. The movement ends. He is gone.

His body lies there motionless. All is quiet. Nothing happens.

Suddenly a knock at the door. Another knock.

Annie speaks thru the door.

ANNIE

Mr. Hoover. Your breakfast is getting cold.

(waits)

Mr. Hoover, you awake yet?

She knocks again.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Mr. Hoover? Are you okay?

(waits for a response)

Are you hungry?

(waits for a response)

Mr. Hoover?

(waits for a response)

I'm gonna come in there. I hope you're decent.

She opens the door. Sees him on the floor.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Oh no no. Help.

She bends down to him. She isn't sure what to do.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Mr. Hoover, come on...wake up...Mr.

Hoover. Come on...not today...no no no no no no...this is not your day.

She gets up and runs to the door.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

I need help! Hellooooo? James!

Jaaames!!! Call an ambulance! Quick.

NOW! Make sure you tell 'em it's for J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Tell 'em I think he had a heart attack  
and he's not breathing. Wait for them  
outside so they don't get lost.

She returns to Hoover and gets on the floor with him and  
cradles him in her lap.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Come on Mr. Hoover. Don't do this right  
now, Come on. Wake up. Oh my God. Oh  
my God. Oh my God. Oh my God.

SCENE: THE WHITE HOUSE - NOV. 20, 2013

A video clip of the Bayard Rustin section of the 2013 Medal  
of Presidential Medal of Freedom Awards ceremony plays on the  
back wall while Annie, filled with a million complex  
emotions, continues to cradle J. Edgar Hoover til the  
blackout of the play. As the video plays the lights slowly  
get darker so only a single spotlight illuminates Annie  
cradling the dead body of J. Edgar Hoover.

BARACK OBAMA

(on video)

But Bayard had an unshakable optimism,  
nerves of steel, and, most importantly, a  
faith that if the cause is just and  
people are organized, nothing can stand  
in our way. So, for decades, this great  
leader, often at Dr. King's side, was  
denied his rightful place in history  
because he was openly gay. No medal can  
change that, but today, we honor Bayard  
Rustin's memory by taking our place in  
his march towards true equality, no  
matter who we are or who we love.

Blackout

The End

Curtain Call