

NARRATOR: Welcome to By Mouth...bringing classic works to sonic life...in their essence.

By Mouth presents: ENEMY, a free adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's classic play "Enemy of the People".

The year: The fall of 2020. The setting: the ivy-covered campus of Greyfield College.

It's evening--and we're in the open family room and kitchen of Professor Noland Hyer's spacious faculty bungalow. The home is classically appointed and furnished. On the front wall are two doors--one leading to an entryway, and the other to bedrooms and an office.

BROOKS, a heavy-set, Black female grad student sits at the dining table. Host "LEXI" HYER, a Black female in her late-thirties, places a plate of barbeque and salad in front of her guest.

LEXI: You see--if you come late--you've got to put up with cold meat.

BROOKS (stuffing face): It's really good--thank you, Mrs. Hyer.

LEXI: Lexi--I told you. [Pause] My husband makes a point of having his meals on time--as you know.

BROOKS: It doesn't bother me--I like it when I can sit and eat all by myself--[worried she's offended] I mean--

LEXI: Don't you worry about a thing--now eat! I guess Halsey'll be coming late, too.

BROOKS: The odds o' that are pretty good.

LEXI [laughs]: How 'bout we leave the odds to your work with my husband. In my kitchen, we try to keep enough food around to cover all bets!

NARRATOR: There's a knock on the entryway door. It opens and DEAN BAY, a smartly attired Black professional woman in her mid-forties enters.

DEAN: Good evening! You don't mind, sister--I let myself in.

LEXI [tiniest bit disapproving]: I see. [tiniest bit ambivalent]: Good of you to come and see us.

DEAN: I just happened to be passing and-- [Pause] But you have company I see.

39 LEXI [a bit warmer]: Not at all. [Pause] Brooks, you
40 know my sister, Dean Bay?

41 BROOKS [stands, mouth full of food]: Yes--of course.

42 LEXI: Join us, Cloudine--there's plenty of barbeque and
43 salad left over.

44 DEAN: Thank you, no. Cold meat this late--you know--
45 it wrecks havoc with my stomach.

46 LEXI: It was hot. Earlier.

47 DEAN: Of course. I'll just stick with tea.

48 LEXI: I can brew some--if you want.

49 DEAN: No, just hot water, thanks. [to Brooks] I pack my
50 own, you see. Egyptian chamomile [Clears her throat]
51 So...where's my brother-in-law?

52 LEXI: He went for a run.

53 DEAN: This late? [Sound of front door opening/closing]

54 LEXI: That might be him now. [shouts] Noland? [Door
55 opens]

56 NARRATOR: Instead, HALSEY, another Black female grad
57 student enters. She's bookish, bespeckled and petite.

58 LEXI: Oh, it's you, Hasey.

59 HALSEY: Sorry for being so late, Mrs Hyer. I'm on
60 deadline at the paper. [surprised] Oh, Dean Bay--

61 DEAN: Nice to see you, Hasey. You came to speak to
62 Professor Hyer?

63 HALSEY: Uhh...yes--about a piece--for "The Greyfield".

64 DEAN: I hear Professor Hyer's a prolific contributor.

65 HALSEY: Yes, the Professor's a good writer--when there's
66 a subject that interests him.

67 DEAN [smiling and teasing]: Is that right? That's
68 admirable--addressing himself to those who'll give him
69 the most sympathy. You do know that--even though you've
70 been known to lampoon me on occasion--that's no reason
71 to think I bear ill will towards the paper.

72 HALSEY [smiling]: I agree.

73 DEAN: There's an excellent spirit of empathy on campus
74 at present, Halsey--an admirable community spirit. And
75 it all springs from our having a great common interest
76 to unite us--an interest that's the concern of every
77 one of our students.

78 HALSEY: You mean the new Center.

79 DEAN: Our Economic Justice Center--yes. Mark my words,
80 the new Center will soon be known all over the country--
81 and will ably represent the very heart of this campus--
82 the very heart of Greyfield!

83 BROOKS [sucking up--dimly]: No doubt!

84 DEAN: Look how much it's grown the last few years!
85 Donations have quadrupled--so there's more students of
86 color enrolled--and more diversity and life on campus!

87 BROOKS [dimly encouraging]: That's true!

88 DEAN: Why, tuition for low income students of color
89 has been greatly reduced--and will be reduced even more
90 --should we get more exposure for the Center--you know--
91 get more people talking about it--so it's seen in the
92 broader community as a magnet.

93 BROOKS [dimly encouraging again]: That could happen!

94 DEAN: It's very promising. Why, inquiries about
95 enrollment--and that sort of thing--are way up.

96 HALSEY: Then Professor Hyer's article should come in
97 handy.

98 DEAN: Oh--has he written something new?

99 HALSEY: It's something he wrote in the winter--a piece
100 on Justice in Policing.

101 DEAN [approving]: Is that right? But you didn't run it--
102 at that time--was there an issue--with the article?

103 HALSEY: Not at all. He just told me to hold it until
104 spring--because that's when his big study comes out.

105 DEAN [hiding her concern behind a smile]: I see.

106 HALSEY: The Professor's incredibly dedicated to
107 his work.

DEAN: Yes--he is! Youngest tenured African-American professor in the country! And now our Obama Professor of Economics and Justice.

BROOKS: We wouldn't have a Center without him!

DEAN: Well, I've heard that some are of that opinion. I believe I myself have taken a modest part in the enterprise. [quiet, self-satisfied sound]

LEXI [dutifully mollifying her sister]: That's what Noland's always saying.

HALSEY: You set the whole thing going, Dean Bay--we all know that. I only meant that the idea of it first came from Professor Hyer.

DEAN: The idea, yes! My brother-in-law has many fine ideas. But when it's a question of giving a fine idea practical shape, well...you require an individual of a different kind, if get my meaning. I certainly would've thought that in this house at least...

LEXI [disappointedly]: Sister...[changing the subject] Look--you haven't eaten a thing, Halsey.

HALSEY: Okay, maybe just a little something...

LEXI: Sister--come and help me with the dishes.

DEAN [clears her throat and lowers her voice]: Isn't it something how these janitor's daughters never seem to understand the concept of tact.

LEXI: You remember when we were their age. Anyway --can't you and Noland share the credit?

DEAN: I thought so but--apparently some are not quite satisfied with a share.

LEXI: You're being ridiculous, Cloudine--you and Noland get on so well. [Sound of front door open/close] There he is at last, I think.

NOLAND & FORESTER [laughing at a joke]:

NOLAND: Lexi, I've got another guest for you. Bill Forester, my wife, Lexi Hyer. Bill was out running too --so we ran together. Bill, you have to have some of my wife's barbeque.

FORESTER: I wouldn't want to intrude.

145 LEXI: Not at all--I made enough for an army!

146 NOLAND: You know my sister-in-law, Dean Bay.

147 FORESTER: Of course! Martin's daughter.

148 NOLAND: So is Lexi.

149 FORESTER [warmly]: Oh--I didn't realize that.

150 DEAN [tiniest bit coolly]: Mr. Forester.

151 FORESTER: Your father's one of my oldest clients--he's

152 bragged about both of you often.

153 NOLAND: Bill's in finance. [to Bill] Sit down, sit down.

154 Can I get you a drink?

155 FORESTER: Sure.

156 DEAN: I don't know how they can put away all that food!

157 FORESTER: They need it, the young--

158 LEXI: To keep up their strength--

159 NOLAND: And stir things up!

160 DEAN: And what will they find around here to "stir them

161 up"?

162 FORESTER: You'd have to ask them. I'm an old fogie.

163 NOLAND: Me too.

164 LEXI: Speak for yourself!

165 NOLAND: No, really, I'm just so happy to have them here

166 --both them--and my niece, who's doing her student

167 teaching down the street--they keep us young. I have the

168 Dean to thank for all of this--and Lexi, of course.

169 I feel so fortunate to be in the middle of all of this

170 growing, germinating life. It's as if a whole new world

171 was being created around me.

172 DEAN [teasing with a hint of skepticism]: You think so?

173 NOLAND: Oh, you can't appreciate it like I can--you've

174 been here so long. But for me--buried all those years up

175 north, on a tiny campus--it's as if I'd been dropped

176 into the middle of a crowded city.

177 FORESTER: Greyfield--a city?

178 NOLAND: Oh, I know it's not like New York--where Bill

179 lives--but, well--compared to other places--there's so

180 much life here--so much...promise--so many things to
181 work for--and fight for--that's the main thing. [quietly
182 to LEXI] Lexi, did I get a package today?

183 LEXI [innocently]: No. Nothing.

184 NOLAND: Hmm. Anway, to have a real home like this!
185 [Blows out air thru lips] After the cramped apartment we
186 lived in for so long--we can actually have guests over--
187 more than one at a time--it's amazing!

188 DEAN [patronizing]: Of course.

189 NOLAND: To be able to get good cheese and meat--and
190 no more cheap beer! Did you try some of Lexi's barbeque?

191 DEAN: No, I--

192 LEXI: It was offered--but it's late and her stomach--

193 NOLAND: Did you see Lexi's new kitchen do-hicki?
194 Pretty sweet, eh?

195 LEXI: He pretends it was gift to me but suddenly he no
196 longer has to chop veggies!

197 DEAN: Looks expensive.

198 NOLAND: Well, I can afford it now! I'm told I earn
199 almost as much as we spend. [laughs] Heck, a tenured
200 prof must maintain a certain lifestyle! Why, a plain ol'
201 government bureaucrat spends more than I do!

202 DEAN [smiles]: Is that true, sister?

203 LEXI [seeding doubt for fun]: Well...

204 NOLAND: But I don't waste a single dime at the lab,
205 I'll have you know! Every paperclip is accounted for.
206 But I can't seem to deny myself the pleasure of
207 entertaining my friends. I need it, you see. I lived
208 so long without it--with my nose to the grindstone, that
209 it's become a necessity to mix with bright young minds--
210 open and active minds--and that's what those two
211 enjoying their food are over there.

212 DEAN: Halsey told me she's going to run another
213 piece of yours?

214 NOLAND: A piece of mine?

215 DEAN: Yes--on Justice and Policing.

216 NOLAND: Oh, that one. No, that one's not quite ready at
217 the moment.

218 DEAN: Not ready? Why not? I'd have figured--coming on
219 the heels of George Floyd and all the unrest--and the
220 growing feeling in the larger community--one would think
221 now would be the perfect time.

222 NOLAND: I'm not sure.

223 DEAN: About the timing?

224 NOLAND: About my conclusions.

225 DEAN [after a brief pause]: And those are?

226 NOLAND: To tell you the truth, I don't know yet.
227 I'm still quantifying data. It's possible the data will
228 back my initial thesis--I hope so--but, at this point,
229 I just don't know.

230 DEAN: That sounds mysterious. Is there something going
231 on I don't know about? I would've thought that
232 I, as your Dean--

233 NOLAND: And I would've thought that, as a tenured
234 research professor-- Oh, come on, Cloudine--let's not
235 do this--not here.

236 DEAN: I don't know what you mean. I do know that
237 research, like any academic pursuit, needs to be
238 conducted in a businesslike manner. Through the
239 proper channels. There can be no going behind anyone's
240 back, Noland.

241 NOLAND [ceding]: Of course not.

242 LEXI [changing the subject]: Now--who would like some
243 ice cream, huh? I've got Madagascar Vanilla and
244 Coffee Toffee.

245 DEAN: Is it A2? A2 dairy doesn't upset my--

246 LEXI [short]: No, sorry, it's not. Anyone else?

247 BROOKS: I will!

248 HALSEY: Sure. A bit of the vanilla.

249 DEAN [not dropping it]: You have a tendency, Noland,
250 to go your own way. An endowed professor should
251 always be mindful of those he serves--especially
252 those entrusted with the welfare of the college and the

253 well-being of the college community. [Pause]
254 Yes--well... Good night all. It's late. Thank you for
255 the tea, sister.

256 LEXI: Good night, Cloudine. [Pause then footsteps and
257 entryway door open/close, followed by front door
258 open/close; whispers to Noland) Is she gone?

259 NOLAND: Uh-huh.

260 LEXI: She was in such a bad mood. What've you been
261 saying to her?

262 NOLAND: Nothing. [Brief pause] Anyway, she can't
263 force me to report to her about every detail of my
264 research--that's not what a tenured research professor
265 does!

266 LEXI: What do you have to report to her about?

267 NOLAND [waves it off]: Ah--don't worry--it'll sort
268 itself out.

269 LEXI: I hope so.

270 NOLAND [Brief pause]: You sure that package didn't
271 come, huh?

272 BROOKS [pats her belly and groans with pleasure--manly]:
273 I feel like a new woman after a meal like that.

274 HALSEY [good-natured teasing]: Just a bigger one.

275 BROOKS: Yeah? Well, it's better than eatin' like a bird
276 --and lookin' like a scarecrow.

277 HALSEY: Well--she wasn't in a very good mood tonight,
278 the Dean--was she?

279 NOLAND: It's her stomach--bad digestion.

280 HALSEY: I think it was us two she couldn't digest.

281 LEXI: I think you came out of it pretty well.

282 HALSEY: That? Oh that was sort of a...a truce.

283 BROOKS: A what?

284 HALSEY: A stand-off.

285 NOLAND: You have to remember my wife's sister is a
286 lonely woman.

287 LEXI: Noland!

288 NOLAND: What I mean is: no home life--you know--married
289 to the college... [attempting to wriggle out with humor]
290 And all that herbal tea--yikes! Now then--park it over
291 here you two. Lexi's got ice cream for us!

292 LEXI: I do. [Sound of bowls being placed down]
293 Help yourselves.

294 NOLAND: Madagascar--I haven't tried this one.

295 BROOKS: Like the movie!

296 HALSEY: Coffee an' Toffee...hmm.

297 NOLAND: Join us, Bill. Grab a bowl.

298 FORESTER: No thanks. [Sits.]

299 NOLAND: I want to hear about New York City. When do you
300 go back?

301 FORESTER: Next week.

302 NOLAND: Do you miss it? The city?

303 FORESTER: Not yet. But I'm sure I will soon.

304 NOLAND: People are pretty riled up about the
305 election for mayor there--aren't they?

306 FORESTER: I try to steer clear of those things.

307 NOLAND [teasing]: What--you don't take an
308 interest in public affairs?

309 FORESTER [with innuendo] Affairs, yes. The public--no.
310 [with a smile] Actually financial affairs are
311 enough for me. By the way: my offer still stands of a
312 job with us. We'd love to leverage that big egg of yours
313 in the markets.

314 NOLAND: No, I'm too happy here. And the running
315 terrain's better here too!

316 FORESTER: That's true--but there is Central Park?

317 NOLAND [he's got you]: Well--even if you're not
318 involved in politics, you still vote, don't you?

319 FORESTER: No comment.

320 HALSEY: He just said he doesn't follow what's going on.

321 FORESTER: I didn't say that.

322 HALSEY: But it's your community--shouldn't you be
323 wulling to hulp?

324 FORESTER: I'm a bit older than you--sometimes the best
325 help is to do nothing. Anyway, the markets are the best
326 help there is!

327 NOLAND: It's amazing how little market-men care about
328 anything except the markets!

329 FORESTER: You should try it sometime--you might even be
330 happier! Anyway, I gotta go finish my run--so long,
331 everyone--thanks for the good grub, Lexi--think about
332 it, Noland!

333 BROOKS [after a pause]: This ice cream's sick!

334 LEXI: What?!

335 HALSEY: She means it's dope. [translating] Good.

336 LEXI [laughs]: Why didn't you just say so!

337 HALSEY: By the way, Professor, I'm counting on your
338 Justice in Policing piece--for our next issue.

339 NOLAND: Oh, that one. I told you to hold it.

340 HALSEY: I've held it! But I need something serious for
341 this issue and--well, I'm thinking, like the Dean said:
342 it could be the right moment.

343 NOLAND: You may be right. But you'll have to wait
344 all the same. I'll let you know.

345 [Door opens. Footsteps.].

346 PATIENCE [friendly]: He-llo.

347 NOLAND: You know my nice, Patience--

348 BROOKS [awkwardly forward]: Brooks! He-llo!

349 PATIENCE [chuckles]:

350 HALSEY: Halsey--

351 PATIENCE: Hi.

352 NOLAND: Patience is a teacher trainee at the
353 grade school on campus. Halsey--with help from Brooks--
354 eds the student paper--

355 HALSEY: "The Greyfield".

356 PATIENCE: Sure, I've read some of your pieces--
357 they're good.

358 HALSEY: Oh. Thank you.

359 BROOKS [coming on too strong]: I'm assistant editor!

360 PATIENCE [a tad embarrassed]: Yes.

361 NOLAND: Come and join us for ice cream.

362 BROOKS [awkwardly forward]: Can I get you a bowl?

363 PATIENCE [chuckles with embarrassment]: Thanks but...
364 I'll do it myself. I like a certain amount of each.
365 [Sounds of ice cream scooped into bowl] By the way,
366 Uncle, there was a package for you outside. I brought it
367 in and left it for you near the door.

368 NOLAND [very pleased]: Oh, that's perfect! Thanks.
369 [Rises. Footsteps.] Well, let's see... [Door opens.
370 Footsteps. Package picked up. Footsteps.]

371 LEXI: Is that the one you've been waiting for.

372 NOLAND: It is. [Pause] Excuse me, but I think I'll take
373 it to my office and--

374 [Footsteps. Door Open/Close.]

375 PATIENCE: What do you think it is, Auntie?

376 LEXI: I dunno. For the last few days he's been
377 asking about it.

378 HALSEY: Must be something important.

379 LEXI: He's been working very hard on something.

380 PATIENCE: There--my ice cream mix is perfection!

381 BROOKS: Did you teach today?

382 PATIENCE: Student teaching--for four hours!

383 BROOKS: Then at school the rest of the time?

384 PATIENCE [embarrassment and exhaustion in voice]: Yes.

385 LEXI: And papers to correct tonite, yeah?

386 PATIENCE: A whole stack of 'em.

387 BROOKS: I bet!

388 PATIENCE: But it's also good--because afterwards I'm so
389 wonderfully tired--

390 BROOKS: Are you?

391 PATIENCE: --and I sleep so well. [Brief pause] Today I
392 asked a seven-year old boy what he wanted to be when he
393 grew up and he said a Viking. A Viking? I said. You'd
394 have to be a pagan, then. A pagan, he said, what's that?

395 BROOKS [in a whisper to Halsey]: What is that?

396 HALSEY: An unbeliever.

397 PATIENCE: All I could say was we don't get into that
398 for another three whole grades!

399 HALSEY: At least you told 'im the truth.

400 LEXI: I'm not sure that's the point.

401 BROOKS: I'm a pagan and I'm proud of it! Someday we'll
402 all be pagans!

403 HALSEY: But then who'll conduct mass in the
404 Greyfield chapel?

405 PATIENCE: You think it's bad for a boy to be
406 told such a thing?

407 LEXI: Of course not.

408 PATIENCE: We're fed so many lies--both at home and at
409 school.

410 LEXI [mock hurt]: What lies do I tell?

411 PATIENCE: We're just forced to teach all kinds o' things
412 we don't believe in.

413 HALSEY: That's true.

414 PATIENCE: I wish I could start a school of my own.
415 It'd be very different, believe me!

416 LEXI: Ha!

417 BROOKS: I believe you! I'd be happy to supply you with a
418 school house. The old house my father left me stands
419 empy and there's a great big room downstairs--

420 PATIENCE [laughs]: Thanks but I'll think I'll stick
421 with the program I'm in.

422 HALSEY: I'd have figured you for journalism more than
423 teaching.

424 LEXI: Have you had any time to work on that story
425 you were telling me and your uncle about?

426 PATIENCE: Not really.

427 HALSEY: A story?

428 BROOKS: We could run it in "The Greyfield".

429 LEXI: It sounded good when you told it to us.

430 PATIENCE: I don't know. Maybe someday.

431 HALSEY: I'm going to hold you to that.

432 BROOKS: Me, too!

433 [Interior door opens/closes. Footsteps.]

434 NOLAND: Well, now the campus will have something to
435 talk about--let me tell you!

436 LEXI: What is it?

437 HALSEY: Something new?

438 NOLAND: Something surprising.

439 LEXI: Surprising how?

440 NOLAND: Well...let's just say: a surprising finding.

441 HALSEY: A finding of yours?

442 NOLAND: It's...not what I expected.

443 PATIENCE: Tell us what it is!

444 NOLAND: I will. Only give me time. I wish I had
445 Cloudine here. Actually, maybe not. Anway, it just
446 goes to show how we form judgments--when in reality
447 we're as blind as moles--

448 HALSEY: What are you getting at, Professor?

449 NOLAND: Well, isn't it assumed--at least in
450 liberal circles--that police shoot Blacks at a
451 higher rate than Whites?

452 HALSEY: Of course.

453 BROOKS: Everybody knows that.

NOLAND: And, in fact, wasn't this very assumption of bias behind much of the recent outrage at the death of George Floyd? Outrage that spawned riots across the country--causing significant damage to property, police stations, government buildings, ecetera, ecetera?

HALSEY: Yes, but--that damage was necessary.

BROOKS: Absolutely necessary!

NOLAND: Yes, and we've been endorsing it and praising it--Hell, I've written and written, both in "The Greyfield" and on Twitter--

HALSEY: Yes? So what, then?

NOLAND: George Floyd--we've made him out to be a hero--we've anointed him--Saint George, the Innocent Martyr--killed for being Black--

HALSEY: He represented all of our people killed by cops.

NOLAND: That's right! "They Choked Us Too"--wasn't it?.

HALSEY [pleased with herself]: I wrote that.

BROOKS: She did!

NOLAND: Well, do you know what the assumption behind that headline of yours actually is? It's that cops shoot Blacks more often because they're biased against Blacks. Biased against means that you favor non-Blacks. That's the truth we assumed--and our understandable response to that assumed truth is what's caused so much destruction and divided so many of us as this country went up in flames this past summer.

HALSEY: Okay--what is it?

LEXI: Yes, sweetie--tell us!

NOLAND: It turns out...that that assumption...was false.

HALSEY: What?

NOLAND: It turns out...we torched our cities--we proclaimed the innocence of our martyr--we demanded the hide of the racist cop who appeared on video to choke the life out of our hero--and then the court--and the jury--and the medical examiner--and most of polite society--quietly went along. And the whole thing was built on a single assumption: that cops shoot Blacks

at a higher rate than non-Blacks. And it turns out that that assumption was not true.

HALSEY: But, Professor--

NOLAND: I've had the US government data of all police shootings for the period of my study independently audited by a third party. This third-party wasn't privy to what the research was about or what the categories signified. Their report--which I just received--shows unequivocally that police were statistically less likely to shoot Blacks than non-Blacks during the period of my study.

LEXI: Are you sure?

NOLAND: It's raw government data--it doesn't lie--you can't spin it. I had it third-party audited because I didn't want any bias whatsoever to be seen to have had a hand in my conclusion. When you adjust for a higher incidence of police contact with Blacks, the data clearly shows that police were statistically slightly less likely to shoot Blacks than non-Blacks. Two points less likely to be precise. One can guess why this is so. The media's persistent condemnation of cops who've shot Blacks--Oscar Grant in Oakland for example--killed by a rookie cop with a new baby who mistook his gun for his taser--hardly someone likely to be hunting for Blacks.

LEXI: So that's what you've been so busy with.

NOLAND: Yes. But I needed the audit of the raw data. I couldn't do it online because I didn't want the auditing firm to know it was sent from my lab here. So I had an old friend send it snail-mail from his home address. Then he forwarded me the results.

PATIENCE: Did the government have any idea the kind of data they were giving you?

NOLAND: Obviously not--it's a Democrat administration, as you know.

LEXI [blows out air between her lips]:

HALSEY: What're you going to do now, Professor?

NOLAND: Publish it--of course.

BROOKS: They'll let you do that?

NOLAND: I have to. Or I'll lose credibility as a researcher and economist--much less a tenured professor.

LEXI: But why've you kept all this so secret?

NOLAND: I wasn't sure of the outcome. I had to be sure. In fact, when I began this study, I assumed I'd find corroboration of the reverse--that cops did shoot Blacks at a higher rate. And as you know, around here I'd be celebrated with that conclusion.

LEXI: Still, you might've told me.

NOLAND: I couldn't tell anyone. But now you can tell your sister--and your sister can tell your father. As one of Greyfield's biggest donors, I'm sure the old man will be astonished--and alarmed. I know he thinks I was too young for tenure--he argued against it --and now he'll feel both vindicated--and concerned. There'll be a very nice upset on campus!

LEXI: A nice upset?!

NOLAND: Yes--accepted falsehoods are always defended fiercely by institutions. But they're just as always corrosive to the very institutions who promote them--usually tirelessly. Only the truth is cleansing. I hope your sister and your father can understand that.

PATIENCE: So you were right about George Floyd.

NOLAND: Patience remembers that when the case blew up, I questioned whether the cop who applied the choke hold had done it with the intent to harm him--and not just to keep the man from harming himself. There was evidence, you see, that the hold he applied to Floyd's neck was taught at the police academy--and the video clearly showed officers asking Floyd many times if he was on drugs, which he just-as-many-times denied. But facts weren't relevant at that point. It was all about police bias--malice actually--a perception fueled by an assumption.

HALSEY: But that bias was longstanding.

NOLAND: Was it? We progressives wanted to believe it, that's for sure!

PATIENCE: What do you think Aunt Cloudine will say, Uncle?

NOLAND: What can she say? She as much as installed me here--as an important economist and researcher. She'll have no option but to back me on principle. Hopefully, in time, she'll be glad an important truth was brought to light.

HALSEY: Would you mind if I print a short note about this in "The Greyfield"?

NOLAND: Hmm--I don't know, Halsey.

HALSEY: Don't you think the community has a right to information as it breaks?

NOLAND: I guess so. [Pause] Lemme think about it.

BROOKS: Well, Professor--you're going to be the most talked about person on campus!

NOLAND [sardonically]: Great...

BROOKS: Halsey--don't you think "The Greyfield should give Professor Hyer some kind of award?

HALSEY: I think that's a bit premature, Brooks.

BROOKS: Don't worry--I'll talk to Professor Ackerman about it!

NOLAND: Now let's not make too much of this right now--before the study's been published. Once it's published, we can field queries from the wider media.

PATIENCE: I hereby raise my bowl of Vanilla & Coffee ice cream to your scientific integrity, Uncle.

HALSEY: To your integrity, Professor!

BROOKS: To your integrity!

PATIENCE: Here's hoping it brings you nothing but good luck!

NOLAND: Thank you, good friends--and family. I actually feel very happy. It's a wonderful thing to feel one has done one's duty to the truth--and to his fellow researchers--and his students--and his loved ones--isn't that right, Lexi?

LEXI What? Oh... [unable to mask her uncertainty]...yes.

[Musical Interlude]

604 NARRATOR: The next day, at the Hyer bungalow,
605 Lexi enters thru the front door and makes her way
606 down the hallway to the closed door of her
607 husband's office.

608 LEXI: Noland, are you there?

609 NOLAND: Yeah--come in. [Door open and footsteps.]

610 LEXI: Well--I saw my sister.

611 NOLAND: And? What did she say?

612 LEXI: Not much actually.

613 NOLAND: You told her about the study?

614 LEXI: Yeah. She said she'd be coming over here to
615 talk to you.

616 NOLAND: Okay. Well, I'm here.

617 LEXI: I'm nervous about how she'll take it.

618 NOLAND: How did she take it when you told her?

619 LEXI: She wasn't thrilled, that's for sure. But she's
620 hard to read when she's threatened.

621 NOLAND: She seemed--threatened?

622 LEXI: Well--you know her. You're not anxious about her
623 reaction?

624 NOLAND: Of course I am. But--again--what can I do?
625 What can she do?

626 LEXI: I think you should be...good-natured about it an'
627 --share the credit with her.

628 NOLAND: Share the credit? She won't want to--believe me!
629 She'll hate my conclusion. She won't be able to
630 raise money on it. She'll pressure me not to publish it.

631 [Knock on door]

632 LEXI: Come in!

633 [Door opens]

634 NARRATOR: MARTIN BAY, an earthy, hardscrabble Black man
635 near eighty, pokes his head around the door.

636 MARTIN [chuckles]: Is it...is it true?

637 LEXI: Daddy!

638 NOLAND: Good morning, Mr. Bay.

639 LEXI: Come in! [beat] Come in!

640 MARTIN: I'll come in if it's true. If it's not,
641 I won't.

642 LEXI: If what's true?

643 MARTIN: This business about cops not bein' prejudice
644 'gainst Blacks.

645 NOLAND: Yes, that's true. How'd you hear it?

646 MARTIN: Ran into your niece on 'er way to school.

647 NOLAND: I see.

648 MARTIN: Thought she was makin' a fool o' me. But that
649 isn't like 'er.

650 NOLAND: No, it's not.

651 MARTIN: It's better not to trust nobody. You may find
652 you've been made a fool o' before ya know it. So it's
653 true, what she said?

654 NOLAND: According to an independent audit of the
655 government data--yes.[Pause] Won't you sit down?
656 [He sits] There'll be a nice upset on campus,
657 won't there?

658 MARTIN [laughs]: A "nice upset"?!

659 NOLAND: A correction needed to be made. The integrity of
660 science--you understand.

661 MARTIN: I'm not a man with learnin' like you, Nolan'.
662 The six grade is all I got ta. Well...I shouldn'ta
663 thought you was the sort to pull your niece's
664 leg like that.

665 LEXI [good-naturedly]: Daddy!

666 MARTIN: That's the damnedest story I ever heard.

667 NOLAND: What do you mean?

668 MARTIN: Why you're the O-bama Professor of Economics and
669 Justice, aren't ya? Everything that fancy lab o' yours
670 studies has something to do with race.

671 NOLAND: That's true.

672 MARTIN: Did ya tell Cloudine?

673 LEXI: I did. She's on her way here.

674 MARTIN: You'll never get Cloudine to go along with dis.

675 NOLAND: We'll see.

676 MARTIN: Ya think she'd be fool enough to--? Do ya?

677 NOLAND: I hope the whole campus'll be fool enough.

678 MARTIN: The whole campus! Well, maybe it wouldn't be

679 such a fool idea after all. It'd serve 'em right--

680 teach 'em a lesson. They think they're so much more

681 clever than us old-timers. They hounded me off o' the

682 board, they did! Hounded me out! Now they're gonna pay!

683 You pull their legs, Nolan'--

684 NOLAND: Really, I--

685 MARTIN: You pull their legs!

686 NOLAND: Mr. Bay--

687 MARTIN: If you can work it so Cloudine and those big

688 friends o' hers on de board all swalla the same bait,

689 I'll give ten-thousan' to a charity--jus' like dat!

690 [finger-snap]

691 NOLAND: That's very kind of you but--

692 [Door Knock.]

693 LEXI: Come in!

694 [Door Opens.]

695 HALSEY: Oh, I'm sorry.

696 MARTIN (chuckle): Is zis one in on it too?

697 HALSEY [innocently]: In on what?

698 MARTIN: She's the editor, ain't she? Yer puttin' it inta

699 the paper--I mighta known! Ya sure know how to work it,

700 Nolan'! You put that great big brain o' yours to work--

701 I can't wait! Now I have to go. You keep this game up

702 for all it's worth--you won't regret it! You surely

703 won't!

704 NARRATOR: Martin exits the room and Lexi follows him.

705 NOLAND [laughing]: Imagine--the old man doesn't believe

706 a word o' this!

707 HALSEY: Oh, that's what that was!

718 NOLAND: The same thing that brought you here, am I
709 right?

710 HALSEY: Can you spare a few minutes, Professor?

711 NOLAND: Of course.

712 HALSEY: Have you heard from the Dean?

713 NOLAND: Not yet. She's supposed to be on her
714 way over here.

715 HALSEY [clears throat]: I've given this matter some
716 thought--since last night.

717 NOLAND: And?

718 HALSEY: Well...from your point of view--as a professor
719 and a scientist--this affair is simply a correction--
720 a correction of an accepted societal falsehood. But
721 perhaps you don't realize, Professor, that this matter
722 involves a number of other things.

723 NOLAND: How so? [Brief pause] Please--sit. [She sits].
724 Now then--you were saying--

725 HALSEY: Well, yesterday you said that the disparity in
726 police shootings between Blacks and non-Blacks might
727 have been influenced by the media's portrayal of
728 cops who've killed Blacks.

729 NOLAND: Mostly white cops--but yeah--that was just a
730 guess--it won't feature in my completed study
731 --the chief finding of which will be that police shoot
732 Blacks statistically less frequently than non-Blacks.
733 But this was the accepted falsehood that set the
734 George Floyd riots in motion.

735 HALSEY: I beg your pardon, Professor, but I believe the
736 real falsehood that has shaped the considerable
737 resentment among our race is what our entire campus was
738 built on and what it's rotting on.

739 NOLAND: What are you getting at, Halsey?

740 HALSEY: This campus was literally built and maintained
741 by our people's fathers and grandfathers and
742 great grandfathers but our interests have, little by
743 little, been eroded by a pack of elites.

744 NOLAND: Oh, come on now! Am I one these elites? Is the
745 Dean, too?

746 HALSEY: Not you or her specifically--but many of the
747 donors--

748 NOLAND: Are you kidding me? Old Mr. Bay there? Who was
749 just here talkin' about his sixth-grade education? That
750 wealthy old Black man is about as far from an elite as
751 you can get. And guess what? His concrete money--which
752 he made from nothing--is what subsidizes many students
753 on this campus--you know that.

754 HALSEY: I'm not talkin' about him--but the elites who
755 built this campus with the sweat of our people who
756 weren't allowed to study here?

757 NOLAND: But that's largely been set right--you and
758 Brooks are here, aren't you? Aren't you both on
759 scholarship?

760 HALSEY: So you think it's all smooth sailing now?

761 NOLAND: Smooth sailing--or no--it's not the
762 college it was a hundred-and-fifty years ago.
763 It's not even the college of fifteen years ago!

764 HALSEY: With all due respect, Professor, it could be a
765 college you won't like if the press doesn't get
766 behind you on this.

767 NOLAND [disappointed]: Halsey, Halsey...I think the Dean
768 will support me on this. And then so will you.

769 HALSEY: Personally, I'd be hesitant to bring the
770 Dean into this. But only because she's your wife's
771 sister. Though I agree that truth should be the
772 first consideration.

773 NOLAND: That goes without saying. [with sudden emphasis]
774 But--but--

775 HALSEY: As you know, my father was a janitor here.
776 That's given me the opportunity to know what folks like
777 him deserved--but didn't get.

778 NOLAND: And what was that?

779 HALSEY: He should been allowed some part in the
780 management of public affairs. He should have been
781 allowed to develop his capacities and intelligence and
782 self-respect--

783 NOLAND: But he developed you. And you're developing your
784 capacities in a way that perhaps he wasn't capable of.

There were men--and women--of color--his age--who couldn't be denied an education--however difficult it was for them--and it was difficult. Should your father really have been consulted about public affairs when it's cleaning he was expert in?

HALSEY: In my opinion, Professor, a journalist has a responsibility to free the masses--the humble and the oppressed.

NOLAND: A journalist has a responsibility to all citizens, Halsey. Who is truly humble and who is oppressed is a matter of one's point-of-view. And of one's wisdom.

HALSEY: I know you probably think I'm an activist--and you have a right to think what you want, of course, but --as long as my conscience doesn't give me any trouble well--

[There's a knock at the door.]

NOLAND [friendly]: Come in! [Door opens.]

NARRATOR: Professor Ackerman, a short, British female around fifty, sticks her head from behind the door.

ACKERMAN: Excuse me for just barging in, Professor.

NOLAND: Not at all.

HALSEY: Is it me you want to see, Professor?

ACKERMAN: No, I didn't know I'd find you here, Halsey--it was Professor Hyer I came to see.

NOLAND [courtly]: An' I am "at your service."

ACKERMAN: Is it true what I heard from my student Brooks that you shall soon publish a controversial finding about police shootings of African-Americans.

NOLAND: That's right.

ACKERMAN: I see. Well, I've come to tell you that I shall back you up with every means in my power.

HALSEY: Ya see!

NOLAND: Well, I'm grateful but--

ACKERMAN: Having "The Greyfield" on your side--I'm the advisor, you know--well, that's no small thing! We form a kind of community majority on campus--if we choose.

822 And it's always a good thing to have the majority with
823 you, Professor!

824 NOLAND: I'm sure that's true but--I just don't see
825 why it's necessary in this case--it seems so plain
826 and simple.

827 ACKERMAN: Oh, believe me, I know our local community so
828 well--which is why I think it would not be at all amiss
829 if I organized a little...demonstration meeting.

830 HALSEY: That's right!

831 NOLAND: Demonstration meeting? What for?

832 ACKERMAN: I would proceed with the greatest moderation,
833 Professor. Moderation's my number one aim, ya see! It's
834 the greatest virtue in any instructor, don't you think?

835 NOLAND: It's a well-known characteristic of yours,
836 Professor.

837 ACKERMAN: Yes, I pride myself on that. And this matter
838 of police bias is of the greatest importance to our
839 campus community. Of course, in the matter of academic
840 integrity, a faculty member must side with a fellow
841 colleague, especially one as esteemed as yourself.
842 And as I am at present the Chairman of the
843 faculty committee...

844 NOLAND [slightly impatient]: Yes?

845 ACKERMAN: Well, you can understand I come into contact
846 with a great many people on campus. And as I have the
847 reputation of being a moderate faculty member, I have a
848 certain influence, as it were, a little bit of power,
849 if I may say--

850 NOLAND [tiring]: Of course.

851 ACKERMAN: And it would also be rather a simple matter
852 for me to place in the paper a-- [clears throat]
853 --testimonial.

854 NOLAND [genuinely puzzled]: A testimonial?

855 ACKERMAN: A kind of thank you from the community for
856 your part in correcting an innocent error. I scarcely
857 need to say it would have to be drawn up with the
858 greatest regard for moderation, so as not to offend the
859 administration of the college--who, after all, do have
860 the reins in their hands! That said, as long as we pay

861 strict attention to moderation, no one should take
862 things amiss--I should think!

863 HALSEY: Even if they don't like it--

864 ACKERMAN: No, no, no--there must be no discourtesy to
865 those in authority, Halsey. It would be of no use
866 falling afoul of those upon whom our welfare so
867 closely depends--I have done that in my time, and no
868 good ever came of it--but no one can take exception to a
869 reasonable and frank expression of a faculty member's
870 views.

871 NOLAND: That's kind of you, Professor, really, but I
872 don't understand the need for a demonstration--or a
873 meeting. It seems to me that the published study should
874 speak for itself.

875 ACKERMAN: Dear Professor, there are times when members
876 of the community need to be encouraged what to believe.
877 Far from it from me to appear to blame them for that.

878 HALSEY: We're gonna stir 'em up in "The Greyfield"
879 tomorrow, huh--Professor!

880 ACKERMAN: But not violently, I trust, Halsey--not
881 violently. Proceed with moderation, or you shall do
882 nothing with them! [Brief pause] Well! It's time I said
883 goodbye, Professor. You now know we fellow faculty
884 members have your back, like a brick wall! Covered with
885 ivy, of course. [Clears throat]. Know that you have the
886 campus majority on your side, Professor! [Brief pause]
887 Going my way, Halsey--towards the office of the paper?

888 HALSEY: I'm sorry but I have something to discuss with
889 the Professor.

890 ACKERMAN [covering her displeasure]: Very well.

891 [Footsteps. Door opens/closes.]

892 HALSEY: Well, what do you think of that, Professor?
893 Don't you think it's about time we stirred a little life
894 into this campus?

895 NOLAND: You mean with Professor Ackerman?

896 HALSEY: Her? Heck, no--she's so afraid--and so moderate
897 --she won't do a thing.

898 NOLAND: You're right.

899 HALSEY: But I can. And that's why I want to seize this
900 opportunity, and put a jolt into this community for
901 once. The worship of campus elites must be shattered.
902 The responsibility for this embarrassing and damaging
903 falsehood must be placed firmly at the feet of these
904 campus elites. I'll start preparing a lead article.

905 NOLAND: Now wait a minute! I'm not necessarily in
906 agreement with that. And anyway I need to speak to the
907 Dean first.

908 HALSEY: Don't worry, Professor, I've got you covered--
909 I've got your back. [Footsteps. Door opens.] Oh, hello,
910 Mrs. Hyer. [Door closes]

911 LEXI: My sister hasn't been here?

912 NOLAND: No, not yet. I had a talk with Halsey and that
913 faculty advisor of hers, Ackerman. That ridiculous woman
914 said I have the campus majority behind me.

915 LEXI [not sure]: Is that a good thing?

916 [Knock on door. Door opens.]

917 DEAN: Am I interrupting?

918 NOLAND: Not at all. Have a seat.

919 DEAN: No thanks. [Brief pause] Lexi told me about the
920 government data you found and the conclusion you
921 intend to draw from it.

922 NOLAND: Yes.

923 LEXI [after an uncomfortable pause]: I just remembered
924 I left something on in the kitchen!

925 [Footsteps. Door open/close.]

926 DEAN: Was it necessary to conduct this research behind
927 my back?

928 NOLAND: I didn't want to involve you until I was certain
929 what the data indicated.

930 DEAN: Don't you mean what you concluded from the data?
931 Those are not the same thing.

932 NOLAND: They can be. If one's doing the science the
933 right way.

934 DEAN: So you're absolutely sure?

NOLAND: I sent away for a third-party audit of the data.
So there'd be no question as to its validity.

DEAN: And it's your intention to publish this study
--with this conclusion--at Greyfield?

NOLAND: Of course. As you know, I'm ethically obligated
to follow the data and share my official finding with
the wider research community.

DEAN [she doesn't]: I understand.

NOLAND: Can you see another way out? I can't.

DEAN: Have you considered the damage this conclusion of
yours might do to this college--to the wider Black
community and to our allies around the country?

NOLAND: I never expected--nor wished--that the data
would support this conclusion--but it clearly does.
As it is, truth in research is more important than
any expectation or wish of mine--or any political
considerations, for that matter.

DEAN: Then there's no way you could postpone the
publishing of this study? Until such a time that the
college and the wider Black community was more prepared
for such a contentious and destructive conclusion of
this kind?

NOLAND: You know that's not how these things work.
I could simply not submit the study for publication--
that would be an option. But that could damage my
professional reputation and I'm not prepared to risk
doing that.

DEAN: So you feel compelled to do this--at this
juncture? Just when the Center of which you're the star
is gaining attention for Greyfield as a beacon of
equality and economic justice?

NOLAND: You know me well enough to know I didn't do this
on purpose to derail the Center. But if the Center can't
thrive alongside the pursuit of scientific truth then,
well... maybe it shouldn't thrive at all!

DEAN: Noland, the death of George Floyd made anti-Black
bias by police an established fact in the minds of the
public. Why should the Center--whose entire purpose
is to aid marginalized groups--suffer because of a

two percentage point difference in a study done by its star? Noland, two points is an accounting error!

NOLAND: An "accounting error"?!

DEAN: Very near it. [Brief pause] Can you stand here and tell me you'd be threatening to publish this study if I hadn't stuck out my neck for you and made you the youngest tenured Black professor in the country--that you'd publish this if you didn't have tenure?

NOLAND: Do I really have to explain tenure to you? No case better illustrates why professors--especially research professors--need tenure.

DEAN: Yes, well I'm not convinced that the cost is worth it.

NOLAND: What's that supposed to mean?

DEAN: What would the real cost be to you to not publish this study? There might be whispering among your colleagues, yes--but you'd still have tenure and still be in charge of the wonderful Center with the Lab we built for you.

NOLAND: Sure but--

DEAN: When I guard my reputation, it's in the interest of the community I serve. Without moral authority in the community, I'm powerless to direct public affairs for the common good. For that reason--and that reason alone--I must insist that this study of yours not be submitted for publication. In the interests of this community and the wider African-American community, you must withhold it. Then, later on, you may raise the question, quietly, and we'll do our best--privately. But nothing of this unfortunate study--not a single word of it--must reach the ears of the public with Greyfield's name on it!

NOLAND: Okay--I'll publish it under my own name--personally.

DEAN: You think that'll happen?

NOLAND: Why not?

DEAN: I have powerful friends, Noland.

NOLAND: There are too many people who know about it.

1011 DEAN: Who? You don't mean those two young dykes
1012 on "The Greyfield", do you? Or that idiot who advises
1013 them and who answers to me?

1014 NOLAND: I could just publish it myself on Twitter.

1015 DEAN: Like I said: I have powerful friends.

1016 NOLAND: Or I could publish it in Quillette or on
1017 Substack.

1018 DEAN: You could. But that would be the act of an
1019 incredibly independent man. Are you such a man? It seems
1020 to me that you and my sister are enjoying all of the
1021 perks that come along with being an exalted professor of
1022 an elite institution. Are you ready to give up your
1023 lovely home--to move back into a cramped apartment
1024 without any furniture--and go back to drinking Black
1025 Label beer? Have you given any thought to the
1026 consequences that may ensue for Lexi?

1027 NOLAND: Consequences? Like what?

1028 DEAN: There are always consequences to one's actions,
1029 Noland. As a new found conservative, you can surely
1030 appreciate that.

1031 NOLAND: What the hell do you mean?

1032 DEAN: I believe I've always behaved in a sisterly
1033 fashion towards you--haven't I always done what I
1034 could to help you?

1035 NOLAND: Of course you have. You've done more than help--
1036 and I'm grateful.

1037 DEAN: Actually, I didn't do it for your sake at all.
1038 I did it for my own. You were a diamond in the rough,
1039 Noland--and once I created a setting for you, those
1040 carats of yours reflected onto me. Of course, the
1041 bonus was that, if I improved my sister's financial
1042 situation, I'd have more power over her, which you can
1043 guess I've wanted for a long time.

1044 NOLAND: So it was for your own sake!

1045 DEAN: Oh, I enjoyed having power over you, too. But
1046 you're not so easy to control. You have a restless,
1047 pugnacious, rebellious disposition. Then there's that
1048 awful propensity of yours to need to write about every
1049 possible--and impossible--thing on Twitter. The moment

1050 an idea pops into your head, you have go and
1051 tweet about it!

1052 NOLAND: Well, isn't it the duty of an academic to share
1053 new ideas with the public.

1054 DEAN: The public doesn't need any new ideas, Noland.
1055 The public is best served by the ideas it already has.
1056 And bias against Blacks by the police is an established
1057 idea.

1058 NOLAND: You call yourself a Dean?

1059 DEAN: Somebody has to talk frankly with you--for once.
1060 I've tried to avoid it--because I know how irritable you
1061 can get when you're challenged. But now I must tell you
1062 the truth. You have no conccept of the harm you do
1063 yourself by your impulsiveness. You complain about the
1064 authorities, you complain about the government--you're
1065 always nitpicking--you insist you've been neglected and
1066 persecuted--but what else can such a difficult man like
1067 you expect?

1068 NOLAND: What's really worth it that isn't difficult?

1069 DEAN: You disregard everything you ought to have
1070 consideration for. You seem to completely forget it's
1071 me you have to thank for your position here.

1072 NOLAND: As if you'll let me forget it!

1073 DEAN: Who else saw what an academic megastar you could
1074 become, huh? How long did I fight almost single-handedly
1075 behind the scenes to support you?

1076 NOLAND: I appreciate it, Cloudine--but my work was
1077 exceptional--I wouldn't have gotten here without it.

1078 DEAN: Let tell you something, Noland: nothing's ever
1079 just based on your work. Your work was just as brilliant
1080 at your tiny school up north. But as soon as the time
1081 was right, I convinced our board to make you an offer.
1082 That was no small doing.

1083 NOLAND: Yes, and now I'm in this...situation. Maybe you
1084 should have left me in my little berg, eh?

1085 DEAN: To my mind, this whole thing comes down to
1086 you seeking another outlet for your combativeness.
1087 You need to pick a fight with your superiors--

1088 an old habit of yours. You can't put up with any
1089 authoruthy over you--especially a women.

1090 NOLAND: Bullshit.

1091 DEAN: You look sideways at anyone who occupies a
1092 superior position--you regard them as a personal enemy,
1093 and then any stick's good enough to beat them with.
1094 But now the interests of the community are at stake--
1095 and, incidentally, my own too. Therefore, I must warn
1096 you, Noland--you've been careless--you've spoken about
1097 this to outsiders, when you ought to have treated it as
1098 confidential--obviously it's impossible to hush it up
1099 now--all sorts of rumours will get around and everybody
1100 with a grudge against us will embellish these rumors--
1101 so you'll need to refute them. Publicly.

1102 NOLAND: How? I don't understand.

1103 DEAN: You'll announce you're dropping the police
1104 shooting study because you don't have faith in the
1105 accuracy of the data given the institutional racism
1106 entrenched in law enforcement and government.

1107 NOLAND [laughs]: So that's what you expect.

1108 DEAN: That's what I expect.

1109 NOLAND: Me--a respected man of sciene--release a
1110 statement that sounds like it came from a
1111 communist party struggle session? Or from the mouth of a
1112 first year social justice lesbian? Would you like
1113 Brooks to read it while I stand next to her?

1114 DEAN: Take my word for it, Noland, I mean what I say--as
1115 deliberatedly and emphatically as possible.

1116 NOLAND: You know, don't you--that any road to my
1117 dismissal, given the tenure you helped get for me,
1118 is not only a difficult one but would open you up to
1119 charges of political bias and nepotism?

1120 DEAN: That would be reverse-nepotism--wouldn't it?

1121 NOLAND [laughs]: O-kay. What do you intend to do?

1122 DEAN: I did a tremendous amount to help you, Noland.
1123 I can do just as much to hurt you. [Brief pause]
1124 What? You don't think so?

1125 NARRATOR: The door flies open to reveal Patience and
1126 Lexi, who've been listening in.

1127 PATIENCE: Uncle, you shouldn't take this!

1128 LEXI: Patience!

1129 DEAN: So you've been listening!

1130 LEXI: You were talking so loud we couldn't help it.

1131 NOLAND [to the Dean]: You were saying, Dean, about how
1132 you could hurt me.

1133 DEAN: I lost my temper. Your stubbornness made me take
1134 that tone with you.

1135 NOLAND: So I'm to lie. Publicly?

1136 DEAN: The college--considers it necessary--that you make
1137 a public statement--as I've assked you for.

1138 NOLAND: And if I don't obey?

1139 DEAN: Then the college shall issue a statement--
1140 to reassure the community.

1141 NOLAND: In that case, I'll make a statement myself--
1142 defending my position. What will you do then?

1143 DEAN: Then I can't be responsible for the response of
1144 the community to your misjudgments--and misdeeds,
1145 Noland.

1146 NOLAND: What misdeeds?

1147 DEAN: I won't go into detail. Suffice it to say that
1148 your inappropriate behavior in the Lab--

1149 NOLAND: What?!

1150 DEAN: --behavior we're in the midst of fully
1151 documenting--is serious enough to warrant a full
1152 investigation by the board. Do you insist upon
1153 refusing to issue a public statement withdrawing your
1154 study as I've asked?

1155 NOLAND: I've told you I--

1156 DEAN: So you won't reconsider? [Brief pause] Lexi?

1157 LEXI: Noland? You're absolutely sure this is something
1158 you should be doing?

1159 NOLAND: Lexi, I don't have a choice.

1160 LEXI: Sweetie--think about it--carefully.

1161 NOLAND: There's nothing to think about. If I do what she
1162 asks, I won't be able to look at myself in the mirror--
1163 I'll no longer be the man you married.

1164 LEXI: The man I married didn't have a draam job--
1165 a beautiful home, a wonderful community of people that
1166 admire him--a wife that loves him. You have it all,
1167 Noland--don't you see? You want to throw that all away
1168 for some random data in some government report nobody'll
1169 ever read? Noland, think about it--THINK!

1170 NOLAND: I have. [Pause] My answer is...NO.

1171 LEXI: NOLAND!

1172 NOLAND [softly but resolutely]: Never.

1173 DEAN [after a long pause]: Well. [Pause] Assuming that's
1174 your final answer--and I can only assume it is--I must
1175 officially ask you for your keys to the Lab--and to the
1176 Center. You are hereby suspended from both--and from all
1177 faculty advisor duties pending an official investigation
1178 from the Greyfield College Board of Trustees.

1179 NOLAND: You utter BITCH!

1180 LEXI: Noland, DON'T!

1181 DEAN: I'll wait another hour, sister, for those keys at
1182 my house--in case you can talk sense into your husband--
1183 make him see what it means for you and for Patience-

1184 PATIENCE: I'm with Uncle!

1185 DEAN: --and for the community all three of you live in.

1186 NOLAND: My family's my business!

1187 LEXI: Noland!

1188 NOLAND: No! It's the duty of every real scientist to
1189 correct--with hard data--any accepted falsehood in the
1190 research--especially one that's caused incredible harm--
1191 and will, if left uncorrected, corrode the very
1192 community she talks so much about. I LOVE this
1193 community!

1194 DEAN: You, who in your blind stubbornness, would destroy
1195 our new Center--an institution that took years to
1196 develop--and now sits at the heart of this community--
1197 enabling the daughters of janitors and housecleaners to
1198 attend this institution!

1199 NOLAND [really hot]: If spreading lies is the price
1200 we have to pay so that janitor's daughters can go here,
1201 then maybe it's better they work and pay their
1202 own way--if they're driven to do so. This is a
1203 university for godsakes! If we're not for truth, what
1204 the fuck ARE we for. [Brings fist down hard on desk.]

1205 DEAN: How dare you get violent!

1206 LEXI: Noland!

1207 PATIENCE: Don't lose your temper, Uncle!

1208 DEAN: I won't put up with violence. You've been warned.
1209 So reflect--on what you owe yourself--and what you
1210 owe your family. Goodbye. (Footsteps. Door open/close)

1211 NOLAND [pacing]: This is insane.

1212 LEXI: You're right--it is.

1213 PATIENCE: I'd like to give Aunt Cloudine a piece of my
1214 mind--

1215 NOLAND: It's my own fault--I ought to have stood up to
1216 her a long time ago! Shown my teeth! Bitten! To hear her
1217 say I don't care about this community! ME! I don't have
1218 to take that--I won't!

1219 LEXI: But, sweetie--my sister has power on her side.

1220 NOLAND: Yes, but--I have right on mine.

1221 LEXI: What's the use of being right if you haven't got
1222 the might?

1223 PATIENCE Oh, Auntie--don't say that!

1224 NOLAND: You think in a free country having right on your
1225 side is meaningless? C'mon, Lexi! I might be throttled
1226 here but I've still got my account on Twitter. People
1227 all around the world follow me there. So I can still
1228 speak freely.

1229 PATIENCE [worried]: They've been banning people on
1230 Twitter, Uncle--you know that. They even banned the
1231 president--and other people, too.

1232 LEXI: My god, Noland, you don't mean to--?

1233 NOLAND: Don't mean to what?

1234 LEXI To set yourself up in opposition to my sister.

1235 NOLAND: For god's sakes, what else do you suggest I do--
1236 if I don't stand up for what's right--stand up for the
1237 truth?

1238 PATIENCE: I was just going to say that.

1239 LEXI: But, sweetie, it won't do you any earthly good--
1240 if they're against you.

1241 NOLAND: Lexi--just give me time--and you'll see--
1242 how I bring the fight to them!

1243 LEXI: If you bring the fight to them, you might
1244 lose your tenure.

1245 NOLAND: I don't think so. But even if I do, I'll have
1246 done my duty to the public--to the community! ME--ME--
1247 they call me the enemy!

1248 LEXI: But what about us, Noland? Patience and me--
1249 the roof over our heads--your livelihood? Don't you
1250 think you have a duty to those you provide for?

1251 PATIENCE: Don't always think of us, Auntie.

1252 LEXI: It's easy for you--you have a job now--you can
1253 support yourself. [to Noland] But think of me--

1254 NOLAND: You think if I go down on my knees to your
1255 sister like a miserable coward--I'll be able look you
1256 in the eye as your husband!

1257 LEXI: All I know is that if you go on defying her,
1258 we'll find ourselves broke again--with no real income to
1259 count on. Don't you think we had enough of that in the
1260 old days? Remember, Noland--think what that means!

1261 NOLAND [clenching his fists] This is what slavery brings
1262 to a free, honorable man--isn't it wonderful?!

1263 LEXI: You think I like to say these things? I hate
1264 having to say them. But, for god sakes, one has to put
1265 up with so much injustice in this world--is this
1266 one lousy study really worth the cost to your family?

1267 NOLAND: If the whole world turns to shit, I will never
1268 bow my head to this lie.

1269 [Footsteps. Open Door. Footsteps.]

1270 LEXI: Noland! [Open Door. Footsteps--she follows.]:
1271 Noland--what are you gonna do!

1272 NOLAND (at the front door). I mean to give up these
1273 keys. So I can earn the right to look my future son in
1274 the face--when he's a grown man.

1275 [Footsteps. Door shut hard.]

1276 LEXI [bursts into tears]: Oh, God help us! God help us!

1277 PATIENCE: Uncle's wonderful! He won't give in!

1278 [Musical interlude]

1279

1280 NARRATOR: In the messy editorial office of
1281 "The Greyfield", Halsey sits at a computer writing.
1282 Brooks enters with phone in hand.

1283 HALSEY (still writing). Have you seen the Professor's
1284 Twitter post?

1285 BROOKS: I was just trying to read it.

1286 HALSEY: He hits them pretty hard, doesn't he?

1287 BROOKS: That's just what I was going to say!

1288 HALSEY: But they're not the kind to throw up their hands
1289 at the first smack.

1290 BROOKS: Now we'll have to smack 'em--over an' over--
1291 until they're in a million pieces! Boy, is this
1292 revolutionary!

1293 HALSEY [whispers]: Shush! We don't want Professor
1294 Ackerman to hear you.

1295 BROOKS: Ah, Ackerman's a chickenshit! Are you gonna
1296 print the Professor's tweet?

1297 HALSEY: Yes--and if the Dean doesn't like it--

1298 BROOKS: Tough shit--right?

1299 HALSEY: Well, hopefully we can turn the situation to our
1300 advantage--whatever happens. If the Dean won't back the
1301 Professor, she'll have most of the faculty against her.
1302 And if she does support him, she'll have most of the
1303 students against her. The Board members, I'm sure,
1304 will side with her.

1305 BROOKS [stupidly]: You're right!

1306 HALSEY: And so the ring'll be broken up--and then,
1307 in every issue of the paper we'll enlighten the

1308 public on the Dean's incompetence--make it clear that
1309 all the positions of trust on campus--the control of
1310 campus afairs, everything--oughta be put in the
1311 hands of the students--grad students first of course!

1312 BROOKS: Hey! That's right! That's RIght!

1313 (Knock at the Door)

1314 HALSEY: Shush! [Calling] Come in! [Door opens/closes]:
1315 Oh, it's you, Professor! Come in! [Footsteps.]

1316 NOLAND: You can print my Twitter piece, Halsey.

1317 BROOKS: Hurrah!

1318 HALSEY: So it's come to that, then.

1319 NOLAND: Yes--it's come to that. They'll have to
1320 take what I give them! There's going to be a
1321 fight on this campus, Brooks!

1322 BROOKS: A knife to the throat, eh, Professor?

1323 NOLAND: This piece is only the beginning. I've got
1324 four or five more sketched out in my head. Where's
1325 Professor Ackerman?

1326 [Footsteps]

1327 BROOKS: Professor Ackerman, would you come out here
1328 for a minute?

1329 HALSEY: Four or five more articles, did you say?

1330 NOLAND: That's right--all on the pursuit of Truth.
1331 Once you start it's like pulling down an old house.

1332 BROOKS: That's it--pull the old junker down!

1333 ACKERMAN [coming in]: Pull down what? You're not
1334 thinking of pulling down the administration, are you,
1335 Halsey?

1336 HALSEY: Far from it--don't worry.

1337 NOLAND: No, we meant something very different--
1338 didn't we? [in a low, intimate voice] Well...
1339 what do you think of my piece, Halsey?

1340 HALSEY: I think it's--awsome.

1341 NOLAND: You think so?

1342 HALSEY: So intelligent and clear. You should have
1343 every student on your side!

1344 ACKERMAN: And every instructor too, I hope?

1345 BROOKS: Even the food service ladies!

1346 ACKERMAN: Well, in that case we can print it!

1347 HALSEY: I'll put it in tomorrow's issue.

1348 NOLAND: What I wanted to ask, Professor Ackerman, is:
1349 whether you'd supervise the printing of it yourself--

1350 ACKERMAN: With pleasure.

1351 NOLAND: --and let me see a proof. I can't tell you how
1352 excited I am to see it live in print. Twitter's
1353 one thing--but to see it burst live on campus--

1354 BROOKS: Like a flash o' lightning!

1355 NOLAND: You can't imagine what I've been through today.
1356 First threatened with one thing--and then another--

1357 BROOKS: Yikes!

1358 NOLAND: Then suspended from my own lab! They won't win--
1359 I've got tenure--but there'll be an investigation.
1360 They've tried to damage me, make a coward of me, force
1361 me to put personal interests before my convictions--

1362 HALSEY: Nothing surprises me from those facists.

1363 BROOKS: Nothing!

1364 NOLAND: Well, they'll get a fight from me--that you can
1365 bet on! "The Greyfield" shall be my fortress now. Every
1366 day I'll bombard them with one piece after another,
1367 like mortar shells!

1368 ACKERMAN: Yes, but--

1369 BROOKS: It's war, it's war!

1370 NOLAND: I'll crush 'em, break down their defenses--
1371 before the eyes of the faculty--and the students!

1372 ACKERMAN: Yes, but in moderation, Professor--
1373 in moderation.

1374 BROOKS: No mercy, no mercy! Strap on the dynamite!

1375 NOLAND: Because it's not merely a question of the truth
1376 --it's our entire social life we've got to remake!

1377 BROOKS: Into what?

1378 ACKERMAN: Now, wait--

1379 NOLAND: All the incompetents must be turned out--
1380 in every walk of life! Young and vigorous truthtellers--
1381 those are what we need, my friends! We must have
1382 new blood in command at every position!

1383 BROOKS: Fresh blood! Fresh blood!

1384 NOLAND: We only need to stand by one another--and we'll
1385 win! The truth will win! The revolution will be launched
1386 like a boat off a trailer!

1387 BROOKS [voices boat launching sfx]:

1388 HALSEY: Ya know--I think we now have a chance of getting
1389 these facists just where we want them!

1390 ACKERMAN: And if we proceed with moderation, I can't
1391 imagine there should be any risk.

1392 NOLAND: Who cares about risk! What I'm talking about is
1393 doing something in the name of truth--something for the
1394 sake of one's conscience!

1395 HALSEY: You deserve to be supported, Professor.

1396 ACKERMAN: There's no denying Professor Hyer's a true
1397 friend to the college--a true friend to the college
1398 community!

1399 BROOKS: A friend of the people!

1400 NOLAND: You know it's so refreshing to hear you say
1401 that. My sister-in-law--the esteemed Dean--called me
1402 something very different today. Well, she'll get it
1403 back--with interest! But I have to go. I'll be back.
1404 See that they keep an eye on my punctuation, Professor--
1405 and don't leave out any exclamation points! If anything,
1406 put more in!

1407 [Footsteps. Door open/close]

1408 ACKERMAN: What is that he said about the Dean?
1409 I didn't quite catch it.

1410 HALSEY: Oh, nothing very important. Not yet anyway.

1411 ACKERMAN: Okay...as long as he sticks to this matter
1412 about the police. If he goes farther afield, well...

1413 HALSEY: Either way he might prove useful--[flirting
1414 shamelessly] to our cause.

1415 ACKERMAN [flirting back with sexual innuendo]:
1416 Is that so? Well, you do seem have your finger firmly on
1417 the pulse, Halsey.

1418 HALSEY [continuing to flirt shamelessly]: And I thought
1419 you were a moderate, Professor Ackerman.

1420 ACKERMAN [flustered with desire and mindful of Brooks]:
1421 Yes, well, when it's a question of campus leadership,
1422 I'm moderate, of course--it's a...lesson I learned from
1423 experience, let me tell you. [Flirting again] But try me
1424 under other conditions, in matters that require senior
1425 leadership, and see if I'm moderate then!

1426 BROOKS: But that doesn't make sense, Professor?

1427 ACKERMAN [short]: I am a woman with a conscience,
1428 Brooks! That's the whole point. If you attack the
1429 government, you don't do the community any harm--those
1430 people pay no attention to attacks--they go on just as
1431 they are. But campus authorities are different--they can
1432 be fired--and the next lot may be worse--and do a
1433 great deal of harm to people like us.

1434 BROOKS: But what about government by students--don't you
1435 think that's important?

1436 ACKERMAN [staring with desire in Halsey's direction]:
1437 When a woman has interests of her own that consume her,
1438 Brooks, she can't think of everything. [Brief pause]
1439 Remember the example of your predecessor at the
1440 assistant editorial desk...

1441 BROOKS: That facist?

1442 ACKERMAN: Yes, well I think it's high time you put that
1443 nose of yours to the grindstone--that is, if you want to
1444 sit at Halsey's desk someday.

1445 BROOKS: You know I do!

1446 ACKMERMAN: Anyway...if I'm to be accused of
1447 inconsistency in my principles, I'd like to point out:
1448 my past is an open book--I've never changed, except to
1449 become more moderate. I cannot deny I lean ever so
1450 slightly towards campus authorities. But my heart
1451 remains with the people.

1452 [Footsteps. Door open/close.]

1453 BROOKS: Shouldn't we try to get rid of her?

1454 HALSEY: Know anyone else who'll pay our paper and
1455 printing bills and let us do what we want?

1456 BROOKS: You just like her cuz she goes down on you but
1457 you don't have to return the favor.

1458 HALSEY: I told you there are perks to being editor.

1459 BROOKS: Wait--what about the Dean's father? They say
1460 he's loaded.

1461 HALSEY: Him? He's senile!

1462 BROOKS: He's still loaded! If we got ridda Ackerman
1463 and convinced the old geezer to pay for the paper,
1464 we wouldn't have to have an advisor at all!

1465 HALSEY: You're goofy, you know that!

1466 [Door open/close. Footsteps]

1467 BROOKS [very pleased]: Oh, it's you.

1468 HALSEY: Hi Patience--have a seat.

1469 PATIENCE: No, thanks--I have to go in a minute.

1470 HALSEY: Is it something about your uncle?

1471 PATIENCE: No, I'm here on my own account. I just wanted
1472 to give you that story we talked about.

1473 BROOKS [too enthused]: Oh, that's wonderful!

1474 PATIENCE: You might not say that after you read it.

1475 BROOKS [to Halsey]: Why would that be?

1476 [Door open.]

1477 ACKERMAN [calling]: Brooks, I need you!

1478 BROOKS [sighs]: Coming! [Footsteps and door close]

1479 HALSEY: And why might I not say that after I've--?

1480 PATIENCE: It's about a supernatural power that watches
1481 over all the good people while all the bad people are
1482 punished.

1483 HALSEY: That's all right--that's just what our
1484 readers want.

1485 PATIENCE: Yeah? Well I don't believe a word of it.
1486 Things like that don't happen in real life.

1487 HALSEY: You're right--but an editor can't always
1488 choose what she'd like. She has to satisfy the wishes of
1489 the public. Politics are what's important--for a
1490 newspaper, anway--and if I want to lead my public to
1491 progressive thinking, I can't frighten them away.
1492 If they read a story with a moral at the bottom of the
1493 page, they'll be more inclined to read what's printed
1494 above it!

1495 PATIENCE: I'd never go and set a trap for my readers
1496 like that--I'm not a spider!

1497 HALSEY [chuckles]: Thanks for having such a good
1498 opinion of me. Actually, we journalists aren't
1499 worth much.

1500 PATIENCE: You actually mean that?

1501 HALSEY: Sometimes.

1502 PATIENCE: I can see how--in everyday life--but now,
1503 when you have a serious matter to deal with--

1504 HALSEY: Your uncle, you mean.

1505 PATIENCE: Exactly--it seems to me you must feel...
1506 pretty good about yourself.

1507 HALSEY: Today--yeah I guess I do.

1508 PATIENCE: It's a wonderful profession, journalism--
1509 being able to pave the way for Truth! To stand without
1510 fear in the open and take up the cause of the underdog!

1511 HALSEY: Especially when that underdog is--! [clears
1512 throat]

1513 PATIENCE: So decent and honest, you mean.

1514 HALSEY (more gently): Especially when he's your
1515 uncle is what I meant.

1516 PATIENCE: So that's first with you, is it? Not the
1517 matter itself? Not the truth?

1518 HALSEY: Of course--that too!

1519 PATIENCE: Well...You've shown me who you are, Halsey.
1520 I'll never trust you again--with anything.

1521 HALSEY: Don't you realize it's for your sake?

1522 PATIENCE: For my sake? Your not being honest with my
1523 uncle? You talked to him as if the truth and the good of
1524 the community were what were closest to your heart.
1525 You've made fools of both of us. You're not who you
1526 pretend to be!

1527 HALSEY: Why are you saying this? Especially now?

1528 PATIENCE: Why not now?

1529 HALSEY: Because your uncle can't do this without my
1530 help.

1531 PATIENCE (looking her up and down). So you're that
1532 sort of person too?

1533 HALSEY: No, I'm not. I just--

1534 PATIENCE: I know what I believe.

1535 [Open door. Footsteps.]

1536 ACKERMAN (hurriedly): Damn it, Halsey, I--! [Sees
1537 Patience--suddenly friendly.] Oh--

1538 PATIENCE [to Halsey but for Ackerman's benefit]:
1539 You can't have my story. I'll give it to someone I
1540 respect.

1541 [Footsteps. Door open/close.]

1542 ACKERMAN: I say--Halsey?

1543 HALSEY [brusquely]: Yes, Professor--what is it?

1544 ACKERMAN [slightly hurt at tone]: The Dean is in my
1545 office. She wants a word with you.

1546 HALSEY [shocked]: The Dean?

1547 ACKERMAN: Yees. She came in by the back door--
1548 didn't want to be seen--you understand.

1549 [Footsteps. Door open.]

1550 DEAN: Will you please see that no one--

1551 ACKERMAN: Of course.

1552 [Footsteps. Door close.]

1553 DEAN: You didn't expect to see me here--did you, Halsey?

1554 HALSEY: No, Dean Bay, I didn't.

1555 DEAN: Here I come, without any notice, to take up your
1556 time!

1557 HALSEY: Not at all.

1558 DEAN: Sit down.

1559 HALSEY: Thank you.

1560 DEAN [Brief pause]: I've had an extremely annoying
1561 day today, Halsey.

1562 HALSEY: I'm sure with all the important business
1563 you have to attend to, Dean Bay--that--

1564 DEAN: Professor Hyer's responsible for what
1565 happened today.

1566 HALSEY: Really--the Professor?

1567 DEAN: He's releasing a study on police shootings
1568 that will hurt our race.

1569 HALSEY: Is that right?

1570 DEAN: Hasn't he told you? I thought he'd--

1571 HALSEY: Well, come to think of it, he did say
1572 something about--

1573 [Door open.]

1574 ACKERMAN: Halsey, I need the professor's piece.

1575 HALSEY [clears throat]: It's on my computer.

1576 ACKERMAN: Right.

1577 DEAN: Wait--that's what I'm talking about!

1578 ACKERMAN [innocently]: The Professor's Twitter piece?

1579 HALSEY [playing dumb]: Oh, THAT'S what you're
1580 talking about!

1581 DEAN: Yes! What do you think of it?

1582 HALSEY: I'm only a graduate student and--I've only
1583 skimmed it really--

1584 DEAN: Are you going to print it?

1585 ACKERMAN: I don't see how we can refuse a distinguished
1586 professor--can we?

1587 DEAN: I suppose--not.

1588 ACKERMAN: But it's also the editor's call. I'm just the
1589 advisor.

1590 DEAN: That's right.

1591 ACKERMAN: And so I must--! [Clears throat. Footsteps.]

1592 DEAN: Wait a minute, Professor.

1593 ACKERMAN: Yes, Dean Bay?

1594 DEAN: You're a discreet and thoughtful woman,
1595 Ms. Ackerman.

1596 ACKERMAN: I'm pleased you think so.

1597 DEAN: A woman of considerable influence.

1598 ACKERMAN [flattered]: In my field, yes--I like to
1599 think so.

1600 DEAN: Progressives are the majority of the faculty here.

1601 ACKERMAN: That's true.

1602 DEAN: No doubt you know the general trend of opinion
1603 among them--isn't that right?

1604 ACKERMAN: Yes, I think I do, Dean Bay.

1605 DEAN: Yes. Well...since there's such a praiseworthy
1606 spirit of sacrifice among the newer faculty--

1607 ACKERMAN: Spirit of sacrifice, Dean Bay?

1608 HALSEY [as in what?]: Sacrifice?

1609 DEAN: It's encouraging evidence of a public-spirited
1610 feeling--extremely encouraging evidence. You might say
1611 I'm surprised by it. But you have a greater knowledge of
1612 public opinion than I.

1613 ACKERMAN: Yes, Dean Bay but--

1614 DEAN: Indeed, it's no small sacrifice the college will
1615 have to make.

1616 HALSEY: The college?

1617 ACKERMAN: Yes, but I don't quite understand. Isn't it
1618 just a single study?

1619 DEAN: Yes, but this study calls into question the very
1620 existence of our new Center.

1621 ACKERMAN [frightened]: Does it?

1622 DEAN: Of course. If donations are affected--and with a
1623 study like this they're sure to be--why then enrollment
1624 --well, it may be necessary to scale back in certain
1625 departments.

1626 HALSEY: You mean "The Greyfield".

1627 ACKERMAN: But our little operation here is fairly
1628 buckled up as it is. You don't mean to say that--

1629 DEAN: Where else, my dear, is the money going to
1630 come from?

1631 ACKERMAN: Why, surely, whoever's underwriting
1632 this study ought to--

1633 DEAN: Those underwriting the Professor's lab are not in
1634 a position to incur further expense.

1635 ACKERMAN: I beg your pardon but--you're absolutely
1636 certain of this?

1637 DEAN [coldly]: Let's just say that if you want this
1638 study bad enough, you'll have to pay for it.

1639 ACKERMAN: Well, I see. That's quite another matter,
1640 isn't it, Halsey?

1641 HALSEY: It sure is.

1642 DEAN: The worst part of it is--I'm afraid we might even
1643 have to close the Center if this study's released--
1644 and donations plummet.

1645 HALSEY: Close it?

1646 ACKERMAN: Altogether?

1647 DEAN: It's very possible.

1648 ACKERMAN [stricken]: Well, we can't very well allow that
1649 --now can we?

1650 DEAN: What would you have us do? You think donors
1651 will be happy if they think their money is going to
1652 studies like this?

1653 ACKERMAN: So the entire thing is a misreading
1654 of the data?

1655 DEAN: I can't come to any other conclusion.

1656 ACKERMAN: Well then it certainly appears to be work
1657 unworthy of Professor Hyer.

1658 DEAN: My brother-in-law's unfortunately always been a
1659 headstrong man.

1660 ACKERMAN: In light of this, do you still mean to give
1661 him your support, Halsey?

1662 HALSEY: You think for one minute that I--?

1663 ACKERMAN: Of course not--of course not!

1664 DEAN: Fine. Now I've written a short summary of the
1665 situation from a reasonable point of view. Addressing,
1666 of course, the misinformation of the Professor's
1667 unfortunate conclusion.

1668 HALSEY: Can you email it to me?

1669 DEAN: I've already done so.

1670 ACKERMAN: Good Heavens, there he is!

1671 DEAN: Who? [brief pause] Noland?

1672 HALSEY: Where?

1673 ACKERMAN: He just entered the office!

1674 DEAN: Damn--I don't want to meet him here. And we have
1675 more to discuss.

1676 ACKERMAN: Dean, you stay here--we'll go talk to him.

1677 DEAN: Get rid of him--quickly.

1678 [Footsteps. Door Open/Close.]

1679 NOLAND [smiling]: Well, here I am again.

1680 ACKERMAN: Already, Professor? [sternly] Hurry up with
1681 what you were telling me Halsey--I'm very pressed for
1682 time.

1683 NOLAND: No digital proof for me to see yet, eh?

1684 ACKERMAN: Not yet, Professor.

1685 NOLAND: You'll have to excuse my impatience--I won't
1686 have peace of mind until I see it in print.

1687 HALSEY: It'll take a good while yet--won't it--
1688 Professor Ackerman?

1689 ACKERMAN: Yees--I'm afraid it will.

1690 NOLAND: All right--I'll come back. [Footsteps.
1691 Then stop.] Oh, yes--there is one more thing--

1692 ACKERMAN: Could it wait for another time?

1693 NOLAND: It's only this: when my article is
1694 read tomorrow, well--

1695 ACKERMAN: Yes, Professor?

1696 NOLAND: It was just my duty, you understand--my duty as
1697 a researcher--and a member of this community--

1698 ACKERMAN: This campus has a high opinion of you,
1699 Professor.

1700 NOLAND: Yes, that's what I'm afraid of. Whether it's a
1701 banquet or a demonstration, or some other affair--
1702 whatever it is, promise me you'll put a stop to it.

1703 [Door open.]

1704 HALSEY [to Ackerman in a whisper]: Sooner or later,
1705 we're gonna have to tell him the truth.

1706 [Door close. Footsteps.]

1707 LEXI: Just as I thought.

1708 HALSEY: Mrs. Hyer?

1709 NOLAND: What are you doing here, Lexi?

1710 LEXI: You know very well what I want.

1711 HALSEY: Won't you--sit down?

1712 LEXI: No thank you. You'll have to excuse me for
1713 coming to fetch my husband.

1714 NOLAND: Are you out of your mind!

1715 LEXI: Yes, I am--if you are IN yours!

1716 ACKERMAN: Well, as I say: moderation in everything!

1717 LEXI: You disrespect us both, Halsey--by making a
1718 fool of my husband like this!

1719 HALSEY: Making a--!

1720 ACKERMAN [reading it wrong]: What's that? Halsey?!

1721 NOLAND: A fool? Of me? Ya think I'd allow myself to be
1722 made a fool of?

1723 LEXI: Absolutely! You have more brains than anyone on
1724 campus but you're just as easily fooled. [To Halsey]

1725 You realize that he could lose his tenure if you
1726 print what he's written.

1727 ACKERMAN: I don't understand!

1728 HALSEY [to Ackerman]: It's not what you think,
1729 Professor!

1730 NOLAND [laughing]: Ha-ha! Just let 'em try to take my
1731 tenure! No, they won't be able to do that. I've got a
1732 free press behind me!

1733 LEXI: That's what I'm afraid of.

1734 NOLAND [intimately to Lexi]: Go home now--will you?
1735 Lemme take care of my job--and you take care of yours.
1736 How can you be so afraid, when I'm so confident and
1737 happy?

1738 [Loud sneeze from inside Ackerman's office can be
1739 heard.)

1740 NOLAND: What's that?

1741 ACKERMAN: That?

1742 NOLAND: Someone hiding in the cupboard, are they?
1743 Well, let's see who it is.

1744 LEXI: Noland, let's go!

1745 [Footsteps]

1746 ACKERMAN: It's really just a--

1747 [Door open.]

1748 NOLAND: Well, if it isn't Dean Bay.

1749 LEXI: Noland!

1750 NOLAND: Here...talking over the members of the press.
1751 Thought she would listen in on their dialogue--
1752 with the heretic.

1753 DEAN: I was here for a meeting and--

1754 NOLAND: I bet you were! Let tell you something--
1755 you think you can get rid of me--take my tenure?
1756 Well, I'll get rid of you! You think I can't?
1757 I have the press and the faculty behind me. Halsey and
1758 Brooks will thunder in "The Greyfield"--and Professor
1759 Ackerman will back me, won't you, Professor?

1760 ACKERMAN: I'm afraid that I cannot do.

1761 NOLAND: Of course you will--

1762 DEAN: How about you, Halsey? Will you be joing
1763 Professor Hyer's movement?

1764 HALSEY: No, Dean Bay.

1765 DEAN: Halsey's not about to give up her editorship to
1766 print divisive misinformation.

1767 NOLAND: Halsey?

1768 HALSEY: You've represented your case in a false light,
1769 Professor. Therefore, I can't support you.

1770 BROOKS [trying to sound important]: And, after what I've
1771 learned...[reverting to self] Me neither!

1772 NOLAND: You can leave that to the reader. Print my piece
1773 --that's all I ask. I'm very capable of defending it
1774 myself.

1775 HALSEY: As editor of "The Greyfield", Professor,
1776 I won't print your tweet. I can't--and won't--and...
1777 wouldn't dare--

1778 NOLAND: Wouldn't dare? What horse shit--you're the
1779 editor!

1780 ACKERMAN: And I am the advisor, Professor!

1781 DEAN: Yes, she is.

1782 ACKERMAN: Ultimately, it's public opinion--which is
1783 comprised of our students and the greater campus
1784 community--that oversees the press--

1785 NOLAND: So this is how it's going to be?

1786 DEAN: It appears so.

1787 ACKERMAN: It would clearly do damage to the
1788 campus community were your article to appear.

1789 NOLAND: I see. [Pause]. Then you refuse to print it--
1790 even as a Letter to the Editor--is that right?

1791 ACKERMAN: I'm afraid that wouldn't be possible--out of
1792 concern for your safety--

1793 HALSEY: --and the safety of your family.

1794 NOLAND: You needn't concern yourself with that.

1795 DEAN: And--for the sake of the public, it'd be
1796 appropriate that a statement from my office appear.

1797 HALSEY: Yes, I'll see that it's included.

1798 NOLAND: But not mine. You think you can silence me and
1799 stifle the truth? You won't find it as easy as you
1800 think. I've already published it to Twitter, where I
1801 have thousands of followers all over the globe.

1802 DEAN: You are free to do as you like. But you may find
1803 your post on this issue runs afoul of Twitter's rules of
1804 engagement. This college has plenty of influential
1805 friends in the media, Professor.

1806 NOLAND: Then I'll read it out on campus!

1807 DEAN: Who will hear you?

1808 ACKERMAN: Not many--I'm sure.

1809 BROOKS: That's right--not too many--maybe two.

1810 NOLAND: You, too, huh? Well, I'll tell you why this is
1811 so. This is so because all the leaders on this campus
1812 are women--that's right--WOMEN! It's only women who
1813 think of nothing but their families, their security,
1814 their community, their safety--of tenure--never about
1815 the truth!

1816 LEXI: Let's go, Noland. Please!

1817 NOLAND: I'll get a drum and parade around campus with it
1818 --I'll read it along the way!

1819 DEAN: You'll look like a fool.

1820 NOLAND: So what--I am a fool! And I thought I was
1821 free here!

1822 ACKERMAN: You won't find a single person on campus to go
1823 with you.

1824 BROOKS: Not two!

1825 NOLAND: We'll see! I'm going. I'm going to see whether a
1826 pack of cowards can gag a man of science who stands for
1827 the truth--one who will not back down--one who refuses
1828 to traffic in lies--one who really wants the best for
1829 his students and fellow teachers and those he loves!

1830 [Footsteps. Door open/close].

1831

[MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

NARRATOR: The next morning in Martin Bay's elegant, wood-paneled study...

MARTIN [pleased]: I figured I'd be gettin' a visit from the Dean o' the College. [brief pause] Don't like this police study business, do ya? Ha! I knew you wouldn't!

DEAN: What did you say to Noland, Father?

MARTIN: I told 'im I'd give ten-thousand to a charity if he got your panties in a bunch over this. And the panties of your friends on the board--who hounded me out!

DEAN: This is serious, Father.

MARTIN: Oh, it is, is it? See those books on the shelves behind me? Ya think I've read those books? I barely made it to th' six grade! Those books are for show! They're knick-knacks! But you can read 'em--why you've had the best book-learnin' in the world! Who did that?

DEAN: You did, Father. You.

MARTIN: That's right.

DEAN: And I'm grateful for it. But I'm serious. I believe Noland wants to tear down the Center. The Center you and I built.

MARTIN: Why would he wanna do that? He's got everything here.

DEAN: This police study of his. If we back him, it's going to make us look like fools. The other donors are not going to like it. They might not be as forgiving as you.

MARTIN: I thought he was pullin' my leg. You say he's serious?

DEAN: Dead serious. And I don't think he'll stop until he destroys the Center.

MARTIN: Destroys it? But the lab we built for him is in it? That's his baby--why would he destroy that?

DEAN: Because he resents us--you and me. He won't stop until he's destroyed everything we've built--including

1869 his own Lab. Because we built it for him--you built it
1870 for him. And he resents it. And he always will.

1871 MARTIN: C'mon, Cloudine! Yer the one that convinced me
1872 to back this whole thing--that he was the man to build
1873 it around! I didn't think he was ready.

1874 DEAN: No you didn't. And you were right.

1875 MARTIN: You didn't think so at the time.

1876 DEAN: I thought he was ready. And he was--to build it
1877 around. But now that it's been built, we must
1878 protect it--protect it from men who would destroy it.
1879 And he's one.

1880 MARTIN [laughs]: He is, is he?

1881 DEAN: Yes. It's up to you--and me.

1882 MARTIN: You and me, huh? Where were you and me when your
1883 friends on the board sent me packin'?

1884 DEAN: You're right--that was wrong. That won't
1885 happen again.

1886 MARTIN: Well, you are serious about this, aren't you?
1887 [pause] Hmmm...Ya sure this is the right move?

1888 DEAN: I've never been more sure.

1889 MARTIN: Hmmph...Well...

1890 DEAN: By the way: I told Lexi today that if she
1891 stood with Noland on this, I couldn't see how
1892 she'd ever get another dime from Daddy.

1893 MARTIN [chuckles]: You told her that?

1894 DEAN: Yes.

1895 MARTIN [chuckles again--then, with affection]:
1896 Well, my little bookworm...you are serious.

1897 DEAN: Yes, Daddy. [Footsteps. Door open].

1898 DEAN: Oh and...Bill Forester's hosting a public meeting
1899 for Noland tomorrow night. [Pause] I know Bill manages
1900 some of your investments.

1901 MARTIN: He did.

1902 DEAN [very pleased]: Ha!

1903

NARRATOR: The next evening, at the public meeting...

STUDENT 1: Oh! You here too?

STUDENT 2: Wouldn't miss it.

STUDENT 3: Brought your signs, too, I see.

STUDENT 2: Of course--haven't you?

STUDENT 3: See! Steve said he was going to bring a bull-horn.

STUDENT 2: Awesome! [Laughter among the crowd.]

STUDENT 4: What's going on here?

STUDENT 2: Professor Hyer's giving a talk attacking the Dean.

STUDENT 4: But the Dean's his wife's sister, isn't she?

STUDENT 1: That doesn't matter--Professor Hyer's not one to back down.

STUDENT 3: But he's spreading misinformation--it said so in "The Greyfield".

STUDENT 2: That must be right--because I hear the college wouldn't give him a hall for this meeting.

STUDENT 1: A tenured professor and they wouldn't give him a hall?

FACULTY 1: Who are we supposed to back in this?

FACULTY 2: Watch Ackerman--and do as she does.

BROOKS: 'Xcuse me, 'xcuse me--mind lettin' me through? I'm reporting for "The Greyfield".

FACULTY 3: Who was that?

FACULTY 4: That was Brooks, one of Ackerman's reporters.

NARRATOR: Bill Forester brings in Patience from a door on the right.

FORESTER: I thought you might sit here. You can slip out easily, if things get too...rowdy.

PATIENCE: You think there'll be trouble?

FORESTER: One can never tell with these things. But sit--and don't worry. [Brief pause] Your Aunt won't be coming?

1938 PATIENCE: No--I don't think so.

1939 FORESTER: Sorry to hear that.

1940 PATIENCE: Me too.

1941 PATIENCE: It was kind of you to lend Uncle this space.

1942 FORESTER: Don't mention it.

1943 PATIENCE: It was a brave thing to do, Mr. Forester.

1944 FORESTER [waving her off]: Ah, it was nothing!

1945 NARRATOR: Halsey and Professor Ackerman make their way
1946 through the crowd.

1947 HALSEY: Professor Hyer's not here yet?

1948 ACKERMAN: He's waiting in the next room. [Movement in
1949 the crowd by the door at the back.] Look--here's the
1950 Dean!

1951 HALSEY: Well, she came after all!

1952 NARRATOR: The Dean makes her way gradually through the
1953 crowd. Bowing politely, she takes up a position along
1954 the wall. Professor Hyer then enters thru the door on
1955 the right.

1956 NOLAND [whispers]: How are you doing?

1957 PATIENCE [whispers]: I should be asking you that, Uncle.

1958 NOLAND [whispers]: No sign of Lexi?

1959 PATIENCE [whispers]: No. I'm sorry.

1960 NOLAND [whispers]: Don't be. I'm fine.

1961 PATIENCE [whispers]: Remember: stay calm--and try not
1962 to lose your temper.

1963 NOLAND [whispers]: Don't worry--I know how to
1964 control myself.

1965 NARRATOR: Professor Hyer looks at his watch, steps onto
1966 the platform, and smiles.

1967 NOLAND: It's a quarter past--so I'll begin. [Removes his
1968 speech from his pocket).

1969 ACKERMAN [loudly]: I believe we should elect a moderator
1970 first.

1971 NOLAND: No, it's not necessary.

1972 STUDENTS 1-4: Yes! Yes! Moderator! Moderator!

1973 DEAN [loudly]: Yes, the meeting should have a moderator.

1974 NOLAND: But I called this meeting to give a lecture,
1975 Dean Bay.

1976 DEAN [loudly]: Professor Hyer's lecture may contain
1977 misinformation and thus contribute to an unsafe
1978 atmosphere for students.

1979 STUDENTS 1-4 [loudly]: Moderator! Moderator!

1980 HALSEY [loudly]: It appears the community wishes a
1981 moderator be chosen.

1982 PATIENCE [clears throat as message to Uncle]:

1983 NOLAND: (restraining himself). Al'right--if we have to.

1984 ACKERMAN: I nominate Dean Bay!

1985 STUDENTS 1-4: Bravo! Bravo! Dean Bay! Dean Bay!

1986 DEAN: As Professor Hyer's sister-in-law--my sister is
1987 not present tonight by the way--I must decline the
1988 nomination. But, fortunately, there's someone here I
1989 think will be acceptable to you all. Advisor to our
1990 acclaimed campus newspaper, "The Greyfield", Professor
1991 Ackerman!

1992 FACULTY 1-4: Yes--Ackerman! Bravo! Ackerman!

1993 NARRATOR: Professor Hyer paces up and down the platform
1994 holding his speech.

1995 ACKERMAN: Since you, my fellow Greyfielder's--students
1996 and faculty--choose to entrust me with this duty,
1997 I cannot refuse.

1998 [Loud applause. Footsteps mount platform.]

1999 NARRATOR: Brooks takes a selfie video.

2000 BROOKS: Correspondent Brooks here at Professor Hyer's
2001 talk attackin' the Dean. Professor Ackerman was just
2002 elected moderator! And the crowd's behind her! The
2003 Professor looks pissed--I mean bothered--I mean upset.

2004 ACKERMAN: And now, as your moderator, I should like to
2005 say a few brief words. I am a quiet and peaceful person,
2006 who believes in discreet moderation--and in--moderate
2007 discretion--my friends can testify to that!

2008 FACULTY 1-4: That's right! Go Ackerman!

2009 ACKERMAN: I've learned--in the school of life--
2010 that moderation is the most valuable virtue a
2011 professor can possess--

2012 DEAN: Hear, hear!

2013 ACKERMAN: And moreover--that discretion and moderation
2014 are what enable a professor to be of the greatest
2015 service to her students and to the greater campus
2016 community. I would therefore stress to my esteemed
2017 fellow professor, who's called this meeting, that he
2018 should strive to keep strictly within the bounds of
2019 moderation.

2020 STUDENTS 1-4: Three cheers for moderation! Three cheers!

2021 NOLAND: Wait a minute--

2022 STUDENTS 1-4: Shush! Shush!

2023 ACKERMAN: You must not interrupt, Professor Hyer--
2024 please! Does anyone wish to say anything before we
2025 begin?

2026 DEAN: Yes, Ms. Moderator.

2027 ACKERMAN: The Dean shall address the meeting.

2028 DEAN: Given my familial relationship with Professor
2029 Hyer, I should have preferred not to speak at this
2030 event. But my official position--as Dean and as chairman
2031 of the Center of Economic Justice at Greyfield--compels
2032 me not only to speak but to bring forward a motion to
2033 this assembly. I presume that there's not a single one
2034 of our campus community present who considers it
2035 desirable that misinformation about police shootings of
2036 people of color should be spread from Greyfield to the
2037 community at large.

2038 STUDENTS 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: No, no! Definitely not!
2039 We're against it!

2040 DEAN: Therefore, I should like to propose that this
2041 meeting should not permit Professor Hyer either to
2042 read or comment on the statement in his hand--
2043 which he previously submitted to "The Greyfield" and
2044 which was rejected for containing serious
2045 misinformation.

2046 NOLAND: What?!

2047 PATIENCE [clears her throat twice in warning to Noland]:
2048 NOLAND [Collecting himself]: Okay--go ahead!

2049 DEAN: In my Dean's statement to "The Greyfield",
2050 I placed the essential facts of this matter before the
2051 campus community in such a way that every fair-minded
2052 community member might easily form his or her
2053 own opinion. In short, the main result of Professor
2054 Hyer's study--apart from constituting misinformation
2055 on the subject of police shootings--would be to
2056 saddle our community with a brand new Center we can
2057 no longer afford due to a damaged reputation in the
2058 donor community.

2059 STUDENTS 1-4: Booo! Booo! Misinformation!
2060 Misinformation!

2061 ACKERMAN [ringing her bell]: Silence, please! I would
2062 like to support the Dean's motion. No one doubts the
2063 honesty of the Professor's academic intentions.
2064 I myself, as a professor of journalism, am a believer in
2065 free speech, provided the exercise of it doesn't
2066 hurt the community--or fall too heavily on students and
2067 faculty. And that would surely be the case here--that is
2068 why I would rather see Professor Hyer sanctioned--or
2069 even removed--before I would stand with him in this
2070 matter. You can pay too dearly for a thing sometimes--
2071 that's--my opinion.

2072 [Loud applause.]

2073 HALSEY: As editor of "The Greyfield", I, too, feel
2074 called to explain my position. Professor Hyer's activism
2075 did gain my sympathy at first--and the sympathy of
2076 others--so I initially supported it--as impartially as I
2077 could. But I soon realized I'd allowed myself to be
2078 misled by a misrepresentation of the study--

2079 NOLAND: Misrepresentation--!

2080 HALSEY: Let's just call it an untrustworthy
2081 representation. The Dean's piece in "The Greyfield"
2082 proves that. If anyone doubts my journalistic
2083 principles, the attitude of "The Greyfield" towards
2084 free speech is well-known to everyone. But the advice of
2085 thoughtful community leaders has convinced me that in
2086 strictly campus matters a newspaper should proceed with
2087 caution--especially with regards to misinformation.

2088 BROOKS: Viewers, your editor of The Greyfield has called
2089 ot Professor Hyer for employing--or is it deploying?--
2090 misinformation.

2091 HALSEY: And so, in the matter before us, is it not a
2092 fact that Professor Hyer has public opinion against him?
2093 What's an editor's first and foremost duty if it's not
2094 to work in harmony with the newspaper's readers?
2095 Haven't I been given a mandate to work tirelessly for
2096 the welfare of those whose opinions I represent? Am I
2097 wrong in this?

2098 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: No, no! You're right--
2099 you're right!

2100 HALSEY: It's cost me a great deal to break with someone
2101 in whose house I've lately been a guest--someone
2102 who until today enjoyed the goodwill of both
2103 students and faculty--someone whose only mistake
2104 is that he's listening to his head instead of his heart.

2105 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: That's true! Bravo, Bravo!

2106 HALSEY: But my duty to my community forces me to
2107 break with him. Along with something else--my concern for
2108 his--

2109 NOLAND: Stick to my study!

2110 HALSEY: --for his wife, Mrs. Hyer, who's not here and
2111 whose absence--

2112 NOLAND: I said: stick to my study!

2113 ACKERMAN: I shall now put the Dean's motion to a vote.

2114 NOLAND: That's not necessary. [Rips up his speech
2115 dramatically into small pieces] I no longer intend to
2116 defend my study--or discuss police shootings at all.
2117 No--now I have something very different to say.

2118 DEAN (whisper to Ackerman): What is he up to?

2119 ACKERMAN [whispers]: I don't know!

2120 DRUNKEN MAN (by the door): I'm part of this community,
2121 too!! And I'd like to speak!!

2122 STUDENT 1-4: Quiet! Quiet!

2123 ACKERMAN: Security, please remove him--he's drunk!

2124 NOLAND: Am I allowed to speak?

2125 ACKERMAN (ringing her bell): Professor Hyer shall
2126 address the meeting.

2127 NOLAND: You think, a few days ago, anyone would've
2128 dared silence me as you've done tonight? I would've
2129 defended my free speech like a lion! But now? I don't
2130 care. Why? [Brief pause] I'll tell you.

2131 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [grumbles uncomfortably]:

2132 NOLAND: These last few days, I've thought a great deal.
2133 I thought about so many things that in the end my head
2134 seemed too full to hold them.

2135 DEAN [clears throat trying to alert Ackerman]:

2136 NOLAND: But I got them clear in my head at last, and
2137 then I saw the whole situation plainly. I have a
2138 great revelation to make to you, students and faculty
2139 of this esteemed university. I will impart to you a
2140 discovery of a far wider scope than the trifling matter
2141 of the data on police shootings in the United States in
2142 the year 2019.

2143 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: Don't talk about that! We don't
2144 wanna hear you!

2145 NOLAND: You see, the great discovery I want to talk
2146 about--the great discovery I've made--is that the
2147 very stream of college life--the entire fabric of our
2148 academic community--has been contaminated with the
2149 virus of accepted lies.

2150 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: What's that? What's he say?

2151 DEAN: That's a serious accusation--!

2152 BROOKS: The Professor's made a serious accusation,
2153 viewers--very serious!

2154 ACKERMAN [rings bell]: I call upon the speaker to
2155 moderate his language.

2156 NOLAND: I've always loved this area. I was very young
2157 when we moved away--and my memories cast a big halo over
2158 both the area and its institutions. [Smattering of
2159 claps/applause] And I stayed away for many years, at a
2160 small school up north. I don't think anyone up there
2161 could've accused me of having forgotten my native town--
2162 I was like a bird sitting on its nest--and what I
2163 hatched was plans for this Center--which included this

2164 incredible Lab and these gifted students--and of course
2165 the tenure--the academic tenure I enjoy today.

2166 [Handful of claps.]

2167 STUDENT 1-4 [vocalizations of protest]:

2168 NOLAND: When fate--with quite a bit of help from my
2169 sister-in-law--made it so that I'd be coming home again
2170 --I can tell you, I felt like all of my childhood dreams
2171 had come true. It was the one thing I wished for--to do
2172 good work at the prestigious college near my hometown
2173 and have the community I grew up in be proud of me.

2174 DEAN [clearing throat to get Ackerman's attention]:

2175 NOLAND: And so, eyes blind to facts, I wallowed in my
2176 happiness. But yesterday afternoon, ladies and gents--
2177 my eyes were opened--wide, and the first thing I
2178 realized when I looked without blinders was the
2179 absolute colossal stupidity of those in authority--

2180 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Uproar, shouts, laughter]:

2181 DEAN: Ms. Moderator!

2182 ACKERMAN [ringing bell]: By virtue of my authority--!

2183 NOLAND [laughs at Ackerman's faux pax]: If the shoe
2184 fits, Professor--! What I mean is--only--that I got an
2185 incredible whiff of the unbelievable stench of the
2186 falsehoods our leaders have been brewing, stewing for
2187 years at this institution. I can no longer stomach such
2188 brews, such stews and such "leaders". They're like
2189 billy-goats on a farm--they do mischief everywhere.
2190 They stand in a free man's way, everywhere he turns,
2191 and if it were up to me, they'd be exterminated,
2192 like any other pest--

2193 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [GREAT UPROAR]:

2194 DEAN: Ms. Moderator, will you allow such talk?

2195 ACKERMAN: Professor!

2196 NOLAND: I really can't understand how I've only now
2197 gotten a clear view of who these "leaders" are--
2198 when daily before my eyes I had such a perfect example--
2199 my sister-in-law--Dean Bay--Rhodes Scholar--
2200 Greyfield Emeritus--power-mad--and grasping--
2201 devoid of any integrity--

2202 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Laughter, Uproar, Hissing]:
2203 [Bell is rung violently.]
2204 DRUNKEN MAN [who's got in again]: Is it me he's talking
2205 about?! I heard my name--my name's-- Let me go--let me
2206 go!!
2207 DEAN: Who is that man?
2208 ACKERMAN: Remove him, please remove him! [brief pause]
2209 Continue, Professor but--please--moderate your language.
2210 NOLAND: Okay. Well, if anyone thinks, from what I've
2211 said, that my goal is to attack these lying "leaders",
2212 he would be incorrect. No, no, I'm comforted by the
2213 knowledge that these liars--every one of 'em--pave the
2214 way for their own destruction. They don't need the help
2215 of a PHD to help to accelerate their demise! Nor is it
2216 them who're actually the greatest danger. It's not them
2217 who're poisoning our moral life and infecting the ground
2218 we stand on. It's not them who are the most dangerous
2219 enemies of truth and freedom among us!
2220 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: Who o then? Who's to Blame?
2221 Name them!
2222 NOLAND: You bet I'll name them! That's precisely the
2223 great discovery I made yesterday! [Raises his voice.]
2224 The most dangerous enemy of truth and freedom among us
2225 is the MAJORITY--that's right--that's it--now you know--
2226 it's YOU!
2227 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Tremendous uproar, shouting,
2228 stamping, hissing]:
2229 [Bell is rung violently].
2230 ACKERMAN: Silence, silence! As Moderator, I call upon
2231 the speaker to withdraw the statement he's just uttered!
2232 NOLAND: Never! It's the MAJORITY in our community that
2233 denies me my freedom and seeks to prevent me from
2234 speaking the truth.
2235 HALSEY: The majority has right on its side! Truth too!
2236 NOLAND: That's one of those lies, Halsey, an
2237 intelligent person like you must fight against always.
2238 Who makes up the majority of any place? Is it the smart,
2239 or the stupid? Do you, dear editor, dispute the fact
2240 that the stupid are an overwhelming majority all the

2241 world over? Good Lord, you really think it's right that
2242 the stupid govern the smart!

2243 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Uproar and cries]:

2244 NOLAND: Yes--shout me down! But you can't answer me--
2245 can you? The majority has might on its side but it
2246 doesn't have right. I am in the right. I and a few other
2247 scattered individuals. Truthtellers are always in the
2248 minority!

2249 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Renewed uproar and cries]:

2250 HALSEY [snidely]: Professor Hyer became a truthteller--
2251 the day before yesterday.

2252 NOLAND: I guess I did.

2253 BROOKS: Professor Hyer became a truthteller a few days
2254 ago, viewers--he's a truthteller now!

2255 NOLAND: I guess I am. I'm a leader of a revolt against
2256 the lie that the majority has a monopoly on the truth.
2257 What kind of truth does the majority support? Truth so
2258 old it's beginning to fall apart. Truth as old as that
2259 --why--it's is on its way to turning back into a lie!

2260 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Laughter and mocking cries]:

2261 NOLAND: Truth doesn't live as long as we do, ladies and
2262 gents. I'd say your average truth lives about
2263 twenty years. Truths that old are worn thin--and it's
2264 only then that the majority recognizes 'em and feeds 'em
2265 to us as wholesome nourishment. But there's no nutrition
2266 in that kind of food, I can tell ya!

2267 ACKERMAN: The speaker has wandered a long way from his
2268 subject.

2269 DEAN: I agree with the moderator.

2270 NOLAND: But--my esteemed Dean--I am sticking as close
2271 to my subject as I can. My thesis is thus: it's the
2272 accepted falsehoods of the majority that corrode our
2273 precious institutions--and threaten the very ground
2274 we stand on!

2275 HALSEY: And all this because the majority's smart enough
2276 to recognize only truths that don't destroy it.

2277 NOLAND: Halsey, if a single truth--like the one in my
2278 study--can destroy a community, that community doesn't
2279 deserve to survive.

2280 HALSEY: Why not give us one example of these lies we're
2281 being fed--instead of vague generalities.

2282 [Applause]

2283 NOLAND: Okay, here's one you and your paper are fed on!

2284 HALSEY: And that is--?

2285 NOLAND: The doctrine you proclaim far and wide--that the
2286 masses are the essential part of the population--
2287 that the People, the ignorant element in the community,
2288 have the same right to pronounce judgment and to govern,
2289 as the intellectually superior persons in it.

2290 HALSEY [shouting]: Take good note of that, students--

2291 BROOKS: Take good note of that, viewers--

2292 HALSEY: He's put his foot in it!

2293 BROOKS: He's stepped in it now!

2294 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: Only the superior should
2295 govern, eh! He's a Nazi!

2296 STUDENT 1: Throw him out for spreading misinformation!

2297 STUDENT 2: Throw him out!

2298 NOLAND: Listen to reason! Look, I didn't expect you to
2299 agree with me--but I did expect Halsey to admit I was
2300 right--when she'd recovered her composure a little.
2301 Because, after all, she's one of the smart ones--
2302 and she has experience with the stupid!

2303 BROOKS: Who has no experience, viewers--who?

2304 HALSEY (shouting). When have I ever said that--about the
2305 smart and the stupid--where?

2306 NOLAND (reflecting): No, you're right--you haven't had
2307 the courage to. Well, I'll say it then. When you tell
2308 people in "The Greyfield" that the masses are the real
2309 essence of the People, you're telling a comforting lie
2310 to your readers, our young people! The masses? They're
2311 only the raw material of which an intelligent people is
2312 made!

2313 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Groans, laughter and uproar]

2314 NOLAND: Well, isn't that true? Isn't there an enormous
2315 difference between a well-bred and a poorly-bred dog?
2316 Think of your ordinary Mexican street dog--one of those
2317 dogs that do nothing but run around the streets and piss
2318 on the walls of houses. Compare one of these to a
2319 French poodle who for many generations has been
2320 raised inside, where they've had the best food and the
2321 opportunity to hear soft voices and music. You don't
2322 think the poodle's brain has developed to a different
2323 degree from that of the street dog? Of course it has!

2324 HALSEY: So we're dogs now, eh?

2325 NOLAND: Unfortunately we are!

2326 BROOKS: Professor Hyer thinks we're pets, viewers--pets!

2327 NOLAND: We're the finest animals on the planet!
2328 But, even among us, exceptionally fine animals are rare.
2329 There's a tremendous difference between poodles and
2330 street dogs. And the funny part of it is--is that
2331 Halsey agrees with me--as long as it's a question of
2332 four-footed animals--

2333 HALSEY: That's true--that's true!

2334 NOLAND: But as soon as I apply it to two-legged animals,
2335 Halsey stops short. She no longer dares to think
2336 independently, pursue her ideas to their logical
2337 conclusion--she proclaims in "The Greyfield" that street
2338 dogs are the finest dogs in the world! But that's
2339 always how it is.

2340 HALSEY: I'm a janitor's daughter, and I'm proud of where
2341 I come from!

2342 STUDENT 1-4: Bravo, Halsey! Bravo!

2343 NOLAND: The common folk I mean are not only found
2344 low down on the social scale--they swarm all around us--
2345 even in the highest social positions. You only have to
2346 look at our own fine, distinguished Dean, my sister-in-
2347 law, who's every bit as common as anyone pushing a mop!

2348 STUDENT 1-4 [laughter and hisses]:

2349 DEAN: You're beneath attacks like these!

2350 NOLAND [imperturbably] And that's not because like me
2351 she's descended from some old rascal of a plantation
2352 owner--

2353 DEAN [in disgust]: Oh!

2354 NOLAND: --but because she thinks what her superiors
2355 think, and holds the same opinions as they do. People
2356 who do that are, intellectually speaking, common--and,
2357 that's why my magnificent sister-in-law is in reality--
2358 very common--and in truth is very far from being
2359 progressive!

2360 DEAN: Ms. Moderator!

2361 HALSEY So only elites are progressive!

2362 BROOKS: Only elites, viewers--only elites!

2363 NOLAND: Another lie is that broadmindedness is the same
2364 thing as morality. Day in and day out "The Greyfield"
2365 proclaims that the masses have the monopoly on
2366 broad-mindedness and morality--that corruption and every
2367 kind of depravity are the result of culture--just as
2368 it's undeniable, according to government data, that, on
2369 average, police shoot members of the Black community
2370 LESS than members of other communities--meaning that the
2371 narrative that police hunt Blacks is a self-serving lie!

2372 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Uproar and interruptions]:

2373 NOLAND: And yet "The Greyfield" goes on preaching that
2374 the masses should be lifted in life! But if this is so,
2375 this very lifting would mean nothing more than setting
2376 the masses on a path to corruption! Luckily the theory
2377 that culture degrades is simply an old falsehood that
2378 our forefathers swallowed and we can discard. It's
2379 ignorance, poverty--the ugly conditions of life--
2380 these are the real oppressors! In a house that doesn't
2381 get aired and swept daily--people will quickly lose the
2382 power of thinking and acting in a moral manner. Lack of
2383 oxygen weakens the conscience. And I suspect there's a
2384 lack of oxygen in many of the structures on this campus,
2385 judging from the fact that you all seem eager enough to
2386 stake the prosperity of this college on a river of lies!

2387 ACKERMAN: We cannot allow such an accusation to be flung
2388 at this community!

2389 STUDENT 1: I move the Moderator cancels the speaker!

2390 STUDENT 2: Yes, Cancel him--cancel him!

2391 NOLAND [losing his self-control]: Then I'll shout the
2392 truth at every corner on campus! I'll tweet it endlessly

2393 online! The whole country will know what's going on
2394 here!

2395 HALSEY: It appears that the Professor intends to
2396 destroy this college.

2397 NOLAND: I love this college! But I'd rather destroy it
2398 than see it flourish on lies!

2399 ACKERMAN: This is serious!

2400 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Uproar and cat-calls]:
2401 PATIENCE [loudly clears throat]:

2402 HALSEY [shouting above the din]: One must be a
2403 public enemy to want to destroy our new Center!

2404 NOLAND [with growing fervor]: What does the Center for
2405 Economic Justice really stand for, if it's built on
2406 lies? It ought to be demolished! You'll end up infecting
2407 the whole college--you'll bring about such a state of
2408 affairs that the whole college won't be worth saving.
2409 And if that comes to pass, I say from the bottom of my
2410 heart: let this college die, for it doesn't deserve
2411 to live!

2412 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: He hates this college!
2413 He's an enemy! He hates his own race!

2414 BROOKS: The People are rising up, viewers--the People
2415 are rising up!

2416 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: He's an enemy of the college!
2417 An enemy of the college!

2418 ACKERMAN: As a member of this faculty and of this
2419 community, I am profoundly disturbed by what I've heard.
2420 Professor Hyer has shown himself to be someone I do not
2421 recognize. I am hereby obliged to act on the opinions of
2422 the majority of this community and endorse the motion
2423 that Professor Noland Hyer be declared an enemy of this
2424 college!

2425 [A storm of cheers and applause.]

2426 PATIENCE: Uncle, Uncle!

2427 NOLAND: Oh, you fools, you fools!

2428 ACKERMAN [ringing his bell]: We can't hear you now! This
2429 is a democratic institution and we're about to take a

2430 vote. How many are in favor of the motion to declare
2431 Professor Hyer an enemy of this college? Please say Aye.
2432 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: AYE!!!
2433 ACKERMAN [in a rush]: Well, as there seems to be little
2434 doubt as to the majority opinion, I officially conclude
2435 as moderator of this meeting that the Aye's have it!
2436 DRUNKEN MAN: Wait, I wanna vote, too!! I didn't get to
2437 vote!! My vote should count, too!!
2438 [Laughter. Footsteps. Chaos.]
2439 MARTIN: Well, Nolan'--now I see where these tricks o'
2440 yours have lead to.
2441 NOLAND: I have a duty, Mr. Bay. To the truth.
2442 MARTIN: What's that you said up there, son? [Pause]
2443 You said our new Center should be torn down. [Pause]
2444 Isn't that what you said?
2445 NOLAND: You heard correctly. And I said that the
2446 community was responsible.
2447 MARTIN: I don't have to remind you it's me that's been
2448 the biggest contributor to the Center--do I?
2449 NOLAND: Yes, I know.
2450 MARTIN BAY: I'm a builder, Nolan'. Been a builder all my
2451 life. Got to know concrete--got to know it very well--
2452 it's taken me far. Very far. My concrete has built many
2453 a building on this campus.
2454 NOLAND: I know, Mr. Bay.
2455 MARTIN: You gonna put that in your study?
2456 NOLAND [quiet guffaw]: I won't hide anthing, sir.
2457 MARTIN: And I thought you was just pullin' my leg.
2458 Well, well...May this cost you dearly, son. Dearly.
2459 [Footsteps.] Hey, there, Forester--do you always
2460 lend out yer premises to enemies o' the college?
2461 FORESTER: I'm used to doing what I like--with my own
2462 property--Martin.
2463 MARTIN: Is that a fact! Well--then I guess you won't
2464 object to me doin' the same--with mine.
2465 FORESTER: That is your right.

2466 MARTIN BAY: I'll see you later, Bill. You'll hear from
2467 my new broker tomorrow.

2468 FORESTER: Yes, sir.

2469 [Footsteps leave. Footsteps approach.]

2470 PATIENCE: My grandfather can really hurt your business,
2471 can't he, Mr. Forester?

2472 FORESTER: I beleve he already has.

2473 [Bell rung loudly.]

2474 ACKERMAN: I'd like to close this meeting by saying:
2475 three cheers for our honorable campus community!
2476 [Renewed applause] Three cheers for our able and
2477 energetic Dean, who has so loyally navigated the
2478 pressures of family feeling! [Cheers.] This meeting
2479 is dissolved!

2480 DEAN: Three cheers for our wonderful mediator,
2481 Professor Ackerman!

2482 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: Three cheers for Professor
2483 Ackerman! Hurrah!

2484 NOLAND: Let's go, Patience. [Double Footsteps then Stop]
2485 Thank you so much, Bill.

2486 FORESTER: My pleasure--Noland--anytime.

2487 NOLAND [after a brief pause]: By the way: that job in
2488 the City--it wouldn't still be available, now would it?

2489 FORESTER: I was hoping you'd ask. In fact, there might
2490 be two jobs. [Brief pause] We'll talk soon, eh?
2491 [Footsteps].

2492 PATIENCE: That's a good friend, Uncle.

2493 NOLAND: Yes--he is.

2494 PATIENCE: Grandpa Martin will make him pay, won't he?

2495 NOLAND: I expect he will. [Pause] Let's go. [Double
2496 Footsteps for a distance. Then Stop.] By the way,
2497 Cloudine: when you and your father--and the board--
2498 bring charges against me, I won't be defending them.
2499 I'm giving up my tenure. I don't wanna stay here
2500 anymore. I'm moving--to New York.

2501 PATIENCE: And so am I.

2502 DEAN: New York? You mean you'll take a job in the
2503 private sector?

2504 NOLAND: That's right.

2505 DEAN: You're giving up so much, Noland--everything you
2506 worked for.

2507 NOLAND: I guess so. But in the city, what I'm paid
2508 will be what I earn--not what I've been given. I like it
2509 better that way.

2510 DEAN: Well...what in heaven's name will my sister say?

2511 NOLAND: I don't know. [Pause] Why don't you and your
2512 father ask her.

2513 [Double Footsteps.]

2514 THE END