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Also, please do your best to read the entire piece before auditioning--it will help.

Underscoring of words in script (like this) indicates the writer-producer's emphasis. Please do your best to emphasize as indicated but don't let it straitjacket your performance.

Please record 48 htz/24 bit and SAVE and SUBMIT your **RAW** recording (with **ZERO** effects added--no noise reduction, no compression, no eq--NOTHING!) as:

.WAV only*

This means you will need to submit your file(s) via a Dropbox/WeTransfer/or the like **LINK** in an email (if the files too big as an attachment). **PLEASE NO PASSWORDS!!**

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All cast VA's are pro-rate paid via PayPal Friends & Family upon emailed link(s) of each take completed to specs.

Please email all links to:

martin@bymouth.org

Looking forward to hearing your work,

Martin Garrison
Producer | Writer | Editor
BY MOUTH Audio Drama

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TITLE: ENEMY | Freely adapted from "Enemy of the People" by Henrik Ibsen.

NOTE: Please audition with a scene of your choice for one or more of the below characters/scripts:

NOLAND Hyer, Black male, mid-to-late 30's--intelligent, scholarly, affable--tenured Economics Professor at Greyfield College.

5983 words x (3) takes x .15/word = \$2700.

DEAN Cloudine Bay, Black female, late-40's--Dean of Greyfield College--sister-in-law to Noland, sister to Lexi, daughter to Martin--highly educated/Rhodes Scholar, polished, married to her job, extremely ambitious and can be ruthless.

3289 words x (3) takes x .15/word = \$1500.

HALSEY, Black female grad student, 23--editor of "The Greyfield" newspaper--bookishly bright and ambitious--attracted to women

1890 words x (3) takes x .15/word = \$855.

ACKERMAN, Caucasian Female, 50's--posh Brit, professor and student advisor of "The Greyfield"--a broadly comic character--absurdly self-important--closeted lesbian having an affair with Halsey, editor of the paper and her female grad student.

1735 words x (3) takes x .15/word = \$785.

LEXI Hyer, Black female, late-30's--Noland's wife--sister to the Dean, aunt to Patience and daughter to Martin.

917 words x (3) takes x .15/word = \$420.

BROOKS, Black female grad student--assistant editor of "The Greyfield"---not bright, a follower, heavysset--attracted to women--a pretty broad comic character

578 words x (3) takes x .15/word + Bonus = \$350.

MARTIN Bay, Black male, near 80--Father to Lexi and the Dean--wealthy Greyfield Donor--earthy, self-made man with six grade education--built concrete company from nothing into a wealthy enterprise

739 words x (3) takes x .15/word = \$350.

PATIENCE, Black female, 22--the Hyer's niece--loyal to her uncle Noland, down to earth

688 words x (3) takes x .15/word = \$325.

FORESTER Bill, Caucasian male, 50--investment advisor /finance entrepreneur--works (and lives mainly) in New York City

261 words x (3) takes x .15/word + Bonus = \$200.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 BROOKS: The odds o' that are pretty good.

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

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

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

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

37 DEAN: I just happened to be passing and-- [Pause]
38 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, Halsey.

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, Halsey. 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

139 NOLAND & FORESTER [laughing at a joke]:

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

144 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. Anyway, 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 yourselfs.

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 willing to help?

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 niece, 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 edits 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 empty 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. Anyway, 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.

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

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

460 BROOKS: Absolutely necessary!

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

464 HALSEY: Yes? So what, then?

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

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

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

470 HALSEY [pleased with herself]: I wrote that.

471 BROOKS: She did!

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

480 HALSEY: Okay--what is it?

481 LEXI: Yes, sweetie--tell us!

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

483 HALSEY: What?

484 NOLAND: It turns out...we torched our cities--we
485 proclaimed the innocence of our martyr--we demanded the
486 hide of the racist cop who appeared on video to
487 choke the life out of our hero--and then the court--
488 and the jury--and the medical examiner--and most of
489 polite society--quietly went along. And the whole thing
490 was built on a single assumption: that cops shoot Blacks
491 at a higher rate than non-Blacks. And it turns out that
492 that assumption was not true.

493 HALSEY: **But, Professor--**

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

502 LEXI: Are you sure?

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

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

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

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

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

525 LEXI [blows out air between her lips]:

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

527 NOLAND: Publish it--of course.

528 BROOKS: They'll let you do that?

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

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

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

537 LEXI: Still, you might've told me.

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

545 LEXI: A nice upset?!

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

551 PATIENCE: So you were right about George Floyd.

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

563 HALSEY: **But that bias was longstanding.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

581 NOLAND [sardonically]: Great...

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

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

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

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

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

592 HALSEY: **To your integrity, Professor!**

593 BROOKS: To your integrity!

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

596 NOLAND: Thank you, good friends--and family. I actually
597 feel very happy. It's a wonderful thing to feel one has

598 done one's duty to the truth--and to his fellow
599 researchers--and his students--and his loved ones--
600 isn't that right, Lexi?

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

602

603 [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 into
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!

708 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.
785 There were men--and women--of color--his age--who couldn't
786 be denied an education--however difficult it was for
787 them--and it was difficult. Should your father really
788 have been consulted about public affairs when it's
789 cleaning he was expert in?

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

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

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

801 [There's a knock at the door.]

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

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

805 ACKERMAN: Excuse me for just barging in, Professor.

806 NOLAND: Not at all.

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

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

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

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

814 NOLAND: That's right.

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

817 HALSEY: Ya see!

818 NOLAND: Well, I'm grateful but--

819 ACKERMAN: Having "The Greyfield" on your side--I'm the
820 advisor, you know--well, that's no small thing! We form
821 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?

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

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

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

942 DEAN [she doesn't]: I understand.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

970 DEAN: Noland, the death of George Floyd made anti-Black
971 bias by police an established fact in the minds of the
972 public. Why should the Center--whose entire purpose
973 is to aid marginalized groups--suffer because of a
974 two percentage point difference in a study done by its
975 star? Noland, two points is an accounting error!

976 NOLAND: An "accounting error"?!

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

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

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

987 NOLAND: What's that supposed to mean?

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

993 NOLAND: Sure but--

994 DEAN: When I guard my reputation, it's in the interest
995 of the community I serve. Without moral authority in the

996 community, I'm powerless to direct public affairs for
997 the common good. For that reason--and that reason alone--
998 I must insist that this study of yours not be submitted
999 for publication. In the interests of this community and
1000 the wider African-American community, you must withhold
1001 it. Then, later on, you may raise the question, quietly,
1002 and we'll do our best--privately. But nothing of this
1003 unfortunate study--not a single word of it--must reach
1004 the ears of the public with Greyfield's name on it!

1005 NOLAND: Okay--I'll publish it under my own name--
1006 personally.

1007 DEAN: You think that'll happen?

1008 NOLAND: Why not?

1009 DEAN: I have powerful friends, Noland.

1010 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 concept 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 authority 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 science--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 deliberately 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 dream 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 godskakes! 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 tryin' 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 [thinks]: 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 affairs, 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 pieces, 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--awesome.

1341 NOLAND: You think so?

1342 HALSEY: Very 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

1404 HALSEY: Ya know--I think we now have a chance of
1405 getting these facists just where we want them!

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1407 imagine there should be any risk.

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1413 friend to the college--a true friend to the college
1414 community!

1415 BROOKS: A friend of the people!

1416 NOLAND: You know it's so refreshing to hear you say
1417 that. My sister-in-law--the esteemed Dean--called me
1418 something very different today. Well, she'll get it
1419 back--with interest! But I have to go. I'll be back.
1420 See that they keep an eye on my punctuation, Professor--
1421 and don't leave out any exclamation points! If anything,
1422 put more in!

1423 [Footsteps. Door open/close]

1424 ACKERMAN: What is that he said about the Dean?
1425 I didn't quite catch it.

1426 HALSEY: Oh, nothing very important. Not yet anyway.

1427 ACKERMAN: Okay...as long as he sticks to this matter
1428 about the police. If he goes farther afield, well...

1429 HALSEY: Either way he might prove useful--[flirting
1430 shamelessly] to our cause.

1431 ACKERMAN [flirting back with sexual innuendo]:
1432 Is that so? Well, you do seem have your finger firmly on
1433 the pulse, Halsey.

1434 HALSEY [continuing to flirt shamelessly]: And I thought
1435 you were a moderate, Professor Ackerman.

1436 ACKERMAN [flustered with desire and mindful of Brooks]:
1437 Yes, well, when it's a question of campus leadership,
1438 I'm moderate, of course--it's a...lesson I learned from
1439 experience, let me tell you. [Flirting again] But try me
1440 under other conditions, in matters that require senior
1441 leadership, and see if I'm moderate then!

1442 BROOKS: But that doesn't make sense, Professor?

1443 ACKERMAN [short]: I am a woman with a conscience,
1444 Brooks! That's the whole point. If you attack the
1445 government, you don't do the community any harm--those
1446 people pay no attention to attacks--they go on just as
1447 they are. But campus authorities are different--they can
1448 be fired--and the next lot may be worse--and do a
1449 great deal of harm to people like us.

1450 BROOKS: But what about government by students--don't you
1451 think that's important?

1452 ACKERMAN [staring with desire in Halsey's direction]:
1453 When a woman has interests of her own that consume her,
1454 Brooks, she can't think of everything. [Brief pause]
1455 Remember the example of your predecessor at the
1456 assistant editorial desk...

1457 BROOKS: That facist?

1458 ACKERMAN: Yes, well I think it's high time you put that
1459 nose of yours to the grindstone--that is, if you want to
1460 sit at Halsey's desk someday.

1461 BROOKS: You know I do!

1462 ACKMERMAN: Anyway...if I'm to be accused of
1463 inconsistency in my principles, I'd like to point out:
1464 my past is an open book--I've never changed, except to
1465 become more moderate. I cannot deny I lean ever so
1466 slightly towards campus authorities. But my heart
1467 remains with the people.

1468 [Footsteps. Door open/close.]

1469 BROOKS: Shouldn't we try to get rid of her?

1470 HALSEY: Know anyone else who'll pay our paper and
1471 printing bills and let us do what we want?

1472 BROOKS: You just like her cuz she goes down on you but
1473 you don't have to return the favor.

1474 HALSEY: I told you there are perks to being editor.

1475 BROOKS: Wait--what about the Dean's father? They say
1476 he's loaded.

1477 HALSEY: Him? He's senile!

1478 BROOKS: He's still loaded! If we got ridda Ackerman
1479 and convinced the old geezer to pay for the paper,
1480 we wouldn't have to have an advisor at all!

1481 HALSEY: You're goofy, you know that!

1482 [Door open/close. Footsteps]

1483 BROOKS [pleased]: Oh, it's you.

1484 HALSEY: Hi Patience--have a seat.

1485 PATIENCE: No, thanks--I have to go in a minute.

1486 HALSEY: Is it something about your uncle?

1487 PATIENCE: No, I'm here on my own account. I just wanted
1488 to give you that story we talked about.

1489 BROOKS [too enthused]: Oh, that's wonderful!

1490 PATIENCE: You might not say that after you read it.

1491 BROOKS: Why would that be?

1492 [Door open.]

1493 ACKERMAN [calling]: Brooks, I need you!

1494 BROOKS [sighs]: Coming! [Footsteps and door close]

1495 HALSEY: And why might I not say that after I've--?

1496 PATIENCE: It's about a supernatural power that watches
1497 over all the good people while all the bad people are
1498 punished.

1499 HALSEY: That's all right--that's just what our
1500 readers want.

1501 PATIENCE: Yeah? Well I don't believe a word of it.
1502 Things like that don't happen in real life.

1503 HALSEY: You're right--but an editor can't always
1504 choose what she'd like. She has to satisfy the wishes of
1505 the public. Politics are what's important--for a
1506 newspaper, anyway--and if I want to lead my public to
1507 progressive thinking, I can't frighten them away.
1508 If they read a story with a moral at the bottom of the
1509 page, they'll be more inclined to read what's printed
1510 above it!

1511 PATIENCE: I'd never go and set a trap for my readers
1512 like that--I'm not a spider!

1513 HALSEY [chuckles]: Thanks for having such a good
1514 opinion of me. Actually, we journalists aren't
1515 worth much.

1516 PATIENCE: You actually mean that?

1517 HALSEY: Sometimes.

1518 PATIENCE: I can see how--in everyday life--but now,
1519 when you have a serious matter to deal with--

1520 HALSEY: Your uncle, you mean.

1521 PATIENCE: Exactly--it seems to me you must feel...
1522 pretty good about yourself.

1523 HALSEY: Today--yeah I guess I do.

1524 PATIENCE: It's a wonderful profession, journalism--
1525 being able to pave the way for Truth! To stand without
1526 fear in the open and take up the cause of the underdog!

1527 HALSEY: Especially when that underdog is--! [clears
1528 throat]

1529 PATIENCE: So decent and honest, you mean.

1530 HALSEY (more gently): Especially when he's your
1531 uncle is what I meant.

1532 PATIENCE: So that's first with you, is it? Not the
1533 matter itself? Not the truth?

1534 HALSEY: Of course--that too!

1535 PATIENCE: Well...You've shown me who you are, Halsey.
1536 I'll never trust you again--with anthing.

1537 HALSEY: **Don't you realize it's for your sake?**

1538 PATIENCE: For my sake? Your not being honest with my
1539 uncle? You talked to him as if the truth and the good of
1540 the community were what were closest to your heart.
1541 You've made fools of both of us. You're not who you
1542 pretend to be!

1543 HALSEY: **Why are you saying this? Especially now?**

1544 PATIENCE: Why not now?

1545 HALSEY: **Because your uncle can't do this without my**
1546 **help.**

1547 PATIENCE (looking her up and down). So you're that
1548 sort of person too?

1549 HALSEY: **No, I'm not. I just--**

1550 PATIENCE: I know what I believe.

1551 [Open door. Footsteps.]

1552 ACKERMAN (hurriedly): Damn it, Halsey, I--! [Sees
1553 Patience--suddenly friendly.] Oh--

1554 PATIENCE [to Halsey but for Ackerman's benefit]:
1555 You can't have my story. I'll give it to someone I
1556 respect.

1557 [Footsteps. Door open/close.]

1558 ACKERMAN: I say--Halsey?

1559 HALSEY [rudely]: **Yes, Professor--what is it?**

1560 ACKERMAN [slightly hurt at tone]: The Dean is in my
1561 office. She wants a word with you.

1562 HALSEY [shocked]: **The Dean?**

1563 ACKERMAN: Yees. She came in by the back door--
1564 didn't want to be seen--you understand.

1565 [Footsteps. Door open.]

1566 DEAN: Will you please see that no one--

1567 ACKERMAN: Of course.

1568 [Footsteps. Door close.]

1569 DEAN: You didn't expect to see me here--did you, Halsey?

1570 HALSEY: No, Dean Bay, I didn't.

1571 DEAN: Here I come, without any notice, to take up your
1572 time!

1573 HALSEY: Not at all.

1574 DEAN: Sit down.

1575 HALSEY: Thanks.

1576 DEAN [Brief pause]: I've had an extremely annoying
1577 day today, Halsey.

1578 HALSEY: I'm sure with all the important business
1579 you have to attend to, Dean Bay--that--

1580 DEAN: Professor Hyer's responsible for what
1581 happened today.

1582 HALSEY: Really--the Professor?

1583 DEAN: He's releasing a study on police shootings
1584 that will hurt our race.

1585 HALSEY: Is that right?

1586 DEAN: Hasn't he told you? I thought he'd--

1587 HALSEY: Well, come to think of it, he did say
1588 something about--

1589 [Door open.]

1590 ACKERMAN: Halsey, I need the professor's piece.

1591 HALSEY [clears throat]: It's on my computer.

1592 ACKERMAN: Right.

1593 DEAN: Wait--that's what I'm talking about!

1594 ACKERMAN [innocently]: The Professor's Twitter piece?

1595 HALSEY [playing dumb]: Oh, THAT'S what you're
1596 talking about!

1597 DEAN: Yes! What do you think of it?

1598 HALSEY: I'm only a graduate student and--I've only
1599 skimmed it really--

1600 DEAN: Are you going to print it?

1601 ACKERMAN: I don't see how we can refuse a distinguished
1602 professor--can we?

1603 DEAN: I suppose--not.

1604 ACKERMAN: But it's also the editor's call. I'm just the
1605 advisor.

1606 DEAN: That's right.

1607 ACKERMAN: And so I must--! [Clears throat. Footsteps.]

1608 DEAN: Wait a minute, Professor.

1609 ACKERMAN: Yes, Dean Bay?

1610 DEAN: You're a discreet and thoughtful woman,
1611 Ms. Ackerman.

1612 ACKERMAN: I'm pleased you think so.

1613 DEAN: A woman of considerable influence.

1614 Aslaksen [flattered]. In my field, yes--I like to
1615 think so.

1616 DEAN: Progressives are the majority of the faculty here.

1617 ACKERMAN: That's true.

1618 DEAN: No doubt you know the general trend of opinion
1619 among them--isn't that right?

1620 ACKERMAN: Yes, I think I do, Dean Bay.

1621 DEAN: Yes. Well...since there's such a praiseworthy
1622 spirit of sacrifice among the newer faculty--

1623 ACKERMAN: Spirit of sacrifice, Dean Bay?

1624 HALSEY [as in what?]: Sacrifice?

1625 DEAN: It's encouraging evidence of a public-spirited
1626 feeling--extremely encouraging evidence. You might say
1627 I'm surprised by it. But you have a greater knowledge of
1628 public opinion than I.

1629 ACKERMAN: Yes, Dean Bay but--

1630 DEAN: Indeed, it's no small sacrifice the college will
1631 have to make.

1632 HALSEY: The college?

1633 ACKERMAN: Yes, but I don't quite understand. Isn't it
1634 just a single study?

1635 DEAN: Yes, but this study calls into question the very
1636 existence of our new Center.

1637 ACKERMAN [frightened]: Does it?

1638 DEAN: Of course. If donations are affected--and with a
1639 study like this they're sure to be--why then enrollment
1640 --well, it may be necessary to scale back in certain
1641 departments.

1642 HALSEY: You mean "The Greyfield".

1643 ACKERMAN: But our little operation here is fairly
1644 buckled up as it is. You don't mean to say that--

1645 DEAN: Where else, my dear, is the money going to
1646 come from?

1647 ACKERMAN: Why, surely, whoever's underwriting
1648 this study ought to--

1649 DEAN: Those underwriting the Professor's lab are not in
1650 a position to incur further expense.

1651 ACKERMAN: I beg your pardon but--you're absolutely
1652 certain of this?

1653 DEAN [coldly]: Let's just say that if you want this
1654 study bad enough, you'll have to pay for it.

1655 ACKERMAN: Well, I see. That's quite another matter,
1656 isn't it, Halsey?

1657 HALSEY: It sure is.

1658 DEAN: The worst part of it is--I'm afraid we might even
1659 have to close the Center if this study's released--
1660 and donations plummet.

1661 HALSEY: Close it?

1662 ACKERMAN: Altogether?

1663 DEAN: It's very possible.

1664 ACKERMAN [stricken]: Well, we can't very well allow that
1665 --now can we?

1666 DEAN: What would you have us do? You think donors
1667 will be happy if they think their money is going to
1668 studies like this?

1669 ACKERMAN: So the entire thing is a misreading
1670 of the data?

1671 DEAN: I can't come to any other conclusion.

1672 ACKERMAN: Well then it certainly appears to be work
1673 unworthy of Professor Hyer.

1674 DEAN: My brother-in-law's unfortunately always been a
1675 headstrong man.

1676 ACKERMAN: In light of this, do you still mean to give
1677 him your support, Halsey?

1678 HALSEY: You think for one minute that I--?

1679 ACKERMAN: Of course not--of course not!

1680 DEAN: Fine. Now I've written a short summary of the
1681 situation from a reasonable point of view. Addressing,
1682 of course, the misinformation of the Professor's
1683 unfortunate conclusion.

1684 HALSEY: Can you email it to me?

1685 DEAN: I've already done so.

1686 ACKERMAN: Good Heavens, there he is!

1687 DEAN: Who? [brief pause] Noland?

1688 HALSEY: Where?

1689 ACKERMAN: He just entered the office!

1690 DEAN: Damn--I don't want to meet him here. And we have
1691 more to discuss.

1692 ACKERMAN: Dean, you stay here--we'll go talk to him.

1693 DEAN: Get rid of him--quickly.

1694 [Footsteps. Door Open/Close.]

1695 NOLAND [smiling]: Well, here I am again.

1696 ACKERMAN: Already, Professor? [sternly] Hurry up with
1697 what you were telling me Halsey--I'm very pressed for
1698 time.

1699 NOLAND: No digital proof for me to see yet, eh?

1700 ACKERMAN: Not yet, Professor.

1701 NOLAND: You'll have to excuse my impatience--I won't
1702 have peace of mind until I see it in print.

1703 HALSEY: It'll take a good while yet--won't it--
1704 Professor Ackerman?

1705 ACKERMAN: Yees--I'm afraid it will.

1706 NOLAND: All right--I'll come back. [Footsteps.
1707 Then stop.] Oh, yes--there is one more thing--

1708 ACKERMAN: Could it wait for another time?

1709 NOLAND: It's only this: when my article is
1710 read tomorrow, well--

1711 ACKERMAN: Yes, Professor?

1712 NOLAND: It was just my duty, you understand--my duty as
1713 a researcher--and a member of this community--

1714 ACKERMAN: This campus has a high opinion of you,
1715 Professor.

1716 NOLAND: Yes, that's what I'm afraid of. Whether it's a
1717 banquet or a demonstration, or some other affair--
1718 whatever it is, promise me you'll put a stop to it.

1719 [Door open.]

1720 HALSEY [to Ackerman in a whisper]: Sooner or later,
1721 we're gonna have to tell him the truth.

1722 [Door close. Footsteps.]

1723 LEXI: Just as I thought.

1724 HALSEY: Mrs. Hyer?

1725 NOLAND: What are you doing here, Lexi?

1726 LEXI: You know very well what I want.

1727 HALSEY: Won't you--sit down?

1728 LEXI: No thank you. You'll have to excuse me for
1729 coming to fetch my husband.

1730 NOLAND: Are you out of your mind!

1731 LEXI: Yes, I am--if you are IN yours!

1732 ACKERMAN: Well, as I say: moderation in everything!

1733 LEXI: You disrespect us both, Halsey--by making a
1734 fool of my husband like this!

1735 HALSEY: Making a--!

1736 ACKERMAN [reading it wrong]: What's that? Halsey?!

1737 NOLAND: A fool? Of me? Ya think I'd allow myself to be
1738 made a fool of?

1739 LEXI: Absolutely! You have more brains than anyone on
1740 campus but you're just as easily fooled. [To Halsey]
1741 You realize that he could lose his tenure if you
1742 print what he's written.

1743 ACKERMAN: I don't understand!

1744 HALSEY [to Ackerman]: It's not what you think,
1745 Professor!

1746 NOLAND [laughing]: Ha-ha! Just let 'em try to take my
1747 tenure! No, they won't be able to do that. I've got a
1748 free press behind me!

1749 LEXI: That's what I'm afraid of.

1750 NOLAND [intimately to Lexi]: Go home now--will you?
1751 Lemme take care of my job--and you take care of yours.
1752 How can you be so afraid, when I'm so confident and
1753 happy?

1754 [Loud sneeze from inside Ackerman's office can be
1755 heard.]

1756 NOLAND: What's that?

1757 ACKERMAN: That?

1758 NOLAND: Someone hiding in the cupboard, are they?
1759 Well, let's see who it is.

1760 LEXI: Noland, let's go!

1761 [Footsteps]

1762 ACKERMAN: It's really just a--

1763 [Door open.]

1764 NOLAND: Well, if it isn't Dean Bay.

1765 LEXI: Noland!

1766 NOLAND: Here...talking over the members of the press.
1767 Thought she would listen in on their dialogue--
1768 with the heretic.

1769 DEAN: I was here for a meeting and--

1770 NOLAND: I bet you were! Let tell you something--
1771 you think you can get rid of me--take my tenure?
1772 Well, I'll get rid of you! You think I can't?
1773 I have the press and the faculty behind me. Halsey and
1774 Brooks will thunder in "The Greyfield"--and Professor
1775 Ackerman will back me, won't you, Professor?

1776 ACKERMAN: I'm afraid that I cannot do.

1777 NOLAND: Of course you will--

1778 DEAN: How about you, Halsey? Will you be joining
1779 Professor Hyer's movement?

1780 HALSEY: No, Dean Bay.

1781 DEAN: Halsey's not about to give up her editorship to
1782 print divisive misinformation.

1783 NOLAND: Halsey?

1784 HALSEY: You've represented your case in a false light,
1785 Professor. Therefore, I can't support you.

1786 BROOKS [trying to sound important]: And, after what I've
1787 learned...[reverting to self] Me neither!

1788 NOLAND: You can leave that to the reader. Print my piece
1789 --that's all I ask. I'm very capable of defending it
1790 myself.

1791 HALSEY: As editor of "The Greyfield", Professor,
1792 I won't print your tweet. I can't--and won't--and...
1793 wouldn't dare--

1794 NOLAND: Wouldn't dare? What horse shit--you're the
1795 editor!

1796 ACKERMAN: And I am the advisor, Professor!

1797 DEAN: Yes, she is.

1798 ACKERMAN: Ultimately, it's public opinion--which is
1799 comprised of our students and the greater campus
1800 community--that oversees the press--

1801 NOLAND: So this is how it's going to be?

1802 DEAN: It appears so.

1803 ACKERMAN: It would clearly do damage to the
1804 campus community were your article to appear.

1805 NOLAND: I see. [Pause]. Then you refuse to print it--
1806 even as a Letter to the Editor--is that right?

1807 ACKERMAN: I'm afraid that wouldn't be possible--out of
1808 concern for your safety--

1809 HALSEY: --and the safety of your family.

1810 NOLAND: You needn't concern yourself with that.

1811 DEAN: And--for the sake of the public, it'd be
1812 appropriate that a statement from my office appear.

1813 HALSEY: Yes, I'll see that it's included.

1814 NOLAND: But not mine. You think you can silence me and
1815 stifle the truth? You won't find it as easy as you
1816 think. I've already published it to Twitter, where I
1817 have thousands of followers all over the globe.

1818 DEAN: You are free to do as you like. But you may find
1819 your post on this issue runs afoul of Twitter's rules of
1820 engagement. This college has plenty of influential
1821 friends in the media, Professor.

1822 NOLAND: Then I'll read it out on campus!

1823 DEAN: Who will hear you?

1824 ACKERMAN: Not many--I'm sure.

1825 BROOKS: That's right--not too many--maybe two.

1826 NOLAND: You, too, huh? Well, I'll tell you why this is
1827 so. This is so because all the leaders on this campus
1828 are women--that's right--WOMEN! It's only women who
1829 think of nothing but their families, their security,
1830 their community, their safety--of tenure--never about
1831 the truth!

1832 LEXI: Let's go, Noland. Please!

1833 NOLAND: I'll get a drum and parade around campus with it
1834 --I'll read it along the way!

1835 DEAN: You'll look like a fool.

1836 NOLAND: So what--I am a fool! And I thought I was
1837 free here!

1838 ACKERMAN: You won't find a single person on campus to go
1839 with you.

1840 BROOKS: Not--two!

1841 NOLAND: We'll see! I'm going. I'm going to see whether a
1842 pack of cowards can gag a man of science who stands for
1843 the truth--one who will not back down--one who refuses
1844 to traffic in lies--one who really wants the best for
1845 his students and fellow teachers and those he loves!

1846 [Footsteps. Door open/close].

1847

1848 [MUSICAL INTERLUDE]

1849

1850 NARRATOR: The next morning in Martin Bay's elegant,
1851 wood-paneled study...

1852 MARTIN [pleased]: I figured I'd be gettin' a visit from
1853 the Dean o' the College. [brief pause] Don't like this
1854 police study business, do ya? Ha! I knew you wouldn't!

1855 DEAN: What did you say to Noland, Father?

1856 MARTIN: I told 'im I'd give ten-thousand to a charity
1857 if he got your panties in a bunch over this. And the
1858 panties of your friends on the board--who hounded
1859 me out!

1860 DEAN: This is serious, Father.

1861 MARTIN: Oh, it is, is it? See those books on the shelves
1862 behind me? Ya think I've read those books? I barely
1863 made it to th' six grade! Those books are for show!
1864 They're knick-knacks! But you can read 'em--why you've
1865 had the best book-learnin' in the world! Who did that?

1866 DEAN: You did, Father. You.

1867 MARTIN: That's right.

1868 DEAN: And I'm grateful for it. But I'm serious.
1869 I believe Noland wants to tear down the Center.
1870 The Center you and I built.

1871 MARTIN: Why would he wanna do that? He's got
1872 everything here.

1873 DEAN: This police study of his. If we back him,
1874 it's going to make us look like fools. The other donors
1875 are not going to like it. They might not be as
1876 forgiving as you.

1877 MARTIN: I thought he was pullin' my leg. You say he's
1878 serious?

1879 DEAN: Dead serious. And I don't think he'll stop
1880 until he destroys the Center.

1881 MARTIN: Destroys it? But the lab we built for him
1882 is in it? That's his baby--why would he destroy that?

1883 DEAN: Because he resents us--you and me. He won't stop
1884 until he's destroyed everything we've built--including
1885 his own Lab. Because we built it for him--you built it
1886 for him. And he resents it. And he always will.

1887 MARTIN: C'mon, Cloudine! Yer the one that convinced me
1888 to back this whole thing--that he was the man to build
1889 it around! I didn't think he was ready.

1890 DEAN: No you didn't. And you were right.

1891 MARTIN: You didn't think so at the time.

1892 DEAN: I thought he was ready. And he was--to build it
1893 around. But now that it's been built, we must
1894 protect it--protect it from men who would destroy it.
1895 And he's one.

1896 MARTIN [laughs]: He is, is he?

1897 DEAN: Yes. It's up to you--and me.

1898 MARTIN: You and me, huh? Where were you and me when your
1899 friends on the board sent me packin'?

1900 DEAN: You're right--that was wrong. That won't
1901 happen again.

1902 MARTIN: Well, you are serious about this, aren't you?
1903 [pause] Hmmm...Ya sure this is the right move?

1904 DEAN: I've never been more sure.

1905 MARTIN: Hmmph...Well...

1906 DEAN: By the way: I told Lexi today that if she
1907 stood with Noland on this, I couldn't see how
1908 she'd ever get another dime from Daddy.

1909 MARTIN [chuckles]: You told her that?

1910 DEAN: Yes.

1911 MARTIN [chuckles again--then, with affection]:
1912 Well, my little bookworm...you are serious.

1913 DEAN: Yes, Daddy. [Footsteps. Door open].

1914 DEAN: Oh and...Bill Forester's hosting a public meeting
1915 for Noland tomorrow night. [Pause] I know Bill manages
1916 some of your investments.

1917 MARTIN: He did.

1918 DEAN [very pleased]: Ha!

1919

1920 NARRATOR: The next evening, at the public meeting...

1921 STUDENT 1: Oh! You here too?

1922 STUDENT 2: Wouldn't miss it.

1923 STUDENT 3: Brought your signs, too, I see.

1924 STUDENT 2: Of course--haven't you?

1925 STUDENT 3: See! Steve said he was going to bring a
1926 bull-horn.

1927 STUDENT 2: Awesome! [Laughter among the crowd.]

1928 STUDENT 4: What's going on here?

1929 STUDENT 2: Professor Hyer's giving a talk attacking the
1930 Dean.

1931 STUDENT 4: But the Dean's his wife's sister, isn't she?

1932 STUDENT 1: That doesn't matter--Professor Hyer's not one
1933 to back down.

1934 STUDENT 3: But he's spreading misinformation--it said so
1935 in "The Greyfield".

1936 STUDENT 2: That must be right--because I hear the
1937 college wouldn't give him a hall for this meeting.

1938 STUDENT 1: A tenured professor and they wouldn't
1939 give him a hall?

1940 FACULTY 1: Who are we supposed to back in this?

1941 FACULTY 2: Watch Ackerman--and do as she does.

1942 BROOKS: 'Xcuse me, 'xcuse me--mind lettin' me through?
1943 I'm reporting for "The Greyfield".

1944 FACULTY 3: Who was that?

1945 FACULTY 4: That was Brooks, one of Ackerman's reporters.

1946 NARRATOR: Bill Forester brings in Patience from a door
1947 on the right.

1948 FORESTER: I thought you might sit here. You can slip out
1949 easily, if things get too...rowdy.

1950 PATIENCE: You think there'll be trouble?

1951 FORESTER: One can never tell with these things.
1952 But sit--and don't worry. [Brief pause] Your Aunt
1953 won't be coming?

1954 PATIENCE: No--I don't think so.

1955 FORESTER: Sorry to hear that.

1956 PATIENCE: Me too.

1957 PATIENCE: It was kind of you to lend Uncle this space.

1958 FORESTER: Don't mention it.

1959 PATIENCE: It was a brave thing to do, Mr. Forester.

1960 FORESTER [waving her off]: Ah, it was nothing!

1961 NARRATOR: Halsey and Professor Ackerman make their way
1962 through the crowd.

1963 HALSEY: Professor Hyer's not here yet?

1964 ACKERMAN: He's waiting in the next room. [Movement in
1965 the crowd by the door at the back.] Look--here's the
1966 Dean!

1967 HALSEY: Well, she came after all!

1968 NARRATOR: The Dean makes her way gradually through the
1969 crowd. Bowing politely, she takes up a position along
1970 the wall. Professor Hyer then enters thru the door on
1971 the right.

1972 NOLAND [whispers]: How are you doing?

1973 PATIENCE [whispers]: I should be asking you that, Uncle.

1974 NOLAND [whispers]: No sign of Lexi?

1975 PATIENCE [whispers]: No. I'm sorry.

1976 NOLAND [whispers]: Don't be. I'm fine.

1977 PATIENCE [whispers]: Remember: stay calm--and try not

1978 to lose your temper.

1979 NOLAND [whispers]: Don't worry--I know how to

1980 control myself.

1981 NARRATOR: Professor Hyer looks at his watch, steps onto

1982 the platform, and smiles.

1983 NOLAND: It's a quarter past--so I'll begin. [Removes his

1984 speech from his pocket).

1985 ACKERMAN [loudly]: I believe we should elect a moderator

1986 first.

1987 NOLAND: No, it's not necessary.

1988 STUDENTS 1-4: Yes! Yes! Moderator! Moderator!

1989 DEAN [loudly]: Yes, the meeting should have a moderator.

1990 NOLAND: But I called this meeting to give a lecture,

1991 Dean Bay.

1992 DEAN [loudly]: Professor Hyer's lecture may contain

1993 misinformation and thus contribute to an unsafe

1994 atmosphere for students.

1995 STUDENTS 1-4 [loudly]: Moderator! Moderator!

1996 HALSEY [loudly]: It appears the community wishes a

1997 moderator be chosen.

1998 PATIENCE [clears throat as message to Uncle]:

1999 NOLAND: (restraining himself). Al'right--if we have to.

2000 ACKERMAN: I nominate Dean Bay!

2001 STUDENTS 1-4: Bravo! Bravo! Dean Bay! Dean Bay!

2002 DEAN: As Professor Hyer's sister-in-law--my sister is

2003 not present tonight by the way--I must decline the

2004 nomination. But, fortunately, there's someone here I

2005 think will be acceptable to you all. Advisor to our

2006 acclaimed campus newspaper, "The Greyfield", Professor
2007 Ackerman!

2008 FACULTY 1-4: Yes--Ackerman! Bravo! Ackerman!

2009 NARRATOR: Professor Hyer paces up and down the platform
2010 holding his speech.

2011 ACKERMAN: Since you, my fellow Greyfielder's--students
2012 and faculty--choose to entrust me with this duty,
2013 I cannot refuse.

2014 [Loud applause. Footsteps mount platform.]

2015 NARRATOR: Brooks takes a selfie video.

2016 BROOKS: Correspondent Brooks here at Professor Hyer's
2017 talk attackin' the Dean. Professor Ackerman was just
2018 elected moderator! And the crowd's behind her! The
2019 Professor looks pissed--I mean bothered--I mean upset.

2020 ACKERMAN: And now, as your moderator, I should like to
2021 say a few brief words. I am a quiet and peaceful person,
2022 who believes in discreet moderation--and in--moderate
2023 discretion--my friends can testify to that!

2024 FACULTY 1-4: That's right! Go Ackerman!

2025 ACKERMAN: I've learned--in the school of life--
2026 that moderation is the most valuable virtue a
2027 professor can possess--

2028 DEAN: Hear, hear!

2029 ACKERMAN: And moreover--that discretion and moderation
2030 are what enable a professor to be of the greatest
2031 service to her students and to the greater campus
2032 community. I would therefore stress to my esteemed
2033 fellow professor, who's called this meeting, that he
2034 should strive to keep strictly within the bounds of
2035 moderation.

2036 STUDENTS 1-4: Three cheers for moderation! Three cheers!

2037 NOLAND: Wait a minute--

2038 STUDENTS 1-4: Shush! Shush!

2039 ACKERMAN: You must not interrupt, Professor Hyer--
2040 please! Does anyone wish to say anything before we
2041 begin?

2042 DEAN: Yes, Ms. Moderator.

2043 ACKERMAN: The Dean shall address the meeting.

2044 DEAN: Given my familial relationship with Professor
2045 Hyer, I should have preferred not to speak at this
2046 event. But my official position--as Dean and as chairman
2047 of the Center of Economic Justice at Greyfield--compels
2048 me not only to speak but to bring forward a motion to
2049 this assembly. I presume that there's not a single one
2050 of our campus community present who considers it
2051 desirable that misinformation about police shootings of
2052 people of color should be spread from Greyfield to the
2053 community at large.

2054 STUDENTS 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: No, no! Definitely not!
2055 We're against it!

2056 DEAN: Therefore, I should like to propose that this
2057 meeting should not permit Professor Hyer either to
2058 read or comment on the statement in his hand--
2059 which he previously submitted to "The Greyfield" and
2060 which was rejected for containing serious
2061 misinformation.

2062 NOLAND: What?!

2063 PATIENCE [clears her throat twice in warning to Noland]:

2064 NOLAND [Collecting himself]: Okay--go ahead!

2065 DEAN: In my Dean's statement to "The Greyfield",
2066 I placed the essential facts of this matter before the
2067 campus community in such a way that every fair-minded
2068 community member might easily form his or her
2069 own opinion. In short, the main result of Professor
2070 Hyer's study--apart from constituting misinformation
2071 on the subject of police shootings--would be to
2072 saddle our community with a brand new Center we can
2073 no longer afford due to a damaged reputation in the
2074 donor community.

2075 STUDENTS 1-4: Booo! Booo! Misinformation!
2076 Misinformation!

2077 ACKERMAN [ringing her bell]: Silence, please! I would
2078 like to support the Dean's motion. No one doubts the
2079 honesty of the Professor's academic intentions.
2080 I myself, as a professor of journalism, am a believer in
2081 free speech, provided the exercise of it doesn't

2082 hurt the community--or fall too heavily on students and
2083 faculty. And that would surely be the case here--that is
2084 why I would rather see Professor Hyer sanctioned--or
2085 even removed--before I would stand with him in this
2086 matter. You can pay too dearly for a thing sometimes--
2087 that's--my opinion.

2088 [Loud applause.]

2089 HALSEY: As editor of "The Greyfield", I, too, feel
2090 called to explain my position. Professor Hyer's activism
2091 did gain my sympathy at first--and the sympathy of
2092 others--so I initially supported it--as impartially as I
2093 could. But I soon realized I'd allowed myself to be
2094 misled by a misrepresentation of the study--

2095 NOLAND: Misrepresentation--!

2096 HALSEY: Let's call it an untrustworthy representation.
2097 The Dean's piece in "The Greyfield" proves that. If
2098 anyone doubts my journalistic principles, the attitude
2099 of "The Greyfield" towards free speech is well-known to
2100 everyone. But the advice of thoughtful community leaders
2101 has convinced me that in strictly campus matters a
2102 newspaper should proceed with caution--especially with
2103 regards to misinformation.

2104 BROOKS: Viewers, your editor has called out Professor
2105 Hyer for employing--or is it deploying?--misinformation.

2106 HALSEY: And so, in the matter before us, is it not a
2107 fact that Professor Hyer has public opinion against him?
2108 What's an editor's first and foremost duty if it's not
2109 to work in harmony with the newspaper's readers?
2110 Haven't I been given a mandate to work tirelessly for
2111 the welfare of those whose opinions I represent? Am I
2112 wrong in this?

2113 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: No, no! You're right--
2114 you're right!

2115 HALSEY: It's cost me a great deal to break with someone
2116 in whose house I've lately been a guest--someone
2117 who until today enjoyed the goodwill of both
2118 students and faculty--someone whose only mistake
2119 is that he's listening to his head instead of his heart.

2120 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: That's true! Bravo, Bravo!

2121 HALSEY: But my duty to my community forces me to
2122 break with him. Along with something else--my concern
2123 for his--

2124

2125 NOLAND: Stick to my study!

2126 HALSEY: --for his wife, Mrs. Hyer, who's not here and--

2127 NOLAND: I said: stick to my study!

2128 ACKERMAN: I shall now put the Dean's motion to a vote.

2129 NOLAND: That's not necessary. [Rips up his speech
2130 dramatically into small pieces] I no longer intend to
2131 defend my study--or discuss police shootings at all.
2132 No--now I have something very different to say.

2133 DEAN (whisper to Ackerman): What is he up to?

2134 ACKERMAN [whispers]: I don't know!

2135 DRUNKEN MAN (by the door): I'm part of this community,
2136 too!! And I'd like to speak!!

2137 STUDENT 1-4: Quiet! Quiet!

2138 ACKERMAN: Security, please remove him--he's drunk!

2139 NOLAND: Am I allowed to speak?

2140 ACKERMAN (ringing her bell): Professor Hyer shall
2141 address the meeting.

2142 NOLAND: You think, a few days ago, anyone would've
2143 dared silence me as you've done tonight? I would've
2144 defended my free speech like a lion! But now? I don't
2145 care. Why? [Brief pause] I'll tell you.

2146 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [grumbles uncomfortably]:

2147 NOLAND: These last few days, I've thought a great deal.
2148 I thought about so many things that in the end my head
2149 seemed too full to hold them.

2150 DEAN [clears throat trying to alert Ackerman]:

2151 NOLAND: But I got them clear in my head at last, and
2152 then I saw the whole situation plainly. I have a
2153 great revelation to make to you, students and faculty
2154 of this esteemed university. I will impart to you a
2155 discovery of a far wider scope than the trifling matter

2156 of the data on police shootings in the United States in
2157 the year 2019.

2158 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: Don't talk about that! We don't
2159 wanna hear you!

2160 NOLAND: You see, the great discovery I want to talk
2161 about--the great discovery I've made--is that the
2162 very stream of college life--the entire fabric of our
2163 academic community--has been contaminated with the
2164 virus of accepted lies.

2165 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: What's that? What's he say?

2166 DEAN: That's a serious accusation--!

2167 BROOKS: The Professor's made a serious accusation,
2168 viewers--very serious!

2169 ACKERMAN [rings bell]: I call upon the speaker to
2170 moderate his language.

2171 NOLAND: I've always loved this area. I was very young
2172 when we moved away--and my memories cast a big halo over
2173 both the area and its institutions. [Smattering of
2174 claps/applause] And I stayed away for many years, at a
2175 small school up north. I don't think anyone up there
2176 could've accused me of having forgotten my native town--
2177 I was like a bird sitting on its nest--and what I
2178 hatched was plans for this Center--which included this
2179 incredible lab and these gifted students--and of course
2180 the tenure--the academic tenure I enjoy today.

2181 [Handful of claps.]

2182 STUDENT 1-4 [vocalizations of protest]:

2183 NOLAND: When fate--with quite a bit of help from my
2184 sister-in-law--made it so that I'd be coming home again
2185 --I can tell you, I felt like all of my childhood dreams
2186 had come true. It was the one thing I wished for--to do
2187 good work at the prestigious college near my hometown
2188 and have the community I grew up in be proud of me.

2189 DEAN [clearing throat to get Ackerman's attention]:

2190 NOLAND: And so, eyes blind to facts, I wallowed in my
2191 happiness. But yesterday afternoon, ladies and gents--
2192 my eyes were opened--wide, and the first thing I
2193 realized when I looked without blinders was the
2194 absolute colossal stupidity of those in authority--

2195 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Uproar, shouts, laughter]:
2196 DEAN: Ms. Moderator!
2197 ACKERMAN [ringing bell]: By virtue of my authority--!
2198 NOLAND [laughs at Ackerman's faux pax]: If the shoe
2199 fits, Professor--! What I mean is--only--that I got an
2200 incredible whiff of the unbelievable stench of the
2201 falsehoods our leaders have been brewing, stewing for
2202 years at this institution. I can no longer stomach such
2203 brews, such stews and such "leaders". They're like
2204 billy-goats on a farm--they do mischief everywhere.
2205 They stand in a free man's way, everywhere he turns,
2206 and if it were up to me, they'd be exterminated,
2207 like any other pest--
2208 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [GREAT UPROAR]:
2209 DEAN: Ms. Moderator, will you allow such talk?
2210 ACKERMAN: Professor!
2211 NOLAND: I really can't understand how I've only now
2212 gotten a clear view of who these "leaders" are--
2213 when daily before my eyes I had such a perfect example--
2214 my sister-in-law--Dean Bay--Rhodes Scholar--
2215 Greyfield Emeritus--power-mad--and grasping--
2216 devoid of any integrity--
2217 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Laughter, Uproar, Hissing]:
2218 [Bell is rung violently.]
2219 DRUNKEN MAN [who's got in again]: Is it me he's talking
2220 about?! I heard my name--my name's-- Let me go--let me
2221 go!!
2222 DEAN: Who is that man?
2223 ACKERMAN: Remove him, please remove him! [brief pause]
2224 Continue, Professor but--please--moderate your language.
2225 NOLAND: Okay. Well, if anyone thinks, from what I've
2226 said, that my goal is to attack these lying "leaders",
2227 he would be incorrect. No, no, I'm comforted by the
2228 knowledge that these liars--every one of 'em--pave the
2229 way for their own destruction. They don't need the help
2230 of a PHD to help to accelerate their demise! Nor is it
2231 them who're actually the greatest danger. It's not them
2232 who're poisoning our moral life and infecting the ground

2233 we stand on. It's not them who are the most dangerous
2234 enemies of truth and freedom among us!

2235 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: Who then? Who's to Blame?
2236 Name them!

2237 NOLAND: You bet I'll name them! That's precisely the
2238 great discovery I made yesterday! [Raises his voice.]
2239 The most dangerous enemy of truth and freedom among us
2240 is the MAJORITY--that's right--that's it--now you know--
2241 it's YOU!

2242 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Tremendous uproar, shouting,
2243 stamping, hissing]:

2244 [Bell is rung violently].

2245 ACKERMAN: Silence, silence! As Moderator, I call upon
2246 the speaker to withdraw the statement he's just uttered!

2247 NOLAND: Never! It's the MAJORITY in our community that
2248 denies me my freedom and seeks to prevent me from
2249 speaking the truth.

2250 HALSEY: The majority has right on its side! Truth too!

2251 NOLAND: That's one of those lies, Halsey, an
2252 intelligent person like you must fight against always.
2253 Who makes up the majority of any place? Is it the smart,
2254 or the stupid? Do you, dear editor, dispute the fact
2255 that the stupid are an overwhelming majority all the
2256 world over? Good Lord, you really think it's right that
2257 the stupid govern the smart!

2258 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Uproar and cries]:

2259 NOLAND: Yes--shout me down! But you can't answer me--
2260 can you? The majority has might on its side but it
2261 doesn't have right. I am in the right. I and a few other
2262 scattered individuals. Truthtellers are always in the
2263 minority!

2264 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Renewed uproar and cries]:

2265 HALSEY [snidely]: Professor Hyer became a truth-teller--
2266 the day before yesterday!

2267 NOLAND: I guess I did.

2268 BROOKS: Professor Hyer became a truthteller a few days
2269 ago, viewers--he's a truthteller now!

2270 NOLAND: I guess I am. I'm a leader of a revolt against
2271 the lie that the majority has a monopoly on the truth.
2272 What kind of truth does the majority support? Truth so
2273 old it's beginning to fall apart. Truth as old as that
2274 --why--it's is on its way to turning back into a lie!

2275 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Laughter and mocking cries]:

2276 NOLAND: Truth doesn't live as long as we do, ladies and
2277 gents. I'd say your average truth lives about
2278 twenty years. Truths that old are worn thin--and it's
2279 only then that the majority recognizes 'em and feeds 'em
2280 to us as wholesome nourishment. But there's no nutrition
2281 in that kind of food, I can tell ya!

2282 ACKERMAN: The speaker has wandered a long way from his
2283 subject.

2284 DEAN: I agree with the moderator.

2285 NOLAND: But--my esteemed Dean--I am sticking as close
2286 to my subject as I can. My thesis is thus: it's the
2287 accepted falsehoods of the majority that corrode our
2288 precious institutions--and threaten the very ground
2289 we stand on!

2290 HALSEY: And all this because the majority's smart enough
2291 to recognize only truths that don't destroy it.

2292 NOLAND: Halsey, if a single truth--like the one in my
2293 study--can destroy a community, that community doesn't
2294 deserve to survive.

2295 HALSEY: Why not give us one example of these lies we're
2296 being fed--instead of vague generalities.

2297 [Applause]

2298 NOLAND: Okay, here's one you and your paper are fed on!

2299 HALSEY: And that is--?

2300 NOLAND: The doctrine you proclaim far and wide--that the
2301 masses are the essential part of the population--
2302 that the People, the ignorant element in the community,
2303 have the same right to pronounce judgment and to govern,
2304 as the intellectually superior persons in it.

2305 HALSEY [shouting]: Take good note of that, students--

2306 BROOKS: Take good note of that, viewers--

2307 HALSEY: He's put his foot in it!

2308 BROOKS: He's stepped in it now!

2309 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: Only the superior should
2310 govern, eh! He's a Nazi!

2311 STUDENT 1: Throw him out for spreading misinformation!

2312 STUDENT 2: Throw him out!

2313 NOLAND: Listen to reason! Look, I didn't expect you to
2314 agree with me--but I did expect Halsey to admit I was
2315 right--when she'd recovered her composure a little.
2316 Because, after all, she's one of the smart ones--
2317 and she has experience with the stupid!

2318 BROOKS: Who has no experience, viewers--who?

2319 HALSEY (shouting): When have I ever said that--about the
2320 smart and the stupid--where?

2321 NOLAND (reflecting): No, you're right--you haven't had
2322 the courage to. Well, I'll say it then. When you tell
2323 people in "The Greyfield" that the masses are the real
2324 essence of the People, you're telling a comforting lie
2325 to your readers, our young people! The masses? They're
2326 only the raw material of which an intelligent people is
2327 made!

2328 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Groans, laughter and uproar]

2329 NOLAND: Well, isn't that true? Isn't there an enormous
2330 difference between a well-bred and a poorly-bred dog?
2331 Think of your ordinary Mexican street dog--one of those
2332 dogs that do nothing but run around the streets and piss
2333 on the walls of houses. Compare one of these to a
2334 French poodle who for many generations has been
2335 raised inside, where they've had the best food and the
2336 opportunity to hear soft voices and music. You don't
2337 think the poodle's brain has developed to a different
2338 degree from that of the street dog? Of course it has!

2339 HALSEY: So we're dogs now, eh?

2340 NOLAND: Unfortunately we are!

2341 BROOKS: Professor Hyer thinks we're pets, viewers--pets!

2342 NOLAND: We're the finest animals on the planet!
2343 But, even among us, exceptionally fine animals are rare.
2344 There's a tremendous difference between poodles and

2345 street dogs. And the funny part of it is--is that
2346 Halsey agrees with me--as long as it's a question of
2347 four-footed animals--

2348 HALSEY: That's true--that's true!

2349 NOLAND: But as soon as I apply it to two-legged animals,
2350 Halsey stops short. She no longer dares to think
2351 independently, pursue her ideas to their logical
2352 conclusion--she proclaims in "The Greyfield" that street
2353 dogs are the finest dogs in the world! But that's
2354 always how it is.

2355 HALSEY: I'm a janitor's daughter, and I'm proud of where
2356 I come from!

2357 STUDENT 1-4: Bravo, Halsey! Bravo!

2358 NOLAND: The common folk I mean are not only found
2359 low down on the social scale--they swarm all around us--
2360 even in the highest social positions. You only have to
2361 look at our own fine, distinguished Dean, my sister-in-
2362 law, who's every bit as common as anyone pushing a mop!

2363 STUDENT 1-4 [laughter and hisses]:

2364 DEAN: You're beneath attacks like these!

2365 NOLAND [imperturbably] And that's not because like me
2366 she's descended from some old rascal of a plantation
2367 owner--

2368 DEAN [in disgust]: Oh!

2369 NOLAND: --but because she thinks what her superiors
2370 think, and holds the same opinions as they do. People
2371 who do that are, intellectually speaking, common--and,
2372 that's why my magnificent sister-in-law is in reality--
2373 very common--and in truth is very far from being
2374 progressive!

2375 DEAN: Ms. Moderator!

2376 HALSEY So only elites are progressive!

2377 BROOKS: Only elites, viewers--only elites!

2378 NOLAND: Another lie is that broadmindedness is the same
2379 thing as morality. Day in and day out "The Greyfield"
2380 proclaims that the masses have the monopoly on
2381 broad-mindedness and morality--that corruption and every
2382 kind of depravity are the result of culture--just as

2383 it's undeniable, according to government data, that, on
2384 average, police shoot members of the Black community
2385 LESS than members of other communities--meaning that the
2386 narrative that police hunt Blacks is a self-serving lie!

2387 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Uproar and interruptions]:

2388 NOLAND: And yet "The Greyfield" goes on preaching that
2389 the masses should be lifted in life! But if this is so,
2390 this very lifting would mean nothing more than setting
2391 the masses on a path to corruption! Luckily the theory
2392 that culture degrades is simply an old falsehood that
2393 our forefathers swallowed and we can discard. It's
2394 ignorance, poverty--the ugly conditions of life--
2395 these are the real oppressors! In a house that doesn't
2396 get aired and swept daily--people will quickly lose the
2397 power of thinking and acting in a moral manner. Lack of
2398 oxygen weakens the conscience. And I suspect there's a
2399 lack of oxygen in many of the structures on this campus,
2400 judging from the fact that you all seem eager enough to
2401 stake the prosperity of this college on a river of lies!

2402 ACKERMAN: We cannot allow such an accusation to be flung
2403 at this community!

2404 STUDENT 1: I move the Moderator cancels the speaker!

2405 STUDENT 2: Yes, Cancel him--cancel him!

2406 NOLAND [losing his self-control]: Then I'll shout the
2407 truth at every corner on campus! I'll tweet it endlessly
2408 online! The whole country will know what's going on
2409 here!

2410 HALSEY: It appears that the Professor intends to
2411 destroy this college.

2412 NOLAND: I love this college! But I'd rather destroy it
2413 than see it flourish on lies!

2414 ACKERMAN: This is serious!

2415 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4 [Uproar and cat-calls]:

2416 PATIENCE [loudly clears throat]:

2417 HALSEY [shouting above the din]: One must be a
2418 public enemy to want to destroy our new Center!

2419 NOLAND [with growing fervor]: What does the Center for
2420 Economic Justice really stand for, if it's built on

2421 lies? It ought to be demolished! You'll end up infecting
2422 the whole college--you'll bring about such a state of
2423 affairs that the whole college won't be worth saving.
2424 And if that comes to pass, I say from the bottom of my
2425 heart: let this college die, for it doesn't deserve
2426 to live!

2427 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: He hates this college!
2428 He's an enemy! He hates his own race!

2429 BROOKS: The People are rising up, viewers--the People
2430 are rising up!

2431 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: He's an enemy of the college!
2432 An enemy of the college!

2433 ACKERMAN: As a member of this faculty and of this
2434 community, I am profoundly disturbed by what I've heard.
2435 Professor Hyer has shown himself to be someone I do not
2436 recognize. I am hereby obliged to act on the opinions of
2437 the majority of this community and endorse the motion
2438 that Professor Noland Hyer be declared an enemy of this
2439 college!

2440 [A storm of cheers and applause.]

2441 PATIENCE: Uncle, Uncle!

2442 NOLAND: Oh, you fools, you fools!

2443 ACKERMAN [ringing his bell]: We can't hear you now! This
2444 is a democratic institution and we're about to take a
2445 vote. How many are in favor of the motion to declare
2446 Professor Hyer an enemy of this college? Please say Aye.

2447 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: AYE!!!

2448 ACKERMAN [in a rush]: Well, as there seems to be little
2449 doubt as to the majority opinion, I officially conclude
2450 as moderator of this meeting that the Aye's have it!

2451 DRUNKEN MAN: Wait, I wanna vote, too!! I didn't get to
2452 vote!! My vote should count, too!!

2453 [Laughter. Footsteps. Chaos.]

2454 MARTIN: Well, Nolan'--now I see where these tricks o'
2455 yours have lead to.

2456 NOLAND: I have a duty, Mr. Bay. To the truth.

2457 MARTIN: What's that you said up there, son? [Pause]
2458 You said our new Center should be torn down. [Pause]
2459 Isn't that what you said?

2460 NOLAND: You heard correctly. And I said that the
2461 community was responsible.

2462 MARTIN: I don't have to remind you it's me that's been
2463 the biggest contributor to the Center--do I?

2464 NOLAND: Yes, I know.

2465 MARTIN BAY: I'm a builder, Nolan'. Been a builder all my
2466 life. Got to know concrete--got to know it very well--
2467 it's taken me far. Very far. My concrete has built many
2468 a building on this campus.

2469 NOLAND: I know, Mr. Bay.

2470 MARTIN: You gonna put that in your study?

2471 NOLAND [quiet guffaw]: I won't hide anything, sir.

2472 MARTIN: And I thought you was just pullin' my leg.
2473 Well, well...May this cost you dearly, son. Dearly.
2474 [Footsteps.] Hey, there, Forester--do you always
2475 lend out yer premises to enemies o' the college?

2476 FORESTER: I'm used to doing what I like--with my own
2477 property--Martin.

2478 MARTIN: Is that a fact! Well--then I guess you won't
2479 object to me doin' the same--with mine.

2480 FORESTER: That's your right--sir.

2481 MARTIN BAY: I'll see you later. You'll hear from my
2482 new broker tomorrow.

2483 FORESTER: Yes, sir.

2484 [Footsteps leave. Footsteps approach.]

2485 PATIENCE: My grandfather can really hurt your business,
2486 can't he, Mr. Forester?

2487 FORESTER: I believe he already has.

2488 [Bell rung loudly.]

2489 ACKERMAN: I'd like to close this meeting by saying:
2490 three cheers for our honorable campus community!
2491 [Renewed applause] Three cheers for our able and

2492 energetic Dean, who has so loyally navigated the
2493 pressures of family feeling! [Cheers.] This meeting
2494 is dissolved!

2495 DEAN: Three cheers for our wonderful mediator,
2496 Professor Ackerman!

2497 STUDENT 1-4/FACULTY 1-4: Three cheers for Professor
2498 Ackerman! Hurrah!

2499 NOLAND: Let's go, Patience. [Double Footsteps then Stop]
2500 Thank you so much, Bill.

2501 FORESTER: My pleasure--Noland--anytime.

2502 NOLAND [after a brief pause]: By the way: that job in
2503 the City--it wouldn't still be available, now would it?

2504 FORESTER: I was hoping you'd ask. In fact, there might
2505 be two jobs. [Brief pause] We'll talk soon, eh?
2506 [Footsteps].

2507 PATIENCE: That's a good friend, Uncle.

2508 NOLAND: Yes--he is.

2509 PATIENCE: Grandpa Martin will make him pay, won't he?

2510 NOLAND: I expect he will. [Pause] Let's go. [Double
2511 Footsteps for a distance. Then Stop.] By the way,
2512 Cloudine: when you and your father--and the board--
2513 bring charges against me, I won't be defending them.
2514 I'm giving up my tenure. I don't wanna stay here
2515 anymore. I'm moving--to New York.

2516 PATIENCE: And so am I.

2517 DEAN: New York? You mean you'll take a job in the
2518 private sector?

2519 NOLAND: That's right.

2520 DEAN: You're giving up so much, Noland--everything you
2521 worked for.

2522 NOLAND: I guess so. But in the city, what I'm paid
2523 will be what I earn--not what I've been given. I like it
2524 better that way.

2525 DEAN: Well...what in heaven's name will my sister say?

2526 NOLAND: I don't know. [Pause] Why don't you and your
2527 father ask her.

2528 [Double Footsteps.]

2529 THE END