

# **TRIBES - USA**

book by Alan Jeskin

lyrics by Alan Jeskin

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## **CAST:**

Stan.....*50ish, over-the-hill news producer looking to get through the day's assignment*  
Jason .....*late 20's, ambitious reporter looking to boost ratings of his focus group*  
Elaine.....*early 20's, bi-racial, brash, culturally extreme left, focus group Panelist #1*  
Florence.....*early 50's, outspoken college professor, culturally far left, Panelist #2*  
Jason.....*early 40's, race conscious African-American dad, culturally left, Panelist #3*  
Clara.....*late 30's, Latina, content mother of two, culturally center-left, Panelist #4*  
Clayton.....*30-ish, optimistic engineer, cultural centrist, Panelist #5*  
Cristy.....*30-ish, cheery doctor, cultural centrist, Panelist #6*  
Craig.....*30-ish, stoic cop, culturally center-right, Panelist #7*  
Florence.....*early 60's, conservative Christian grandma, culturally right, Panelist #8*  
Frank.....*50-ish, conservative writer and podcaster, culturally far right, Panelist #9*  
Eric.....*20-ish, gun-toting white nationalist, culturally extreme right, Panelist #10*

## **TIME:**

Present

## **PLACE:**

Polling Station, Anytown, USA

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ACT ONE

Scene One

STAN directs stagehands arranging eight blue director's chairs outside polling station during Election Day, November 2016. In the background, VOTERS stand in line to vote. JASON walks up to producer.

JASON

Stan, what are you doin'? This is not the set-up we discussed.

STAN

Yeah, I know, but I had second thoughts. I figured we would use just the blue chairs. No need to amplify the differences between the panelists.

JASON

Stan, my man, how many on-location focus groups have we done together?

STAN

I don't know - eight, nine?

JASON

We've done ten. And how did we do ratings-wise?

STAN

OK, I guess.

JASON

No Stan, nobody watched them. They all sucked. They were boring. You get eight people giving the politest version of their opinions, and the audience tunes out after five minutes. I'm not gonna do another set like that.

Today's election is unlike any other in American history. You got two candidates who could not be more different. You got a barely likeable, battle axe of a politician who's been running for president since she was six years old. Then you got your

charismatic, tangerine-colored former reality TV star. You got an electorate that is more divided than ever, and politics is like tribal warfare right now. Conflict is exciting. That's what people want to see. Why would we want to downplay that?

STAN

We don't want to downplay conflict, but we don't want to amplify it either, do we?

JASON

Sure we do! Why wouldn't we?

STAN

How about because we're a news organization and not the Jerry Springer Show.

JASON

Jerry Springer? Really? This is a political focus group we're doing. How rowdy do you think that can get?

No wait, scratch that.

Look, Stan - my man - all I'm asking for is color-coded chairs. I promise there will be no shouting, no swearing, no fighting, no baby momma drama, no paternity test reveals...

STAN

(sighs)

Alright, Jason, you win. But if this goes sideways, it's on you.

(to stagehands)

OK guys let's do the color-coded set.

(STAGEHANDS rearrange the set with ten chairs in wide semicircle facing audience. from left to right - chairs 1 through 3 are blue, 4 through 7 are purple, 8 through 10 are red.)

JASON

Now we're talkin'. Let's take this up a notch.

(JASON smiles broadly. **1. Turn It Up.**)

1-Turn It Up

(Verse 1)

JASON

WE LIVE IN A WORLD FILLED WITH THE ROUTINE,  
THE FRIVOLOUS AND THE MUNDANE.  
WE SLEEPWALK THROUGH LIFE AS IF IN A DREAM  
EACH DAY AND THE NEXT IS THE SAME.  
IT'S MONOTONOUS AND BORING.  
YOU'RE NODDING OFF OR YOU'RE SNORING.  
IT'S ENOUGH TO DRIVE YOU INSANE.  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)

WE NEED TO FIND TIME FOR US TO ESCAPE  
THE TEDIOUS AND THE INANE.  
WE NEED TO CREATE THOSE MOMENTS THAT MAKE  
THE DOPAMINE RUSH TO YOUR BRAIN.  
WE NEED TO BE MORE EXCITED,  
MORE INTRIGUED, AND MORE DELIGHTED.  
WE'RE DESPERATE TO BE ENTERTAINED.  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)

(Chorus)

(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)

CUE THE MUSIC, THE LIGHTS AND THE VIBES.  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)

BRING THE PASSION, AND HEAT FROM THE TRIBES.  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)

BRING THE RHYTHMS, THE BEATS,  
THEN HOLD ONTO YOUR SEATS  
AS THIS VENUE OF OURS COMES ALIVE!  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)

(Verse 2)

IT'S TWENTY SIXTEEN ON ELECTION DAY.  
CONDITIONS COULD NOT BE MORE RIGHT  
FOR US TO PREPARE THIS STAGE IN A WAY  
TO PROMOTE A PARTISAN FIGHT.  
SOCIALISTS AND THE SUPER WOKE  
VERSUS NEOCON AND ALT RIGHT FOLKS.  
WE'RE GONNA GET FIREWORKS TONIGHT!  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)

BLUE CHAIRS FOR THE LEFT, RED CHAIRS FOR THE RIGHT,

PURPLE FOR THE FOLKS IN BETWEEN.  
SOME OF THEM BRILLIANT, AND SOME NOT SO BRIGHT,  
SOME HIGH-MINDED, SOME DOWNRIGHT MEAN.  
SOME THOUGHTFUL AND INTROSPECTIVE,  
SOME SHALLOW WITH NO PERSPECTIVE,  
BUT ALL WILL FIT THE TRIBAL THEME.  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)

(Chorus)

(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)  
CUE THE MUSIC, THE LIGHTS AND THE VIBES.  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)  
BRING THE PASSION, AND HEAT FROM THE TRIBES.  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)  
BRING THE RHYTHMS, THE BEATS,  
THEN HOLD ONTO YOUR SEATS  
AS THIS VENUE OF OURS COMES ALIVE!  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)

(Bridge)

LET'S START WITH TEN CHAIRS, EACH ONE A SMALL SLICE  
OF OUR POLITICAL SPECTRUM,  
NUMBERED ONE THROUGH TEN MOVING LEFT TO RIGHT.  
NEXT STEP - FIND PEOPLE TO FILL THEM.

SEATS FOUR THROUGH SEVEN - MILD MANNERED CENTRISTS,  
SMART AND EVEN-TEMPERED AS WELL.  
ENGINEER, TEACHER, SOCCER MOM, DENTIST.  
IN OTHER WORDS, BORING AS HELL!

SEAT THREE ON THE LEFT, SEAT EIGHT ON THE RIGHT,  
PARTISANS, BUT NOT BATTLE-SCARRED.  
CALM, BUT PASSIONATE AND WILLING TO FIGHT  
IF THEIR BUTTONS ARE PUSHED REAL HARD.

SEAT TWO ON THE LEFT AND NINE ON THE RIGHT,  
PURE HARDLINERS, BOTH CUT AND DRIED.  
TWO TRIBAL ZEALOTS WHOSE GREATEST DELIGHT  
IS ENGAGING THE OTHER SIDE.

SEAT ONE AND SEAT TEN, THE FEISTY EXTREME,  
VITRIOLIC, IF A TAD SLOW.  
THESE LOW BROW FIREBRAND MISFITS ON EACH TEAM  
WILL TURN THIS SET INTO A SHOW.

(Chorus)

(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)  
CUE THE MUSIC, THE LIGHTS AND THE VIBES.  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)  
BRING THE PASSION, AND HEAT FROM THE TRIBES.  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)  
BRING THE RHYTHMS, THE BEATS,  
THEN HOLD ONTO YOUR SEATS  
AS THIS VENUE OF OURS COMES ALIVE!  
(BACKGROUND: TURN IT UP!)

(JASON faces the audience as if speaking to a camera.  
STAN ushers the centrists into seats 4 through 7)

JASON

Gooooo afternoon, I'm Jason Proctor outside Polling Station seven in Wexler County. It's Tuesday, election day twenty-sixteen, the final day of the historic contest between Hillary Clinton and Donald J Trump for the presidency of the United States. My producer is rounding up ten volunteer voters to give their opinions on election issues - four Independents, three Democrats, and three Republicans. We'll start with the independents.

(JASON walks back to the centrists.)

JASON

May I ask your names and occupations?

CLARA

(smiling)

My name is Clara, I'm a manufacturing supervisor and a single mom.

JASON

(to Clayton)

And you sir? Name and occupation.

CLAYTON

(smiling)

My name is Clayton. I'm an engineer, and I'm single.



JASON

(to Cristy)

Ma'am?

CRISTY

(smiling)

My name is Cristy. I'm a doctor at University Hospital. I'm single.

JASON

OK, looks like this focus group is turning into a dating show.

(to Craig)

You sir. Name and occupation. Marital status is strictly optional.

CRAIG

(smiling)

My name is Craig, I'm a police officer, and I'm married with two kids.

JASON

(deadpan)

Craig, you're married? Oh no! You're on the wrong show, buddy. Just kidding.

(to the panelists)

So, thanks for volunteering to answer some questions for us today. I've gotta say up front that you are the four cheeriest voters I've seen all day. Most people who stand in line for an hour to cast a ballot are not in such a good mood. Why so happy?

CLARA

As a first generation American on my mother's side, I'm happy to be in a country where I can vote without fear and know my vote will count.

CLAYTON

Democracy's been around for less than one percent of human history and even today, less than ten percent of governments are true democracies. So, having the privilege to vote and have it

count makes us more fortunate than ninety-nine point nine percent of all humans who have ever lived. That's cause for celebration.

CRISTY

I'm like Clara - first generation American on my mother's side. I'm happy because I can express my preference for who will lead my country and my voice will be heard. This is not the case where my mother is from.

JASON

Ok, I'm overdosing on happy here. You got two first generation Americans, and an engineer who is a historical statistician - all giddy about voting. Craig, balance me out with just a tiny bit of good old fashion cop cynicism. Lines too long? Voting machine didn't work?

CRAIG

Nope. It's all good. I'm happy for the privilege. My only complaint is too many people don't bother voting and then they bitch when they don't like the people who get elected.

CLAYTON

I agree. Only half of registered voters actually cast a ballot.

CLARA

That's pretty pathetic. Between early voting and mail-in ballots there's no excuse not to vote.

JASON

Ok, so now you guys are starting to sound like a cheesy public service announcement.

(CRISTY stands up. **2. Make it Happen with Your Vote.**)

## 2-Make It Happen with Your Vote

JASON

No, wait. Seriously?

(Verse 1)

CRISTY

HOW DO WE THE PEOPLE FLEX PEOPLE POWER,  
WHETHER CENTRIST, ALT RIGHT OR WOKE?  
HOW DO CITIZENS LAY CLAIM TO WHAT'S OURS?  
YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR VOTE.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS' INTENTIONS  
IN ALL THE WORDS THAT THEY MENTION,  
IN EVERY VOLUME THAT THEY WROTE,  
THEY ASK THAT YOUR INTERVENTIONS,  
YOUR AGREEMENTS AND DISSENTIONS  
ARE MANIFESTED BY YOUR VOTE.

(Verse 2)

CLARA

HOW DO WE PROTECT OUR DEMOCRACY?  
KEEP THREATS OF TYRANNY REMOTE?  
PREVENT SLIDING INTO AUTOCRACY?  
YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR VOTE.

THE FLOURISHING OF OUR NATION  
REQUIRES FULL PARTICIPATION  
OF EVERYONE HERE IN THIS BOAT  
TO CHART THEIR BEST DESTINATION  
GRAB A PADDLE AND A STATION.  
YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR VOTE!

(Verse 3)

CLAYTON

HOW DO YOU HONOR OUR FOREFATHERS' DREAMS?  
AND KEEP FREEDOM'S PROMISE AFLOAT?  
THROUGH THE TEMPEST SEAS OR THE QUIET STREAMS?  
YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR VOTE!

AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION  
AND KEEN CONSIDERATION

WE SELECT OUR LEADERS AND WE HOPE  
THEY ASCEND TO THEIR NEW STATION  
AND DELIVER INSPIRATION  
YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR VOTE!

(Bridge)

CRISTY

IF YOU WANT THINGS TO CHANGE

CLAYTON, CLARA AND CRAIG

MAKE IT HAPPEN

CRISTY

OR TO JUST STAY THE SAME

CLAYTON, CLARA AND CRAIG

MAKE IT HAPPEN

CRISTY

IF YOU'RE GIVEN A CHOICE

CLAYTON, CLARA, AND CRAIG

MAKE IT HAPPEN

CRISTY

YOU SHOULD SEND OUT YOUR VOICE

CLAYTON, CLARA, AND CRAIG

MAKE IT HAPPEN

CRISTY

THROUGH THE BALLOT PROCLAIM

WHETHER SUNSHINE OR RAIN

I WILL NOT TAKE A PASS

AND JUST SIT ON MY ASS

I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

AND YOU'LL HEAR IT TODAY

CLAYTON, CLARA, AND CRAIG

MAKE IT HAPPEN

(Verse 4)

CRAIG

(slow tempo, near acapella for dramatic effect)

SO NOW IT'S HILARY OR DONALD J.  
THE DIFFERENCE IS STARK, SO TAKE NOTE  
(build intensity)

TO CHOOSE THE FREE WORLD'S NEW LEADER TODAY  
YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN..  
(build to finale)

CRISTY

SAID ONLY YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN..

CLARA

YOU GOTTA MAKE IT HAPPEN..

CLAYTON

YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH YOUR VOTE!

JASON

OK, people, you all are waaay to happy. We need some conflict here or I'm going to get fired. Let's try this - for each of you, who did you vote for today and why?

CLARA

I voted for Hilary because I think she's more qualified than Trump.

CLAYTON

Hilary for the same reason. Hilary is a lot more qualified than Trump and will make a much better president.

CRISTY

Same answer. Hilary.

CRAIG

This was a tough one for me, but I voted for Trump because I think he's stronger on immigration, the economy, and support for law enforcement. He's not what I would call a polished statesman, but I'm sure he'll get there with time in the job.

JASON

I'm sure he won't but love the optimism. Ok, thank you centrists. Looks like my producer has some partisans here to spice things up. Two for the Red team. Name and occupation?

RACHEL

My name is Rachel and I'm a retired school bus driver and grandmother.

(JASON points Rachel to Red seat number 8)

FRANK

I'm Frank, and I'm a conservative podcaster.

(JASON gives Stan a thumbs up and points Frank to Red seat number 9)

JASON

And two for the blue team.

LAMAR

My name is Lamar and I work for the DMV.

(Jason points Lamar to Blue seat number 3)

FLORENCE

My name is Florence and I'm a professor of Women's Studies at Central University.

(Jason points to Stan, pats his own heart and points Florence to Blue seat number 2)

JASON

OK, partisans, unlike our independents, there should be no mystery about who you voted for today but tell us anyway and tell us why.

FLORENCE

I voted for Hilary of course. She's the most qualified person that has run for the presidency in my lifetime. Also, Trump is unfit for the job and unworthy of it.

LAMAR

I voted for Hilary 'cause Trump's a racist gangster.

RACHEL

I voted for Trump because he's pro-life and stands up for Christian values and religious freedom.

FRANK

I voted for Trump because he's going to take on the deep state and restore the country back to greatness. That, and Hilary is thoroughly corrupt. If she wins, she will be the final liberal straw that breaks this country's back.

JASON

Ok, so the partisans do not disappoint. They are bringing the heat. The sentiments I'm hearing from the four of you are a lot more intense and a lot less circumspect than those from the four independents. What would you say to those who feel you may be too partisan, too disparaging of the other side?

FLORENCE

I'd say this election is a fight to preserve our democracy or lose it. We cannot be partisan enough.

FRANK

Stakes are too high to be a centrist. You gotta pick a side and go tribal, man.

(STAN ushers Eric and Elaine to Blue seat number 1 and Red seat number 10. JASON looks at each with eyebrows raised, looks over at Stan and does a dab.)

JASON

Ok so since we are clearly going tribal, let's introduce the final members of the Red and Blue tribes.

(To Eric)

Your name, who you voted for, and why.

ERIC

My name is Eric. I voted for Donald J Trump to make America great again.

JASON

(pointing to the holstered Glock pistol on Eric's thigh)

Eric, I see you're packin' heat there. Did you expect to have to shoot your way through some hostile voters to get to the ballot box today?

ERIC

Hey, you never know right? You gotta be prepared. This is an open carry state, so I open carry just in case. Second Amendment!

JASON

Eric, I hear the words coming out of your mouth, buddy. But I have no words of my own to respond.

(JASON walks away from Eric toward Stan and slowly mouths the words 'what the f\*\*\*?' Stan shrugs. JASON stops in front of Elaine.

Okay, young lady - your name, who you voted for, and why.

ELAINE

My name is Elaine and I voted for Jill Stein because of her strong support for Black Lives Matter.

(All LEFT and CENTRIST PANELISTS silently express their shock and consternation. ERIC and FRANK laugh out loud and high five one another.)

JASON

Umm, Elaine, some may say you wasted your vote considering Jill Stein has no chance of winning the presidency. What do you say to that?

ELAINE

Win or lose, you have to vote with your heart.

JASON

I hear the words coming out of your mouth, young lady, but once again, I have no words of my own to respond.

(to the six partisans)

So, Frank was just saying, for this election everybody must pick a side and go tribal. Do all of you on the Red and Blue teams feel that way?

SIX PARTISANS

(in unison)

Absolutely!



(RACHEL stands up. - **3. Go tribal.**)

### 3-Go Tribal

(Verse 1)

RACHEL

TODAY WE FIGHT TO KEEP OUR TRADITIONS  
AND DEFEND WHAT WE KNOW IS RIGHT.  
TODAY WE FIGHT FOR FAMILY AND COUNTRY,  
FOR JESUS AND FOR RIGHT TO LIFE.

(Verse 2)

FRANK

TODAY WE FIGHT TO TAKE BACK OUR COUNTRY  
AND RESTORE THOSE GREAT DAYS OF OLD.  
TODAY WE FIGHT FOR GOD'S LAND OF THE FREE  
AND HOME OF THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD.

(Chorus)

RACHEL AND FRANK

WHEN THE STAKES ARE RUNNIN' HIGH  
EVERY VOTE IS DO OR DIE.  
(BACKGROUND: GO TRIBAL)  
YOU STAND TALL AND PICK A SIDE  
FOR YOUR COUNTY'S SURVIVAL,  
(BACKGROUND: GO TRIBAL)  
YOU GO TRIBAL.

(Verse 3)

LAMAR

TODAY WE FIGHT TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD  
TO RIGHT ALL THE WRONGS OF THE PAST.  
TODAY WE FIGHT ON FOR EQUAL JUSTICE  
SO WE CAN ALL BE FREE AT LAST.

(Verse 4)

FLORENCE

TODAY WE FIGHT FOR REAL MEANINGFUL CHANGE,  
FOR WHAT'S JUST, WHAT'S RIGHT, AND WHAT'S TRUE,  
FOR BLACKS, FOR WOMEN, THE POOR, THE PLANET,  
AND FOR L-G-B-T-AND-Q.

(Chorus)

LAMAR AND FLORENCE

WHEN THE STAKES ARE RUNNIN' HIGH  
EVERY VOTE IS DO OR DIE.

(BACKGROUND: GO TRIBAL)

YOU STAND TALL AND PICK A SIDE  
FOR YOUR COUNTY'S SURVIVAL,  
(BACKGROUND: GO TRIBAL)  
YOU GO TRIBAL.

(Bridge)

SIX PARTISANS

THE POWER OF THE CLAN CANNOT BE DENIED  
WHEN OUR COMBINED FORCE OF WILL IS APPLIED.  
TOGETHER IN UNION WE FIGHT AS A TRIBE  
TO ACHIEVE A COMMON GOAL.

WHEN WE NEED TO DRIVE OUR IDEALS TO THRIVE,  
OR NEED TO FIGHT JUST TO KEEP THEM ALIVE,  
ALL OUR INSTINCTS SAY STICK WITH THE TRIBE.  
YOU CAN FEEL IT IN YOUR SOUL.

CRISTY AND CLAYTON

JUST BEWARE TRIBAL BATTLES MAY BE WON,  
BUT THE TRIBAL WARFARE IS NEVER DONE.  
TURNING TRIBALISM TO HATE FOR SOME,  
AND HATE EATS YOU ALIVE.

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW IS THAT EVERYONE  
WANTS FREEDOM, LOVE, AND SOME TIME IN THE SUN.  
WE'RE ALL JUST HUMAN WHEN THE DAY IS DONE,  
MEMBERS OF JUST ONE TRIBE.

(Verse 5)

ERIC

Nope!

TODAY WE FIGHT TO RECLAIM WHAT IS OURS,  
OUR BIRTHRIGHT, AND OUR DESTINY.  
A WHITE NATION BUILT BY WHITE CHRISTIAN MEN  
AND FOR WHITE CHRISTIAN PROGENY.

(Verse 6)

ELAINE

Uh uh!

(ELAINE points to Eric.)

TODAY WE FIGHT NEO NAZIS WITH GUNS,

(ELAINE points to Frank.)

WHITE PRIVILEGED MEN SO OUT OF TOUCH,

(ELAINE points to Rachel then to Craig.)

BIBLE THUMPING GRANDMAS, RACE BIASED COPS,

(ELAINE points to Cristy, Clayton, and Clara.)

AND CENTRISTS WHO SMILE WAY TOO MUCH!

(Chorus)

SIX PARTISANS

WHEN THE STAKES ARE RUNNIN' HIGH

EVERY VOTE IS DO OR DIE.

(BACKGROUND: GO TRIBAL)

YOU STAND TALL AND PICK A SIDE

FOR YOUR COUNTY'S SURVIVAL,

(BACKGROUND: GO TRIBAL)

YOU GO TRIBAL. YOU GO TRIBAL

YOU GO TRIBAL!

JASON

OK, so now that the centrists and I are sufficiently terrified, let's continue. You all have told us who you're voting for and why. Next question is what are your concerns if the other candidate wins - the one you are not voting for?

Let's start with the Purple team. Clayton, you voted for Clinton. Any significant concerns if Trump wins?

CLAYTON

I'm a little concerned because I don't think Trump has the experience, judgement, or temperament to be an effective president. But if he surrounds himself with the right people, it could work out. Plus, our institutions are robust enough to limit how bad things could get.

JASON

(sarcastically)

Riiight.

(to Craig)

Craig, you voted Trump. Any significant concerns if Clinton wins?

CRAIG

Nothing significant with Hilary, but Bill being back in the White House with way too much time on his hands - that could be a problem.

JASON

(impersonating Bill Clinton)

Craig, I did not have sexual relations with that woman.

(in his own voice)

OK, Red team, significant concerns if Clinton wins today?

FRANK

Hell yeah! How much time we got?

(FRANK stands. **4. Ambition in a Pantsuit and Heels.**)

#### 4-Ambition in a Pantsuit and Heels

(Chorus)

FRANK

SHE PLANS, SHE PLOTS SHE WHEELS SHE DEALS,  
PUSHING A LOT OF LEFT-WING IDEALS,  
BUT ALWAYS CONCEALS WHAT SHE REALLY FEELS,  
AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

ERIC

AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS?

RACHEL

AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

(Verse 1)

FRANK

SHE'S THE EVILEST EMPRESS OF FEMINIST PRIDE,  
ENTITLED, BOSSY, SINISTER, SNIDE  
SKETCHY SINCE THE NINETIES WHEN HER LAWYER FRIEND DIED,  
BUT THE RULES DON'T APPLY, SHE GOT THE FBI  
CLAIMING THAT HIS DEATH WAS JUST A SUICIDE,  
BUT IT ALL SEEMED FISHY, SHE HAD SOMETHING TO HIDE.  
SO SHE DID WHAT SHE ALWAYS DOES - SHE LIED

ERIC

DID WHAT SHE ALWAYS DOES - SHE LIED?

RACHEL

DID WHAT SHE ALWAYS DOES - SHE LIED.

(Verse 2)

FRANK

FAST FORWARD TO BENGAZI WHERE HER PEOPLE TRIED  
PROTECTING OUR EMBASSY, BUT FOUR OF THEM DIED  
WAITING FOR SECURITY SHE NEVER DID PROVIDE,  
EVIDENCE OF NEGLIGENCE SHE CANNOT BRUSH ASIDE.  
AND THEN YOU GOT THE ISSUE THAT CAN NEVER BE DENIED,  
DESTROYING ALL THE EMAILS THAT SHE EVER TRIED TO HIDE.  
SETTING ALL THE DOCUMENTATION RULES ASIDE.  
EVEN FOR THE EMAILS THAT WERE LABELED CLASSIFIED.

ERIC

EVEN FOR THE EMAILS THAT WERE LABELED CLASSIFIED?

RACHEL

YES, EVEN FOR THE EMAILS THAT WERE LABELED CLASSIFIED.

(Chorus)

SHE PLANS, SHE PLOTS SHE WHEELS SHE DEALS,  
PUSHING A LOT OF LEFT-WING IDEALS,  
BUT ALWAYS CONCEALS WHAT SHE REALLY FEELS,  
AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

RACHEL AND ERIC

AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

(Verse 3)

FRANK

SHE'S TAKING ALL THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY FOR A RIDE.  
I 'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND IT AND I'M FRANKLY HORRIFIED  
HOW IT IS ALL YOU LIBS WOULD ACTUALLY DECIDE  
TO GIVE BILL CLINTON AND HIS SCARY ASS BRIDE  
OF FRANKENSTEIN A PASS GETTIN' BACK INSIDE  
THE WHITE HOUSE WHERE NO DOUBT THEY WILL PRESIDE,  
SHE THE BOSS BONNIE TO HIS WOMANIZING CLYDE,  
SPREADING THEIR INCREDIBLE CORRUPTION FAR AND WIDE.  
I EVEN HEARD SHE LIKES TO WORSHIP SATAN AS HER GUIDE,  
KIDNAPING CHILDREN INNOCENT AND TEARY-EYED,  
SEXUALLY ABUSING THEM UNTIL THEY'RE TRAUMATIZED,  
COOKING AND EATING THEM UP WITH FRENCH FRIES.  
IF SHE BECOMES PRESIDENT, JUSTICE DIES.

ERIC

IF SHE BECOMES PRESIDENT, JUSTICE DIES?

RACHEL

IF SHE BECOMES PRESIDENT, JUSTICE DIES.

(Chorus)

FRANK

SHE PLANS, SHE PLOTS SHE WHEELS SHE DEALS,  
PUSHING A LOT OF LEFT-WING IDEALS,  
BUT ALWAYS CONCEALS WHAT SHE REALLY FEELS,  
AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

RACHEL AND ERIC  
AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

(Verse 4)

FLORENCE

(to Frank)

GOOD LORD, YOUR PERCEPTION OF REALITY IS SKEWED,  
YOU GOTTA BE MORE CAREFUL OF THE SOURCES THAT YOU CHOOSE  
FOR INFORMATION YOU CONSUME TO SHAPE YOUR VIEWS,  
BREITBART, DAILY WIRE, AND YES FOX NEWS  
ARE PLACES WHERE REALITY AND REASON LOSE.  
TRUTH, FACTS, AND HONESTY ARE CONSTANTLY ABUSED,  
LIKE CLAIMING HILARY STEALS KIDS FOR SEX AND FOOD.  
COLLUDING WITH THE DEVIL? DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE,  
BUT THAT'S SOME BATSHIT CRAY-CRAY YOU JUST SPEWED.

ELAINE

(to Lamar)

DID SHE SAY, "BATSHIT CRAY-CRAY HE JUST SPEWED?"

LAMAR

YEP, SHE SAID, "BATSHIT CRAY-CRAY HE JUST SPEWED."

(Verse 5)

FLORENCE

HILARY BY FAR IS THE BEST CANDIDATE,  
WITH A BOSS RESUME YOU CAN'T REPLICATE.  
TWO TERMS AS FIRST LADY, SIMPLY FIRST RATE.  
AS NEW YORK SENATOR, PROVED SHE WAS GREAT.  
TOP NOTCH AS SECRETARY OF STATE,  
THEN KICKED TRUMPS ASS IN ALL THREE DEBATES.

ELAINE

(to Lamar)

SHE KICKED TRUMPS ASS IN ALL THREE DEBATES?

LAMAR

YEP, KICKED TRUMPS ASS IN ALL THREE DEBATES.

(Chorus)

FLORENCE



SHE PLANS, SHE PLOTS SHE WHEELS SHE DEALS,  
BUT DOES IT TO ADVANCE VERY NOBLE IDEALS  
WITH EXPERIENCE, MOXIE, AND RIGHTEOUS ZEAL.  
AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

ELAINE

(to Lamar)

AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS?

LAMAR

AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

(Verse 6)

LAMAR

NOW LET'S DISCUSS TRUMP SO WE'RE NOT CONFUSED  
ABOUT WHOSE BAD BEHAVIOR WE CAN'T EXCUSE,  
STARTING WITH HIS BIGOTRY AND RACIST VIEWS.  
HE STEREOTYPES, WOMEN, BLACKS AND JEWS.  
THE LIST OF VIRTUES HE LACKS INCLUDES  
HONOR, SELF-CONTROL, AND RECTITUDE.  
A DRAFT DODGING, SELFISH, AND RECKLESS DUDE,  
CONTRACTORS, BANKERS, AND LAWYERS ACCUSE  
HIM OF BEING A DEADBEAT - WON'T PAY HIS DUES.  
THROUGH INCOMPETENCE AND CAPITAL MISUSE,  
BANKRUPT FOUR-TIMES BY NINETEEN NINETY-TWO.  
SPENT YEARS MARINATING IN THE TABLOID NEWS,  
CHEATING ON HIS WIVES LIKE NOTHING TO LOSE,  
WITH TWENTY-FIVE WOMEN CLAIMING SEXUAL ABUSE.

ELAINE

(to Lamar)

TWENTY-FIVE WOMEN CLAIMING SEXUAL ABUSE?

LAMAR

YEP, TWENTY-FIVE WOMEN CLAIMING SEXUAL ABUSE.

(Verse 7)

LAMAR

HE'S SCANDALOUS AND CORRUPT THROUGH AND THROUGH.  
EVERY-MOVE-MADE IS A CON OR A RUSE  
TO FEED HIS GREED FOR MORE MONEY TO MISUSE.  
KING OF SCOUNDRELS FROM HAIR TO HIS SHOES.  
MALIGNANT CLOWN WE NEED TO REFUSE

AND SEND BACK TO THE HOLE FROM WHICH HE OOZED,  
LIKE A THICK BLACK ODIOS CON MAN'S BREW,  
INTOXICATING HIS DEPLORABLE CREWS  
OF XENOPHOBIC DIMWITS WITH LOOSE SCREWS,  
CHRISTIANS, CONSERVATIVES AND FOLKS WHO CHOOSE  
TO VOTE FOR A MAN WHO PLANS TO ABUSE  
THEIR TRUST BECAUSE HE DOESN'T SHARE THEIR VIEWS.

ELAINE

(to Lamar)

DID SHE SAY HE DOESN'T EVEN SHARE THEIR VIEWS?

LAMAR

THAT'S RIGHT, HE DOESN'T EVEN SHARE THEIR VIEWS.

(Verse 8)

FLORENCE

COMPARED TO TRUMP AND HIS MALEVOLENT WAYS,  
HILARY EVEN ON HER WORST OF DAYS  
STILL HAS VIRTUES THAT ARE WORTH OUR PRAISE.  
POISED TO ASTOUND, IMPRESS AND AMAZE,  
MOTIVATE, LEAD, ASSESS AND ENGAGE  
FROM OVAL OFFICE TO THE WORLD STAGE.  
THE BEST TO RESET AND TURN A NEW PAGE.

ELAINE

(to Lamar)

THE BEST TO RESET AND TURN A NEW PAGE?

LAMAR

THE BEST TO RESET AND TURN A NEW PAGE.

(Chorus)

FLORENCE

SHE PLANS, SHE PLOTS SHE WHEELS SHE DEALS,  
BUT DOES IT TO ADVANCE VERY NOBLE IDEALS.  
WITH EXPERIENCE, MOXIE, AND RIGHTEOUS ZEAL.  
AMBITION IN A PANT SUIT AND HEELS.

ELAINE AND LAMAR

AMBITION IN A PANT SUIT AND HEELS.

LAURA

SHE PLANS, SHE PLOTS SHE WHEELS SHE DEALS

FRANK

PUSHING A LOT OF LEFT  
WING IDEALS.  
BUT ALWAYS CONCEALS WHAT  
SHE REALLY FEELS

LAURA

SHE DOES IT TO ADVANCE  
VERY NOBLE IDEALS,  
WITH EXPERIENCE, MOXIE,  
AND RIGHTEOUS ZEAL

LAURA AND FRANK

AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS

RACHEL, ERIC, LAMAR, ELAINE

AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS

LAURA AND FRANK

AMBITION, AMBITION, AMBITION, AMBITION  
AMBITION IN A PANTSUIT AND HEELS.

JASON

Well, there you have it. The partisan take on the opposition. Both sides seem to agree Hilary is ambition in a pantsuit and heels, but the red team also thinks she's the bride of Frankenstein who molests kids before eating them with a side of fries. The blue team thinks Trump is the King of scoundrels pulling the wool over the eyes of his dimwitted xenophobic supporters. Anyone from the purple team care to comment on this last exchange?

CLAYTON

I would. I thought the name calling was excessive and polarizing. Constructive criticism is useful, but this kind of mockery is counterproductive.

JASON

Oh, c'mon Clayton, mockery is so much fun though. Like, you know, yo' mamma so fat jokes. Those are funny, right?

CLAYTON

They're hilarious... on a playground, but not for adults engaged in political discourse.

JASON

Clayton, I hear you buddy. That is definitely NOT some bat shit cray-cray you just spewed.

Moving on, looks like the election results are rolling in. As we know, it's not about who gets the most 'people-votes' across the country. It's about who gets the most electoral college votes from states across the country. Two hundred and seventy votes is the magic number. Clinton has a lock on two hundred electoral college votes from blue states like CA and NY. Trump has a lock on a hundred seventy-nine from red states like TX and LA. So, it's all about the one hundred fifty-nine electoral college votes from twelve purple states. States like North Carolina, Virginia, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin..hold on... Hillary just won North Carolina folks!

(Blue team celebrates, Red team despairs)

..Trump just won Ohio!

(Red team celebrates, Blue team despairs)

Hilary has won Virginia and Colorado!

(Blue team celebrates, Red team despairs)

Trump is declared the winner in Florida and Iowa!

(Red team celebrates, Blue team despairs)

Hilary just won Nevada!

(Blue team celebrates, Red team despairs)

...hold on. Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have been called for Trump. Trump has surpassed the two-seventy votes needed. He's won the presidency. He's the man, he's the one. He's hit the home run! He's gonna be the president! Son of a gun!

(Red team goes wild, Blue team despairs)

RACHEL

(looking up, hands raised to the sky)

Thank you, Jesus!

FRANK

(to Florence)

Looks like Ambition's gonna have to trade in her pantsuit and heels for an orange jump suit and a pair of Crocs.

ERIC

(walks up close to Elaine in mock sincerity)

Hey, soul sister, on behalf of all Trump supporters, I wanted to say thank you for your Jill Stein vote. That meant the world to us.. really. Don't mind what people say. You keep going with your heart. You do you, girlfriend, you do you.

(ERIC Turns and jaunts away laughing, high fives Frank)

(Stage goes dark. Curtain Falls.)

ACT ONE

Scene Two

JASON stands in front of ten focus group members sitting in director's chairs at the edge of a women's march protest the day after trump's inauguration in January 2017.

JASON

(to camera)

Gooooo afternoon, I'm Jason Proctor at Wexler Municipal Park where a local crowd has gathered in support of the worldwide Women's March demonstration just one day after the inauguration of Donald Trump as the forty-fifth president of the United States. The demonstration is in support of several issues including gender equality, reproductive rights, and LGBTQ rights.

We're here with a focus group of ten - some supporters of the demonstration, and others, detractors. These are the same ten folks we spoke to a few weeks back on election day who represent the full breadth of the political spectrum from left to right. Thank you all for your time once again.

Starting on the left, we have the Blue team - Elaine, Florence, and Lamar. In the center, we have the Purple team - Clara, Clayton, Cristy, and Craig. And on the right, we have the Red team - Rachel, Frank and Eric.

OK, let's jump right into this. I see several of you are wearing these pink hats in support of the demonstration. First question is, what do the hats represent? Elaine?

ELAINE

Well, considering they're called pussy-hats, they represent pussies.

JASON

Uhhh... better from your lips than mine. Wait, poor choice of words on my part. No pun intended.

FLORENCE

The pussy hats represent women's unity and empowerment, gender equality and reproductive freedom. They are also a repudiation of our new president's penchant for grabbing women by the pussy.

JASON

Ok then. Seems the p-word is completely off-leash. Clayton, I see you're the only guy wearing a umm, pink hat. What does the pink hat mean to you?

CLAYTON

Ummm... it means what Florence just said. Women's empowerment and gender equality. Also, on a personal note, Cristy asked me to wear it.

JASON

Wait a minute. Hold the front door. Are you and Cristy an item now?

CLAYTON

Well, yes.

JASON

You sly devil you. Congratulations.

Let's see. Lamar, do you support the demonstration today?

LAMAR

Absolutely.

JASON

Ok, so why aren't you wearing a hat to show your support?

LAMAR

Uhh. I fully support...you know...women's rights and pussy and everything. Matter of fact, I'm a big fan of pussy, but ummm.. I'm just not comfortable...you know...wearing one on my head...at least not in public.

JASON

Thank you, Lamar. Big fan of uh, the p-word but will not put one on your head in public. I hear you and I feel you.

OK let's get some thoughts from the Red team. Rachel, no hat. I take it you do NOT support the demonstration today?

RACHEL

I do not.

JASON

And what specifically do you disagree with? Gender equality, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, reproductive rights?

RACHEL

I disagree that men and women are the same. I disagree with gay marriage. I disagree that people can change the sex they were born with. I disagree with killing innocent unborn babies because they are inconvenient to the mother. And I think it's inappropriate to walk around with a giant vagina on your head.

JASON

OK, soooo much to unpack there. Where do we start? Let's go with reproductive rights for four-hundred Alex!

Abortion - one of the most contentious issues in American politics. There are several ways to frame the debate, but I found the most effective is to ask the following question: At what stage of pregnancy should the government restrict a woman's right to choose an abortion. On the extreme right the answer might be from conception - no abortions ever, at all, no exceptions. On the extreme left the answer might be never - no restrictions, ever, at any stage.

Both these extreme positions are in the minority, with most Americans falling somewhere in between. And to be fair, even in the most liberal states, less than one percent of abortions happen in the third trimester, and almost all of those are for medical necessity. Let's see what our panel has to say.

Rachel, at what stage of pregnancy should the government restrict a woman's right to choose an abortion?

(RACHEL stands - **5. 22 Weeks.**)



5-22 Weeks

(Verse 1)

RACHEL

FROM THE MOMENT OF CONCEPTION  
A NEW HUMAN LIFE IS FORMED  
THAT IS WORTHY OF PROTECTION  
EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT YET BORN.

UNLESS IT WAS CONCEIVED IN RAPE  
OR DOOMED TO UNTOLD PAIN AND STRIFE  
OR PUTS ITS MOTHER'S LIFE AT STAKE,  
WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO END ITS LIFE.

THERE'S A TINY PERSON INSIDE,  
WORTH AS MUCH AS ANY OTHER  
AND CANNOT BE CONSIDERED TO DIE  
FOR CONVENIENCE OF ITS MOTHER.

(Chorus)

UNBORN BABIES ARE PEOPLE TOO.  
WE MUST PROTECT THEIR RIGHT TO LIFE.  
END ABORTIONS FROM CONCEPTION.  
WITH THE RAREST OF EXCEPTIONS,  
CHOOSING LIFE IS GODLY AND RIGHT.

(Verse 2)

FRANK

IF AN UNBORN CHILD IS TO BE  
A SACRED LIFE FROM INCEPTION  
THEN WE ARE OBLIGED TO AGREE  
IT'S SACRED WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

NO MATTER HOW IT WAS CONCEIVED,  
THROUGH MISSTEP, INCEST OR THROUGH RAPE,  
NO MATTER WHAT THE RISKS MAY BE  
TO MOTHER'S HEALTH OR MENTAL STATE.

ONCE THAT EGG IS FERTILIZED  
IT'S GOD WHO GRANTS ITS RIGHT TO LIVE,  
A RIGHT WE ALL MUST RECOGNIZE  
THAT ONLY GOD CAN TAKE OR GIVE.

(Chorus)

UNBORN BABIES ARE PEOPLE TOO.  
WE MUST PROTECT THEIR RIGHT TO LIFE.  
END ABORTIONS FROM CONCEPTION,  
ALLOWING ZERO EXCEPTIONS.  
KILLING BABIES IS NEVER RIGHT.

(Verse 3)

FLORENCE

WOMEN ARE PEOPLE LAST I CHECKED,  
WITH THEIR OWN BODIES, MINDS, AND HEARTS,  
THEIR OWN SOULS AND WITH DUE RESPECT,  
THEIR OWN DAMNED REPRODUCTIVE PARTS.

WE GET PREGNANT AND WE GIVE BIRTH.  
MEN DICTATING TERMS IS ABSURD.  
WE TAKE ADVICE FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH,  
BUT WOMEN MUST HAVE THE LAST WORD.

IF MEN GOT PREGNANT, I PREDICT  
THEY'D FIGHT TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH,  
AGAINST ALL ATTEMPTS TO RESTRICT  
ABORTION ON DEMAND 'TIL BIRTH.

(Chorus)

WOMEN ARE PEOPLE TOO.  
WE MUST PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE  
AN ABORTION AT ANY TIME  
FOR ANY REASON, ANY RHYME.  
WE MUST STAND UP AND FIGHT OR LOSE.

(Verse 4)

CLARA

RIGHT TO CHOOSE IS ALL ABOUT US,  
BUT AT SOME POINT WE MUST ADMIT  
A FETUS BECOMES MORE THAN JUST  
A LIFE WE CAN SIMPLY DISMISS.

FAR ALONG IN A PREGNANCY,  
ABORTIONS BECOME FAIRLY GRIM.  
SO, CHOOSING TO DO ONE SHOULD BE  
MUCH MORE THAN A LARK OR A WHIM.

(Chorus)

WOMEN ARE PEOPLE TOO.  
PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE.  
ABORTIONS WITH NO RESTRICTION  
UNTIL 6 MONTHS OF GESTATION,  
THEN REQUIRE A GOOD EXCUSE.

FRANK

There is no good excuse to murder a baby. Let's not kid ourselves. That's what abortion is - murdering babies!

FLORENCE

Really? And from what fountain of wisdom did you drink that Kool-Aid? Wait, don't tell me. You're Catholic, aren't you?

FRANK

I am Catholic, and proud of it. My fountain of wisdom is God.

FLORENCE

No Frank, your fountain of wisdom is not God. It's a bunch of old white men in gaudy religious drag who claim to speak for God. So, until they can get pregnant and give birth, none of them is an authority on abortion. We will not allow the pious thoughts and dictates of pedophiles and their enablers anywhere near our underpants. We are not helpless altar boys.

FRANK

You're a vile, obscene woman.

FLORENCE

No, I'm just a woman. What's vile and obscene is your answer to this question. A ten-year-old girl is raped and impregnated by her uncle. There's a significant health risk to her and the baby if she's forced to take the pregnancy to term. She's 9-weeks into her pregnancy, the embryo inside her is less than an inch long, incapable of conscious thought, and the doctor recommends an abortion. What should we do, Mr. 'No Excuse'?

FRANK

There is no good excuse to murder a baby.

FLORENCE

Yeah? Well, you're a good excuse to murder an ass.

JASON

OK let's lower the temperature a bit. The question was, at what stage of pregnancy should the government restrict a woman's right to choose an abortion? Rachel says at conception with some exceptions. Frank says at conception, no exceptions. He also thinks Florence is vile. Florence says never - abortions any time any reason. She also thinks Frank is an ass. Clara says around six months or so - with some exceptions after that. Anyone else care to weigh in?

CRISTY

It's twenty-two weeks.

JASON

Sorry?

CRISTY

I said twenty-two weeks. Abortion for any reason through twenty-two weeks, and then restricted to rape incest, health of mother, or viability of the infant. Twenty-two weeks.

(Verse 5)

THE FIRST THING WE ALL NEED TO DO  
IS DEFINE WHAT A PERSON IS  
BEFORE WEIGHING ONE'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE  
AGAINST ANOTHER'S RIGHT TO LIVE.

A PERSON IS BODY AND MIND  
FUSED IN A SENTIENT BLEND  
OF FULL SELF-AWARENESS COMBINED  
WITH A WILL TO SURVIVE AND TRANSCEND.

A WOMAN EMBODIES ALL THIS -  
AN AGENT WITH PURPOSE AND THOUGHT.  
SHE'S AWARE OF BOTH PAIN AND BLISS,  
A FETUS, HOWEVER, IS NOT

(Bridge)

IT'S NOT CONSCIOUS OR SELF-AWARE.  
IT HAS NO MIND, NO WILL, NO CARE.  
NO CONCEPT OF LIFE,  
NO CONSTRUCT FOR STRIFE,

AND NOT ONE RANDOM THOUGHT TO SHARE.

STRONG MEDICAL SCIENCE HAS SHOWN  
AT THE TWENTY-TWO-WEEK MILESTONE  
A FETUS'S BRAIN  
CANNOT CONCEIVE PAIN  
AND IT CAN'T SURVIVE ON ITS OWN.

(Verse 6)

DESPITE OUR STRONG INTUITIONS  
THAT FETUSES ARE PEOPLE TOO,  
AND OUR INTENSE INCLINATION  
TO MAKE TERMINATION TABOO,

A FETUS IS PURE POTENTIAL  
WHOSE VALUE IS SET IN DEGREE,  
FROM WORTHLESS UP TO ESSENTIAL  
IT'S WHAT MOTHER WANTS IT TO BE.

FOR SCIENCE AND OUR FREEDOM'S SAKE,  
REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES SHOULD BE  
A CALL ONLY WOMEN SHOULD MAKE -  
UNRESTRICTED THROUGH TWENTY-TWO WEEKS.

(Chorus)

WOMEN ARE PEOPLE TOO.  
PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE.  
ABORTIONS WITH NO RESTRICTIONS  
THROUGH TWENTY-TWO WEEKS OF GESTATION,  
THEN REQUIRE A GOOD EXCUSE.

CRISTY AND CLARA

ABORTIONS WITH NO RESTRICTIONS,  
THROUGH TWENTY-TWO WEEKS OF GESTATION,  
THEN REQUIRE A GOOD EXCUSE.

JASON

Ok, Cristy. Since you're the only doctor on the panel, and you're a woman, I'll let that be the last word on this topic.

Let's move to LGBTQ rights. Last year the Supreme Court made gay marriage legal in all fifty states. Thoughts on that?

Eric?

ERIC

That's messed up. The Supreme Court can't force us to accept gays and lesbians getting married. God intended marriage to be between a man and a woman. I mean just look at our body parts and how they fit together. It's obvious.

JASON

Umm. Can you expound on that last point a little bit?

ERIC

What, body parts fitting together?

JASON

Yes.

ERIC

Aw c'mon you know. Men are born with like a willy, you know, your junk, bratwurst, meatstick? And then women are born with like a Vajayjay, you know, a love box, hot pocket, baloney flaps, fuzzy donut, whatever. So like a man and a woman, that's a meatstick in a fuzzy donut, touchdown! That's how it's supposed to be.

But then you got people who want to be different. If you got two homos, they got two meatsticks with nowhere to put 'em except some disgusting unnatural places - ya know what I mean?

If you got two lesbos, they got two fuzzy donuts with nothing to put in 'em. Either they gotta smash their donuts together or buy like a fake meatstick to make it work.

Then you got your bis. They like everything - meat sticks, fuzzy donuts, whatever - doesn't matter, they're ready to party.

Then you got your dude trannies who were born with like a meat stick and a daddy bag but don't want 'em. They want to trade 'em in for a man-made fuzzy donut and a fake pair of milk sacks.

Then you got your chick trannies who were born with like a fuzzy donut and two milk sacks but want to trade 'em in for a meatstick..

JASON

Yeah, yeah, we get it, very enlightening, thanks. Anyone want to respond? Elaine.

ELAINE

First of all, it's not homos, lesbos or trannies. It's gay, lesbian, and transgender.

ERIC

Hey if the strap-on fits - wear it.

ELAINE

Second of all, everyone should have a right to identify themselves by whatever gender they feel comfortable with. And everyone should love and marry whoever they choose.

Third, the only disgusting deviant out here is you. Nobody else is walking around with a gun like some fake wannabe soldier who is too chicken shit to be around regular people in broad daylight without a weapon. And until you grow a meatstick, you will never get within ten feet of anybody's fuzzy donut. Stupid.

ERIC

(pointing at Elaine)

Hey, don't call me stupid.

JASON

OK, let's stop the personal attacks and keep the discussion civil. Anyone else want to comment on LGBTQ rights?

FRANK

I have something to say.

JASON

Frank has something to say - I'm shocked. Go ahead.

FRANK

This all boils down to whether or not your sex, your gender, and your sexual orientation conform to God's natural order, or if people are free to change any or all of these three things based on how they feel on any given day.

(FRANK stands up - **6. Not Enough.**)





6-Not Enough

(Verse 1)

FRANK

EVERYBODY IS A MALE OR FEMALE AS SET BY YOUR GENES.  
YOU'RE BORN AS EITHER A BOY OR A GIRL, THERE'S NO IN-  
BETWEEN.  
YOUR SEX AT BIRTH IS WHO YOU ARE BECAUSE IT'S WHAT GOD  
ENDOWED.  
AND THERE CAN BE NO EXCHANGES, RETURNS OR REFUNDS ALLOWED.

(Verse 2)

GENDER'S NOT FLUID, IT'S SET AT YOUR BIRTH TO REFLECT YOUR  
SEX.  
RAISE BOYS TO BE BOYS AND GIRLS TO BE GIRLS AS THE LORD  
EXPECTS.  
BOYS WEAR PANTS AND PLAY WAR VIDEOGAMES AND SPORTS WITH  
THEIR CREW.  
GIRLS WEAR SKIRTS, BAKE CAKES, AND WHATEVER ELSE IT IS THAT  
GIRLS DO.

(Verse 3)

AS THEY COME OF AGE, BOYS AND GIRLS SHOULD DATE THE  
OPPOSITE SEX,  
BOYS WITH GIRLS, THAT'S IT. THAT'S THE ONLY PATH TO THE  
RIGHTFUL STEP  
OF MARRIAGE WITH ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN AS HUSBAND AND WIFE.  
THEN HAVE CHILDREN AND RAISE THEM TO FOLLOW NATURE'S PATH  
FOR LIFE.

(Chorus 1)

THAT'S GOD'S PLAN, AND HE KNOWS WHAT'S BEST,  
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR THEM.

THEY WANT THE RIGHT TO PURSUE SAME SEX.  
THEY WANT THE FREEDOM TO BE CROSS DRESSED.  
THEY WANT THE OPTION TO CHANGE THEIR SEX,  
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

THEY WANT TO MOVE THEIR DEVIANCY  
OUT FROM THE SHADOWS FOR ALL TO SEE  
JUST HOW FREAKY THESE FREAKS WANT TO BE,  
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

THEY WANT TO PUSH FOR LAWS TO DECREE  
THAT GOOD GOD-FEARING PEOPLE LIKE ME  
MUST ACCEPT THIS AS HOW THINGS SHOULD BE,  
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

THEY WANT TRANS WOMEN TO GO COMPETE  
AGAINST NATURAL BORN WOMEN ATHLETES,  
DELIVERING THEM CRUSHING DEFEATS  
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

THEY WANT THESE FORMER MEN TO BE FREE  
TO WIN GLORY WITH THEIR JACKED PHYSIQUES  
AS THEY GLOAT OVER WOMEN THEY BEAT,  
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.  
NO, THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.  
IT'S NEVER ENOUGH FOR THEM.

JASON

Thank you, Frank. We've come to expect you to raise the  
temperature of the conversation, and you never disappoint.  
Anyone want to respond?

Florence does. What a shocker. Go ahead.

(Verse 4)

FLORENCE

FIRST OFF, SELF-RIGHTEOUS BIGOTS DON'T KNOW GOD AND DON'T  
KNOW HIS PLAN.  
THEY JUST BLOVIATE BULLSHIT ABOUT THINGS THEY DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.  
WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE THEY DARE TO DICTATE WHO, WHAT, HOW,  
AND WHEN.  
THEY THINK THAT FREEDOM ONLY MEANS FREEDOM TO BE JUST LIKE  
THEM.

(Verse 5)

SEXUAL EXPRESSION AND GENDER ROLES ARE NOT ONE SIZE FITS  
ALL.  
WHAT COMBINATIONS ARE ACCEPTABLE CANNOT BE YOUR CALL.  
YOU ARE FREE TO BE YOUR STRAIGHT, CISGENDER, NARROW-MINDED  
SELF.  
BUT THEN YOU CANNOT DENY THAT FREEDOM TO ANYONE ELSE.

(Verse 6)

OUR SEXUAL JOURNEY IS STARTED AND PUSHED IN PART BY OUR  
GENES.

THEY LAND US SOMEWHERE ON THE RANGE BETWEEN COMMON AND  
EXTREMES.

BUT REGARDLESS OF OUR GENES, SEX, DESIRES, PATH OR DESTINY,  
WE ALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO LOVE, AND DEFINE WHO WE WANT TO  
BE.

(Chorus 2)

THAT'S OUR PLAN AND WE KNOW WHAT'S BEST,  
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR US.

WE ALL DESERVE THE BASIC RESPECT  
AND FREEDOM TO EMBRACE AND EXPRESS  
OUR CHOICES FOR SEX GENDER AND DRESS,  
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY,  
WITHOUT SHAME AND IN THE LIGHT OF DAY,  
I AM WHO I AM, AND THAT'S OK,  
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

WE WILL PUSH HARD FOR LAWS THAT DECREE  
THE L'S THE B'S THE G'S AND THE T'S  
HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS BOTH YOU AND ME,  
BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

WE DO WANT TRANS WOMEN TO BE FREE  
TO PARTICIPATE AND TO COMPETE  
WITH ALL THE OTHER WOMEN ATHLETES  
NOTHING LESS WOULD BE ENOUGH.  
NOTHING LESS WOULD BE ENOUGH.  
NOTHING LESS WOULD BE ENOUGH FOR US.

JASON

Thank you, professor. Anyone from the center? Craig.

(Verse 7)

CLAYTON

TO BE QUITE CANDID, LGBT FOLKS MAKE ME UNEASY.  
THEY MAY EVEN MAKE PEOPLE LIKE FRANK THERE A LITTLE QUEASY.  
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, UNEASY, QUEASY FOLKS LIKE HIM AND ME  
THOUGHT WE COULD DENY LGBT FOLKS THE RIGHT TO BE FREE.

(Verse 8)

BUT LGBT RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS ARE NOT OURS TO GIVE.  
THEY OWN THEIR OWN LIVES; WE CANNOT DICTATE TERMS FOR HOW  
THEY LIVE.  
I'M STILL UNEASY, AND FRANK'S STILL QUEASY ABOUT GAY  
AFFAIRS,  
BUT I'VE COME TO LEARN, THIS IS OUR PROBLEM TO RESOLVE, NOT  
THEIRS.

(Verse 9)

ON THE ONE ISSUE ABOUT TRANS WOMEN PLAYING WOMEN'S SPORTS,  
UP THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANS GIRLS ARE THE SAME ON THE  
FIELD OR COURTS.  
THEN PUBERTY STARTS, HORMONES DO THEIR THING, MUSCLES AND  
BONES GROW.  
TRANS GIRLS AND WOMEN GAIN AN ADVANTAGE, AND IT STARTS TO  
SHOW.

(Verse 10)

THIS TRANS ADVANTAGE MAY BE A LITTLE, IT MAY BE A LOT.  
TRANS FEMALES HAVE IT, BUT OTHER FEMALES COMPETING DO NOT.  
UP THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL IT DOESN'T MATTER, SO NO ONE  
SHOULD CARE.  
BEYOND MIDDLE SCHOOL THE TRANS ADVANTAGE IS SIMPLY UNFAIR.

(Chorus 3)

THAT'S MY PLAN AND MY OWN WILD GUESS.  
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR US.

WE ALL DESERVE THE BASIC RESPECT  
AND FREEDOM TO EMBRACE AND EXPRESS  
OUR CHOICES FOR SEX GENDER AND DRESS.  
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY,  
WITHOUT SHAME AND IN THE LIGHT OF DAY,  
I AM WHO I AM, AND THAT'S OK  
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

WE WILL PUSH HARD FOR LAWS THAT DECREE  
THE L'S THE B'S THE G'S AND THE T'S  
HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS BOTH YOU AND ME.  
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

WE DO WANT TRANS WOMEN TO BE FREE  
TO DO EVERYTHING EXCEPT COMPETE  
WITH ALL THE OTHER WOMEN ATHLETES  
THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH.  
THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH.  
THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR US.

(Finale)

LEFT

THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

RIGHT

IT'S NEVER ENOUGH.

CENTER

THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

LEFT

THAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR US.

RIGHT

IT'S NEVER ENOUGH FOR THEM.

CENTER

THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR US ALL.

LEFT

NOT ENOUGH

RIGHT

NEVER ENOUGH

CENTER

SHOULD BE ENOUGH

JASON

(To camera)

Well, there you have it on LGBTQ rights. The right says God's plan is for everyone to be cisgender heterosexuals. That means if you are born a boy, you stay a boy and act like a boy. And when you become adults, the only acceptable sexual activity is the normal stuff. You know, one meatstick and one fuzzy donut, that's it. No other combinations allowed. And finally, trans women cannot compete in women sports.

The left says everyone has the right to express their sexuality as they see fit. And trans women should be treated like any other women, including the right to participate in women sports.

The center seems aligned with the left on freedom of expression but want to see restrictions on transgender women in women sports.

That will do it for us here today. See you again at the polls in twenty-eighteen.

ACT ONE

Scene Three

Jason stands in front of ten members of focus group sitting in director's chairs outside polling station on Election Day, November 2018.

JASON

(to camera)

Gooooo afternoon, I'm Jason Proctor outside Polling Station seven in Wexler County. It's Tuesday, November sixth, election day twenty-eighteen, and we have a focus group of the same ten voters we met here back in twenty-sixteen. On the left-leaning Blue Team we have Elaine, Florence, and Lamar. On the purple team in the middle, we have Clara, Clayton, Cristy, and Craig. And on the right-leaning Red Team we have Rachel, Frank, and Eric.

Eric, the meatstick man. How ya doing today?

ERIC

Trump is president - I'm doing great!

JASON

Glad to hear it.

Anyhooo. Thank you all for coming out to vote and giving us some of your time. Since our last conversation nearly two years ago, a lot has happened on the political scene. The Trump administration has made significant policy shifts on immigration, climate change, taxation, and gun control, so we have a lot to discuss.

Let's start with immigration. President Trump campaigned on the promise to build a wall on our southern border that the Mexicans will pay for. Citing security concerns, he has moved to restrict citizens from majority Muslim countries from traveling to the US. To deter illegal immigrants through our southern border, he has implemented a policy of separating families who entered the US unlawfully. The parents and children of these families are placed in separate detention centers with no clear process for reunification. He questioned why we allow so many immigrants

from what he called 'shithole countries' like Haiti and African nations rather than places like say, Norway.

So, first question for the panel is, how is President Trump doing on immigration so far? Eric.

ERIC

I think he's doing a great job.

JASON

So, you support separating families and putting kids in cages?

ERIC

Hell yeah. You gotta have a deterrence to keep illegals from coming into the country. You gotta stop the flow. Plus, those families are not suffering that bad, and it was Obama who built those cages in the first place.

JASON

Ok you're for whatever it takes to stop the flow of illegal immigration from the southern border. How about LEGAL immigration?

ERIC

You gotta stop that flow too. We got over three-hundred-million Americans in this country already. We don't need anymore.

JASON

When you say stop the flow of legal immigration do you mean completely?

ERIC

Yeah, completely. We gotta take care of our own first.

ELAINE

That's stupid.

ERIC

Hey! That's the second time you called me stupid. Don't make it a third.

ELAINE



Actually, I didn't call YOU stupid this time. I called what you SAID stupid. Anyway. We should maximize the flow of legal immigration. Why not give as many people as possible the same opportunity we got?

ERIC

Yeah, that's real bright. There's seven billion people in the world trying to get in here. Where we gonna put all of 'em?

JASON

OK let's dial it back a bit. Eric says stop the flow. Elaine says maximize the flow. Anyone else?

Clayton.

CLAYTON

We actually need the flow of immigrants to stay at current levels to sustain our economy. We should keep the flow where it is.

JASON

OK Clayton says keep the flow where it is. Anyone else?

(RACHEL stands - **7. The Flow.**)

7-The Flow

(Verse 1)

RACHEL

IT'S THE FLOW!  
ILLEGALS POURING THROUGH THE SOUTHERN BORDER  
BY THE THOUSANDS DESTROYING LAW AND ORDER.

FRANK

SLOW THE FLOW!  
THEY BRING CRIME, BRING DRUGS AND THEN GO ON WELFARE.  
AND WE PAY FOR THEIR HOUSING AND THEIR HEALTHCARE.

ERIC

STOP THE FLOW!  
THEIR CHEAP LABOR WILL SUPPRESS ALL OUR WAGES.  
FOR DETERRENCE, PUT THEIR CHILDREN IN CAGES.

(Right Chorus)

RACHEL

IT'S THE FLOW - THEY'RE FLOODING IN DROVES THROUGH THE  
GATE.

FRANK

SLOW THE FLOW - OR THE PROBLEM WILL GROW.

ERIC

STOP THE FLOW - BUILD THE WALL BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

RACHEL/FRANK/ERIC

IT'S THE FLOW, SLOW THE FLOW, STOP THE FLOW.

(Verse 2)

RACHEL

IT'S THE FLOW!  
ALL THE INDIAN AND ASIAN FACES  
TAKING HIGH TECH JOBS AND TOP COLLEGE SPACES.

FRANK

SLOW THE FLOW!  
OF LATINOS SWARMING IN WITH BAD HABITS,  
SPEAKING JUST SPANISH AND BREEDING LIKE RABBITS.

ERIC

STOP THE FLOW!  
THE COLLUSION TO REPLACE US HAS BEGUN.  
IF WE DON'T STOP THEM, WE WILL BE OVERRUN.

(Right Chorus)

RACHEL

IT'S THE FLOW - THEY'RE FLOODING IN DROVES THROUGH THE  
GATE.

FRANK

SLOW THE FLOW - OR THE PROBLEM WILL GROW.

ERIC

STOP THE FLOW - BUILD THE WALL BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

RACHEL/FRANK/ERIC

IT'S THE FLOW, SLOW THE FLOW, STOP THE FLOW.

(Verse 3)

RACHEL

IT'S THE FLOW!  
IMMIGRATION THREATENS OUR COUNTRY TODAY.  
WE MUST FIX IT OR GIVE OUR COUNTRY AWAY.

FRANK

SLOW THE FLOW  
OF THE POOR, ILLITERATE AND THE LAZY,  
THE CRIMINAL, IGNORANT, AND THE CRAZY.

ERIC

STOP THE FLOW!  
OF IMMIGRANTS FROM SHITHOLE, THIRD WORLD NATIONS,  
LIKE THE AFRICANS, AS WELL AS THE HAITIANS.

(Right Chorus)

RACHEL

IT'S THE FLOW - THEY'RE FLOODING IN DROVES THROUGH THE  
GATE.

FRANK

SLOW THE FLOW - OR THE PROBLEM WILL GROW.

ERIC

STOP THE FLOW - BUILD THE WALL BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

RACHEL/FRANK/ERIC

IT'S THE FLOW, SLOW THE FLOW, STOP THE FLOW.

(Verse 4)

LAMAR

IT'S THE FLOW!  
IMMIGRANTS BUILT THIS GRAND COUNTRY OF OURS.  
ENHANCING ITS CULTURE, WEALTH, AND ITS POWERS.

FLORENCE

SPEED THE FLOW!  
OF THOSE WHO ARE READY, ABLE, AND WILLING.  
TO STAFF ALL THE OPEN JOBS THAT NEED FILLING.

ELAINE

MAX THE FLOW!  
BRING MORE OF THEIR ENERGY AND ZEAL ABOARD.  
THE MORE THEY COME IN, THE MORE OUR OWN REWARD.

(Left Chorus)

LAMAR

IT'S THE FLOW - THEY'RE A PLUS SO OPEN THE DOOR.

FLORENCE

SPEED THE FLOW - SO WE PROSPER AND GROW.

ELAINE

MAX THE FLOW - THEY NEED US, BUT WE NEED THEM MORE.

LAMAR/FLORENCE/ELAINE

IT'S THE FLOW, SPEED THE FLOW, MAX THE FLOW.

(Verse 5)

LAMAR

IT'S THE FLOW!  
IMMIGRANTS CONTINUE TO MAKE US STRONGER.  
THEY PAY TAXES AND WORK HARDER AND LONGER.

FLORENCE

SPEED THE FLOW!  
THEY BECOME GREAT CITIZENS AND GOOD NEIGHBORS.  
THEY NEED A WELCOMING CHANCE AND NO FAVORS.

ELAINE

MAX THE FLOW!  
BRING THE TIRED, POOR, AND HUDDLED MASSES.  
THE VIBRANT, THE RICH, AND THE UPPER CLASSES.

(Left Chorus)

LAMAR

IT'S THE FLOW - THEY'RE A PLUS SO OPEN THE DOOR.

FLORENCE

SPEED THE FLOW - SO WE PROSPER AND GROW.

ELAINE

MAX THE FLOW - THEY NEED US BUT WE NEED THEM MORE.

LAMAR/FLORENCE/ELAINE

IT'S THE FLOW, SPEED THE FLOW, MAX THE FLOW.

(Bridge)

CLARA

SOMETIME PAST IN EACH OF OUR FAMILY TREES,  
OUR ANCESTORS WERE NOT BORN HERE.  
BUT THROUGH DESPERATION, DESIRE, AND FATE  
THEY FLOWED TO THESE SHORES EVERY YEAR.

CRISTY

WE ALL DESCEND FROM THIS CONSTANT FLOW.  
SO, WE ARE THE FLOW IN A WAY.  
WE ALL ARE THE FLOW THAT BUILT THIS COUNTRY  
AND SUSTAINS ITS GREATNESS TODAY.

CLAYTON

BUT HOW MUCH FLOW SHOULD WE ADD TO ENSURE  
OUR TOMORROWS WILL BE AS BRIGHT.  
TODAY IT'S ABOUT A MILLION A YEAR

THAT NUMBER IS JUST ABOUT RIGHT.

(Verse 6)

CLARA

IT'S THE FLOW!  
A MILLION VIBRANT NEW SOULS COMING YEARLY.  
A MILLION NEW HOPES AND DREAMS HELD SO DEARLY.

CLAYTON

KEEP THE FLOW!  
A MILLION NEW PAIRS OF HANDS TO START ROWING  
TO HELP PROPEL THIS BIG BOAT THAT KEEPS GROWING.

CRAIG

IN CONTROL!  
MAKE LEGAL ENTRY THE ONLY TRUE WAY IN,  
AND LEGAL PATHWAYS THE SOLE WAY TO STAY IN.

(Center Chorus)

CLAYTON

IT'S THE FLOW - SO ESSENTIAL JUST DO THE MATH.

CRISTY

KEEP THE FLOW - AT ONE MILLION OR SO.

CRAIG

IN CONTROL - LEGAL ENTRY, THE ONLY PATH.

CLARA/CLAYTON/CRISTY/CRAIG

IT'S THE FLOW, KEEP THE FLOW, IN CONTROL.

(Right Chorus)

RACHEL

IT'S THE FLOW - THEY'RE FLOODING IN DROVES THROUGH THE  
GATE.

FRANK

SLOW THE FLOW - OR THE PROBLEM WILL GROW.

ERIC

STOP THE FLOW - BUILD THE WALL BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

RACHEL/FRANK/ERIC

IT'S THE FLOW, SLOW THE FLOW, STOP THE FLOW.

(Left Chorus)

LAMAR

IT'S THE FLOW - THEY'RE A PLUS SO OPEN THE DOOR.

FLORENCE

SPEED THE FLOW - SO WE PROSPER AND GROW.

ELAINE

MAX THE FLOW - THEY NEED US BUT WE NEED THEM MORE.

LAMAR/FLORENCE/ELAINE

IT'S THE FLOW, SPEED THE FLOW, MAX THE FLOW.

ALL

(Finale)

RACHEL/FRANK/ERIC

IT'S THE FLOW, SLOW THE FLOW, STOP THE FLOW!

LAMAR/FLORENCE/ELAINE

IT'S THE FLOW, SPEED THE FLOW, MAX THE FLOW.

CLARA/CLAYTON/CRISTY/CRAIG

IT'S THE FLOW, KEEP THE FLOW, IN CONTROL!

JASON

So, it's all about the flow. The right says build the wall to stop illegal immigration and as for legal immigration, slow it down or stop it altogether. The left does not seem too concerned about illegal immigration and wants to speed or maximize legal immigration. The center says no illegal immigration and keep legal immigration in control at about a million people a year.

Let's switch gears and talk gun control.

Every year there are about forty-thousand gun deaths in the US. We have twenty times the gun homicide rate of the European Union, and seven times more guns per capita. In the past few years high profile mass shootings have intensified the debate

about proposed solutions to gun violence including universal background checks, red flag laws, raising the minimum age to buy a firearm to twenty-one, banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and a national gun registry.

The question is, which, if any, of these gun control measures should we enact. Let's start over here with the meatstick man, Eric.

First of all, it looks like you've added something to your arsenal since the last time you were with us two years ago. You had just the pistol before. What's this?

ERIC

Yep. This is my new AR-Fifteen. It's got a custom buttstock, custom pistol grip and custom handguard too. Pretty sick right?

JASON

Pretty sick, yes, let's go with that. So, the handgun alone was not enough for this election?

ERIC

Hey, you can never be too prepared, right?

JASON

Apparently not. Anyway, your thoughts on gun control?

ERIC

Second Amendment.

JASON

OK. Can you expand on that?

ERIC

Sure. A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

JASON

Ok, that IS the second amendment, but the supreme court says the right to bear arms does not prevent the government from regulating gun ownership. Do you support universal background checks?



ERIC

Nope.

JASON

Red flag laws? Raising the minimum age to buy a firearm to twenty-one?

ERIC

Nope and nope.

JASON

Ban on assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, armor piercing bullets, silencers?

ERIC

Nope, nope, nope, and nope.

JASON

Gun exclusion zones like schools and government buildings?  
Licensing requirements to carry firearms, national gun registry?

ERIC

Nope, nope, and hell no on the registry.

JASON

Should there be any restrictions at all on the type of firearms available, who can carry them, and where?

ERIC

The right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

JASON

Should everyone be able to buy a machine gun?

ERIC

The right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

JASON

How about a rocket launcher?

ERIC

Shall not be infringed.

CRAIG

Hold on. How about carrying the rocket launcher into a courthouse or a pre-school?

ERIC

Shall not be infringed.

CRAIG

Ok, hold on a minute. I support the second amendment too, but you can't have every Tom, Dick, and Eric walking around with bazookas and unlimited access to all public spaces. That's a recipe for anarchy.

ELAINE

No, that's a recipe for stupid.

(ERIC leaps out of his seat, and points at Elaine)

ERIC

Hey, I told you about calling me stupid, didn't I?!

(ELAINE stands with hands on hips)

ELAINE

And what you gonna do? Nobody's scared of you.

(ERIC starts to walk toward Elaine. CRAIG moves to stand in front of Eric and blocks his path.)

CRAIG

Hold on there, sir. I think you need to take a breath and have a seat.

(ERIC stops then walks backward to his seat while glaring at Elaine. HE points at her again.)

ERIC

You keep it up.

ELAINE

You need to sit down...

...stupid.

ERIC

(pounds arm of his chair)

God damit! You just don't know!

JASON

(smiling)

OK, let's dial this back to civil discourse please.

The question is, which, if any, of the proposed gun control measures should we enact. Eric's answer is none. Anyone else? Elaine.

ELAINE

This is madness.

JASON

I'm sorry what?

ELAINE

This is madness.

JASON

What is madness?

ELAINE

This debate. This conversation is madness.

(ELAINE stands. **8. Madness.**)

8-Madness

(Verse 1)

ELAINE

WHAT DO YOU CALL THE SLAUGHTER OF BABIES  
BY GUN TOTING MASS-MURDERING CRAZIES?  
COLUMBINE TO VIRGINIA TECH AND THEN  
SANDY HOOK, PARKLAND, AND THEN ON AGAIN?

ALL LEFT + CLARA

MADNESS!

(Verse 2)

FLORENCE

WHAT DO YOU CALL THE FACT THAT GUNFIRE RINGS  
IN A BAPTIST CHURCH IN SUTHERLAND SPRINGS,  
AN ORLANDO NIGHTCLUB WHERE REVELERS MIX,  
AND A CONCERT ON THE LAS VEGAS STRIP?

ALL LEFT + CLARA

MADNESS!

(Verse 3)

LAMAR

WHAT DO YOU CALL A HUNDRED DEATHS A DAY  
FROM BULLETS CAUSING FLESH AND BLOOD TO SPRAY,  
STAINING MEAN STREETS, SAD HOMES, AND CHURCH HOUSE WALLS,  
SPREADING PANIC AND PAIN IN SCHOOLHOUSE HALLS?

ALL LEFT + CLARA

MADNESS!

(Verse 4)

CLARA

WHAT DO YOU CALL THE FLOOD OF GRIEVOUS HARMS  
FLOWING FROM FOUR HUNDRED MILLION ARMS  
IN THE HANDS OF THUGS, ABUSERS, VENGEFUL TEENS,  
AND MONSTERS WITH HATE-FILLED, MURDEROUS SCHEMES?

ALL LEFT + CLARA

MADNESS!

(Left Chorus)

ALL LEFT + CLARA

MADNESS!  
WE KEEP DISAVOWING IT  
WHILE THOUSANDS KEEP DYING.  
WE KEEP ON ALLOWING IT  
AND MOTHERS KEEP CRYING.

ALL LEFT + CLARA

MADNESS!  
WE KNOW WE SHOULD STOP IT.  
BUT WHAT'S SO DAMNED ABSURD,  
THE GUN DEALERS' PROFITS  
ALWAYS GET THE LAST WORD.

FRANK

(Verse 5)

WHAT DO YOU CALL THE HYSTERICAL CLAIM  
THAT GUNS, NOT PEOPLE, ARE WHAT WE SHOULD BLAME  
FOR ALL THE THUGS, NUT JOBS, LOSERS, AND DOPES  
WHO BREAK ALL THE RULES AND SHOOT OTHER FOLKS?

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

(Verse 6)

FRANK

WHAT DO YOU CALL YOUR SAD FAILURE TO SEE  
THAT FORCING MORE GUN RESTRICTIONS ON ME  
DOES NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEMS YOU'RE POINTING OUT,  
OR REDUCE THE VIOLENCE YOU WHINE ABOUT?

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

(Verse 7)

ERIC

HALF THE GUN DEATHS ARE SUICIDAL ACTS,

HALF THE REST ARE BLACKS KILLING OTHER BLACKS.  
MOST ARE WITH ILLEGAL HANDGUNS FOR SURE,  
SO MORE BACKGROUND CHECKS OFFER NO REAL CURE.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

(Verse 8)

ERIC

YOU FIXATE ON AN ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN.  
INSTEAD, PUSH FOR BETTER MENTAL HEALTH PLANS,  
MORE COPS, MORE JAILS, LONGER SENTENCING TIME,  
AND FOR GOD SAKE REDUCE BLACK ON BLACK CRIME.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

(Right Chorus)

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

FRANK

WE'RE MISDIAGNOSING IT  
THOUGH THOUSANDS KEEP DYING.  
WE'RE OVEREXPOSING IT  
AND LEFTIES KEEP CRYING.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

ERIC

THEY KNOW THEY SHOULD STOP IT,  
BUT WHAT'S SO DAMNED ABSURD,  
THE FAKE LEFT-WING PROPHETS  
TRY TO GET THE LAST WORD.

(Bridge)

CRAIG

AS A COP I HAVE A FEW THINGS TO SAY.  
I DEAL WITH GUNS ON THE STREETS EVERY DAY.

THE ANSWER TO GUN CRIME I'M THINKING OF  
IS NOT THIS OR THAT, BUT ALL THE ABOVE.

RIGHT AND LEFT

MADNESS!

CRAIG

WE NEED BETTER MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR SURE,  
AS MANY POLICE AS YOU CAN ENDURE.  
FOR GUN VIOLENCE, YES, ADD ON MORE JAIL TIME.  
AND YES, BLACK FOLKS SLOW THE BLACK-ON-BLACK CRIME.

LEFT

MADNESS!

CRAIG

I'LL BACK THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS FOREVER.  
FOR ALL LAWFUL CITIZENS, HOWEVER,  
THE CLAIM WE CAN PUT NO LIMITS IN PLACE  
IS JUST UNTRUE AND ABSURD ON ITS FACE.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

CRAIG

FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, YOU CANNOT OWN MORE  
RAW FIREPOWER OR WEAPONS OF WAR  
THAN YOUR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BECAUSE  
THEN WE CAN'T FORCE YOU TO FOLLOW THE LAWS.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

(Verse 9)

CRAIG

YOU CAN'T HAVE TANKS, FLAME THROWERS, OR GRENADES,  
NO ROCKETS, MORTARS, OR BAYONET BLADES,  
NO MACHINE GUNS, OR ARMOR PIERCING ROUNDS,  
NO SILENCERS TO MUFFLE WEAPON SOUNDS.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

(Verse 10)

CRAIG

NO C-FOUR EXPLOSIVES OR CLAYMORE MINES,  
NO ASSAULT STYLE RIFLES OF ANY KIND,  
NO MORE THAN TWENTY-ROUND MAGAZINE CLIPS,  
NO AMMO FITTED WITH EXPLOSIVE TIPS.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

(Verse 11)

CRAIG

A GUN IS MUCH MORE DEADLY THAN A CAR.  
WHY WE REGULATE GUNS LESS IS BIZARRE.  
WE SHOULD HAVE UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS,  
MINIMUM TRAINING AND LICENSING SPECS.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

(Verse 12)

CRAIG

WE SHOULD REGISTER EVERY LEGAL GUN  
AND RAISE THE AGE TO OWN TO TWENTY-ONE.  
AND IF YOU BREAK BAD, WE SHOULD GET TO SAY  
WHETHER WE COME TAKE YOUR WEAPONS AWAY.

ERIC AND FRANK

MADNESS!

(Left Chorus)

LEFT AND CENTER

MADNESS!

RACHEL

WE KEEP DISAVOWING IT  
WHILE THOUSANDS KEEP DYING.  
WE KEEP ON ALLOWING IT  
AND MOTHERS KEEP CRYING.



LEFT AND CENTER

MADNESS!

CRISTY

WE KNOW WE SHOULD STOP IT.  
BUT WHAT'S SO DAMNED ABSURD,  
THE GUN DEALERS' PROFITS  
ALWAYS GET THE LAST WORD.

LEFT AND CENTER

MADNESS!

Eric and Frank are next to Elaine by the end of the  
song)

JASON

Well, Frank and Eric, it seems you're outnumbered seven or eight  
to two on this one. What do you think about that?

ERIC

(Smiling broadly)

I like them odds. Long as I got the NRA, the Second Amendment,  
and this right here (taps rifle), were gonna be OK.

ELAINE

That's just stupid.

ERIC

(instantly irate, turns to Elaine)

God damit! I told you not to call me that!

(ELAINE walks right up to Eric and leans in so her  
face is inches from his.)

ELAINE

And I told you I'm not scared of you!

(ELAINE and ERIC glare at one another for a few seconds and Elaine feints a lunge toward Eric. Eric flinches and steps back.)

ELAINE

Yeah, that's what I thought, bitch.

(All other PANELISTS converge to separate Elaine and Eric. LAMAR restrains Elaine and coaxes her away. CRAIG ushers Eric away. FRANK and FLORENCE converge and begin to bicker. CLAYTON steps between them. STAN and JASON converge on the crowd and begin ushering panelists back to their seats. JASON and STAN walk to front of the stage to confer in a huddle.)

STAN

Jason, that was very Jerry Springer-ish. Next time we do this, we have to temper the discourse - turn it down some.

JASON

Turn it down? Are you kidding me? Stan, my man, this right here is ratings gold. We need to keep turning it up. Next election - same format.

(JASON smiles broadly. **9. Turn It Up Reprise.**)

9-Turn It Up Reprise

JASON

BLUE CHAIRS FOR THE LEFT, RED CHAIRS FOR THE RIGHT,  
PURPLE FOR THE FOLKS IN BETWEEN,  
SOME OF THEM BRILLIANT, AND SOME NOT SO BRIGHT,  
SOME HIGH-MINDED, SOME DOWNRIGHT MEAN,  
SOME THOUGHTFUL AND INTROSPECTIVE,  
SOME SHALLOW WITH NO PERSPECTIVE,  
BUT ALL WILL FIT THE TRIBAL THEME.

ALL

TURN IT UP!

(Chorus)

ALL

TURN IT UP!

JASON

CUE THE MUSIC, THE LIGHTS AND THE VIBES.

ALL

TURN IT UP!

JASON

BRING THE PASSION, AND HEAT FROM THE TRIBES.

ALL

TURN IT UP!

JASON

BRING THE RHYTHMS, THE BEATS,  
THEN HOLD ONTO YOUR SEATS  
AS THIS VENUE OF OURS COMES ALIVE!

ALL

TURN IT UP!

Curtain Falls.

## ACT TWO

### Scene One

JASON stands in front of ten members of focus group sitting in director's chairs outside polling station on Election Day November 2020.

JASON

(to camera)

Gooooo afternoon, I'm Jason Proctor outside Polling Station seven in Wexler County. It's Tuesday, November third, election day twenty-twenty - the final day of voting to determine whether Donald Trump will serve a second term, or if Joe Biden will become the forty-sixth president of these United States.

Over the past several years, the country has become more politically divided than ever. Many voters live in information bubbles where their views are reinforced and intensified, creating partisan tribes who are convinced the country would be in peril if the wrong candidate is elected as president.

Today we have a focus group of the same ten voters we met here back in twenty-sixteen, and again in twenty-eighteen for mid-term elections. If our panelists are as divided as the rest of the country, this should make for a very stimulating conversation.

In the left-leaning Blue Tribe we have Elaine, Florence, and Lamar. In the Centrist Purple Tribe we have Clara, Clayton, Cristy, and Craig. And in the right-leaning Red Tribe we have Rachel, Frank, and Eric - all of whom have insisted on not wearing masks, despite a raging pandemic.

Let's get right to it with a quick round robin of who you voted for today and very briefly, why. Let's start with the Purple Team. Clayton?

CLAYTON

I voted for Biden because he's experienced, he's a moderate who will reach across the aisle to work with Republicans, and he'll help bring the country together.

JASON

Ok, Cristy?

CRISTY

I voted for Biden because he believes in science and has plans to deal with Covid and climate change.

JASON

Craig?

CRAIG

This was another tough one for me, but I voted for Trump again. I think he's stronger on immigration, the economy, and support for law enforcement.

JASON

Back in twenty-sixteen you said Trump was not a statesman, but you thought he would become one after some time on the job. After four years how do you think he's doing on that front?

CRAIG

As a statesman?

JASON

Yes.

CRAIG

Oh, he sucks as a statesman, but he gets stuff done.

JASON

Fair enough. Clara?

CLARA

I voted for Biden because he supports gun control and women's reproductive rights.

JASON

Alright. That's the relatively positive Purple perspective. Let's see what the partisans have to say. Let's start with Lamar.

LAMAR

I voted for Biden 'cause Trump's a racist gangster.

JASON

Well, if nothing else, you are consistent. Rachel?

RACHEL

I voted for Trump. He's not a racist, and he's not a gangster. He's a strong Christian leader and he cares about all Americans regardless of their race.

JASON

Florence?

FLORENCE

I voted for Biden because Trump IS a racist gangster. He's also a corrupt, self-interested con man, a fascist kleptocrat, a cult leader, and a buffoon. If he wins again, our democracy may never recover.

JASON

OK, lots to unpack there, and we'll get to some of it later. Frank?

FRANK

I voted for Trump because he's an American patriot who is dismantling the deep state and restoring the country back to greatness. Biden is the buffoon. He's a senile old politician who has sold his soul to the radical left. He's a slave to identity politics, weak on immigration, and weak on the economy.

(FRANK points to Rachel)

And the only cult in this equation is the anti-American global elite leftist cult that you are in.

FLORENCE

No, the only cult in this equation is the one that goes out in public in the middle of a deadly pandemic without masks! What's wrong with you people?

FRANK

(mockingly cupping his hand behind his ear)  
I'm sorry, can you repeat that? You were muffled.

FLORENCE

Really, you think this is funny? Well tell me if you can hear this.

(FLORENCE stands. **10. What's Wrong with You?**)

10-What's Wrong with You

(Verse 1)

RACHEL

COVID IS REALITY, IT'S NOT A JOKE,  
NO BIG CONSPIRACY, FAKE NEWS OR HOAX,  
HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE GET INFECTED EVERY DAY.  
TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND HAVE ALREADY PASSED AWAY.

YET YOU DON'T WEAR MASKS AT PUBLIC EVENTS,  
THEN WONDER IN STUPEFYING SUSPENSE  
WHY YOU DIE GASPING IN HURT AND PAIN  
LIKE THE TRAGIC TALE OF HERMAN CAIN.

WHILE PEOPLE ARE DYING, LOVED ONES ARE CRYING,  
FIRST RESPONDERS TRYING TO DO THEIR VERY BEST,  
YOU'RE NON-COMPLYING, CONSISTENTLY DENYING  
REALITY AT DONALD TRUMP'S BEHEST.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

(Verse 2)

LAMAR

THIS FOOL WAS RECKLESS, MASKS HE REJECTED,  
GOT SO INFECTED HE ALMOST DIED.  
BUT THEN HE WAS INJECTED - (ELAINE) YOU KNOW HE WAS.  
WITH THE BEST DRUGS EXPECTED - (ELAINE) YOU KNOW IT CUZ.  
ALL THE WHILE TAKING YOU FOOLS FOR A RIDE.

FIRST, HE SAID TAKE HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE,  
THEN HE TRIED TO SELL YOU IVERMECTIN.  
NEITHER WAS APPROVED BY THE FDA  
FOR PEOPLE TO USE IN ANY KIND OF WAY  
FOR COVID PREVENTION, OR FOR A CURE.  
YOU KNOW HIS INTENTIONS WERE NEVER PURE.

BUT THEN HE WENT FULL BAT SHIT CRAY CRAY.  
STOOD UP AND HE TOLD THE WHOLE WORLD ONE DAY  
INGEST OR INJECT A BLEACH IN SOME WAY  
TO JUST DISINFECT THE VIRUS AWAY.

THEN TO DISPLAY THE WILD THOUGHTS IN HIS HEAD,  
THE SELF-PROCLAIMED GENIUS ACTUALLY SAID,  
GO INSIDE THE BODY WITH A POWERFUL LIGHT,



TURN IT ON AND THEN MAKE IT SHINE REAL BRIGHT,  
AND KILL ALL THE COVID COOTIES IN SIGHT,  
AND YOU SIT THERE THINKING THIS IS ALL RIGHT?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

JASON

Yikes. Looks like the Blue Team has no love lost for the POTUS  
forty-five and is wondering if his supporters are of sound mind.  
Anyone from Team Red like to respond?

Frank. Shocker.

(Verse 3)

FRANK

FIRST OF ALL, COVID IS JUST A HOAX.  
IT'S JUST A BAD COLD, FLU AT THE MOST.  
THE CHANCE COVID KILLS YOU IS SO REMOTE.  
BUT YOU CAN WEAR MASKS IF THAT FLOATS YOUR BOAT.

BUT MASKS DON'T WORK AS A MATTER OF FACT.  
THEY WON'T SAVE YOU FROM A VIRAL ATTACK.  
UNLESS YOU'RE TOO OLD, UNHEALTHY, AND FAT,  
YOU'LL BE JUST FINE IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT

PROBLEM IS YOU SHEEP TRUST WHAT YOU SEE  
FROM DR FAUCI, NIAID,  
PHARMA, FDA, AND CDC,  
CONSPIRING TO PROFIT FROM THIS DISEASE,  
INFLATING THE DEATH TOLLS WEEK AFTER WEEK,  
AND HYPING ALL THE STATS THAT THEY RELEASE.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

(Verse 4)

ERIC

AS FOR HYDROXY AND IVERMECTIN,  
YOU'RE SO NAÏVE IF YOU'RE EXPECTIN'  
TO LEARN ABOUT CURING THIS INFECTION  
FROM BUREAUCRATS AND DAMN POLITICIANS.

THEY'LL NEVER TELL YOU WHAT THE REAL TRUTH IS  
ABOUT EFFECTIVE DRUGS AND THEIR USES  
TO CURE SYMPTOMS THE VIRUS PRODUCES

OR STOP INFECTION OR JUST REDUCE IT.  
THE DEEP STATE AND PHARMA COLLUSION  
TO MISINFORM AND TO SOW CONFUSION  
FEEDS YOUR OWN LEFT-WING GRAND DELUSION,  
BUT WE'RE NOT BUYING THAT DAMN ILLUSION.

INSTEAD OF WONDERING WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME,  
ASK WHY IT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG TO SEE  
YOUR IGNORANCE AND YOUR DISHONESTY,  
REFUSING TO ACCEPT REALITY.  
YOUR APPROACH TO COVID, HONESTLY,  
IS SMUG JUDGMENTAL HYPOCRISY.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

LAMAR

Are you serious right now?

(Verse 5)

THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE  
WITH THE WORDS YOU STATE OUT YOUR MASKLESS FACE.  
GIMME A BREAK, YOU'RE FAKE, A BIG DISGRACE  
YOU TAKE THE CAKE, BY STRAIGHT GASLIGHTING UP IN THE PLACE.

WORDS LIKE DISHONESTY, GRAND DELUSION,  
POMPOUS HYPOCRISY AND ILLUSION,  
MISINFORMATION, SOW CONFUSION  
THESE WORDS LEAD TO JUST ONE CONCLUSION -

YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND AND NOW YOU'RE PROJECTING  
THE CULT BEHAVIOR YOU'RE NOW REFLECTING,  
FLOWS FROM THE LEADER YOU HERE ELECTING.  
LET'S CONNECT DOTS YOU'RE NOT CONNECTING.

TRUMP'S DISHONEST YET YOU ADORE HIM.  
THIRTY THOUSAND LIES TOLD, IF NOT MORE, DAMN.  
MOST OF HIS STAFF - ROTTEN TO THE CORE AND  
THE HONEST FEW WALKED OUT THE DOOR MAN.

(Verse 6)

FLORENCE

LIKE TILLERSON, SECRETARY OF STATE,  
CALLED TRUMP A MORON RIGHT OUT THE GATE.  
JOHN KELLY, CHIEF OF STAFF, GOT IRATE  
CLEANING ALL THE SHIT LEFT IN TRUMPS WAKE.

GENERAL MATTIS, HEAD OF DEFENSE,  
TOO WISE TOO STABLE, MADE TOO MUCH SENSE.  
JIM COMEY, FBI - SUMMONED BY THE KING,  
TOO MUCH INTEGRITY TO KISS TRUMP'S RING.

THE REST OF THE TEAM - CORRUPT GRIFTERS,  
ASS CLOWNS, OPPORTUNISTIC DRIFTERS,  
LIKE SEAN SPICER AND HIS DAY ONE LIES  
ABOUT TRUMPS INAUGURATION CROWD SIZE.

MIKE FLYNN SECURITY ADVISOR LIED  
ABOUT NEFARIOUS MOSCOW TIES.  
STEVE BANNON TRUMP'S RIGHT-HAND STRATEGIST  
WAS AN ANTI-DEMOCRATIC FASCIST.

AND SO MANY MORE JUST LIKE THEIR BOSS,  
INCOMPETENT OR ETHICALLY LOST.  
LIKE RYAN ZINKE, AND WILBUR ROSS  
TOM PRICE, SCOTT PRUIT, BETSY DEVOS  
RICK PERRY, ELAINE CHAO, STEVE MNUCHIN  
BEN CARSON, BILL BARR DAVID SHULKIN  
KELLYANNE CONWAY, JARED, IVANKA -  
ALL THE HAND-PICKED CRONIES WHO WANT TA  
BILK THE SYSTEM THROUGH CORRUPT ABUSES,  
TEAR IT DOWN AND RENDER IT USELESS

NOW CHECK TRUMPS OWN CHARACTERISTICS,  
STARTING WITH HIS WHITE NATIONALISTIC  
TENDENCY TO BE REVERED BY RACISTS  
AND WHAT HE SAYS ON A ROUTINE BASIS.

LIKE THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CLASH HE DESCRIBED  
AS VERY FINE PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES.  
HIS RACIST CONNECTIONS CAN'T BE DENIED.  
HE TOLD THE PROUD BOYS STAND BACK AND STAND BY.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

(Verse 7)

LAMAR

NEXT LET'S SUMMARIZE THIS MAN'S CORRUPTION  
FIFTY YEARS GRIFTING, NO INTERRUPTION.  
STIFFING CONTRACTORS ON CONSTRUCTION.  
SHAFTING INVESTORS AT HIS INSTRUCTION.

PAST SIX YEARS THE SCAMMING CONTINUED,  
SAME OLD CON MAN, DIFFERENT VENUE.  
BRAND NEW ITEMS ON THE SCAM MENU -  
FUNDRAISERS THAT THE FAT CATS WENT TO,  
DONATIONS HIS CULT MEMBERS SENT THROUGH  
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS HIJACKED AND SENT TO  
TRUMP PROPERTIES THE CASH FLOWED INTO.

POLICY AND DECISIONS GUIDED  
BY THE BENEFITS THEY PROVIDED  
TO HIM EVEN IF RESULTS COLLIDED  
WITH US INTERESTS NOT COINCIDED.

TRUMP LOVES AUTOCRATS, THEY HELP HIM WIN  
ELECTIONS, LOANS, AND CHIPS TO CASH IN.  
RUSSIA'S PUTIN, NORTH KOREA'S KIM,  
SAUDI'S CROWN PRINCE, CHINA'S XI PING -  
ALL HAVE THE POWER TO BENEFIT HIM,  
MORE SO THAN ALL THE LEADERS WITHIN  
LIBERAL DEMOCRACIES WITH THE VALUES  
TRUMP DESPISES BUT WE WERE USED TO -

LIKE FAIR ELECTIONS, AND A FREE PRESS,  
RULE OF LAW, KEEPING POWER IN CHECK.  
NO ONE BACKING ILLEGAL HACKING  
OF EMAILS, SERVERS, AND SHIT LIKE THAT.  
NO ONE BACKING ILLEGAL HACKING  
OF RESPECTED JOURNALISTS LIKE THAT.  
JAMAL KHASHOGGI REST IN PEACE LIKE THAT.

TRUMP EXTORTED UKRAINE, AN ALLY  
STRUGGLING DESPERATELY TO STAY ALIVE.  
HE WITHHELD AID THEY NEED TO SURVIVE,  
PRESSURED THEM TO HELP HIM SELL A LIE,  
ALL FOR HIS OWN POLITICAL GAIN.  
HE LEFT AN INTERNATIONAL STAIN  
ON THE REPUTATION U.S. MAINTAINED  
FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE HE CAME  
TO SHAME THE COUNTRY AND ITS GOOD NAME.  
SINCE YOU ELECTED HIM, YOU'RE TO BLAME.  
BUT WE IMPEACHED HIS ASS ALL THE SAME,  
AND YOU'RE STILL VOTING FOR HIM AGAIN.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

(Verse 8)

ERIC

OK CHECK IT.  
THAT WAS A LONG ASS DISSERTATION  
ABOUT YOUR STEADFAST CONSTERNATION  
ABOUT TRUMP'S CORRUPTION, THIS AND THAT.  
ABOUT HIS DISRUPTION, YICKITY YAK.

(mock whining)

WHY DO YOU VOTE FOR HIM? DON'T DO THAT.  
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? YEAH QUACK, QUACK, QUACK  
(normal voice)

FIRST, MOST OF THAT WAS JUST FAKE NEWS.  
WHINY DISHONEST LIBTARD BLUES.  
BUT EVEN IF EVERY BIT OF IT WAS TRUE,  
WE LOVE TRUMP 'CAUSE WE DON'T LIKE YOU!

TRUMP IS ALL WE WANT HIM TO BE.  
HE'S A GREAT BIG UGLY FIST THAT WE  
CHOOSE TO USE ON A DAILY BASIS  
TO PUNCH YOU IN YOUR SMUG-ASS FACES.

THEN WE SIT BACK AND WATCH YOU CRYIN',  
ALL THE WHILE LAUGHING 'TIL WE'RE DYIN'.  
TRUMP'S MY FRUSTRATION, I AIN'T LYING.  
TRUMP'S MY HATRED, THERE'S NO DENYING.

TRUMP'S MY EMOTION MANIFESTED,  
THE ONLY LEADER INTERESTED  
IN HOW I FEEL, SO I'M INVESTED  
IN TRUMP FOR LIFE. MY CASE IS RESTED.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

JASON

Well, OK! No one can accuse this panel of being boring. The Blue Team thinks Covid is a deadly disease, Trump is a corrupt, self-serving, embarrassment to the country, and his followers have something wrong with them. The Red Team disagrees, saying Covid is a bad cold, liberals are delusional whiners, Trump is both a hero and the giant fist used to punch liberals in the face on the daily.

The Purple Team... Well, they seem to be both amused and terrified at the same time. Kinda like half-way through a three-hundred-foot bungee jump. You're reeeaaaly exhilarated, but also concerned you might soil yourself. Know what I mean?

Anyhooo, let's bring the energy down just a little bit with this next relatively uncontroversial topic - police reform.

The killing of George Floyd six months ago, was followed by nationwide protests against police brutality, the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement, and calls for police reform, some going as far as saying we need to defund the police.

So, let's start there. By show of hands, who thinks defunding the police is a good idea?

(ELAINE and FLORENCE raise their hands)

Ok, just the two of you. Elaine, when you say defund the police, do you mean defund them completely?

ELAINE

Yes. All that money we spend on police can go to fund better schools and social services to help poor people.

JASON

OK, and who will respond to traffic accidents, burglaries, civil unrest, and homicides?

ELAINE

Well, you don't need cops for traffic accidents, you need the fire department or EMS. And if you put more money into schools and social services, you will have a lot less crime.

JASON

Elaine, I hear the words coming out of your mouth, but once again, I have no words of my own to respond. Florence, do you think police should be completely defunded?

FLORENCE

I don't. I'm for partial defunding though. There will always be a need for some policing, but right now we spend way too much on it. We should reallocate a lot of the police budget to social services.

JASON

Okay, anyone else want to comment?

(FRANK raises his hand)

Frank. Say it ain't so. Go ahead.

FRANK

Look, we can debate whether and how to reform policing, but the whole defund the police thing is just dumb.

(points to Florence and Elaine)

If those two want most or all the police in their neighborhoods to be replaced by teachers and social workers, good luck to 'em walking to their cars at night.

JASON

Okay, no surprise there. Anyone from the Purple team on defunding the police? Clayton.

CLAYTON

I'd say defunding the police is an ill-conceived slogan and a bad idea.

JASON

So, on defunding the police, Elain says defund completely, Florence says defund partially, Frank says defunding is just dumb, and Clayton says it's ill-conceived.

Moving on, let's talk police reform. In light of all the high-profile police killings of unarmed black men and women over the past few years, some say the police are out of control and there is a desperate need for police reform and increased oversight. Others say a lot has been done to reform police already, especially after George Floyd, and the whole issue has become overblown.

So, thoughts on police reform. Desperately needed or overblown? Who wants to start. Lamar.

LAMAR

Every week we see a new video of cops killing black people for no good reason. Eric Garner, Michael Brown, LaQuan McDonald, Walter Scott, George Floyd. It seems like it gets worse every year. As a black man who has been stopped multiple times by

police for no good reason, I think police reform is desperately needed.

(FRANK raises his hand)

JASON

Frank, go ahead.

FRANK

This whole police reform thing is manufactured hysteria. Police are out there doing their job the best they can, risking their lives every day to keep us safe. They arrest thousands of people without incident, but on the rare occasion things get out of hand because some knucklehead resists arrest and gets himself killed, the lamestream media runs the video on a loop for two weeks straight. This fools everybody into thinking this stuff happens every day. It doesn't.

And by the way, they only show footage of black knuckleheads getting killed. There are a whole bunch of white knuckleheads who get killed by cops too, but you never see that on the news. That ruins the liberal narrative that cops are biased against black people. They're not. They're biased against knuckleheads, regardless of the color of their skin.

LAMAR

You can't be serious. How do you explain the fact that black people are twice as likely to get shot and killed by police than white people?

FRANK

Well, that's easy. Black people are twice as likely to commit violent crimes and twice as likely to be a knucklehead.

LAMAR

That's racist!

FRANK

No, sir. That's fact. Look it up.

JASON

All right gentlemen let's dial it back a bit. Let's hear from the Purple Team on this. Craig, as the only law enforcement



officer on the panel, you've been oddly quiet so far. Any thoughts?

CRAIG

Yeah, I've got a few.

JASON

Okaaay. Any you care to share?

CRAIG

(sighs)

Well. Let's start off with a few stats. Police perform ten million arrests every year. Two million of those arrests require use of force...

ERIC

Yup. There's your knucklehead rate right there - twenty percent.

(laughs)

CRAIG

... Anyway, of those two million uses of force, about one thousand result in a fatality. Of the one thousand fatalities, only about sixty of them are unarmed. We kill sixty unarmed people a year. About twenty of those sixty are black. That's twenty unarmed black people a year out of the forty million black people in the US. If you are an unarmed black person, the likelihood of being killed by the police is less than one in a million. You are over ten thousand times more likely to be killed in a car crash over the course of a year than killed by a policeman if you are unarmed.

But as unlikely as it is to get killed by a policeman, there IS something everyone can do to make it virtually impossible to get killed, or tased, or beaten, or even wrestled to the ground. It's a technique that anyone can use to prevent almost all police use of force against you. It's simple, foolproof, and works no matter what kind of police you're dealing with. You do this one thing and there is practically no chance any policeman will resort to violence against you.

JASON

(after five seconds waiting for Craig to say what the 'one thing' is)

Well, what is it?

CRAIG

Comply.

JASON

What?

CRAIG

Just comply.

(CRAIG Stands. **11. Just Comply.**)

11-Just Comply

(Verse 1)

CRAIG

SOME FOLKS BELIEVE THAT MOST POLICE  
ARE MALADJUSTED AND MISBEHAVE,  
MOTIVATED BY FOLKS WE HATE  
AND THE POWER WE SEEM TO CRAVE.

I AM CONVINCED THAT MOST POLICE  
ARE DISCIPLINED, HONEST, AND BRAVE,  
MOTIVATED BY FOLKS WE SERVE  
AND BY THE LIVES WE HELP TO SAVE.

(Verse 2)

WHETHER MOSTLY GOOD, MOSTLY BAD,  
MOSTLY POLITE OR MOSTLY RUDE,  
WHENEVER WE ENGAGE WITH YOU  
THERE'S ONE KEY THING YOU OUGHT TO DO.

IT REQUIRES NO GREAT FEAT OF STRENGTH,  
NO TOUGH CONCEPT YOU MUST THINK THROUGH.  
IT'S SIMPLE, EASY, EFFORTLESS,  
AND PREVENTS COPS FROM HARMING YOU.

(Chorus 1)

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF MY LIGHTS ARE FLASHING BEHIND YOU,  
DON'T KEEP DRIVING LIKE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF I ASK FOR DOCUMENTATION,  
DON'T PLAY GAMES, OBFUSCATE OR PROLONG.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF I TELL YOU STEP OUT OF THE CAR.  
YOU MAY ASK WHY, AND I'LL PLAY ALONG.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

I'LL TELL YOU WHY, BUT IF I REPEAT  
MY COMMAND TO STEP OUT CLEAR AND STRONG,  
DON'T DEBATE WITH ME WHILE IN THE STREET,  
SUCH DEBATES WILL NOT LAST VERY LONG.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

(Verse 3)

CRAIG

SOME FOLKS BELIEVE THAT MOST POLICE  
SYMPATHIZE WITH THE KU KLUX KLAN,  
AND HAVE GOALS TO ARREST AND KILL  
AS MANY BLACK FOLKS AS WE CAN.

I AM CONVINCED THAT MOST POLICE  
ARE FAIR AND WE DON'T GIVE A DAMN  
ABOUT RACE WHEN JUDGING PEOPLE,  
JUST THEIR CHARACTER AS IT STANDS.

(Verse 4)

BUT WHETHER POLICE TEND TO BE  
KLAN SUPPORTERS OR COLOR BLIND,  
ALL ARE CHARGED WITH ENFORCING LAW,  
AND ON THAT POINT, WE ARE ALIGNED.

SO, WHEN COPS GIVE YOU A COMMAND,  
DON'T OVERTHINK AND GET IN A BIND.  
DO THE ONE THING THAT'S SURE TO PREVENT  
GETTING ROUGHED UP, BRUISED, AND CONFINED.

(Chorus 2)

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF I TELL YOU TO SHOW ME YOUR HANDS,  
DON'T DISOBEY AND ASK ME WHAT FOR.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF I TELL YOU DON'T MOVE, JUST RELAX,  
DON'T TURN, WALK AWAY, AND IGNORE.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF I SAY THAT YOU'RE UNDER ARREST,  
DON'T RESIST AND THEN MAKE IT A WAR.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

RESISTING OPENS DOORS TO A PLACE  
THAT HAS ONLY WORSE OUTCOMES IN STORE.  
BATONS AND TASERS, BULLETS, AND MACE,  
AND SOMEBODY'S BLOOD ON THE FLOOR.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

(Verse 5)

CRAIG

NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK OF US,  
WE TRY OUR BEST TO FILL A ROLE,  
REQUIRING STRENGTH, JUDGEMENT, BRAVERY,  
PUBLIC SERVICE BEING THE GOAL.

A FEW COPS FALL WELL SHORT OF THIS  
WHEN STRESS LEADS TO LOSING CONTROL,  
BUT WE RESPOND, PRESS ON, REDRESS,

IMPROVING OUR TEAM AS A WHOLE.

(Verse 6)

AS WE LEARN, GET BETTER, AND GROW,  
THERE'S JUST ONE THING FOR YOU TO DO  
TO MAKE ALL OUR LIVES EASIER.  
IT'S NOT DIFFICULT, IT'S NOT NEW,

IT REQUIRES NO GREAT FEAT OF STRENGTH,  
NO TOUGH CONCEPT YOU MUST THINK THROUGH.  
IT'S SIMPLE, EASY, EFFORTLESS,  
AND PREVENTS COPS FROM HARMING YOU.

(Chorus 1)

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF MY LIGHTS ARE FLASHING BEHIND YOU,  
DON'T KEEP DRIVING LIKE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF I ASK FOR DOCUMENTATION,  
DON'T PLAY GAMES, OBFUSCATE OR PROLONG.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

IF I TELL YOU STEP OUT OF THE CAR,  
YOU MAY ASK WHY, AND I'LL PLAY ALONG.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

CRAIG

I'LL TELL YOU WHY, BUT IF I REPEAT  
MY COMMAND TO STEP OUT CLEAR AND STRONG,  
DON'T DEBATE WITH ME WHILE IN THE STREET.  
SUCH DEBATES WILL NOT LAST VERY LONG.

CENTER + RACHEL AND FRANK

JUST COMPLY.

JASON

Okaay. On police reform, the left says it's desperately needed. The right says it is not, and the center - well at least the cop in the center says, either way, just do what he says, and you eliminate the risk of getting a beat down or worse. Word to the wise.

So, polls have just closed out on the West coast. Let's see where we stand with the election. Each candidate is looking for two-hundred and seventy electoral votes to win. So far, it appears Biden has two-thirty-eight and Trump has two-thirteen, with eighty-seven electoral votes that are too early or too close to call.

Swing states like Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Michigan are saying they may be counting ballots well into tomorrow. President Trump is claiming massive voter fraud in several contested states, so this thing could drag out for a while.

We're going to wrap up our panel here by asking each panelist for final thoughts on the election in fifty words or less - starting with Elaine.

ELAINE

As a half black, half Latina, bisexual woman, this election is like a really big deal. If Trump wins, like, I don't know if I could deal with that for another four years.

JASON

Eric?

ERIC

Trumps gonna win this election unless they cheat.

(To Elaine)

So, half 'n half, if you can't live with Trump, you may wanna start packing your bags.

ELAINE

Half 'n half? Are you serious?

ERIC

Nah, just joshin'... ..Mocha latte.

JASON

Alright let's dial it back you two. Florence, final thoughts.

FLORENCE

The numbers are pointing to a Biden victory so our long Trump nightmare should soon be over. I'm ashamed that the country elected Trump the first time and shocked that it's this close the second time.

JASON

Frank?

FRANK

The only way Trump loses to Sleepy Joe Biden is if the election is rigged. If that happens, there's gonna be hell to pay.

JASON

Lamar?

LAMAR

Trump's gonna lose this election but he's not gonna leave... ..'cause he's a racist gangster. You watch.

JASON

Rachel?

RACHEL

President Trump is God's choice for president, so he's going to win again.

JASON

Clara and then Clayton.

CLARA

Whoever wins, I hope they start to bring the country together.

CLAYTON



I agree, and I think Biden will do a better job at that than Trump.

JASON

Cristy?

CRISTY

I hope the country can heal after this election, but I'm afraid a lot of people have become so politically tribal that hurting the opposition is now more important to them than helping the country.

JASON

And Craig, you get the last word.

CRAIG

Whoever wins, support your local police. We're good people in general, and getting better every year. Without police, you get no justice, no peace, no law and order, and no one to answer the call for help.

JASON

And just comply, right?

CRAIG

(Laughing)

Thant's right. Don't be a knucklehead. Just comply.

JASON

Alright, thank you panel for another lively discussion.

This is Jason Proctor, signing out.

ACT TWO

Scene Two

STAN directs crew to arrange director's chairs outside polling station on Election Day November 2022. Chairs are more stylish and expensive looking than before with brighter colors and shiny metal frames. in the background, voters stand in line to vote. JASON walks up to stan.

JASON

Stan, my man, the set looks outstanding!

STAN

You don't think it's too much?

JASON

Hell no. No such thing as too much.

STAN

Hey, you remember back in twenty-sixteen when we first ran this color-coded chair format?

JASON

Yep.

STAN

I thought you were nuts, but here we are, the highest rated exit poll focus group six years running. And because of that, you're moving up to an anchor desk position soon. This may be your last field assignment - the last time we work together.

JASON

Hey, as a last hurrah, what do you say we go for broke on this one. Get the tribes to really go at it. Go out with a bang.

STAN

I'm OK with it but you gotta promise not to go full Jerry Springer on me.

JASON

I promise.

STAN

We came pretty close a couple times before and this year these folks probably dislike each other even more. They can't even agree on a common set of facts.

JASON

No problem. I got it.

STAN

Well then, let's turn it up.

JASON

(singing 'Turn it Up' chorus acapella)

CUE THE MUSIC, THE LIGHTS AND THE VIBES.

STAN

TURN IT UP!

JASON

BRING THE PASSION, AND HEAT FROM THE TRIBES.

STAN

TURN IT UP!

JASON AND STAN

BRING THE RHYTHMS, THE BEATS,  
THEN HOLD ONTO YOUR SEATS,  
AS THIS VENUE OF OURS COMES ALIVE!  
TURN IT UP!

(STAN and JASON laugh and high five.)

STAN

Well, it's about that time. You ready to roll?

JASON

Yes, sir. Let's do this!

STAN

(into walkie talkie)

Go ahead and bring out the tribes.

(to Jason)

You can start your intro when you're ready. We'll be all set by the time you're done.

(JASON takes his position center stage to begin his intro. PANELISTS file onto set and STAN ushers them into their seats.)

JASON

(to camera)

Gooooo afternoon, I'm Jason Proctor outside Polling Station 7 in Wexler County. It's Tuesday, November eighth, election day twenty-twenty-two.

This mid-term election is an important one because it will determine which political party will control the house and the senate. For the past two years both chambers have had a Democratic majority and Joe Biden has enjoyed the support of a Democratic Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, and a Democratic Senate Majority leader, Chuck Schumer.

The expectation for this election is that the Republican opposition will sweep into power in both chambers of congress in what many are calling a Red Wave. We will see how that pans out.

Behind me, our focus group of three liberals, three conservatives, and four centrists are getting seated. These are the same ten panelists we've brought together every two years since the twenty-sixteen elections.

Each time we assemble this focus group the conversation gets more interesting as the worldviews of the various camps continue to diverge. The electorate was divided and tribal back in twenty-sixteen. Today that tribal divide is so deep, there is very little the left and right agree on.

Each group has its own tribal information sources, its own tribal facts, its own tribal beliefs, and ultimately, its own tribal truths. How close a tribal truth is to objective truth varies. Tribal truth can align perfectly with objective truth,

or it can be so far from objective truth it can be officially classified as batshit cray cray.

Since the last election two years ago, a lot has happened. A lot of tribal truths have evolved to describe all of it. Let's get into those tribal truths right now. Buckle up. This should be a fun ride.

(JASON smiles broadly. **12. Tribal Truth.**)

## 12-Tribal Truth

(Intro)

JASON

THERE WAS A TIME WE ALL GOT THE SAME FACTS  
FROM JUST THREE CHANNELS ON TV,  
THE SAME INFORMATION, DATA, AND STATS  
THAT WE ALL COULD SEE AND AGREE.

NOW WE HAVE THOUSANDS OF SOURCES FOR NEWS  
WITH HUNDREDS ADDED BY THE DAY.  
FROM THE VETTED TRUSTWORTHY, SANE, AND TRUE,  
TO THE FULL ON BATSHIT CRAY-CRAY.

WE CHOOSE INFORMATION SOURCES TO TRACK,  
NOT BASED ON WHAT'S TRUE OR WHAT'S REAL,  
OR WHETHER THE INFO IS REALLY FACT,  
BUT RATHER HOW IT MAKES US FEEL

(Chorus)

WE WANT OUR FACTS WITH THAT FLAVOR  
THAT TRIBE MEMBERS CRAVE AND SAVOR,  
BUT TASTE BITTER TO OUR RIVALS.  
JUST GIVE US INFO WE FAVOR,  
NONE THAT DEVIATE OR WAIVER  
FROM THE PARTY LINE AND THE TRIBAL.

GIMME THAT PARTISAN KOOL-AID,  
ECHO CHAMBER HARD LEMONADE,  
THAT FULLY BIASED GIN AND JUICE,  
GROUPTHINK VODKA AND GATORADE,  
FILL MY CUP, I AM NOT AFRAID.  
GIMME THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL TRUTH.

OK let's try this out. Red Tribe - gimme some good ol' tribal  
truth about whether the twenty-twenty election was fair or  
rigged. Hit me!

(Verse 1)

FRANK

GOOD GOD, THE TRUTH IS JUST AS CLEAR AS DAY.  
THE ELECTION WAS JUST A FRAUD.  
IT WAS RIGGED, STOLEN AND TAKEN AWAY

BY FORCES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

YOU GOT BIG CITY FOLKS WHO LIKE TO CHEAT,  
STUFFING BALLOTS LATE IN THE NIGHT  
WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS IN THE COUNTING SUITE  
TO MAKE SURE VOTES ARE COUNTED RIGHT.

(Verse 2)

ERIC

YOU GOT DEEP STATE ACTORS WITH FOREIGN TIES,  
BILLIONAIRE BACKERS WITH THE MEANS,  
ALL WORKING WITH THE BIG TECH CYBER SPIES,  
SWITCHING VOTES IN VOTING MACHINES.

YOU GOT THOUSANDS OF THESE FAKE VOTES MAILED IN,  
AND ILLEGAL ALIENS TOO,  
CASTING FAKE BALLOTS THAT CHINA FLEW IN  
USING PAPER MADE WITH BAMBOO.

(Verse 3)

FRANK

YOU GOT VENEZUELA INVOLVED AS WELL,  
THE DETAILS ARE NOT QUITE RESOLVED.  
DON'T KNOW WHY OR HOW, ONLY TIME WILL TELL,  
BUT WE'RE DAMNED SURE THEY WERE INVOLVED.

YOU GOT PILES OF EVIDENCE, TONS OF FACTS.  
IF YOU TAKE ALL THE CHEATING OUT,  
TAKE ALL FAKE AND FRAUDULENT BALLOTS BACK,  
TRUMP WON THAT ELECTION, NO DOUBT.

(Verse 4)

RACHEL

TRUMP HAD BIGGER RALLIES, TOLD BETTER JOKES,  
HAD THE BEST PEOPLE BACKING HIM.  
CHRISTIANS, CONSERVATIVES, BLUE COLLAR FOLKS,  
EVEN GOD WANTED TRUMP TO WIN.

THE ONLY WAY HE LOST TO SLEEPY JOE  
WAS THROUGH FRAUD BUT THAT WON'T ENDURE.  
ALL WILL BE EXPOSED, AND WE ALL WILL KNOW  
THE ELECTION WAS RIGGED FOR SURE.

JASON

Now that's what I'm talking about!

(Chorus)

THAT WAS THAT PARTISAN KOOL-AID,  
ECHO CHAMBER HARD LEMONADE,  
THAT FULLY BIASED GIN AND JUICE,  
GROUPTHINK VODKA AND GATORADE.  
FILL MY CUP, I AM NOT AFRAID  
THAT WAS THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL TRUTH.

OK, Blue Team - Give me some good ol' Tribal Truth on the  
twenty-twenty Election. Fair or rigged?

(Verse 5)

FLORENCE

GOOD GOD, THE TRUTH IS NOT TRIBAL ON THIS.  
THE TRUTH IS JUST TRUTH IF YOU'RE SANE.  
BUT IF YOU'RE SICK WITH THE MAGA VIRUS,  
REAL TRUTH CAN'T SURVIVE IN YOUR BRAIN.

BIDEN BEAT TRUMP THE ELECTION WAS FAIR.  
SO SAID TRUMP'S OWN FAVORITE DAUGHTER,  
SO SAID TRUMP'S VP, TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN CHAIR,  
TRUMP STAFFERS AND WHITE HOUSE LAWYERS.

(Verse 6)

SO SAID THE CYBERSECURITY GUY  
WHO SAID IT WAS THE MOST SECURE.  
SO SAID THE DOJ, THE FBI,  
AND SO SAID BILL BARR, TO BE SURE.

SO SAID THE POLLS BEFORE THE ELECTION,  
WITH BIDEN UP FOUR POINTS OR MORE.  
SO, WHAT'S WITH ALL THE FAKE CONSTERNATION  
WHEN HE WINS THE POP VOTE BY FOUR?

(Verse 7)

LAMAR

SO SAID THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTE



WHEN MULTIPLE RECOUNTS WERE THROUGH.  
BIDEN WHUPPED TRUMP'S ASS 'TIL THE PADDLE BROKE,  
THREE-O-SIX TO TWO-THIRTY-TWO.

TRUMP CHALLENGED THE RESULTS IN COURT AND TRIED  
SIXTY TIMES, BUT IN EVERY CASE,  
THE JUDGE, EVEN ONES TRUMP APPOINTED, CRIED,  
"GET THIS BULLSHIT OUTTA MY FACE."

(Verse 8)

SO SAID THE FIFTY GOVERNORS WHO SIGNED  
THE OFFICIAL CERTIFIED SLATES  
OF ELECTORS OFFICIALLY ASSIGNED  
TO REFLECT THE VOTES FROM EACH STATE.

SO SAID CONGRESS AT THREE IN THE MORNING  
WHEN THEY CONFIRMED BIDEN HAD WON  
AFTER THE JAN 6 CAPITAL STORMING  
AND TRUMP'S ATTEMPTED COUP WAS DONE.

(Verse 9)

ELAINE

TRUMP KNOWS HE LOST AND THE PROCESS WAS FAIR.  
HIS EGO'S TOO FRAIL TO CONCEDE.  
SO, HE PULLED THIS BIG LIE OUT OF THIN AIR  
THAT YOU TRUMP ZOMBIES NOW BELIEVE.

OR MAYBE YOU'RE NOT TRUMP ZOMBIES AT ALL.  
MAYBE HE LOST AND YOU KNOW IT.  
BUT BECAUSE OF YOUR OWN EGOS AND GALL,  
YOU PRETEND TO BUY HIS BULLSHIT.

(Verse 10)

YOU PRETEND THAT RUDI GULIANI AND  
SYDNEY POWELL AND MIKE LINDELL,  
TWO WINGNUT LAWYERS AND THE PILLOW MAN,  
ARE NOT BATSHIT CRAY CRAY AS HELL.

YOU PRETEND THAT YOUR CORE VALUES ARE STRONG,  
BUT YOU BETRAY THEM BY THE HOUR,  
SELLING YOUR SOULS TO HELP AND GO ALONG  
WITH TRUMP'S SCHEMES TO STAY IN POWER.

YOUR UNDYING SUPPORT FOR THIS MAN MAKES  
EVERY ONE OF YOU A DISGRACE.  
WHETHER HAPLESS ZOMBIES OR CUNNING SNAKES,  
YOU'RE ALL SHAMELESS IN EITHER CASE.

JASON

Ooooo we! That tribal truth had some kick to it.

(Chorus)

WE WANT OUR FACTS WITH THAT FLAVOR  
THAT TRIBE MEMBERS CRAVE AND SAVOR,  
BUT TASTE BITTER TO OUR RIVALS.  
JUST GIVE US INFO WE FAVOR,  
NONE THAT DEVIATE OR WAIVER  
FROM THE PARTY LINE, AND THE TRIBAL.  
GIMME THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL TRUTH!

Okay Red Team. How 'bout some Tribal Truth on the January sixth  
capital incident? Was it an attempted coup? A peaceful patriotic  
protest? A peaceful protest that turned into a riot? A false  
flag operation by the FBI and ANTIFA? Lay it on me!

(Verse 11)

FRANK

JANUARY SIXTH IS PATRIOTS' DAY  
BECAUSE PATRIOTS CHOSE TO FIGHT  
AGAINST A DEEP STATE PLOT TO TAKE AWAY  
OUR VOTES, OUR FREEDOMS, OUR RIGHTS.

IT WAS PEACEFUL UNTIL THE FBI  
UNLEASHED THEIR CRUEL SUBVERSIVE PLAN  
TO INCITE A RIOT, AND THEN STOOD BY  
AS THE PROTEST GOT OUT OF HAND.

HUNDREDS WERE LOCKED UP BY THE DOJ  
DESPITE THE LAWFUL PROTECTIONS  
OF THEIR CLEAR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO SAY  
THEY REJECT STOLEN ELECTIONS.

JASON

Yea baby. That was grain alcohol grade tribal truth. That'll put  
some hair on your chest. Blue team - January 6 - hit me!

(Verse 12)

FLORENCE

JANUARY SIX WAS A COUP ATTEMPT  
BY DESPERATE MEN WHO SET OUT  
TO SUBVERT DEMOCRACY IN CONTEMPT  
OF WHAT THIS COUNTRY IS ABOUT.

FROM THE DAY THE VOTERS EXPRESSED THEIR WILL,  
TELLING TRUMP HE MUST STEP ASIDE,  
HE AND HIS ENABLERS CONSPIRED TO KILL  
DEMOCRACY TO SPARE HIS PRIDE.

HE SOLD THE BIG FAT ELECTION FRAUD LIE,  
AND WITH HELP FROM FOX NEWS TROLLS,  
GOP LEADERS AND THE PILLOW GUY,  
THE TRUMP ZOMBIES SWALLOWED IT WHOLE.

(Verse 13)

LAMAR

THEY RALLIED AT THE APPOINTED HOUR  
AND TRUMP TOLD THEM TO FIGHT LIKE HELL.  
TO DO VIOLENCE TO KEEP HIM IN POWER,  
AND THEY FOLLOWED HIS ORDERS WELL.

THEY ASSAULTED COPS THEY CLAIMED TO SUPPORT,  
THEN SOME WHO WERE HARD CORE SCUMBAGS,  
SULLIED THE SACRED LEGISLATIVE COURT  
WITH SHIT AND CONFEDERATE FLAGS.

WE ALMOST LOST THE REPUBLIC THAT DAY  
TO TRUMP AND HIS MAD FASCIST CULT.  
THAT'S WHY THEY WILL SPEND YEARS LOCKED AWAY;  
A JUST AND MOST FITTING RESULT.

JASON

Ok let's do lightning round shots of single-verse tribal truth.  
First round - describe President Joe Biden, the man. Blue team -  
go!

(Verse 14)

ELAINE

TOO OLD

FLORENCE

TOO CENTRIST

LAMAR

BUT STILL A GOOD MAN.

ELAINE

TOO CHUMMY WITH THE OTHER SIDE.

FLORENCE

TOO MUCH OF A BIG TECH, BIG BUSINESS FAN,

LAMAR

BUT WILLING TO FIND COMPROMISE.

JASON

(speaking)

Red Team - Joe Biden, the man - hit me!

(Verse 15)

ERIC

MORALLY BANKRUPT AND CORRUPT AS HELL.

FRANK

PUPPET OF THE RADICAL LEFT.

RACHEL

HE'S OLD, INCOMPETENT, AND WEAK AS WELL,

ERIC

SIX MONTHS TO LIVE

FRANK

A YEAR AT BEST.

JASON

(speaking)

Purple Team - Joe Biden, the man. Go!

(Verse 16)

CLARA

HE'S OLD BUT BASICALLY A DECENT GUY.

CLAYTON

HE'S OLD BUT SEEMS TO GET THINGS DONE.

CRISTY

HE'S OLD BUT EFFECTIVELY GETTING BY.

CRAIG

HE'S WAY OLD - PUSHING EIGHTY-ONE!

JASON

(Speaking)

OK second round - Joe Biden domestic performance as president  
the past two years. Blue Team - Hit me!

(Verse 17)

ELAINE

HE GOT US THE VACCINE IN RECORD TIME.

FLORENCE

GOT THE SPREAD OF COVID SLOWING.

LAMAR

GOT AN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL PASSED AND SIGNED.  
KEPT THE ECONOMY GROWING.

JASON

Red Team - Tribal truth!

(Verse 18)

ERIC

HE LET FAUCHI SHUT THE WHOLE COUNTRY DOWN,  
THEN PAID PEOPLE NOT TO WORK.  
INFLATION SPIKED, THE ECONOMY DROWNED,  
AND HE LET CRIME RATES GO BERSERK.

JASON

Third round - Joe Biden foreign policy. Blue Team - hit me!

(Verse 19)

FLORENCE

HE ENDED THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN  
AFTER TWENTY LONG YEARS OF PAIN.  
UNITED NATO AGAINST PUTIN AND  
STOPPED HIM FROM ANNEXING UKRAINE.

JASON

Red Team - What cha got?!

(Verse 20)

FRANK

HE GOT MARINES KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN  
BY RUSHING THEM OUT IN A WEEK.  
HE BETRAYED ALLIES WHEN HE CUT AND RAN  
LIKE A COWARD IN FULL RETREAT.

AS FOR PUTIN INVADING THE UKRAINE,  
THAT'S BIDENS FAULT TOO, I'M AFRAID.  
SLEEPY JOE WAS SEEN AS OLD, WEAK, AND LAME.  
SO, PUTIN FELT FREE TO INVADE.

JASON

OK, I've got a serious buzz now, so I'll let that be the last  
shot of Tribal Truth. I'm closing the bar.

(Chorus)

WE WANT OUR FACTS WITH THAT FLAVOR  
THAT TRIBE MEMBERS CRAVE AND SAVOR,  
BUT TASTE BITTER TO OUR RIVALS.

JUST GIVE US INFO WE FAVOR,  
NONE THAT DEVIATE OR WAIVER  
FROM THE PARTY LINE, AND THE TRIBAL.

GIMME THAT PARTISAN KOOL-AID,  
ECHO CHAMBER HARD LEMONADE,  
THAT FULLY BIASED GIN AND JUICE,  
GROUPTHINK VODKA AND GATORADE.  
FILL MY CUP, I AM NOT AFRAID  
GIMME THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL TRUTH.  
YEAH, GIMME THAT GOOD OL' TRIBAL TRUTH!

JASON

So, it's clear the Blue and Red teams have irreconcilable views of socio-political reality. Purple team, sorry I left you out of most of that last exchange, but I didn't want to dampen the Red-Blue dynamic once it got going. That was like dropping Red tribal truth Mentos into a two-liter bottle of Blue tribal truth cola - wooosh! We all got showered by a geyser of conflicting realities. Anyone from the purple team want to comment on what you just heard? Clara?

CLARA

If we stay in these information bubbles, the gaps between different tribal truths are going to grow. At some point these gaps are going to swallow all of us.

JASON

Clayton?

CLAYTON

I agree with Clara and want to add that some of the tribal truth gaps are on the verge of swallowing us right now.

JASON

Which gaps do you see as the greatest threats?

CLAYTON

Well, the twenty-twenty Election truth gap came within one Pence of ending the Republic on January six, twenty-twenty-one, and that gap is still growing.

We did not discuss the climate change truth gap. That's a big one and that may have already swallowed us, but we won't know it until a few major coastal cities are under water. By then it'll be too late.

We didn't discuss the truth gap for the importance of economic issues like income inequality, minimum wage, and taxation. That's a big one that prevents low- and middle-income people from working together for their shared economic interests. Instead, they spend all their energy fighting each other over cultural issues that have far less real impact on their lives.

JASON

Clayton, that was a mouthful, especially that last part about economic issues. Let me get this straight. Are you saying folks like Elaine and Eric should spend more time fighting for economic policies that benefit their shared economic interests than fighting each other over race?

CLAYTON

Yes, exactly.

JASON

To be clear, you're saying low- and middle-income folks of different races would be better off joining forces to fight for their common economic interests than fighting each other over cultural issues?

CLAYTON

That's right.

JASON

Well, Clayton, that's just crazy talk. You may want to find a good therapist.

Cristy. Your take on tribal truth?

CRISTY

I think a little tribalism is natural and can even be useful when fighting for ideals and beliefs. But when you distill tribalism in information bubbles to make the kind of tribal truth gaps we just talked about, things will spiral out of control.



(singing 'Go Tribal' chorus)

JUST BEWARE TRIBAL BATTLES MAY BE WON,  
BUT THE TRIBAL WARFARE IS NEVER DONE,  
TURNING TRIBALISM TO HATE FOR SOME,  
AND HATE EATS YOU ALIVE.

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW IS THAT EVERYONE  
WANTS FREEDOM, LOVE, AND SOME TIME IN THE SUN.  
WE'RE ALL JUST HUMAN WHEN THE DAY IS DONE.  
MEMBERS OF JUST ONE TRIBE.

JASON

Those words were true when you said them back in twenty-sixteen  
and they are even more true now.

Craig. Your thoughts?

CRAIG

Yeah, this gap between tribal truths is tearing us apart. If we  
can't agree on the color of the sky, the shit's gonna hit the  
fan at some point. When it does, people with government issued  
uniforms and firearms are gonna be tasked with restoring law and  
order. I have one piece of advice for everybody when this  
happens...

JASON

No wait. Don't tell me. I know this one. Just comply?

CRAIG

You got it!

JASON

OK, so Red and Blue teams, the purple team says the gaps between  
your tribal truths are so dangerously wide, they may consume us  
all. Whether it will be social conflict or environmental and  
economic catastrophe, we're in some deep doo doo.

Any interest from the Red or Blue teams in closing some of these  
gaps?

Frank. What say you?

FRANK

I don't know. Depends on whether the other side can come out of their liberal echo chamber long enough to hear rational voices from the real world. I seriously doubt that'll ever happen but that's up to them.

JASON

Thank you, Frank, for that wonderful olive branch. Anyone from the Blue team wanna..

(FLORENCE stands up abruptly and raises her hand.)

Florence, oh dear. OK seatbelts everyone, please keep hands inside the vehicle until we come to a complete stop. Florence, please go ahead.

FLORENCE

(addressing red team)

You know, each time we've done these forums over the past six years, I've tried as hard as I could to figure you people out and maybe find common ground. I am now convinced that's a fool's errand. You all are incorrigible, too far out there, you're gone.

(FLORENCE walks toward Red team. **13. You're Gone.**)

### 13-You're Gone

(Verse 1)

FLORENCE

I NEVER LIKED WHAT YOU PEOPLE STOOD FOR,  
BUT AT LEAST YOU TALKED A GOOD GAME  
ON RULE OF LAW, FAMILY VALUES, AND MORE,  
BUT NOW THAT CHARADE'S UP IN FLAMES.

WHATEVER PRINCIPLES YOU USE TO CLAIM  
ARE GONE AND WHAT DRIVES YOU IS CLEAR.  
IT'S NOT RULE OF LAW, NOT VALUES, NOT SHAME,  
YOU'RE DRIVEN BY ANGER AND FEAR.

ANGER TOWARD PEOPLE WHO PUSH FOR CHANGE  
AND DEMAND EQUALITY TOO.  
PEOPLE YOU THINK ARE UNWORTHY OR STRANGE,  
'CAUSE THEY DON'T LOOK OR THINK LIKE YOU.

ANGER THAT THE NEW AMERICAN DREAM  
IS ACHIEVED MORE BY BEING BRIGHT,  
GLOBAL, PROGRESSIVE, TECH SAVVY, AND GREEN,  
THAN BEING CHRISTIAN, STRAIGHT, OR WHITE.

(Chorus)

YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE TOO MUCH, YOU'RE UNSOUND.  
YOU'RE GONE, OUT OF TOUCH, OUT OF BOUNDS.  
YOU'RE GONE YOU'RE OUT OF LINE.  
YOU'RE GONE, TOO FAR THIS TIME.  
YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MINDS.

(Verse 2)

LAMAR

YOU FEAR YOU'RE LOSING YOUR RIGHT TO RETAIN  
THE REIGNS OF POWER AND CONTROL.  
YOU FEAR DEMOCRACY'S A LOSING GAME.  
SO, YOU'RE READY TO LET THAT GO.

YOU'LL TRADE IT IN FOR A NATIONAL CULT,  
A NEW FASCIST DICTATORSHIP.  
TO HELL WITH VALID ELECTION RESULTS,  
FAIR PLAY AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

TO HELL WITH TRUSTING IN INSTITUTIONS,  
AUTHORITIES, AND THE ELITE.  
TO HELL WITH THE COURTS AND CONSTITUTION  
WHEN THEY BLOCK YOUR ATTEMPTS TO CHEAT.

TO HELL WITH THE SHAME OF SELLING YOUR SOUL  
AND YOUR FAITH IN DEMOCRACY.  
NOW ALL YOU'VE GOT IS A BIG ANGRY HOLE  
WHERE LOVE OF COUNTRY USED TO BE.

(Chorus)

YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE TOO MUCH, YOU'RE UNSOUND.  
YOU'RE GONE, OUT OF TOUCH, OUT OF BOUNDS.  
YOU'RE GONE YOU'RE OUT OF LINE.  
YOU'RE GONE, TOO FAR THIS TIME.  
YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MINDS.

(Verse 3)

FLORENCE

YOU'VE ABANDONED ALL THAT YOU USED TO BE,  
OUT OF DEEP RESENTMENT AND SPITE.  
NOW YOU DO WHAT FEEDS YOUR NEED TO AGGRIEVE,  
RATHER THAN WHAT IS BEST OR RIGHT.

NOW HERE'S THE KEY IMPERATIVE FOR YOU,  
YOUR PRIMARY RULE, AND THAT IS,  
ABOVE ALL ELSE, IN WHAT YOU SAY AND DO,  
TRY TO TRIGGER AND OWN THE LIBS.

SO NOW YOU MAKE IT A POINT TO DENY  
EVERYTHING THE LIBS BELIEVE IN,  
LIKE TRUTH AND EXPOSING TRUMP FOR HIS LIES,  
HIS CORRUPTION, AND DECEIVING.

YOU'VE BECOME SCIENCE-DENYING MISFITS.  
YOU EMBRACE WEIRD CONSPIRACIES.  
YOU VOTE FOR LIARS, NUT JOBS AND NIHILISTS  
WHO LOSE AND REFUSE TO CONCEDE.

YOU TALK ABOUT DRAINING THE SWAMP, AND YET  
YOU VOTE FOR KNOWN GRIFTERS AND CROOKS.  
YOU CLAIM YOU'RE DEFENDING FREEDOM, AND YET  
YOU BAN ABORTION AND BURN BOOKS.

(Chorus)

YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE TOO MUCH, YOU'RE UNSOUND.  
YOU'RE GONE, OUT OF TOUCH, OUT OF BOUNDS.  
YOU'RE GONE YOU'RE OUT OF LINE.  
YOU'RE GONE, TOO FAR THIS TIME.  
YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MINDS.

(Verse 4)

FRANK

WE'RE NOT CRAZY AND WE'RE NOT OUT OF TOUCH.  
WE'RE NOT FEARFUL, NOT FULL OF SPITE.  
WE'VE JUST PUT UP WITH YOU ALL LONG ENOUGH,  
AND WE JUST STOPPED BEING POLITE.

WE'RE TIRED OF YOU PUTTING THIS COUNTRY DOWN.  
IT'S BORING, ANNOYING, AND SAD,  
HOW YOU BAD MOUTH ITS FOUNDING, AND YOU FROWN  
ON ITS HISTORY, ANTHEM, AND FLAG.

WE'RE TIRED OF YOU ENJOYING THE FRUITS  
OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS' VISION  
WHILE YOU COMPLAIN IT'S EVIL AT ITS ROOTS,  
WITH YOUR SCORN AND YOUR DERISION.

YOU LOOK DOWN YOUR NOSE AT ALL THE THINGS  
THAT MAKE REAL AMERICA GREAT,  
LIKE REAL HEARTLAND-AMERICANS,  
SMALL TOWN VALUES, AND CHRISTIAN FAITH.

(Chorus)

YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE TOO MUCH, YOU'RE UNSOUND.  
YOU'RE GONE, OUT OF TOUCH, OUT OF BOUNDS.  
YOU'RE GONE YOU'RE OUT OF LINE.  
YOU'RE GONE, TOO FAR THIS TIME.  
YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MINDS.

(VERSE 5)

ERIC

WE'RE TIRED OF YOU PEOPLE WHINING ABOUT  
HOW BAD THIS COUNTRY IS FOR YOU.  
SO, PACK UP YOUR CRAP, AND GET THE HELL OUT.  
MOVE TO WHERE ALL YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE.

FIND A PLACE WHERE THE RACE IN POWER  
TAKES MORE OF YOUR CRAP THAN WE DO,  
WHERE LIBERAL ELITES IN IVORY TOWERS  
WIELD AS MUCH POWER AS YOU DO.

FIND A PLACE WHERE THE TRANNIES AND THE GAYS  
ARE FREER THAN THEY ARE OUT HERE.  
AND HAVE MORE RAINBOW FLAGS AND PRIDE PARADES  
TO PARTICIPATE IN EACH YEAR.

FIND A PLACE WHERE LOWLIFE THUGS AND ZEROS  
LIVING LIVES AS FAILURES AND FLOPS  
ARE WORSHIPPED AS SAINTS AND HEROES  
'CAUSE THEY WERE BLACK AND KILLED BY COPS.

(Bridge)

FIND A PLACE THAT'S NOT A SHITHOLE NATION,  
WHERE BLACK PEOPLE GET AN INVITATION  
TO DO POORLY IN SCHOOL,  
BREAK ALL THE RULES,  
END UP LOOKING LIKE FOOLS,  
AND THEN BLAME IT ON DISCRIMINATION.

FIND A PLACE WHERE IN ONE GENERATION,  
A BLACK FOREIGNER'S SON CAN LEAD THE NATION,  
SHOW BLACKS FOR EIGHT YEARS  
TO OVERCOME BLACK FEARS,  
STRAIGHTEN UP AND CHANGE GEARS,  
BUT INSTEAD, BLACKS WHINE FOR REPARATIONS

FIND A PLACE AND MOVE TO THAT NEW NATION  
WHERE YOU CAN INDULGE YOUR FASCINATION  
WITH MULTICULTURAL STUFF  
AND WHITES WON'T GET FED UP  
AND SAY ENOUGH'S ENOUGH.  
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR TRAVEL PREPARATIONS.

(Chorus)

YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE TOO MUCH, YOU'RE UNSOUND.  
YOU'RE GONE, OUT OF TOUCH, OUT OF BOUNDS.  
YOU'RE GONE YOU'RE OUT OF LINE.  
YOU'RE GONE, TOO FAR THIS TIME.  
YOU'RE GONE, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MINDS.

(ELAINE walks slowly toward Eric. SHE closes gap between them to 20 feet during next verse.)

(Verse 6)

ELAINE

(to Eric)

WE'RE NOT LEAVING, NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY.  
THIS COUNTRY IS NOT JUST FOR YOU.  
IT WAS BUILT BY THE BLOOD AND SWEAT OF SLAVES.  
IT BELONGS TO BLACK PEOPLE TOO.

(ERIC moves toward Elaine. HE Closes gap between them to 15 feet during next verse.)

(Verse 7)

ERIC

IF IT BELONGS TO YOU, THEN ACT LIKE IT.  
EITHER YOU OWN IT, OR YOU DON'T.  
REAL OWNERS TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR OWNERSHIP.  
YOU BLACKS SHOULD DO THAT, BUT YOU WON'T.

(ELAINE walks slowly toward Eric. SHE closes gap between them to 10 feet during next verse.)

(Verse 8)

ELAINE

HOW THE HELL DO YOU KNOW WHAT BLACK FOLKS NEED  
WHEN YOU KILL US FOR OWNERSHIP?  
YOU'RE NOT PROUD OF THIS COUNTRY OR ITS CREED.  
YOU'RE PROUD OF YOUR WHITENESS, THAT'S IT.

(ERIC moves toward Elaine. HE Closes gap between them to 15 feet during next verse.)

(Verse 9)

ERIC

BLACKS DON'T LIKE THIS COUNTRY. Y'ALL GOT NO CLASS.  
Y'ALL ONLY GOT BAD THINGS TO SAY.  
KILL TWICE AS MANY WHITES AS WHITES KILL BLACKS,  
THEN BITCH ABOUT WHITES EVERY DAY.

(ELAINE and ERIC move slowly toward one another and  
close the gap between them to 2 feet during next  
verse.)

(Verse 10)

ELAINE

YOU'RE A WEAK RACIST SOLDIER WANNABE.

ERIC

YOU'RE A HALF BREED SEXUAL FREAK.

ELAINE

YOU'RE ON MY LAST NERVE KEEP ON TESTIN' ME!

ERIC

I'M HERE SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

(JASON and CRAIG run and place themselves between  
Elaine and Eric. LAMAR runs to Elaine, restrains her,  
and begins moving her back toward her chair. FRANK  
runs to Eric, restrains him, and begins moving him  
back toward his chair.)

ELAINE

(yelling at Eric as she's being pushed backward by  
Lamar)

Stupid ass white boy!

ERIC

(Yelling at Elaine as he's being pushed backward by  
Frank)

I told you about calling me stupid, didn't I?! You half nigger  
bitch!

(LAMAR stops pushing Elaine and turns toward Eric.  
LAMAR and ELAINE walk slowly toward Eric.)



LAMAR AND ELAINE

(simultaneously)

What did you just say?

(CRAIG steps in front of Lamar and Elaine and spreads his arms to stop their advance toward Eric.)

CRAIG

(to Lamar and Elaine)

Turn around and walk away, now!

ELAINE

(to Craig)

Naw. Let him say that shit one more time.

(to Eric)

Say it again, I dare you!

(ERIC pulls his pistol out of his holster and holds it down by his thigh.)

ERIC

I said..

(ERIC pulls the pistol slide back to chamber a round then holds the pistol down by his thigh again.)

..you're a half nigger bitch, and I'm standing my ground.

(CRAIG, hearing eric chamber a round, turns to see eric holding the gun by his thigh. CRAIG pulls his own pistol and points it at Eric.)

CRAIG

(to Eric)

Drop the gun, now!

(ELAINE walks rapidly toward Eric. LAMAR follows and attempts to stop her.)

ELAINE

(walking rapidly toward Eric)

I told you; you don't scare me!

CRAIG

Don't do it, son, drop the gun, now!

(When Elaine gets within 3 feet of Eric, ERIC aims his pistol at her chest and shoots once. ELAINE falls. CRAIG shoots Eric three times in rapid succession. ERIC falls. CRAIG walks rapidly to Eric while keeping his pistol trained on Eric's body. CRAIG kicks Eric's pistol away, turns Eric's body over, and hand cuffs him. CRAIG walks over to Elaine's body and begins administering CPR. Everyone gathers around to watch.

CRAIG

Somebody call nine-one-one!

(Stage lights dim to silhouette level. Spotlight on Clayton and Cristy.)

(CLAYTON and CRISTY face the audience. **14. Turn It Down.**)

14-Turn It Down

(Verse 1)

CRISTY

WHEN ANGRY VOICES RISE AND CONVERSATIONS FADE  
OUR OPINIONS GIVE WAY TO BLOWS.  
WE GIVE UP ON USING JUST WORDS TO PERSUADE,  
AND WE CHOOSE VIOLENCE OVER PROSE.

WHEN THE TRIBES GO TRIBAL, AND LUST FOR WAR AND STRIFE,  
WE TURN FROM CORDIAL TO PROFANE.  
WHEN CLAMOR OF RIVALS INCLUDES INSULTS AND SPITE,  
WHAT FOLLOWS IS DEAFENING PAIN.

(Chorus)

CLAYTON

TURN IT DOWN.

CRISTY

TURN DOWN THE STATIC, THE TENSION, THE STRESS.

CLAYTON

TURN IT DOWN.

CRISTY

TURN DOWN THE ANGER THAT LEADS TO REGRETS.

CLAYTON

TURN IT DOWN.

CRISTY

TURN DOWN THE VOLUME AND TURN DOWN THE FIGHT.

CLAYTON

TURN IT DOWN.

CRISTY

SO WE CAN STILL HEAR THE SWEETER SOUNDS OF LIFE.

CLATON AND CRISTY

TURN IT DOWN, WON'T YOU PLEASE TURN IT DOWN.

(In background silhouette, EMT and police arrive. EMT  
put elaine and craig on stretches and roll them away.)

(Verse 2)

CLAYTON

WHEN WE'RE COMPELLED TO FIGHT BECAUSE IT'S LIFE OR DEATH,  
GO AS HARD AND LOUD AS YOU MAY.  
IT'S YOUR DUTY AND RIGHT UNTIL YOUR DYING BREATH,  
TO FIGHT FOR PEOPLE'S LIVES THAT WAY.

BUT IF IT'S JUST DEBATE, WHERE NO LIVES ARE AT STAKE,  
AND NO IMPENDING DOOM IN STORE,  
YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR BEST CASE WITH HEARTFELT GIVE AND  
TAKE,  
BUT IT'S NEVER WORTH BLEEDING FOR.

(Chorus)

CLAYTON

TURN IT DOWN.

CRISTY

TURN DOWN THE STATIC, THE TENSION, THE STRESS.

CLAYTON

TURN IT DOWN.

CRISTY

TURN DOWN THE ANGER THAT LEADS TO REGRETS.

CLAYTON

TURN IT DOWN.

CRISTY

TURN DOWN THE VOLUME AND TURN DOWN THE FIGHT.

CLAYTON

TURN IT DOWN.

CRISTY

SO WE CAN STILL HEAR THE SWEETER SOUNDS OF LIFE.

CLAYTON AND CRISTY

TURN IT DOWN, WON'T YOU PLEASE TURN IT DOWN.

(Spotlight on Clara and Craig)

(CLARA and CRAIG walk toward one another as they sing)

(Bridge Part 1)

CLARA

WE SHARE SO MUCH MORE IN COMMON  
THAN THE FIGHTS TEARING US APART.  
THE TIES BINDING US TOGETHER  
CONNECT EACH OF US HEART TO HEART.

CRAIG

WE ALL SHARE A COMMON COUNTRY,  
A COMMON LANGUAGE, COMMON CREED,  
COMMON PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS,  
AND COMMON DESIRE TO SUCCEED.

(Spotlight on Lamar and Rachel)

LAMAR and RACHEL walk toward one another as they sing)

(Bridge Part 2)

LAMAR

WE ALL SUPPORT THE FOLKS WHO SERVE,  
AND PUT THEMSELVES IN HARMS WAY,  
SO WE CAN LIVE SECURE IN PEACE  
AND PROSPERITY EVERY DAY.

RACHEL

WE'VE ALL SEEN US AS A NATION  
DO GREAT THINGS AND SWELL WITH PRIDE,  
THEN ALL TEAR UP WHEN RAY CHARLES SINGS  
OH BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES.

(Spotlight on Florence and Frank)

(FLORENCE and FRANK walk toward one another as they  
sing)

(Bridge Part 3)

FLORENCE

WE ALL LIVE TO SEE OUR CHILDREN  
START AS BABIES WITH EAGER EYES,  
GROW IN SAFETY, JOY, AND LAUGHTER,  
THEN MOVE OUT ON THEIR OWN AND THRIVE.

FRANK

WE ALL SHARE THE FORTUNE TO LIVE  
AT A TIME AND IN A PLACE  
WHERE WE'RE BOUND MORE BY IDEAS  
THAN BY ETHNICITY OR RACE.

(Spotlight on Elaine and Eric)

(ELAINE and ERIC, now dressed in neutral light-colored  
clothes walk toward one another as they sing. OTHERS  
form choir-like semicircle behind them by the end of  
the verse.)

(Verse 3)

ERIC

YET WE IGNORE THE TIES THAT BIND US ALL AS ONE,  
AND GO TRIBAL FOR TRIFLING THINGS.  
PROMOTE HALF-TRUTHS AND LIES, SAY HURTFUL THINGS TO SOME,  
ALL TO ENSURE THAT OUR TRIBE WINS.

ELAINE

IF WE MUST BE TRIBAL, CAN WE AT LEAST AGREE,  
RED, BLUE, WHITE, BROWN, BLACK, STRAIGHT, OR GAY,  
FOR OUR OWN SURVIVAL, ALL OF US NEED TO BE  
MEMBERS OF ONE TRIBE, USA.

(JASON steps to the center. ELAINE and ERIC fall back  
into choir)

(Chorus)

ALL MINUS JASON

TURN IT DOWN.

JASON

TURN DOWN THE STATIC, THE TENSION, THE STRESS.

ALL MINUS JASON

TURN IT DOWN.

JASON

TURN DOWN THE ANGER THAT LEADS TO REGRETS.

ALL MINUS JASON

TURN IT DOWN.

JASON

TURN DOWN THE VOLUME AND TURN DOWN THE FIGHT.

ALL MINUS JASON

TURN IT DOWN.

JASON

SO WE CAN STILL HEAR THE SWEETER SOUNDS OF LIFE.

ALL MINUS JASON

TURN IT DOWN, WON'T YOU PLEASE TURN IT DOWN.

(Go dark. Curtains)

THE END