

WONDERLAND

written by Gary Graves

in collaboration with

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

JOSEPH KAYE: Senior Cashier at National Savings and Trust, Wenceslas Branch.

Code name: "A," a staff secretary, recently an intern.

Code name: "RABBIT," a deputy assistant, former military man.

Code name: "DUCHESS," a lawyer, special counsel to the "Red King."

SETTING

The action takes place in a large waiting room in an old mansion that seems an awful lot like the White House, in our nation's capitol.

FOOTNOTES

"Someone must have slandered Josef K., for one morning, without having done anything wrong, he was arrested."—the first sentence in Franz Kafka's classic tale about a man arrested and tried for a crime, the nature of which is never revealed to him, *The Trial*—and the inspiration for the play.

Before the Law—a parable from *The Trial*

"We're all mad here. I'm mad, you're mad. You must be, or you wouldn't be here."—the Cheshire Cat in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

"Why is a raven like a writing-desk?"—The Mad Hatter. "Inquiries have been so often addressed to me, as to whether any answer to the Hatter's riddle can be imagined, that I may as well put on record here what seems to me to be a fairly appropriate answer, "because it can produce a few notes, though they are very flat; and it is never put with the wrong end in front!" This, however, is merely an afterthought; the riddle as originally invented had no answer at all"—Lewis Carroll

The Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, the Duchess, the Knave of Hearts, the Cook, the Red Queen and the Red King—all characters in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*.

"The cat's in the bag, and the bag's in the river"—"Sidney Falco" (Tony Curtis) in *Sweet Smell of Success*, 1957, screenplay by Clifford Odets, among others.

Dedicated to my cousin Bobby,
whom I loved as a big brother.

(In an elegant antechamber, a waiting room really, in some sort of mansion somewhere, JOSEPH KAYE waits anxiously.

There are two doors leading in and out of the room, and three tall windows that look out onto the surrounding grounds.

No chairs.

A large portrait of George Washington hangs on the wall above a fireplace in the room.

Nervously, JOSEPH tries to make a call on his cell phone.

Nothing.

His phone doesn't seem to be working. Is the battery dead?

He looks at the portrait of Washington, gazing down at him from above the mantelpiece.)

JOSEPH

What the hell?

("RABBIT" enters, urgently. He is a "deputy assistant." A military man, before he came to work here.

He spews a string of curse words under his breath as he urgently enters through one door, and strides across the room toward the other.)

RABBIT sees Joseph, but doesn't say anything to him. He has an urgent problem on his hands. Out he goes through the other door.

JOSEPH looks at the door Rabbit entered through.

It's obviously unlocked. Should he go through the door and leave?

He looks up at George Washington.

No. He decides to wait in the room. As he has been instructed to do.

He waits.

Anxiously.

He notices a small whiskey bar in the room. He crosses to the bar, and takes a look at it.

He inspects a bottle of expensive whiskey.

He considers pouring himself a drink.

He looks up at George.

Puts the bottle down.

And waits.)

3 "A"

3

("A" enters through the other door, also urgently. She is a young woman, a "staff secretary."

She sees Joseph.)

A

Are you "K?"

JOSEPH

Uh...yes?

(beat)

Are you "A?"

A

He's here.

JOSEPH

Who's here?

A

"Mad Hatter." He's in the building.

Mad Hatter?

JOSEPH

(Beat.

She senses something is wrong.)

Are you K or not?

A

My last name is Kaye. Is that what you mean?

JOSEPH

Your last name?

A

Joseph Kaye. K-A-Y-E.

JOSEPH

K-A-Y-E?

A

I think there's been a mistake.

JOSEPH

What are you doing here?

A

I have no idea.

JOSEPH

(A looks out the window.

And thinks.

Who is this guy?

What do I do now?)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

This morning--I don't know what time it was--no, it was six-forty-five--I remember, I looked at the clock. Two guys were in my apartment. I'm in bed asleep, and there's a guy in my bedroom. Standing at the foot of the bed. Just standing there. In a brown overcoat and a...hat. Like a...I don't know what. "Get up, he says, and don't make any trouble." Don't make any trouble? Who is this guy? What is he doing here? I was arrested. They arrested me. And brought me here. They put a bag over my head! They put a bag over my head, and brought me here. Told me to wait for somebody named "A." Just the letter A. Is that you?

A

Two guys?

JOSEPH

Yeah. Both in overcoats. Both in...hats. Like...like...

A

Did they say--did you get a name?

JOSEPH

Villie. One guy was named Villie. The other guy called him that. Like the German. For Willie. You know, "Villie." And he called the other guy...Franz...or Fritz. Fritz!

(A crosses to the liquor and pours herself a shot of the good whiskey.)

A

And what did they say?

JOSEPH

They said I was under arrest. Just...you're under arrest. Get out of bed. Get dressed. What am I under arrest for? You'll know soon enough. Get dressed. Come on, let's go. I have no idea what they think I've done. No charges, no warrant. I haven't done anything. I don't even cheat on my income taxes.

A

Oh, come on.

JOSEPH

Really. I don't. Fritz even helped himself to a bowl of cereal while he was there. Pours himself a bowl of Fruit Loops from my kitchen cabinet, grabs the milk from my refrigerator, and makes himself comfortable in the breakfast nook. Crunching away while I'm putting my pants on.

A

Fruit Loops?

JOSEPH

What's wrong with Fruit Loops?

A

Wow.

JOSEPH

Who were those guys?

(She downs the shot.)

A

How would I know?

JOSEPH

What are you doing here?

A

Me? I work here.

JOSEPH

You work here? Oh, thank God. Good. Finally. Someone to talk to. I need to talk to someone. I think there's been a mistake. Who's in charge here?

A

Who's in charge?

JOSEPH

Yeah. Who... Who can I talk to?

A

Where do you think you are?

JOSEPH

Well, I've been wondering--I had a bag over my head when they brought me in here!

A

Oh. Right.

JOSEPH

I was in a car. An old car. Like a station wagon? Like the one we used to have when I was little. Except that now I'm in hand-cuffs, and there's a bag over my head. I'm lying down on the back seat. They don't want anyone to see me. The bag, you know? The radio's on. Johnny Mathis is playing. Why Johnny Mathis? Villie and Fritz are talking. They're trying to decide where they're gonna have lunch today. That's all they talked about. Fritz wants to go to some place named Squirrel Town. Villie wants to go to Goldwater's. I've never heard of either one of those places. What's happening to me? We go through some sort of checkpoint. "Go on in, guys." We're in a garage. Somebody opens the door. They walk me inside. I'm hand-cuffed. And there's a bag over my head. We walk down a long stairway, a metal stairway. Like a fire-escape. A lot of stairs. Way down. Way down. Where are we going? We're in some sort of hallway, or corridor, a long straight corridor, concrete, echoy. They're still talking about lunch. They finally settle on Squirrel Town. God knows what they serve there. We keep walking. Then up. More stairs. Where are they taking me? Turn left. Turn right. This way, that way--do you know what it's like to be led around with a bag over your head?

A

You mean metaphorically?

No!

JOSEPH

Oh. Well...

A

Where am I?

JOSEPH

(Beat.

She avoids the question.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I know what it looks like.

A

What what looks like?

JOSEPH

This place. This...place.

A

Yeah--what's it look like?

JOSEPH
(looks at the portrait)

That's George Washington.

A

Is it.

JOSEPH

The grounds out there...
(looks out the windows)

The lawn...the trees over there...that wrought iron fence...
(he sees something)

There's a guy out there.

A

Where?

JOSEPH

He's got a gun.

A

Where?

JOSEPH

Right there!

A

Who--him? Don't worry about him.

JOSEPH
He's got a machine gun!

A
Relax. Security.

JOSEPH
What's going on here?

(beat)

A
What makes you think something's going on here?

JOSEPH
This is where I think it is. Isn't it?

(She checks the time on her watch.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
Why am I here?

A
Did another guy just come through here?

JOSEPH
Another--yeah. Yeah. Just a little bit ago. He seemed ...pretty upset.

A
Upset?

JOSEPH
Well, he was cursing a blue streak, all, you know... He seemed pretty upset.

A
(to herself)
Fuck.

JOSEPH
What--is something wrong? What--?

A
Which way did he go?

JOSEPH
(he points)
That way.

A
That way--you sure?

JOSEPH
Definitely. That way.

(She heads for the other door.
But stops.)

A
(back to K)
Stay here.

(Out she goes.
Which seems odd.
K is alone again.
He looks up at George.
He waits.
Some more.
He tries his cell phone again.
Still nothing.
What is wrong with the damn
thing?)

JOSEPH
Oh, for Christ's sake!

4 DUCHESS

4

("DUCHESS" enters. She is a
lawyer, a "special counsel."

She stops and smiles, pleasantly,
when she sees Joseph.)

DUCHESS
K?

JOSEPH
Joseph.

(She greets him confidently,
shaking his hand.)

DUCHESS
It's a pleasure to meet you.

JOSEPH

And you are...

DUCHESS

Sorry for all the cloak-and-dagger. I hope you understand.

JOSEPH

Understand what? I don't understand anything.

DUCHESS

Of course.

JOSEPH

What is going on here? Why am I here?

DUCHESS

Calm down.

JOSEPH

Why was I arrested?

DUCHESS

Arrested?

JOSEPH

Yes. I was told I was under arrest this morning.

(She chuckles.)

DUCHESS

No, no. That was a... misunderstanding. Willie and Fritz?

JOSEPH

I believe it's "Villie."

DUCHESS

Right you are. My German isn't so good.

JOSEPH

Who are you?

DUCHESS

I'm "Duchess." We'll have to leave it at that.

JOSEPH

Duchess?

DUCHESS

It's a code name, Joseph. I'm "Duchess." You're "K." K for...oh, let's say...the "Knave of Hearts."

JOSEPH

What?

“K.”
DUCHESS

My last name is Kaye.
JOSEPH

I know that.
DUCHESS

K-A-Y-E.
JOSEPH

Got it.
DUCHESS

What am I doing here?
JOSEPH

We’ll get to that. Care for a drink? What do you like?
DUCHESS

I’d like to know what’s going on here.
JOSEPH

That’s kinda complicated.
DUCHESS
(She pours herself a drink.)

Am I under arrest?
JOSEPH

I wouldn’t say that.
DUCHESS

Am I, or am I not?
JOSEPH

Chivas Regal?
DUCHESS
(holding up a bottle)

Am I under arrest?!
JOSEPH
(She pours him a drink.)

Not yet.
DUCHESS

What does that mean?
JOSEPH

That means I want to talk to you a little bit.
DUCHESS

(She offers him a drink.

He folds his arms.)

JOSEPH

Why am I here?

(She sets his glass down.)

DUCHESS

Tell me about yourself.

JOSEPH

What do you want to know?

(She smiles--whatever you want to say.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I'm the Senior Cashier at National Savings and Trust.
Wenceslas Branch.

DUCHESS

You're a bank teller.

JOSEPH

My title is Senior Cashier.

DUCHESS

Okay.

JOSEPH

I've been there twelve years. My supervisor is Mr.--

DUCHESS

Babcock?

JOSEPH

Yes. That's right. Mr. Babcock. He can attest to...
my...character. My...reliability. Honesty. I'm very
honest. Law-abiding. I'm...punctual. I'm...scrupulous.
I...I was given the Steller Teller Award three years in a
row.

DUCHESS

Yes, I know that.

JOSEPH

If there's any question of malfeasance, or... I can assure
you--

DUCHESS

There isn't.

JOSEPH

Then what is this all about?

DUCHESS

What would you say: life is a game, or life is a test?

JOSEPH

What would I say?

DUCHESS

If you had to say one or the other.

JOSEPH

If I had to say...

DUCHESS

One or the other.

JOSEPH

I'd say, life is a test.

DUCHESS

Good. Why?

JOSEPH

Why?

(beat)

I'm not sure what you want me to say.

DUCHESS

What makes you think I want you to say anything?

JOSEPH

I suppose I'd say... Life is a test because...every day is a test. Can you be the person you want to be? The person you always meant to be. The person you're mother wanted you to be. Your father... Can you resist all the temptations? To be...less. To look away. Not to help someone in need. And there's a lotta people in need out there these days.

DUCHESS

Would you say you perform well under pressure?

JOSEPH

Pressure?

DUCHESS

Under stress.

JOSEPH

Stress? You mean...

(She just stares at him.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Well, I... I suppose... I do all right. Under pressure.
Under stress. We audited the entire branch last August, and
that was...very...stressful.

DUCHESS

We want you to do something.

JOSEPH

We? Who?

DUCHESS

You're to wait here.

JOSEPH

Here? You mean...in this room?

DUCHESS

Mm-hm.

JOSEPH

Why?

DUCHESS

A package will arrive.

JOSEPH

A package? What sort of package?

DUCHESS

A package.

JOSEPH

What's in the package?

(beat)

I need to know what's in the package, if you want me to--

DUCHESS

I can't tell you that.

JOSEPH

Why not?

DUCHESS

It's a matter of National Security.

JOSEPH

National Security?

(She nods.)

What happens when the package gets here?

(She nods to the portrait of
Washington.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
What?
(She nods at the portrait again.)
JOSEPH (CONT'D)
What--you mean?
(he looks at the portrait)
Are we being watched?
DUCHESS
(politely, with a smile)
Any more questions?

JOSEPH
Look, I'm just a bank teller. What's going on here? There's been a mistake. Is there someone else I can speak with? I'm sure we can sort all this out easily enough. Who's your supervisor?
(She glares at him.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
I'm going out that door. You can't keep me here. I haven't done anything. I'm just a bank teller. Who's in charge here?

DUCHESS
You go through that door without authorization, you disappear. You understand me? You disappear. You are gone. Nobody will ever know what happened to you. Maybe you never even existed. Vapor. Smoke. Cosmic dust. Fish food. There's been no mistake. You're here for a reason.

JOSEPH
What reason?
DUCHESS
I can't tell you that.
(she looks at her watch)
Fuck! Where the hell is he?
(she starts out, but stops)
Wait here.

(DUCHESS exits, urgently.)

(WTF!
He looks at the door.
Should he go through it?

He looks up at Washington.)

JOSEPH

Hello? Are you... Can you hear me? Look, I don't know who you are. Or...why I'm here. But I need to talk to somebody. There's been a mistake. Can somebody... I have rights, you know. I'm a... I'm a United States Citizen. Whatever that means. I'm an honest person. I work hard. And my supervisor. Mr. Babcock. He's gonna blow a gasket when I don't show up today. Whenever that was.

(checks his phone again, back to Washington)

My phone is dead. What time is it? I don't even know what time it is. Is this what my taxes are paying for? I pay my taxes, you know. To the penny. I don't even cheat on my taxes. Are you listening to me?

(to himself)

This is ridiculous. Why am I here? Why me? What did I do?
(back to Washington)

What do you want from me? I haven't done anything. I wanna see a lawyer!

6 RABBIT AND K

6

(RABBIT enters and confronts JOSEPH.)

RABBIT

What are you doing here?

(JOSEPH looks at the portrait-- was Rabbit watching him?)

RABBIT (CONT'D)

You have five seconds to identify yourself. One.../ Two... Three... Four... Five.

JOSEPH

Uh...my name is Joseph Kaye. I work at National Savings and Trust. There's been some sort of mix up. Something's... wrong here!

RABBIT

Joseph K?

JOSEPH

Yes. Kaye. K-A-Y-E.

RABBIT

K-A-Y-E?

JOSEPH

Yes, Kaye!

(beat)

RABBIT
Did you say National Savings and Trust?

JOSEPH
Yes. We're a...bank.

RABBIT
Which branch?

JOSEPH
Wenceslas.

RABBIT
15th and Wenceslas?

JOSEPH
Yes. I'm an employee there.

RABBIT
I hate that bank.

JOSEPH
Why?

RABBIT
You made me wait.

JOSEPH
Me? I? Who made you wait? I've never seen you--

RABBIT
I have literally had tens of thousands of men and women under my command. I have held the fate of millions in my hands. The fate of millions, hanging in the balance. And you think you can keep me waiting in one of your lines for thirty-five minutes?

JOSEPH
Do you have an account with us?

RABBIT
Not any more.

JOSEPH
I'm so sorry.

RABBIT
There's a new manager there now.

JOSEPH
Yes. Mr. Babcock?

RABBIT

You can thank me for Babcock.

JOSEPH

You mean you...

(beat)

Did he...

RABBIT

What?

JOSEPH

Is that why I'm here?

RABBIT

Who are you?

JOSEPH

I told you...I'm... My name is Joseph Kaye. This is all a big mistake. Obviously.

RABBIT

What do you know?

JOSEPH

About what? I don't know anything. I don't know anything at all. I don't know how I was...chosen, or selected, or whatever I was. I was arrested. They told me I was arrested. But clearly...a mistake has been made. So if someone will just call Mr. Babcock, or the police, or the FBI, or 9-1-1, or someone, I'm sure we can straighten all of this out and I can...I can go home. Or to the bank. Or anywhere. Else. Than this.

RABBIT

You think you can fuck with me?

JOSEPH

No! I don't think I can fuck with you. I don't want to fuck with anyone! I just...want to go home.

7

DUCHESS RETURNS

7

(DUCHESS enters, urgently.)

DUCHESS

Rabbit! Where the hell have you been?

RABBIT

(to Duchess, re K)

Who the hell is this?

DUCHESS

That's K.

JOSEPH

Joseph Kaye. My last name is Kaye. K-A-Y-E.

RABBIT

(to Duchess)

No way.

DUCHESS

He's cool. Don't worry about him. Hatter's at the Tea Party.

RABBIT

What?!

DUCHESS

He's at the Tea Party.

JOSEPH

The Tea Party?

RABBIT

(looks at his watch)

The fuck--it's early. We're not ready!

DUCHESS

Deal with it.

JOSEPH

What the heck is going on?

RABBIT

(to Duchess)

I don't like this guy. I don't like the way he smells.

DUCHESS

He's a go. Forget about it.

RABBIT

(to Duchess)

Says who?

DUCHESS

Red Queen.

(beat)

JOSEPH

Who's the Red Queen?

RABBIT

This is fucked up.

DUCHESS

It's Tea Party time. Just find the Cook. And give him a kiss.

JOSEPH

Why is this fucked up? Is something wrong?

RABBIT

I'll find the fucking Cook.

(looks at Joseph)

And I'll check up on Mr. Green Jeans here.

(in close)

You're not gonna fuck me, are you?

(beat)

DUCHESS

He'll do just fine. Get the Cook downstairs.

(RABBIT disengages.)

Turns to DUCHESS.)

RABBIT

Oo-rah.

(RABBIT exits.)

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DUCHESS AND K

8

JOSEPH

What is going on here.

DUCHESS

What do you want to know?

(JOSEPH looks at the portrait.)

JOSEPH

Is he--are they really watching us? Can they hear what we say?

(She pours herself another drink.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I need to know what's going on here.

DUCHESS

You were referred to us by classified sources.

JOSEPH

Mr. Babcock?

(no reply)

Why?

DUCHESS

Because of your unique profile.

JOSEPH

My... What's unique about my profile? I'm just an ordinary... person. I go to work every day. I don't cause any trouble. I'm not a...a... whatever you are. What are you? Are you like a...

DUCHESS

Don't be so modest. Everyone of us is unique. Each of us is special. In our very own way.

JOSEPH

You're a kindergarten teacher. This is insane. What is it you want me to do?

DUCHESS

I've already explained that.

JOSEPH

You haven't explained anything. I'm supposed to wait till a package arrives. What's in the package? You won't say. What am I supposed to do when the package gets here? You won't say. Why me? You won't say! What is going on here?

(She checks her watch, and stares at him.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Nothing. Great. I can't believe this. Wait a minute...

(looks around)

Am I on some kind of reality TV show? Is that what's going on here? Like...you know, uh...

(This amuses Duchess.)

DUCHESS

No, Joseph. This is not a reality show. This is reality. This is as real as it ever gets.

JOSEPH

Am I being puked?

DUCHESS

You mean "punked?" I'm afraid not.

(JOSEPH tries his cell phone again.)

Nothing!

JOSEPH

Of course, not.

DUCHESS

What do you mean?

JOSEPH

That won't work in here.

DUCHESS

Why not?

JOSEPH

You're in Wonderland.

DUCHESS

Wonderland. What is Wonderland?
(beat)
Is that one of your code names? For what? What is this place?

DUCHESS

You sure you don't want that drink?

JOSEPH

No, thank you.

DUCHESS

We know all about you. You'd be amazed at what we know about you. Arguably, we know everything there is to know about you. We know how you brush your teeth. We know how you sleep. We know what you dream about.

JOSEPH

That's not possible.

DUCHESS

Really? You dream...you're in bed asleep. You wake up, and a man is watching you. He looks like a gangster in an old movie. Or an East German Stasi agent before the Wall came down. Or a Nazi Brown Shirt, before Hitler was elected. You don't know why he's here.

JOSEPH

Hitler wasn't elected.

DUCHESS

Oh, yes, he was.

JOSEPH

He was appointed.

DUCHESS

He was elected. As much as anybody ever was. You lead a lonely life. Counting money. Recording deposits and withdrawals. To the cent. Every cent must be accounted for. You lose yourself in the numbers. You ride the bus home. You look at the people. The old people. The poor people. The sick. The lonely people. All transfixed by their phones. The little world in their hands. You get caught in the rain. It's cold. Really cold. Icy rain. You turn up your collar. You just want to get home. But you're not wearing any pants. You just want to get out of the rain. You're inside. In the building where you live. You're soaking wet. Freezing. Still no pants. Everything is dirty and wet. Up the stairs. To your apartment. It's up there...somewhere, stairway, after stairway, you just keep climbing. The paint is peeling. Is someone watching you? Are you all alone in the world? Someone is crying. You wonder about the woman who lives across the hall from you.

JOSEPH

Olga?

DUCHESS

A man knocks at her door. She opens the door, and let's him in. But as she closes the door, she sees you. And smiles. You wonder what it's like in her apartment. You touch her face. You want to kiss her. But you realize the face, is the face, of a man. You make yourself a bowl of Rigatoni. Olive oil. Parmesan. A pinch of parsley. Are those ants crawling on the pasta? You eat alone. Night after night. All alone. Watching old re-runs...of *Bonanza*--

JOSEPH

Stop!

DUCHESS

We're in your head, K.

JOSEPH

How?

DUCHESS

You've got one of those, don't you?

JOSEPH

What--this?

(his phone)

DUCHESS

We know everything there is to know about you.

(JOSEPH looks at his phone.

Looks at Washington.)

9

ALICE RETURNS

9

("A" enters.

Urgently.)

DUCHESS

What's wrong?

A

We have to abort.

DUCHESS

What?

A

He's loose. Somewhere in the building.

JOSEPH

Who's loose?

DUCHESS

Loose in the building?!

JOSEPH

This building?

A

We don't know where he is.

JOSEPH

Who are you talking about?

A

Somebody tipped him off. He slipped outta the Tea Party, and took off.

DUCHESS

Where's the Cook?

A

I don't know. I can't find him. We have to abort.

DUCHESS

Calm down!

JOSEPH

Who's the Cook?

DUCHESS

(to Joseph)

Shut up!

(Beat.)

A

(to Duchess, re Joseph)

Who is this guy?

DUCHESS

This is K.

JOSEPH

My last name is Kaye. K-A-

DUCHESS

I said, shut up!

A

No way. There was some kind of mix-up. Fritz and Villie are idiots. This is the wrong guy.

JOSEPH

I don't know anything about this.

DUCHESS

He's not the wrong guy. He's the right guy. Don't worry about it. Just calm the fuck down.

JOSEPH

I should just leave.

DUCHESS

Does Rabbit know about this?

A

I don't know. I don't know where the hell he is either.

(JOSEPH tries to slip out the door.)

DUCHESS

(stopping him)

Where the hell do you think you're going?

JOSEPH

You can't keep me here. I have rights. I wanna see a lawyer!

(DUCHESS slaps him across the face.)

Silence.)

DUCHESS

You panic, you die. Just stay cool. And do what I say. Close your mouth.

(to A)

Keep an eye on him.

A

What--are you kidding?

DUCHESS

Keep an eye on him. Nobody aborts unless Red Queen says we abort. So he's loose in the building--where's he gonna go? He's not gettin' out. Just...stay...cool. Can I trust you to do that?

(Beat.

A nods.

DUCHESS exits.)

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ALICE AND K

10

(The two wait.

Anxiously.

Each eyeing the other.

Across the room.

Thinking.

Waiting.

A looks out the window.

Checks her watch.)

JOSEPH

Where is everybody? There's hardly anybody here. Shouldn't there be a lot of people here? I always thought this place was constantly buzzing with all sorts of different...people. Generals, and secretaries, and guards, and lawyers, and advisors, and...all sorts of different...people. Where is everybody?

A

We're a little under-staffed these days.

JOSEPH

It's a ghost town.

A

We've lost a lotta people, too.

JOSEPH

Lost? You mean...

A
Nevermind what I mean.

JOSEPH
What do you do here?

A
I told you. I work here.

JOSEPH
Yeah, but what do you do? What's your--

A
You ask a lotta questions.

(beat)

JOSEPH
Who's the Mad Hatter?

A
(quoting the Cheshire Cat)
"We're all mad. I'm mad. You're mad. You must be, or you
wouldn't be here."

JOSEPH
What?

A
Nothing.

JOSEPH
I'm beginning to think something very...bad is going on here.
What's going on?

(She looks at Washington.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
They're watching us. Aren't they?

(She looks at him.)

A
You're not K, are you?

(He looks at Washington. He's
watching. They're watching.
What should he say?)

JOSEPH
My last name is Kaye. I have no idea what is going on here.
And I'm leaving.

(he heads for the door)

A
I wouldn't recommend that.

(He stops at the door.)

JOSEPH
Why not?

A
Where you gonna go?

(He looks at the door.)

A (CONT'D)
You can't leave the building. If you make it past the infrared--which you won't--the drones'll get you, not to mention the A-Team. And the sharpshooters.

JOSEPH
The A-Team? Really?
(beat)
I just want to talk to someone. To straighten this out...

(She looks at Washington.)

JOSEPH addresses the painting.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
(to his captors)
Something very bad is going on here. Who is the Mad Hatter?

(Nothing happens.)

Long pause.)

A
A critic.

JOSEPH
What?

A
Someone who wrote some very... objectionable things about...

JOSEPH
Who?

(She looks at George.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
Him?

(Washington?)

(She looks away.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
(a realization)

Oh...him.

(beat)
What are they gonna do to him?

A
Who?

JOSEPH
The "Mad Hatter." What are they gonna do if they find him?
(beat)
This is really bad.

A
Shut up.

JOSEPH
We have to stop this!

A
(moving in)
I said, shut up!

JOSEPH
I will not be a party to this...this conspiracy.

A
You don't know what you're talking about.

(She pours herself another shot.)

JOSEPH
I know that a man's life is at stake.

A
Really.

JOSEPH
At least, I assume it's a man. Is it a man? Who is he? A critic. What kind of critic? You mean, like a theater critic?

A
No, you idiot. Not a theater critic. A critic...of the administration.

JOSEPH
Oh. You mean, like a journalist. A reporter?

A
We're not playing Twenty Questions.

JOSEPH
A reporter. What paper? The Times? The Post?

A
Knock it off.

JOSEPH
Is it a TV reporter? Somebody famous. Geraldo Rivera?

A
Are you kidding? He's on Fox.

JOSEPH
Oh. Right. Chris Matthews?

A
Oh, please.

JOSEPH
Rachel Maddow?
(beat)
It's Rachel Maddow!

A
It's not Rachel Maddow! Shut up.

JOSEPH
Good. I like her.

A
You don't wanna know who it is.

JOSEPH
Why not? Why wouldn't I wanna know who it is?
(beat)
Because it's a matter of life and death.

A
Trust me, you don't wanna know! Just...shut up. You have no idea what's going on here.

JOSEPH
I have a pretty good idea what's going on here.

A
Oh, yeah? Good.
(She looks out the window,
anxiously.)

(beat)

JOSEPH
How did you get mixed up in this?

A
I don't know what you're talking about.

JOSEPH
What's your job here?

A
I'm a Staff Secretary. Okay?

JOSEPH
What is that?

A
What is that. Good question. I was an intern six weeks ago.

JOSEPH
An intern? You're an intern?

A
I was an intern. Now I'm a Staff Secretary. People are moving up fast around here.

JOSEPH
What's a Staff Secretary?

A
I work for Duchess.

JOSEPH
What do you do?

A
Lots a things. I do it all. Whatever needs to be done. I'm really good at communications. But you gotta be flexible to work here.

JOSEPH
How did you get here?

A
The Rabbit Hole.

JOSEPH
What?

A
That's what they call it.

JOSEPH
That's what they call what?

A
The intern application process.

Oh. I see. JOSEPH

I was gonna be a lawyer. A

Really? JOSEPH

Yeah. A

But what? JOSEPH

Hm? A

What happened? JOSEPH

Long story. A
(she looks up at Washington)
"Before the law, there stands a doorkeeper."

What? JOSEPH

Nothing. A
(looks at her watch)

Okay. (looks out the window)

Okay. (big relief)

What? JOSEPH

It's over. A
(downs a shot)

What's over? JOSEPH

You wanna go? Go. Now's your chance. A

You mean...leave? JOSEPH
(looks at George)

What about...

You wanna go? Go. A

What about you? JOSEPH

What about me? A

You're gonna stay here? JOSEPH
(beat)
What's gonna happen to you?

Don't worry about me. Worry about yourself. A
(He looks at the door.
Looks at Washington.
Thinks.)

Go on. Get outta here. A (CONT'D)
(beat)
What are you waiting for?

What about the infa-red? JOSEPH

That's bullshit. Don't worry about that. A

What about the drones? JOSEPH

Yeah, right. A
(dismissively)

What about the A-Team? JOSEPH

Don't worry about the A-Team. A
(she winks at him)
(He looks at the door.
Looks at her.
Can he trust her?)

A (CONT'D)
Any minute now, all hell is gonna break loose around here.

JOSEPH
All hell? What do you mean?

A
Just get outta here, okay?

JOSEPH
A bomb?

A
No, idiot. Not a bomb. Just get the fuck outta here!

(He looks at the door.

Looks at Washington.

Looks at her.

Looks at the shot of whiskey
Duchess poured for him.)

A (CONT'D)
What?

(He downs the shot.

Coughs.)

JOSEPH
Wow.

A
Not a big drinker, huh?

(JOSEPH looks at Washington.)

JOSEPH
Help! Are you listening to this?

A
Will you shut up!

JOSEPH
Can you hear me?

A
What's the matter with you?

JOSEPH
Is anybody listening to me?

A
Are you psycho!

JOSEPH
Is anybody out there?

A
Are you nuts?!

(He just looks at her.)

A (CONT'D)
Great.

(She moves away, thinking.

Waiting.

Beat.)

A (CONT'D)
(to herself)
This isn't really happening. It's all just a dream. I'm actually sitting all alone, screaming at a wall in some asylum somewhere.

JOSEPH
(to himself)
Am I insane?

A
Everything happens so fast. You don't know what you're going through when you're going through it. The choices you make. You don't know what you're doing when you're doing it. All of a sudden you're there, and it's happening, and you're doing it, and you're thinking, wait a minute, this isn't me, this isn't what I meant to do, who I meant to become, this isn't me. But it is. It is you. It is you now. Now you're in it. Now it's real, and you're doin' it, and you just gotta keep doin' it, till you can't take it anymore, and you gotta stop it, you gotta stop the world. Stop the fucking world. No. I won't do this. I'm not doing this!

(beat)

JOSEPH
I have an idea. Why don't we both get out of here? Together. We just put our hands up, like this.
(to the painting)
Don't shoot. Don't shoot! We're coming out! We don't want to hurt anyone. And we don't know anything.
(looks at her)
At least, I don't.

A
That is a really stupid idea.

11 RABBIT ARRIVES WITH THE PACKAGE 11

(RABBIT enters with a suitcase.

He sets the suitcase down.)

RABBIT
(a code phrase, to A)
Pigs in a blanket.

(A is stunned.

She stares at the suitcase.)

JOSEPH
What's wrong?

RABBIT
(to A)
This is no time to go to pieces.

JOSEPH
Did something bad happen?

RABBIT
(to K)
Shut up.
(back to A)
Are you gonna go soft on me?

(A looks at the suitcase.)

RABBIT (CONT'D)
Don't let me down now. You can do this. Just put your mind to it. Take a deep breath. Get your bearings. And let's get on with it.

(A sits, devastated.

RABBIT goes to a window, and
looks out, into the distance.)

RABBIT (CONT'D)
You know, when I was nineteen, I joined the Marines. I'da been drafted, if I didn't. There was a war in a far off land back then. In a place called Vietnam. Me and a couple of my buddies went to see John Wayne in *The Green Berets* and that was it. Though I remember somebody set off a stink bomb in the movie theater on the night we saw it. The whole country was at war back then. Riots and protests.

(MORE)

RABBIT (CONT'D)

People gettin' gunned down in the streets. All sorts of people. I wanted to make my father proud. And off I went. I had no idea what I'd gotten myself into. But I found out soon enough. I faced up to it. I embraced it. I did what had to be done. It was my duty. And I survived. And because I survived, they moved me up. They put me back into training. And I learned all sorts of new things. And then I went back. And I put my new skills to work. Back in the jungle. And I survived that, too. So they trained me to do the next thing, and the next. Everything they trained me to do, I survived.

(sounds of the jungle)

I used to go out into the jungle at night. Just me and Jobar. And we'd sit back to back. In the jungle. Just a string between us, one end tied to my little finger, and the other end tied to his. And we'd wait. Wait in the night, listening to all the sounds of the jungle. Lookin' for Charlie. And sooner or later, one of us would see something. Just a shadow moving through the jungle. Like a ghost in the moonlight. Charlie. And whoever spotted him, he would just...

(moves his little finger)

No words between us. Slip off the string, knife in hand, and ...sudden death. Without a sound. Seventy-two confirmed kills. Seventy-two. Confirmed. And here I am today.

JOSEPH

What's in the suitcase?

RABBIT

We found him. Downstairs. In the Bunker. Back behind the Q files. Huddled up in a ball. Crying like a little baby. Boo-hoo-hoo.

JOSEPH

And...what did you do?

(RABBIT approaches K.)

RABBIT

That's your package.

JOSEPH

That's the package? What's in it?

RABBIT

Don't fuckin' ask me that again. When you get the signal, here's what I want you to do: Take your package to a car waiting for you in slot four-twenty-six in the staff parking lot of the Old Mill parking facility. You got that? It's a *Hun-day*. Elite.

JOSEPH

Hyun-dii.

What? RABBIT

It's pronounced, "*Hyun-dii*." JOSEPH

Whatever. You got that? RABBIT

Slot... JOSEPH

Four-twenty-six. RABBIT

Four twenty-six. In the... JOSEPH

Staff parking lot. RABBIT

Right, the staff parking lot of the... JOSEPH

Old Mill parking facility! RABBIT

Right. And it's a *Hyun-dii*. JOSEPH
(beat)

Elite.

(RABBIT offers him a set of car keys.)

Take 'em. RABBIT

Then what? JOSEPH
(he doesn't take the keys)

Put the suitcase in the trunk of the car, and drive the car out Two-oh-one. South. You got that? RABBIT

Two-oh-one. South. Got it. JOSEPH

You'll see an exit for Old Country Road. RABBIT

Old Country Road. JOSEPH

Take it--east. RABBIT

East. JOSEPH

To the old bridge over Muskie River. RABBIT

The Muddy Muskie. JOSEPH

That's right. Drop the suitcase in the river. And don't let anyone see you do it. RABBIT

A
(another quote)
"When the cat's in the bag. And the bag's in the river." JOSEPH

What do I do with the car? JOSEPH

You can keep the car. *Hun-day* Elite. "Modest luxury." RABBIT

Hyun-dii. JOSEPH

Stop saying that. RABBIT
(holding them out)

Take the keys.

(JOSEPH considers carefully.
He takes the keys.)

When I give you the signal. RABBIT (CONT'D)

What's the signal? JOSEPH

"Applebees." RABBIT

Like the restaurant? JOSEPH

Code word: Applebees. RABBIT

JOSEPH

Applebees.

RABBIT

(to A)

What about you, Cinderella?

(She looks at him.)

RABBIT (CONT'D)

Good. We're in Phase Two.

(RABBIT exits.)

12

ALICE AND K ALONE WITH THE PACKAGE

12

(JOSEPH approaches the suitcase.

Looks for any signs of...

Nope.

None.

Just an ordinary suitcase.)

JOSEPH

(to A)

What's in here?

(She shakes her head, no.

Turns away.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I need to know what's in here.

A

No, you don't.

JOSEPH

It's too small for a whole... you couldn't get a whole... in there. Could you?

(beat)

I'm gonna open it.

A

No, you're not.

JOSEPH

I need to know what's in this thing.

A
Why? I told you who it was.

JOSEPH
You didn't tell me anything. You told me it was Rachel Maddow--

A
It's not Rachel Maddow--

JOSEPH
You're telling me they trapped Rachel Maddow down there--

A
No.

JOSEPH
In the Bunker.

A
No!

JOSEPH
What is the Bunker?

A
What do you think it is?

JOSEPH
And they--they--this is--this is--

A
I did everything I could to stop it!

JOSEPH
What?

A
Shut up!

JOSEPH
You tried to stop it?

A
Just...shut up!

(She turns away.)

JOSEPH
(referring to Rabbit)
Does he know that?
(looks at Washington)
Do they know?

(MORE)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

(beat)

Wait a minute. I'm confused.

A

(to herself)

"Why is a raven like a writing desk?"

JOSEPH

What?

(no reply)

Which side are you on?

(She moves away.)

Pours another drink.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Maybe you should slow up a little bit there.

A

Cause you're such an expert?

JOSEPH

I'm just saying...

(beat)

A

Are you gonna do it?

JOSEPH

Do what?

(She looks at the suitcase.)

He looks at it.

He looks up at Washington.)

13

THE SECOND PACKAGE

13

(RABBIT enters with a second suitcase.)

He sets the second suitcase down by the first, and approaches A.)

RABBIT

This one's for you. Slot two-thirty-eight. Ford Fiesta.
(holds out the keys to her)

A

Ford Fiesta?

RABBIT

It's all we had left.

A

He gets an Elite, and I get a fucking Ford Fiesta?

RABBIT

Don't be like that.

A

Bullshit. This is bullshit. You assholes have treated me like shit since the day I got here.

RABBIT

Shut up, I've been good to you. You were a fucking intern two weeks ago.

A

You're a monster, you know that?

RABBIT

Yeah, but I'm your monster. And you're mine. Aren't ya?

(She takes the keys.

RABBIT looks at Joseph.)

RABBIT (CONT'D)

Stand by for the go.

(RABBIT exits.)

JOSEPH

Is he as crazy as I think he is?

A

I don't know.

JOSEPH

Is there something going on between you two? Never mind. Stupid question. Are you and him...

A

What?

JOSEPH

Is he...you know... Is there anything you need to tell someone?

A

Ew. No. Are you kidding?

JOSEPH

What did he mean? He's your monster?

A

I have no idea.

(turns away)

This is not happening. I'm asleep. I'm dreaming. This is a nightmare. I just have to...wake up. I have to scream. I have to scream. But I can't move. I'm paralysed. Wake up.

(Nothing happens.)

JOSEPH

I think we're already awake.

(beat)

You really think we're dreaming? Who's dreaming? You? Or me?

A

Wake up. Wake up.

(Nothing.)

JOSEPH

(looks at his keys)

You want the Elite?

(offers her the keys)

Go ahead. Take it.

A

Don't be stupid.

JOSEPH

Why not?

A

Why not? Rabbit. He's not gonna... Forget it. It's just the way he is. He's always treated me like a... He's just like my... What an asshole.

JOSEPH

Are you gonna do it?

A

Do what?

JOSEPH

Take the suitcase...and the car...to the river.

A

I'm not goin' to the river.

JOSEPH

You're not?

A

My drop off is different than yours.

JOSEPH

Huh?

A

Mine's out in the marshes.

JOSEPH

Oh. The marshes. Wow.

(beat)

The Fiesta's not a bad car. "A small car, but big on value."
I looked at a Fiesta. It's funny. I looked at a Fiesta, but
you got one.

A

You think that's funny?

JOSEPH

Well, not funny like a joke...

A

You sure about that? I think it's a joke. I think this
whole fucking place is a joke.

JOSEPH

Okay.

A

Okay?

JOSEPH

I don't know. Not okay, is that what you want to hear? I'm
just trying to be... All right, forget it. Forget it.

(He moves away.)

Looks at the suitcases.

Looks at the keys.

Looks at Washington.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Why did this happen to me? What did I do?

A

You're gonna do what they want.

JOSEPH

What makes you say that?

(beat)

What am I supposed to do? They've got...everything. They've
got the FBI. They've got the CIA. They've got the A-Team!
God knows what else. The Army, the Navy, the Air Force. The
guy's a Marine, for God sake! And she... What is she?

(MORE)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

She said they would vaporize me. Disappear me. Fish food.

(looks at the suitcases)

Fish food. I'm sure they know what they're doing. I mean...
Who am I? I'm a bank teller. I'm a bank teller. What can I
do?

A

Right.

JOSEPH

She knows me. She knows all about me... She was...

A

She was what?

JOSEPH

She was in my head.

A

What are you talking about?

JOSEPH

She was in my head!

A

You're acting nutty again.

JOSEPH

What is going on here?

A

We're waiting. For the signal. That's what's going on here.
Now shut up. I'm trying to think.

JOSEPH

Will you please stop telling me to shut up.

A

I will if you'll SHUT UP!

(Beat.)

They wait.)

JOSEPH

(to himself)

Applebees. Why Applebees?

A

What did you say your name was?

JOSEPH

Are you gonna tell me to shut up again?

A
I just want to know your name.

JOSEPH
I told you. It's Joseph. How many times do I have to say
it? SHEESH!

A
Don't get angry.

JOSEPH
I'm not angry!

A
Get even.

JOSEPH
What?

A
I'm just fuckin' with you.

JOSEPH
Great.

(Another long beat.)

A
Joseph. Joey? Joe?

JOSEPH
Joseph.

A
Oh. "Joseph." What are you doing here?

14 THE THIRD PACKAGE

14

(RABBIT enters with a third
suitcase.)

He sets it down with the other
two suitcases, and looks at K and
A.)

RABBIT
This one's mine.

(beat)
What's wrong?

(sniffs)
I don't like what I smell here.

Don't look at me.

A

What's that smell?

RABBIT
(to K)

Nothing. There's no smell. I just...I just...

JOSEPH

Look at me.

RABBIT

All right.

JOSEPH

Look at my eyes. Are you looking at my eyes?

RABBIT

Yes.

JOSEPH

Are you sure you're looking at my eyes?

RABBIT

Yes! I'm looking at your--

JOSEPH

Look hard. Look deep. All the way inside my skull. You can see centuries of history inside my skull. Do you see it?

RABBIT

Do I see--?

JOSEPH

D-day. Waterloo. The burning of Rome. Hannibal's elephant. Pharaoh's charioteer!

RABBIT

Okay.

JOSEPH

Back off, Rabbit!

A

You shut the hell up!

RABBIT
(turning on A)

I'm sick and tired of your bullshit!

A

You are such a punk.

RABBIT

A

You're not the boss of me.

RABBIT

You come in here with your green-ass nonsense / about changing the world--"essential morality!"

A

I work for Duchess, not you. You got that?

RABBIT

You know nothing about the real world.

A

You got a problem with me, you talk it over with Duchess. Until then get out of my face.

RABBIT

Saint John Aquinas--Ha!

A

Thomas Aquinas, you idiot!

RABBIT

Nothing about real power.

A

You are such a dick!

RABBIT

You're a child.

A

Fuck you.

(beat)

JOSEPH

Let's not fight.

RABBIT

(to A)

Just stick to the plan.

JOSEPH

Can we talk about the plan?

(DUCHESS enters with a forth suitcase.)

She sets it down by the other
three suitcases.

She regards the other three
conspirators.)

DUCHESS

We all good here?

RABBIT

(referring to A)

This one's got the jitters.

DUCHESS

(to A)

What's the problem?

(no reply)

Second thoughts?

A

I'm not doin' this.

RABBIT

You little shit.

DUCHESS

Shut up, Rabbit!

RABBIT

(to Duchess)

I knew she couldn't handle this. / I told you that!

DUCHESS

I said shut up!

(He turns away.)

DUCHESS (CONT'D)

(back to A)

You really think you can back out now?

A

I was against this from the start.

RABBIT

You're against everything from the start!

A

I'm against killing people, yes! That was not in my job
description!

RABBIT

You knew what you were signing up for when you came to work here. We all know that. You think this is your Sorority House?

A

It's supposed to be the highest office in the land! I guess I just had unrealistic expectations about working here!

RABBIT

You're god-damned right you had unrealistic expectations, girlie.

A

You sexist piece of shit.

RABBIT

You want to play with the big dogs you better be ready to bite, and bite hard.

A

G-I-Fucking Joe!

RABBIT

We bite for keeps around here, and everybody knows it, Little Miss Fauntleroy!

A

Your brain is fucking fried! You been through one too many wars, dude! You're fucking nuts! You're a walking I.E.D.!

DUCHESS

Will you two shut the hell up!

(Silence.)

JOSEPH

Can we all please stop shouting?

RABBIT

(looking at A)

Somebody tipped off the Hatter.

(All eyes on A.)

DUCHESS

Don't tell me... Don't tell me... That was you? You did that? Oh, no, no, no, no, no. Why didn't you just stab me in the back? Put a stake through my heart. You realize how that put us at risk? How could you do that? After all I've done for you. Rabbit and me both. We love you. You know that, don't you? And yet you did that. Why? You betrayed us. Why? You betrayed me. Me. Look at me.

A

I'm sorry.

DUCHESS AND RABBIT
(together)

You're sorry?!

A

Yes, I'm sorry, but I draw the line at killing people,
cutting them up into pieces, and putting them in suitcases!
You're gonna have to find somebody else!

(beat)

JOSEPH

So who is it?

DUCHESS

Who is what?

JOSEPH

In the suitcase...es there. Mad Hatter. Who is it really?

A

I'm not doin' this.

DUCHESS

Wait a minute. Mad Hatter?

(to A)

Who do you think is in there?

A

What?

RABBIT

She thinks it's the Hatter.

JOSEPH

It's not the Mad Hatter?

RABBIT

No.

JOSEPH

Then who is it?

RABBIT

(to A)

Don't you read your fucking e-mail?

A

What? Which account?

Oh, my fucking god.

RABBIT

You didn't read the e-mail?

DUCHESS

What e-mail?

A

Christ!

RABBIT

I told you to read your e-mail!

DUCHESS

Do you know how many accounts I have? Who's got time to read every single e-mail. Why didn't you text me?

A

We can't text this stuff--are you insane?

RABBIT

(beat)

JOSEPH

So who is it?!

A

(a realization)

It's him.

JOSEPH

Who?

DUCHESS

Red King.

(A is stunned--again.)

RABBIT

(to A)

Close your mouth.

(she does)

JOSEPH

Who's the Red King?

(They all look at Joseph.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

(another realization)

No.

RABBIT
(to Duchess, re Joseph)
Where the hell did you get this guy?

DUCHESS
Willie and Fritz.

RABBIT
Oh, Jesus.

DUCHESS
Don't worry about him. He's not the one to worry about.

(DUCHESS and RABBIT turn to A.)

JOSEPH
Now what?

A
(to herself)
This isn't happening.

(RABBIT gives DUCHESS a look--
"not good.")

DUCHESS checks her watch.

RABBIT checks his.)

DUCHESS
(to Rabbit)
You watchin' the time?

RABBIT
Yeah, I'm watchin' it.

(DUCHESS goes to the bar.

Pours one for herself, and one
for RABBIT.)

JOSEPH
What are we doing?

(No answer from the others.

DUCHESS hands a drink to RABBIT.

One for herself.

They watch A.)

What about...?
JOSEPH (CONT'D)
(indicates Washington)

What about 'im?
RABBIT

Are we being watched or not?
JOSEPH

By him?
RABBIT

(RABBIT laughs.)

Wait a minute. You said...
JOSEPH
(to Duchess)

What did I say?
DUCHESS

(JOSEPH looks at the portrait.)

That's funny. That's really funny.
RABBIT

Who are you people?
JOSEPH

(Beat.)

Clock's ticking..."Anonymous."
RABBIT
(back to A)

(A look from DUCHESS.
K picks up on it.)

Fuck you.
A
(to Rabbit)

"Anonymous?"
JOSEPH
(beat)

Why "Anonymous?"
(beat)

"Anonymous" like the one in the paper?
(to A)

Are you "Anonymous?"

A

(half-heartedly)

I don't know what you're talking about.

JOSEPH

The op-ed in the New York Times. "Anonymous." "The Quiet Resistance." On the inside. Was that you?

A

(half-heartedly)

I don't know what you're talking about.

RABBIT

Don't believe everything you read in the New York Times.

JOSEPH

Is that who you people are? "The Resistance on the Inside?"

(beat)

You were gonna keep him on track. In spite of his "misguided impulses." Have I got that right?

(beat)

Well? What happened?

RABBIT

You sure can pick'em, Duchess.

DUCHESS

Are you calling my judgement into question?

RABBIT

The clock is ticking.

(They turn to A.)

Is she in?

Or is she out?)

JOSEPH

What happens when they find out he's... Won't they miss him?

(DUCHESS checks her watch.)

RABBIT checks his.

Eyes on A.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

What are we waiting for?

(nobody replies)

Can anyone hear me?

(DUCHESS approaches A, and touches her face, gently.)

DUCHESS

We can do this. I understand why you tipped off Mad Hatter.
I understand. We got around that.

(to Rabbit)

Thank you.

RABBIT

Team effort.

DUCHESS

(back to A)

Just let the plan work.

JOSEPH

What exactly is the plan here? Will someone please tell me
that.

DUCHESS

What is the plan?

(beat)

JOSEPH

You don't have a plan.

RABBIT

"Everyone's got a plan--then you get punched in the mouth."
Mike Tyson.

JOSEPH

You're making this up as you go.

DUCHESS

We're all part of a plan, Mr. K. A plan that is much bigger
than any one of us knows, or fully understands, individually.
You, me, Rabbit, A--none of us knows everything about the
whole, big, overall plan. We each know just the little bitty
part that each of us plays, each in his, or her, own unique
way. That's the way we do things here. That's the way it
is. And either you do your part, or you don't. If you do,
you get a little reward. If you don't...

JOSEPH

What if you don't play your little, bitty part?

RABBIT

That's when the problems start.

DUCHESS

You dig?

JOSEPH

You really think you're gonna get away with this?

(beat)

Has it really come to this?

RABBIT

It's really come to this.

DUCHESS

We're depending on you to play your part, Mr. K.

RABBIT

Your country needs you.

(Beat.

JOSEPH looks at the suitcases.)

JOSEPH

He was a human being.

RABBIT

Ut-oh.

JOSEPH

He was a person!

RABBIT

Here we go.

JOSEPH

Even if he was a horrible person, and he did horrible things, and he was selfish, and dishonest, and mean, really mean... Okay, I admit he was a horrible person, but this? Is this what we've become? This is... barbaric. This is tribalism.

DUCHESS

This is politics.

RABBIT

This is war.

A

This is a bad dream.

JOSEPH

(to A)

You can't be a part of this.

(A looks at DUCHESS.

Looks at RABBIT.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

(to A)

You tipped off the Mad Hatter. Why? Why did you do that? Because she, or he, or whoever it was--that was a human being. A human life. The precious miracle of a human life. The one thing we can all agree on. The one thing that unites us...as people...as human beings!

(beat)

A

No. This is different.

JOSEPH

What? Why? Why is this different?

A

You didn't work for him.

RABBIT

I knew it would come to this. Sooner or later. I knew it all along.

DUCHESS

He changed. He won. That was never supposed to happen. But it did. And we were off and running.

RABBIT

You were off and running.

DUCHESS

We all were. And we haven't stopped runnin' since. Yes, Mr. K--it's come to this.

RABBIT

We shoulda used the Twenty-fifth.

A

No way.

RABBIT

I had the Boy Scout and the Turtle in my pocket.

A

He never woulda let that happen. / Never.

RABBIT

We coulda pushed that through, if we worked the Mad House right.

A

He had the Old Man on his side then, he had Rasputin, and Himmler--

RABBIT

Napoleon was with me all the way on that.

A

He had the Royal-fucking-Couple behind him.

RABBIT

Napoleon coulda brought the rest of those cocksuckers along with us.

A

No way the Twenty-fifth ever woulda worked. Waste of time.

DUCHESS

We didn't have the votes!

A

(to Rabbit)

Another one of your stupid ideas.

RABBIT

I might have to pop you.

A

Go ahead and try it, old man. I'll cut your fuckin' balls off!

(beat)

JOSEPH

What about...

A

What?

JOSEPH

His...wife.

(looks at the suitcase)

RABBIT

Ha! Are you kidding?

(DUCHESS shoots another look at Rabbit.)

Again, JOSEPH picks up on it.)

JOSEPH

What? You mean...

(another realization)

She knows?

(beat)

She's the Red Queen.

(MORE)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
(beat)

Wow.

(They all turn on K.)

DUCHESS
This is the plan, Mr. K. And you have a very important part to play in it. Your participation is crucial to the success of this operation. Do you understand me?

(K looks at the suitcases.)

JOSEPH
I can't. This is... Did you really have to...

RABBIT
What's done is done, Pilgrim.

JOSEPH
But this...this is...

RABBIT
Who do you think came up with the idea to whack Mad Hatter?
(looks at the suitcases)
You're lookin' at 'im. Red King. What goes around comes around.

JOSEPH
People won't stand for this. People will rise up.

(A siren in the distance.)

RABBIT looks out the window.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
What's that?

RABBIT
(checks his watch)
Cheshire Cat. Right on time.

JOSEPH
What happens when they find out? They'll find out! Won't they?

A
(looks at Washington)
Before the law, there stands a doorkeeper.

JOSEPH
What?

A

(turning to K)

When you go to law school, they tell you a story. It goes like this: Before the Law, there stands a doorkeeper. A young man comes before the doorkeeper and asks to go in. The doorkeeper says that he can't go in now. The young man thinks it over, and says, "Okay, how about later? Can I go in later? Tomorrow? Another day?" "Possibly," says the doorkeeper, "but not now." The door is open. The young man looks through the doorway, into the corridor beyond. The doorkeeper laughs and says: "Go ahead. Go on in, but remember, I told you: not now. And I warn you, I'm only the first doorkeeper you'll meet in here. Every hallway in here leads to another door. And every door has another doorkeeper. And each one of them is way worse than me. Way worse. The further in you go, the worse they get. You wouldn't believe what those motherfuckers upstairs are like. Those fuckers will grind your balls into flea powder. The young man wasn't expecting this to be so difficult. The Law should be open to all of us at any time, shouldn't it? But he looks at the doorkeeper, in his big heavy military Greatcoat. And he decides...to wait. Till he gets permission to go through the door. So he waits. And he waits. He waits there for days. He waits there for years. He asks again and again, "May I go in, please?" Till the doorkeeper is sick of hearing his voice. In the end, he always tells him no. As great men do.

(Rabbit chuckles)

The guy tries everything. He tries bribing the doorkeeper. He offers him everything he has. Every last cent. Every last thing of any value that he has. Even the gold ring on his finger. The doorkeeper takes everything he offers. But as he does, he says, "I'm only accepting this so you won't think you haven't tried something."

JOSEPH

Huh?

A

What does that mean? It means what it means. He never gets the permission he's waiting for. So what does he do?

(beat)

Years go by. Literally. He keeps watching the doorkeeper, constantly he watches him. He forgets about the other doorkeepers. This one is the only thing keeping him from the Law. He curses his miserable fate. God damn you, God damn you, God damn you! He shouts, and shouts, and shouts...for a few years. Then a few more years go by. And he grows older. Older and older. Till the shouting fades into idle grumbling.

(grumbles)

Motherfucking, pig, fuck, bastard, shit... He starts talking to himself. More and more, he just talks to himself. Till finally he's like a little kid again, babbling...to himself.

(MORE)

A (CONT'D)

(babbles)

Gaaaa...gaaa...guuu...guuu... His eyes start to go. He can't tell, is it getting darker in here, or is he going blind? But then, in the darkness, he sees a brilliant radiant light, streaming through the doorway, the doorway to the Law. It's still there. Still open. Waiting for him to go through. He knows he doesn't have much time now, before he dies. He motions to the doorkeeper, weakly. "What is it now, old-timer," says the doorkeeper, "you never give up, do you?" And the old guy asks him, "In all these years, why am I the only one? Why am I the only one who wants to go in here?" And the doorkeeper says, "You stupid shmuck. No one else can get in here. This door is only...for you." And with that, he shuts the great door closed.

(Sound of a huge door closing.

Silence.)

JOSEPH

I'm not sure I understand.

DUCHESS

Yes, you do.

(RABBIT checks his watch.)

RABBIT

Applebees.

(Beat.

DUCHESS is the first to move. She downs a shot, and approaches her suitcase.

Picks up the suitcase.

And heads for the door.

A last word to K.)

DUCHESS

He had to go.

(She exits with her suitcase.

RABBIT downs his shot, and looks at the other two.)

RABBIT

We're burnin' daylight.

(He crosses to his suitcase,
picks it up, and heads out.

He stops for a last look back at
President Washington.

He salutes the painting, and
exits with his suitcase.

Beat.)

JOSEPH

(to A)

What would you say: Life is a game, or life is a test?

(beat)

I'm beginning to think I should have said, "Life is a game."

A

Life is a dream.

(She picks up her suitcase,
crosses to the door, and stops.

Turns back.)

A (CONT'D)

Joseph Kaye?

JOSEPH

Yes.

(beat)

What's your name?

(She smiles.

And exits with her suitcase.

Alone, JOSEPH looks at the last
remaining suitcase.

He looks up at Washington.

He sits on the suitcase.

Thinks.

Hangs his head in despair--he
doesn't know what he should do.

Then it comes to him.

He looks at the car keys in his
hand.

He looks at the door.

He stands.)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

This door is only for you.

(He takes the suitcase and heads out.

Stops.

One last look back at the "Father of the Country."

He exits with his suitcase.

Fade to a spotlight on

George Washington.

Blackout.)

THE END