

Constitutional

by
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1st Draft
May 17, 2011
Writing Styles: Epic Theatre

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CHAPTER ONE: WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES...

Lights up. It's a sunny morning in spring at the South Jersey Shore - Stone Harbor, NJ to be specific.

Stage right, GlassRoots Gallery, a family owned and operated retail store filled to the gills with American-made glass art. Stage left, the town court house, white, with a widow's watch on the roof making it look like an ivory tower. On one side of the court house is a large Plexiglas window, behind which sits NANCY, a polished older woman who is far more comfortable than a government job can afford. She buffs her nails and ignores everything. On the other side is a jail cell with bars. In front of both buildings is a sidewalk, and between them are wooden stairs leading up to a boardwalk. Above the boardwalk hangs a street sign that reads, "PARKING METERS ENFORCED AFTER MAY 1st." In the sky is a small airplane dragging a banner with the chapter title (to be changed for each chapter). Seagulls laugh at the most inappropriate times.

A TEA PARTY MEMBER, female and frumpy, enters and sets up a table on the sidewalk outside of GlassRoots. In front of the table she places a large standing placard with a picture of President Obama sporting a Hitler moustache. The sign reads "IMPEACH OBAMA."

Off stage we hear a CAR pull up and park. Enter MIRANDA, mid-20s, manager of GlassRoots.

TEA PARTY LADY

Help us impeach Obama!

MIRANDA

No thank you.

Miranda unlocks the front door of the store. She takes a step in then changes her mind and comes back out onto the sidewalk.

MIRANDA

Ma'am, if you wouldn't mind, can you please move your table down the street?

TEA PARTY LADY

It's a free country.

MIRANDA

It's just -- Well you see, you're loitering.

TEA PARTY LADY

The sidewalk is public property. You can't tell me what to do.

MIRANDA

Do you have a permit?

TEA PARTY LADY

Yes I do!

She pulls out a piece of yellow paper and waves it in front of Miranda's face.

TEA PARTY LADY

It's people like you ruining America for the rest of us.

MIRANDA

I just asked if you would please move - you know what? Never mind. Have a nice day.

TEA PARTY LADY

Oh well excuse me. But you're supporting a spineless puppet for the British!

MIRANDA

A. The special relationship is a little more involved than that, and B. Even if he were a puppet, I don't see how that would make President Obama anything like Hitler, who single handedly roused a country in stark -- And who are the Jews in this situation? I don't get it. You know what? Never mind. Just have a nice day.

TEA PARTY LADY

You'll be sorry when you loose your job to a bunch of Mexicans!

Miranda waves the woman off and goes inside. Lights down.

CHAPTER TWO: IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION...

Lights up on the same.

TEA PARTY LADY

Impeach the spawn of the Devil! Impeach the spineless puppet! Impeach the next Hilter!
Impeach the--

MIRANDA

(offstage)

Just what the fuck is this?

Miranda enters holding a yellow piece of paper.

MIRANDA

I got a parking ticket.

TEA PARTY LADY

Serves you right for trying to avoid paying your civic duty.

MIRANDA

I put my business card in the windshield. What day is this? May already? Damn.

TEA PARTY LADY

Watch your language, missy.

MIRANDA

(warning)

Lady--

OFFICER BOBBY, a fresh faced cop fresh out of the academy strolls onto the scene.

MIRANDA

You!

OFFICER BOBBY

Can I help you ma'am?

MIRANDA

It's miss, and I'd like to know if you were the one who gave me this parking ticket.

OFFICER BOBBY

Which car is yours?

MIRANDA

Gee, I don't know. The only one parked on the street!

Seagulls laugh. So does the Tea Party Lady. Lights down.

CHAPTER THREE: ESTABLISH JUSTICE...

Lights up. Noon - the sun is directly over head. The Tea Party Lady is still out, and Nancy continues to buff her nails. Miranda enters carrying a small brown box with the yellow ticket sticking out of it. She goes to the Plexiglass window.

MIRANDA

I'm here to pay my parking ticket.

NANCY

Cash or credit?

MIRANDA

Cash.

Miranda lifts out a plastic baggie full of pennies and drops it in the slot. Then a bag of nickels. Then a bag of dimes. The noise brings Nancy's attention into focus.

NANCY

Oh, no. Oh, no. Oh, **no**. We're not going to take that.

MIRANDA

It's legal tender. You have to take it.

NANCY

Oh, no. Oh, no. Oh, no. You're going to have to go put that in rolls.

MIRANDA

You put it in rolls.

NANCY

I can't make a deposit with change all out like this.

MIRANDA

Then you put it in rolls. I counted it up for you and everything. Here, I even put in an extra dollar just in case.

NANCY

Take that crap out of here. Go to the bank, put it in rolls, and then maybe I'll entertain you.

MIRANDA

So...what you're saying is that I should take this money to the bank so that I can bring it back here so that you can take it back to the bank?

NANCY

You've got a bad attitude, missy. Who do you think you are? You can't just pull a stunt like this.

MIRANDA

It's not a stunt. It's the legal tender with which I am going to pay off my fine in accordance with U.S. Code 5103, title 31, subtitle iv, chapter 51, subchapter i. You have to take my money.

NANCY

Oh no I don't. If you don't leave, I'm going to call the police.

MIRANDA

If you don't take my money, **I'm** going to call the police.

Nancy pulls out a BIG RED BUTTON and slaps it vigorously.

NANCY

POLICE!!! POLICE!!! POLICE!!!

Seagulls laugh. Lights down.

CHAPTER FOUR: **INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY...**

Lights up on Miranda surrounded by a semi-circle of 5 BIG POLICE OFFICERS (MICKEY, RICKY, DAVIE, CLARENCE, and TOM). They are very demonstrative about the fact that they have guns on their belts, and penises in their pants.

MIRANDA

What does after May 1st even mean? Technically that's every day. The grammar is just appalling.

OFFICER TOM

Lady, you're out of control.

MIRANDA

I'm out of control? **You're** out of control.

OFFICER CLARENCE

What's your name?

MIRANDA

Why do you want to know my name?

OFFICER CLARENCE

Give us your ID or we'll arrest you.

MIRANDA

For what? Trying to pay a parking ticket?

Miranda thrusts the brown box in the officers' general direction.

MIRANDA

You want to take my money?

They all hold up their hands like the box is contaminated with the plague.

OFFICER TOM

Get that out of my face. You leave or I'll arrest you.

MIRANDA

You have to take my money. This is absurd. And illegal. You know what you're doing is illegal, right?

From the look on their faces we can assume that they don't know shit about the law.

MIRANDA

You do know that it's illegal don't you?

Lights down.

CHAPTER FIVE: **PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE...**

Lights up. The Officer Tom and Officer Clarence carry Miranda away from the court house by the elbows. The other three Officers follow in tow and babble nonsense into their walkie talkies.

Seagulls laugh, as does the Tea Party Lady. The Officers dump Miranda in front of GlassRoots.

MIRANDA

(calling after them)

Well a good fucking day to you too!

Officer Tom turns back and begins to draw his gun. Miranda squeeks, ducks down, and runs toward her store. The officers take up station outside the court house, from where they keep an eye on Miranda. Officer Clarence tries to settle Nancy's frazzled nerves.

Miranda rights herself and brushes off her sleeves.

TEA PARTY LADY

Ahahahaha. If you could but just see your face!

MIRANDA

Don't you have anything better to do with your time?

TEA PARTY LADY

What could be more important than this? IMPEACH OBAMA. SEND SATAN BACK TO THE DEPTHS. SAVE AMERICA. DRINK TEA!

MIRANDA

You're a fucking idiot.

TEA PARTY LADY

What did you just say to me?

MIRANDA

Uh...I need a new widget. For my phone.

TEA PARTY LADY

Harumph.

Officer Bobby enters.

TEA PARTY LADY

Help us impeach the fuckwat tush-boy for the British kumquats!

OFFICER BOBBY

Language.

TEA PARTY LADY

Sorry, officer. I just get so heated when I see our great nation come under the threat of terrorists.

MIRANDA

Can't you do something about her?

OFFICER BOBBY

I would if I could.

MIRANDA

You're nice Officer Bobby, but ineffectual.

Officer Tom motions to Bobby. Officer Bobby tips his hat to Miranda then joins the other boys in blue. Lights down.

CHAPTER SIX: **PROMOTE GENERAL WELFARE...**

Lights up. Afternoon - the sun is in the west, shadows are long. Miranda stands over the Tea Party Lady, her fist raised high. The Tea Party Lady cowers under the threat of getting punched again.

MIRANDA

Just shut **the fuck** up already!

TEA PARTY LADY

POLICE!!! POLICE!!! POLICE!!! She has a bomb!

The 5 Officers plus Officer Bobby come running onto stage with guns drawn.

OFFICER TOM

Drop it!

MIRANDA

(to self)

Fuck my balls.

Miranda raises her arms in surrender. Lights down.

CHAPTER SEVEN: **AND SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY...**

Lights up. Evening - the sun is setting. The 5 Officers and Nancy are huddled around the Tea Part Lady on the other side of the stage. They try to sooth her shattered nerves.

Miranda is sitting in the jail cell singing a soft tune
("Didn't Leave Nobody But the Baby") in a lovely voice.
Officer Bobby leans up against the wall beside the cell,
his eyes closed, listening to Miranda sing. He pats the
wall and taps his foot making the beat.

MIRANDA

Go to sleep little babe
Go to sleep little babe

Your mamma's gone away and your daddy's gonna stay
Didn't leave nobody but the baby

Go to sleep little babe
Go to sleep little babe

Everybody's gone in the cotton and the corn
Didn't leave nobody but the baby

You're a sweet little babe
You're a sweet little babe

Honey in the rock and the sugar don't stop
Gonna bring a bottle to the baby

Don't you weep pretty babe
Don't you weep pretty babe

She's long gone with her red shoes on
Gonna need another loving babe

Go to sleep little babe
Go to sleep little babe

You and me and the devil makes three
Don't need no other lovin' babe

Go to sleep little babe
Go to sleep little babe

Come lay bones on the alabaster stones
And be my everlovin baby.

Lights down.

**CHAPTER EIGHT: DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION
FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

Lights up. Dawn the next morning. Officer Bobby is sleeping on the sidewalk outside the jail cell. Miranda is sleeping on the window ledge of the cell. The Tea Party lady is asleep under her table. Seagulls laugh and wake the slumbering patriots.

OFFICER BOBBY

(stretching and yawning)

How did you sleep?

MIRANDA

Not as bad as I thought. Thanks for staying with me.

Officer Bobby gets up, takes out his keys and unlocks the jail cell. Miranda, on stiff legs, slowly comes out.

OFFICER BOBBY

Just promise me you won't do anything like that ever again.

MIRANDA

I promise.

He shakes her hand, tips his hat then exists. Miranda cracks her back as she heads toward GlassRoots. The Tea Party Lady organizes her station.

MIRANDA

Good morning.

The Tea Party Lady shields herself from another potential blow. Miranda just smiles apologetically.

TEA PARTY LADY

I see you've come around.

MIRANDA

Something like that. I shouldn't have hit you. Are you okay?

TEA PARTY LADY

People have suffered a lot worse defending our great country.

MIRANDA

Agreed.

A beat.

TEA PARTY LADY

I shouldn't have yelled "bomb." They gave me a fine.

MIRANDA

It's okay. They just figured it was an accident. In the excitement and all.

They smile, a little weakly, but honestly at each other.
As the sun rises we hear SOUNDS OF SUMMER.
Tourists driving into town, and playing on the beach.
Seagulls, and airplanes, and soda bottles being cracked
open.

Miranda unlocks the store front and goes inside.

TEA PARTY LADY

Impeach Obama! Let's get a president with God on his side! Re-estate Bush! Impeach Obama.

Miranda comes back outside wearing an "I'M WITH STUPID" T shirt, and carrying a miniature American flag. She stands on the sidewalk next to the Tea Party Lady - the hand on her shirt pointing to the lady - and waves her little flag.

MIRANDA

(singing freely)

O! say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

TEA PARTY LADY

This is America! This is **our** America! USA! USA! USA!

Black out.

End of play.