

"The choice is: we can either sit back and kill others, or we can start killing ourselves, start killing America."

Written during the first years of the Iraq war and opening on the weekend of Bush's second inauguration, **BRING THE WAR HOME** examines militant resistance through a fictionalized time warp placing the infamous Weather Underground in modern day. Iraq parallels Vietnam, radical queers parallel the Black Panthers, the future repeats the past.

This play made predictions, it assumed the Iraq war would drag on for years and that resistance would escalate, growing more radical and more militant. **BRING THE WAR HOME** rejects pacifism, civil disobedience, and reform, attempting to get at what it might mean to raise the stakes. Some of these predictions proved quite accurate.

The incorrect predictions are also telling. Today, the most confrontational radicals do not rally around the anti-war cause, they recognize and seek to attack the totality of oppression and control, of which war is but one manifestation. **BRING THE WAR HOME** draws influence from entirely different philosophical background and political focus than the current insurrectionary movements. Its conclusion nevertheless resonates with the personalized and amoral stance adopted by many who currently challenge the state's monopoly on violence.

**INSURGENT
THEATRE**



BRING THE WAR HOME

by Ben Turk

This play was first performed in January 2005, opening on the weekend of George W Bush's 2nd inauguration. It was produced by those who later became Insurgent Theatre at The Astor Theatre in The Brady Street Pharmacy. It starred Darrel Cherney as TERRY, Dr. Nick Westphal as TED, Dixie Jacobs as DIANA, Shiren Rattigan as KATHY, and Becky Turk as CATHY. Cover art is from the poster, designed by Ryan at Blue Like Neon.

The author would love to support anyone interested in mounting their own DIY production or adaptation of this play. He's even got a few ideas and updates to include. Please contact Ben through Insurgent Theatre (insurgenttheatre.org) for more information.

Established companies or profit-seeking producers interested in the play should also contact Ben. We might be able to work something out. It'll have more to do with your practices and politics than your ability to pay me. Any other productions will be opposed by any means available.

CHARACTERS: TERRY, TED, DIANA, KATHY, and CATHY

The near future. The Iraq war has escalated. The Iraqi government is illegitimate and corrupt. Everyday, the US is getting more entrenched, more troops are being deployed, and more people are dying.

Interior. First floor of expensive townhouse in Greenwich Village. A cheap folding table with chairs against the right wall. A coat-rack near the right exit. A tattered loveseat and TV in an alcove on the left. The TV faces downstage, the loveseat faces upstage. Political posters hang on the walls.

TERRY, TED and KATHY enter stage right in conversation. They wear black coats or sweatshirts and black bandanas, either worn around their necks or in their pockets. TERRY is wearing sunglasses and carrying a tire iron, which he drops on the table or floor near the coat-rack along with his coat. TED is carrying a helmet with a vertical hinged mask, either a catcher's helmet or a hockey mask. TERRY and KATHY take off their coats and drop them over the back of a chair, or on the ground. TED sets the helmet down on stage.

TERRY: The bridge to the twenty-first century! Yeah, a fucking bridge from ineffectual one-term loser Bush the senior to The Notorious GWB.

KATHY: Yes, Terry, I get your point, Clinton was our Guizot. Very good, but that doesn't mean-

TERRY: Hey, (*He grabs her shoulder, puts up his fists*) Ted, back me up on this. (*They start play-fighting*) The other night you said-

TED: What's 'the bridge to the twenty-first century'?

TERRY (*ducking a punch*): Clinton's state of the union, from... I don't know ninety-eight or something. This speech anyway, and he keeps saying: (*stops boxing to imitate Clinton*) 'I'm gonna build a bridge to the twenty-first century. I'm gonna make some promises and then just do what the republicans were planning anyway.' (KATHY *hits him in the stomach*.) Hey-

KATHY: Sorry, couldn't resist. (*They box again*.)

TED: Sure Terry, Clinton sold out America. (TERRY *lunges at KATHY, drives her back*.) But you've gotta spread some of that blame out. Just because Clinton didn't hand a decent platform to Gore and Kerry doesn't mean they couldn't have come up with their own, or that the democrats had to nominate them. (KATHY *rallies*)

KATHY: Again, like I said the blame comes back to the voting public, we the people. (TERRY *is up against the wall*)

TED: Not all of it. The system is pretty flawed, you can't really say-

(TERRY *in desperation, puts his head down and charges, grabbing KATHY around the middle*. TED *walks out of the room, exasperated*.)

TERRY: If we had some decent leadership –

KATHY (*twisting around, fighting harder*): Fuck leadership!

TERRY: Teddy- hey, where'd he go.

KATHY: He'll be right back.

TERRY: Who's Guizot? (*They disentangle, stop fighting*. KATHY *sits*. TERRY *rubs his shoulder, stretches*)

KATHY: François Guizot. The French politician who sold out the left after coming to power... Y'know Metternich and Guizot? (TERRY

TED: I don't- to me it's about the war, about physical results, not our identities, or consciousness. *We're* not important.

DIANA: That's okay, then focus on that. The important thing is taking this action.

TED: But you just said that we can't end war, that we can't change the world.

DIANA: No, we are changing the world. Everything anyone ever does changes the world. Each individual has an impact. This action- we're taking responsibility for our impact. We'll change the world to fit our desires.

TERRY: We've got to. We've gotta do it now. I'm going down to set the timers. (*Exit right, short pause*)

TED: Diana, I'm doing this to end the war. The war is wrong and I want to stop it. You, your motivation... you're looking at this wrong; I think you're too... self-centered.

DIANA: I am self-centered; I'm taking responsibility for myself. This isn't just about Iraq, we're going to...

(*Ka boom, bright flash of light, huge explosion noise, furniture shakes and falls. All lights go red then black. TV comes on knocked over with broadcast*)

A flat in Greenwich Village exploded today, a gas leak is the expected cause but arson has not been ruled out. At least two people have been found dead and two young women were reported leaving the building after the explosion but there is no sign of their whereabouts at this time.

TERRY: You don't know?

TED: I- no... I guess not.

TERRY: Then all you know is what you're fighting against.

TED: Oh, and you're not? What are you for?

TERRY: I don't know.

TED: Then don't come down on me like-

TERRY: That's why we should do this. That alone is reason enough to fight.

TED: What's the point of that?

TERRY: Control.

TED: What?

DIANA: In America, fighting this war has become like breathing. It's automatic; it's not in our control.

TED: What are you talking about?

TERRY: We need to- Other people are making the most important decisions in our lives. All we do is react and oppose them. We need to reclaim our lives. Like Diana just said, if we're fighting the American people we've got to stop being American people. We've got to stop giving our lives to America. We need to revolt for no reason other than to just find ourselves.

TED: You're saying we won't develop a class consciousness until we're already fighting. You really have been listening to Kathy. Now you're talking... history- Lenin, the USSR. You don't really want that, trust me...

DIANA: I'm talking about my individual, my personal situation.

shrugs) A specter is haunting all of Europe... (*Nothing*) You can read, right?

(*TED enters without his coat.*)

TERRY: Hey Ted, what's going on?

TED: I'm fine.

TERRY: You excited?

TED: Yeah.

TERRY: Oh yeah? (*takes off his sunglasses, exposing a black eye*) Well, you don't really look excited. Hey Kathy, does Ted really *look* real excited to you?

KATHY: Sure he does, Terry, what're you saying?

TERRY: No. I don't think Ted's real excited right now.

KATHY: Hey, Teddy, you're excited, right man?

TED: Yeah, what's wrong with you Terry?

TERRY: (*genuine concern hidden behind sarcastic tone throughout*) Well, I don't know, it's just not normal for my Teddy to walk out on a political conversation like that.

TED: I just-

TERRY: and, well, in general, I'm not getting the kind of support, the kind of energy from you that I normally expect to get.

TED: Terry, stop. I don't feel like doing this right now.

TERRY: Doing what? Celebrating? Getting mentally prepared for battles to come?

TED: You know what I'm talking about.

TERRY: C'mon Ted! There's a war going on out there and we're on the front lines. We've gotta steel ourselves for the fight, grit our teeth and get ready to bite down and tear the throats out of those fat, bourgeois-

TED: Jesus Dubya. What are you, a high school football coach?

TERRY: GRRRRRRrrrr-oawr! (*pounces on KATHY, throws her off the chair onto the ground, pretending to bite her neck*)

KATHY: (*Batting at him, growling back*) Ted, it is like gym class. Y'know, there's a reason they do those pep rallies.

TED: Yeah, and there's a reason I didn't attend them. (*Turns on TV, the television shows Vietnam and Iraq news and archive footage, can be a montage, or broadcast, the final TV part is the only thing that needs to have specific content*)

TERRY: There's a reason I did, the cheerleaders! (*Holding KATHY down. KATHY slaps him*) But seriously, what's really going on here, Ted? You wanna know what it looks like? I don't want to say it, and I really don't think it's true. But, if I didn't know better I'd say that there's something wrong.

KATHY: C'mon Terry cut it out, (*swats at him*) Teddy's fine; he's sick of your shit is all. Right Teddy? You're fine, you're a blood thirsty animal menace, just like the rest of us.

TED: Yep, look, here Terry, if you look real close you can see it... I'm frothing at the mouth, just a little bit.

KATHY: Oh, I *can* see it. I can see it from over here. Terry, I'm kinda scared, he's a mad dog, just got outta the pen. Runnin' loose. (*Laughs*)

TED: RWOLF!

TERRY: Well, I'm not buyin' it. (*Goes to kitchen, returns with a bottle of whisky*) I guess I just gotta do everything myself. As soon as the stakes start getting high, everybody slacks off.

TERRY: Well, okay, maybe that's true...

DIANA: It is.

TERRY: I know. Of course I know. I mean no one can deny that once they recognize it. But- so what? What good does recognizing that really do us?

DIANA: We've got a choice.

TED: In the face of that realization we've either got to accept it, accept that we're killers, or fight against it.

DIANA: No. Either way we've got to accept that we're killers; that's just a fact. We can't live without being killers. The choice is: we can either sit back and kill them or we can start killing ourselves, start killing America.

TED: But, no... Diana, if that's how you're looking at this then it's hopeless anyway. If war is just a characteristic of humanity... if it always has been and always will be, if it's not a disease, why do we think we can cure it?

DIANA: We can't cure it. We can only choose a side and fight.

TED: That's crazy. So- I'm not... if it's a choice between American imperialism and extremist Islam-

DIANA: There's more than two sides

TED: But, you're not taking the side of peace either.

DIANA: There's no such thing.

TED: Then what do you think you're fighting for?

DIANA: Ourselves. Our side.

TED: And what's that?

dreaming for non-violent solutions. It made me realize that was just an excuse to do nothing.

TERRY: When I met you, you were teaching children, you were the perfect picture of pacifism. Now *I've* got to argue with *you* against- mass murder? How does that happen?

DIANA: I recognized that we're living in a society that commits mass murder every day.

TERRY: Just because everyone else does it doesn't mean we should. It's... Try looking at it from my side; it's like there's a disease. War is a disease, and now we've caught it.

DIANA: It's not a disease; it's normal life.

TED: Terry, she's right. Look around; is there such a thing as a way of life that's really peaceful? War has been with us forever and it's not going to stop. It's not a disease, it's the status quo. Violence is the basic form of human interaction.

TERRY: No! It's not; most people live mostly peaceful lives. They go out of their way to avoid a fight. Take it from me, someone who has made a career of inciting riots; it's hard work! Millions of people go through their whole lives without ever fighting at all.

DIANA: That's not a peaceful life. Everything they own, their food, clothes, houses, cars, and cities are all the profits of violence.

TERRY: That's-

TED: That's how we've been conceptualizing violence all along.

TERRY: What if we were wrong?

TED: We weren't. Look at the balance of trade; look at the people's working conditions and their political systems. Just because we export our violence to brutal dictatorships around the world, doesn't mean we aren't living off its rewards like any other thug.

KATHY: Oh, yes, you're a loner Terry, a rebel, so much bigger and stronger than the rest of us. God, you're so full of yourself.

TERRY: Hey, I can't really help it, can I? Look at me and tell me you don't want me at your side on the barricades!

KATHY: What's with the whiskey? I thought we were gonna stay off that for now.

TERRY: Aw c'mon, I can have a little victory juice. Here, here's one for you too.

KATHY: No, I think I'll stick with the program.

TERRY: (*Pouring a drink*) Well, I'll just set it right here (*Sets it in front of her*) and it'll wait for you or, y'know anyone, to come round and scoop it up. (*DIANA enters left*) Diana!

DIANA: Hi.

TERRY: You want some whiskey?

DIANA: You're funny. How did everything go?

TED: Fine, no serious problems. Terry wake you up?

DIANA: It's okay. (*Looking at KATHY's wrist*)

TERRY: Well, *I* thought you'd be waiting up for us. Our special welcoming committee. The lovely maiden awaiting the return of her-

DIANA: (*Inspecting his eye*) More like your mother. (*TERRY jerks away*)

KATHY: (*Drinking the whiskey*) I'm sorry Diana. We didn't mean to wake you up. It's just- we're a little excited, looking forward to the big dance.

TERRY: That's right! Kathy, looking forward- the adrenaline's barely worn off and she's already looking for more. Not like Ted over there. Ted, he's gotten real serious all of a sudden.

DIANA: Serious about what?

TED: I'm fine. I'm just trying to relax to go to bed. It's been a long day, and I have things to do tomorrow. Diana, you have to work early. We shouldn't be keeping you up so late.

DIANA: It's really not a big deal.

TERRY: It is a big deal. He's lying. There's something not right here and I want to know what.

KATHY: Hey Diana, before Terry goes off on his big dedication spiel here-

TERRY: What?

KATHY: Where's Cathy?

DIANA: I don't know. She went out.

KATHY: Oh (*she downs her drink, sets the glass in front of*TERRY)

TERRY (*Pouring her a drink*): You're damn right I'm gonna talk about dedication-

DIANA: On that subject, you're drinking?

TERRY: Aw, Diana, c'mon, we can have a few, it's been a long night.

DIANA: Well, I guess, if you say please and only have one. You know what happens if you drink too much before bed.

TERRY: Okay, I'm trying to talk about Ted here. There's something wrong. I think we should have a little talk about it.

DIANA: Oh, he's the one that's been wetting the bed?

TED: Last night, I said that every minute we spend searching for a new solution- a magic wand that's going to stop the empire so we don't have to fight, people are dying. What if there is no magic wand?

DIANA: Not what if. There just isn't.

TERRY: How can you know that?

DIANA: I've looked and haven't found one.

TERRY: Maybe you haven't looked hard enough.

TED: Terry, if there isn't, if the magic wand is just a distraction- you'll keep looking for it so long that you end up doing nothing. It's another dead end; a way to think you're working to fix everything but really, you're just searching for this magical thing that doesn't exist.

DIANA: In the meantime, the system keeps running, keeps killing.

TED: Your position, last night, that in the meantime, we shouldn't kill people while we try to find that other way... it's not possible. We kill people all the time. While we look for the other option we need to take action to slow that killing.

DIANA: And when we realize that there is no other option, we'll have at least done something and we'll be ready to do more.

TERRY: You can't-

DIANA: We're fighting the most vicious, brutal, and powerful people in the world and they're winning. They're winning because they're willing to do whatever it takes and we're not.

TERRY: Now you sound like Kat. You were never so stubborn before.

DIANA: I've been thinking a lot, about Kathy, about what you guys said, the fire at the judge's house not being enough. How we have to make more happen, and maybe for you that was just... macho bullshit, but it meant something to me. It made me realize just how long I've been

TERRY: Tearing it down doesn't need to mean- you're talking about randomly killing Americans; strangers, your neighbors, your family. How can you do that?

DIANA: We need to destroy the American government and society. That means the people. We're fighting the American people but right now that's us. We need to stop being Americans to do this.

TERRY: Do you really want to do that?

DIANA: I don't want the majority of the world's population to be starving and slaving in sweatshops to make trash for our landfills. If I have to kill people- a hundred, a thousand Americans so that millions of real people- billions, can live, actually live and be free and creative and beautiful, then that's what I've got to do, because that is what I want.

TED: Maybe there's other ways to get what you want. Violence isn't our only option.

DIANA: Ted, violence isn't an option; it's not a choice we're making. It just is. It's already a part of life. Life is war.

TED: No, Diana, that's complete anarchy. Things- society has advanced. We've developed civil society, the rule of law.

DIANA: The rule of law is just the state masking it's violence. Like Kathy says. It's the rule of propaganda and manipulation and it's backed by force. You know that. Both of you.

TED: So you're saying, in the final analysis, we're still living the war of all against all? Rule of force is the only rule there is?

DIANA: Yes.

TERRY: It's not as simple as that.

TED: But, look Terry, she's right. Everything that happens comes down to these relationships of power and force.

TERRY: Last night you agreed that-

TERRY: He's chickening out on us!

DIANA: No he's not. (*Leading TERRY off left*) C'mon, go to bed.

TERRY: No. Fuck that. I'm serious. Ted, man are you gonna fuck this up?

TED: I'm not fucking anything up.

TERRY: Oh, well, that's funny! Cuz, well, things sure seem to be getting-

DIANA: Stop talking like that if you're really serious.

KATHY: Terry, where do you get all of these dumb ideas, huh? Teddy's just sitting there and you're all.... I dunno, after him for some reason.

TERRY: Ted. Hello, Ted! C'mon (*Turns off TV*) What the fuck?

TED: Terry, I just need a little time to adjust. (*KATHY walks to the other side of the room.*)

TERRY: Adjust? Adjust to what? There's nothing new here. Unless you're having some kind of doubts, there's no change, no adjustment.

DIANA: Terry, just give Teddy a little more time to let this sink in.

TERRY: Sink in? What? Diana... what are you saying?

DIANA: This can change the whole mindset and not all of us can do that so fast.

TERRY: But Teddy?

KATHY: (*getting angry*) Diana, are you saying that... is Terry right? Jesus! Ted, you know this isn't a big change. We're just calling our own bluff and-

TERRY: And if that changes things-

TED: (*Standing*) Hey, guys, calm down. I'm fine, everything is fine, I'm just tired. I want to watch the news and go to sleep, okay. (*Turns on TV*)

TERRY: This is important!

DIANA: Let's just get some sleep. (*Pulling him off left again, he goes for a few steps*) If you still feel like this tomorrow, we can take it up again.

TERRY: (*Stopping*) No. I gotta go get a drink (*Puts coat back on*)

KATHY: So, we're just gonna walk out on each other now? (TERRY *Exits right*) Go to sleep, go to the bar, watch TV? Just like my fucking parents. (*pause. DIANA crosses to KATHY.*)

DIANA: Kathy, I know where you're coming from -

KATHY: Do you?

DIANA: Yes. It must be frustrating, waiting for us to catch up, but we need to keep these conversations controlled.

KATHY: I'm trying. Fucking Terry starts shit, and-

DIANA: I know. But I need to keep you on my side. Think about the big picture.

KATHY: Okay. (*exits*) Ted, tell Cathy I- well I'm not waiting up for her.

DIANA: (*Looks at TED who is already absorbed in TV*) Ted, are you alright?

TED: (*Distracted by TV*) Yeah. (DIANA *gestures*, TED *looks up*) Yes. I am. I mean (*Points to TV*) ...I am.

(DIANA *turns off the light, exits left, TV continues for a while. Time passes. TERRY comes back, drunk. He looks around. Sits on couch next to TED. During the following dialog TERRY is drunk and TED is over-tired.*)

DIANA: Join the Christian coalition, or the Catholic Church.

TERRY: No, we can have a new morality, a morality that serves the interest of equality and-

TED: See; 'A morality that serves my interest.'

DIANA: The important part is who benefits. Thinking in terms of morality is just going to get in the way of tactics.

TERRY: (*shouting*) Because maybe these tactics are wrong!

DIANA: Terry, you don't need to shout. Do you want the girls to wake up?

TERRY: But they are! Killing people is wrong!

TED: Diana, let's say you're right, that morality is irrelevant.

TERRY: Ted?

TED: ...for the sake of argument.

TERRY: This isn't some fucking academic exercise, Ted.

TED: Please. Diana, if morality is irrelevant, all that proves is that killing people isn't evil, but it still might be wrong, the... incorrect thing to do, considering our goals.

DIANA: It's not. The people are responsible; they're allowing the war to happen. So are you, so are we, as long as we sit here and argue instead of doing this thing.

TERRY: That doesn't mean we have to kill them!

DIANA: Yes, it does. We're up against a huge international system of government and finance; we can't build anything new until we tear that down.

TERRY: Yeah, so you could work for this, for other people.

DIANA: I didn't sacrifice that life. I'm not part of this fight because I feel guilty; I'm in this for myself. This is what I want. The same logic applies to your feelings about justice and right; you call American life wrong because you don't *like* it.

TED: That's just like- Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan; you see where that line of thinking ends up?

DIANA: I don't know about any of that, and it doesn't matter.

TERRY: It's not that I don't like America, it is wrong, it's evil!

DIANA: America says you're wrong and evil.

TERRY: That's just because they see me as a threat, they don't actually have principles, just-

TED: Exactly, she's saying that principles are just the front for what you want. Hobbes called it the-

TERRY: I don't give a shit what Hobbes called it!

TED: But, Diana's saying that the same thing applies to us. If you're going to debunk bourgeois morality you've got to abandon morality all together.

TERRY: No, bourgeois morality is just greed, and that's what she's advocating!

TED: Greed is amoral. It's self-interest, desire and aversion. Bourgeois morality is stuff like, respecting private property, obedience to the state and working hard for shitty money. All of it is just a front for the desires of the capitalists. But the morality you're talking about is the self-interest, the greed of the non-bourgeois. So, Diana is saying that we should recognize a kind of universal amorality.

TERRY: Then that's part of what I want to change, I want morality to be a part of things.

TERRY: (*Reacting to TV*) That's great. Obey the rules of civil disobedience.

TED: Huh?

TERRY: Look at them... marching with their cardboard signs all flopping over. How fucking stupid. As if that's- I mean, to march is a military term- it's... C'mon, Ted!

TED: Well... it's all appearances. Those people... they're so... vain. They're out there not because they even think they can change anything- they just want to feel better about themselves.

TERRY: Look at that, peace is patriotic. Fucking half-assed ineffectual- They can't even... They're waving American flags for chrissake! They're not even trying. What are they thinking?

TED: They think, well... they want America to be a benevolent hegemon. They're happy to rule the world, just so long as it doesn't get too messy and they don't have to see the blood and the dirt on-

TERRY: It's just for their self image, they're scared. They're just- They do nothing, but even the nothing they do is aimed at- only at reform, but the system works. It's a well oiled fucking machine, we don't need to fix it, we need to derail it. Why is that so hard to-

TED: I don't know. Most of them probably never will.

TERRY: What?

TED: They'll never realize...

TERRY: I didn't-

TED: I know, you were about to say- forget it.

TERRY: Fucking idiots. (*shouting at the TV*) When are you going to wise up?

TED: I don't know. Most of them probably never will.

TERRY: (*directed toward TED, sarcastic, implying*) Well, then, y'know what Ted? Someone oughta push em. Somebody's gotta teach them a lesson.

TED: (*sarcastic, indicating that he knows where TERRY is trying to turn the conversation, and mocking him.*) Sure, yeah, you're right, Terry, but... who?

TERRY: (*serious*) Ted.

TED: Listen, I'm not having doubts. I understand you thinking that, but really, I'm not. This- everything is so fucked, and we've gotta do something. I just don't think- I mean I understand that we have no other option... this is the only way we're going to-

TERRY: It's not just that, these protestors! Look at them. I can't believe people are still doing this shit! It hasn't impacted anything since, like the 1920s, and they aren't even doing it as well as they did back then. These kids today, I don't see any hunger strikes... You can't really call yourself a pacifist until you've taken a meal or two up the fucking nose, can you?

TED: Terry-

TERRY: All I see here are people going through the fucking motions. They're supposed to be fighting the government but they're doing it the government's way. Fucking pussies, fucking morons.

TED: Have another drink.

TERRY: What's that supposed to mean?

TED: I don't want to listen to you rant incoherently about protesters. If you've got something to say, I'll wait until you've sobered up a little.

TERRY: Fuck you. I'm serious, this is a major problem!

TED: I know. (*Turns off TV, the room is dark*) I know all that better than you. (*Stands*)

TED: No?

DIANA: It isn't. It's about taking control and changing the world.

TERRY: That's because that's what's right.

DIANA: I want to change the world because I don't like it the way it is. People who *do* like it claim keeping it this way *is* what's right. George W Bush was fighting for what he believed was right when he declared war in Iraq.

TERRY: Diana, are you forgetting Halliburton? Mideast oil? C'mon! Bush has got ulterior motives. He's using the presidency to give more money to his rich friends.

DIANA: He thinks that's what's right. His friends are captains of industry and they serve the American people. So, Bush is just serving the American people. He believes in that.

TERRY: No, that's his justification- it's bullshit.

TED: You really think he believed that?

DIANA: It doesn't matter. Voters seem to.

TERRY: No, the voters don't know or care about what's really happening in Iraq or in any foreign policy. They just voted for tax cuts. They're motivated by greed and fear, not by what's right.

DIANA: Yes, but they rationalize it. They convince people -even themselves- that they're right. We're no different. This is our greed we're fighting for.

TERRY: No, it's not. We're sacrificing our lives to fight for the poor and oppressed. How do we benefit from taking on America for these other people? I mean look at you, you're, I'm sorry, but you're a rich white girl. Your dad owns half of Dwight, Illinois.

DIANA: I have no interest in being a rich white girl. I've rejected that.

DIANA: Okay.

TED: Well, okay... anyway. It's like this, me and-

TERRY: I think it's better to just... here, Diana, we decided that this isn't a good idea. It doesn't hold up.

DIANA: What doesn't hold up about it?

TED: The ends don't justify the means.

TERRY: It's not as simple as that. It's- what did I say last night? (TED *gestures*)

TED: I... Last night-

TERRY: You're useless. (TED *puts his head in his hands*) Ted went through the whole argument for it-

TED: Yeah, we were talking and Terry, he didn't want to do it, so we talked about why... and-

TERRY: Hey... the coffee's probably done, maybe you should have some?

TED: Sure. (*Pause, TED zones out*)

TERRY: Let me get that for you. (*exits right*)

TED: Oh, thanks. (*slowly*) Anyway Terry, he said, that we've got a moral responsibility to find a better way to change things, that doesn't require-

TERRY: (*Returning with coffee in mugs*) Ted, you're getting ahead of yourself. What we're doing, the reason you wanna do this, is that we're fighting for what's right. The whole thing is supposed to be about doing what's good and what's right.

DIANA: No.

TERRY: Not the protestors, you. Why are you so... weird right now?

TED: Here, I'll lay it out for you. I think what we're about to do is incredibly important. It's a very... heavy decision. It's a heavy situation and I don't like going into it without being- (*The door opens, interrupting him. CATHY enters right, a little drunk, leaves the light off and crosses to left exit. Sees TED standing in the dark and jumps.*)

CATHY: Whoa! Ted? What are you doing?

TED: I was just-

CATHY: Man, (*slaps his shoulder*) you freaked me out. (*pause*) What's up?

TERRY: We're fine. Just great.

CATHY: It's like four in the morning guys... you're just hanging out in the dark?

TED: I... the TV was on... we're talking.

CATHY: Well, don't let me interrupt or anything. (*looking around in the dark*) So, is Kat hiding here somewhere too? (*turns on the light*)

TED: No, upstairs.

CATHY: Is she...?

TED: She's okay, got roughed up a little, but everything's cool.

TERRY: Yeah, but she seemed kinda salty about you going out.

CATHY: No she didn't, you're lying.

TERRY: (*making a joke, not really this drunk*) No, really, we came back and Diana came in and she, um Kathy, was like, 'hey, where's Cathy' like it was all urgent -she even interrupted me, and Diana was all, 'she went out' and Kat, Kathy, she just said, 'oh.' Like that.

CATHY: Whoa, you're really trashed!

TERRY: Yeah? What of it?

CATHY: Hey, just an observation.

TERRY: Yeah? Well, what's your take on my observation?

CATHY: What observation?

TERRY: Kathy being... jealous.

CATHY: Whatever. I can do what I want; I don't know what she's got to say about it.

TERRY: Yeah, it's none of her business, your goings and comings and whatnot, eh?

CATHY: Right, if she's gonna talk all big about freedom and openness-

TERRY: Maybe it's just that she's... adjusting. (*looks at TED*) Kathy is definitely not someone who'd be all talk on that kind of thing.

CATHY: Well... no.

TERRY: Of course not, I mean, c'mon, we've all got firsthand experience of that... if you know what I mean... (*CATHY reacts*) and I think you do.

CATHY: Yeah. (*to TED*) How'd everything go tonight?

TERRY: (*TED begins to respond, TERRY cuts him off*) It went great. I mean you can't say it went off without a hitch, cuz it never does. That's the whole point, but things worked out really well. It was a decent send-off.

TED: Y'know, gotta say I'm looking forward to not getting beat up by cops or arrested on a regular basis anymore.

TED: C'mon Diana, it's early!

TERRY: You coulda let us sleep another hour.

DIANA: This is going to take some time. We should take care of it before the Cathys wake up.

TERRY: Actually, we've got plenty of time... there's no rush at all.

DIANA: Alright, I want you guys to tell me about last night.

TERRY: Last night... so I was singing Sweet Caroline and Ted was dancing-

DIANA: Not that.

TERRY: Oh! So I get upstairs and Ted's somehow already got Cathy's shirt off and you're laying back looking at me with those-

DIANA: Terry.

TERRY: Fine. We... it was really hard. I don't know Diana, it's-

TED: We talked a lot and Terry- ooh... do we have any aspirin? Coffee?

DIANA: Terry can you?

TERRY: Sure.

DIANA: You'll be alright Teddy.

TED: I do it to myself. Man, I just wish I didn't, what happened to the whole no drink until the revolution thing?

TERRY: (*enters right with glass and pills*) Here's some aspirin and water. Coffee's coming soon.

TED: Thank you. (*takes pill*)

CATHY: I think you done got hit on the head one too many times, Jethro.

TED: *(stumbling over to the loveseat and putting on the helmet)* That's cuz he doesn't put on his riot gear. I told you a million times- *(bumps into the loveseat and falls onto it next to CATHY squishing her and DIANA)*

TERRY: *(Laughs at TED)* Jesus Dubya!

TED: What?

KATHY: Yeah, he's had a few.

CATHY: Who was that girl you were dancing with, Ted?

TED: Dancing?

TERRY: That was the waitress and she wasn't dancing. She was just trying to get around him.

TED: You're trying to get around me.

(Laughter dies down. Silence. The Cathy's exchange a look)

CATHY: It sure is getting late.

KATHY: C'mon boys, it's bed time. *(TERRY and KATHY collect the others from the couch, TED is still wearing the helmet. As they exit the room.)* Ted, take off the helmet. C'mon...

TED: No.

KATHY: Y'know what, leave it on. That might be hot.

(They crawl upstairs leaving the audience to their imagination. TERRY runs back in, turns off the light)

TERRY: None of you ever listen to a damn thing I say... *(exits left. Time passes again, then DIANA enters leading TED and TERRY they're clothes are tussled and just thrown on.)*

CATHY: Who got arrested?

TED: Me, and a handful of other people. But they bailed us out pretty quick, I guess.

TERRY: Kathy and I got into it with a couplea pigs.

CATHY: Kat? *(to TED)* She alright?

TERRY: *(again interrupting TED)* Yeah, she's fine. Like Ted said, she's just roughed up a bit. She can take it. That girl... they'll never take her in. She's got too much fight in her.

CATHY: No, you're right. So, now you guys're just... talking?

TED: Yeah-

TERRY: Right, strategy... preparations... A lot is going to change after tomorrow.

CATHY: Anything I can help with?

TERRY: Not right now.

TED: We're probably just going to wrap it up and get some sleep anyway. It's, y'know... late. You should get some sleep too. *(he helps her stand up)*

CATHY: Yeah, I know. I'll see you guys tomorrow. G'night... *(TED walks CATHY toward left exit, she goes)*

TED: Goodnight.

TERRY: Sweet dreams.

TED: I think... I'd rather sleep down here tonight. Is that alright?

TERRY: Ted, this... I don't want to leave this unresolved. We need to be resolute right now. You and I especially. If you aren't, we need to get that straightened out right now.

TED: Terry! I'm straight... it's straight. I'm on it. (*Points to TV*) That's all the convincing anyone should need, let alone me.

TERRY: But, that's not how you're acting.

TED: It's a very different perspective. It takes time for me to change like that. I'm- I think... a lot. Okay, you, you've always been a- been, action oriented. (TERRY *reacts*) We've talked about this, don't be like that.

TERRY: I know... you're the guy with the big ideas and shit, whatever.

TED: Okay, well, it's not... I need time to get- I feel like even if I'm as convinced, as sure as you are I don't feel completely... I don't feel like that's enough.

TERRY: How is this not doubts? You keep saying I don't have doubts, I'm one hundred percent but you aren't. Right now. You're not!

TED: I am. I will be.

TERRY: You'd better be.

TED: Okay, let me try again. It's like this. I need this time to get there. I need to be fully... it's a shift- a shift in policy and a shift in mindset. Please tell me it's a shift for you.

TERRY: Of course it is; a shift we've been behind, that we've been pushing for for a long time.

TED: Yeah, but I do those shifts slowly. I need to be fully aware of everything... the steps, lines of the argument... I need to go over them a million times and be fully aware of... of what's involved in that shift. Otherwise, I'd have doubts. Your certainty comes from a kind of passion- a sudden conviction. One step for you. Sometimes, I wish it worked like that for me. If things were immediately solid like that I'd have saved a lot of time. But if I did, if I made the decision that fast I'd feel like it was too easy, like I was fooling myself.

TERRY: What are you saying; I'm fooling myself?

(*They all leave together, time passes. CATHY enters first. Turns on light. TERRY enters and turns off light. The rest follow in. DIANA sits on the loveseat.*)

CATHY: Hey jerk, turn the light back on!

TERRY: We gotta save electricity. Don't you fucking care about the environment... coal fired power plants... mercury poisoning... pre-natal mental defects...

KATHY: You're a mental defect. (KATHY *turns on light*)

TED: Bright, too bright.

TERRY: I can't believe you don't care about the environment.

CATHY: I've done more for the environment than any of you.

KATHY: What? Don't tell me I need to remind you of the time I went to the SUV dealership?

TERRY: Oh Jesus, not this again.

KATHY: Cadillac Escalades as far as the eye can see.

TERRY: and you're trying to choose between your sledge hammer and your can of gasoline. Blah blah blah...

KATHY: Hey, if you don't want me to talk about it, then stop bringing it up. I think you're just jealous cuz I'm a real communist insurgent revolutionary mad dog (TED *drunkenly takes the helmet off the TV and makes it 'bark' at TERRY, others laugh*) and you're just some redneck pervert who gets off on being beaten up by cops.

TERRY: Yeah, I got tired a scrapping with the boys in blue in roadhouse barroom brawls, so I took up this activist thing. Y'hear.

DIANA: That explains a lot.

TERRY: Like what?

TERRY: Okay. C'mon Teddy, it's not really that big a deal anyway. I mean, we've just got some concerns about the plan, nothing that can't get worked out tomorrow.

TED: Ummm...

KATHY: Oh c'mon Teddy! This is ridiculous. We deserve a night out, you need to relax.

CATHY: (*flirting*) Yeah Teddy, lets go, we'll have some drinks, then come home and you'll get a good night's sleep.

KATHY: (*also flirting*) Yeah, it's been a while since you've had one of your really restful nights, y'know, the kind where you end up passed out and naked at the foot of the bed.

TED: I don't know... I mean, I think we should-

KATHY: That's it, if you guys aren't gonna get moving now then we'll just have to make you come.

TERRY: Oh, and how are you going to do that?

KATHY: Like everything else we do, with violence! (*Attacks him dragging and wrestling to the door*)

TERRY: You'll never take me alive!!

CATHY: (*Approaching TED in threatening gesture, bringing DIANA with*) C'mon are we gonna have to drag you too, or will you come quietly?

TERRY: Just go limp Ted, let them carry you away, don't resist, you know the drill, fighting is hopeless it just makes us look bad.

TED: Alright, fine. (*Gets his coat from other room*)

TERRY: I'll go, I'll go, okay, Jesus. You're worse than the fucking cops.

KATHY: Of course I am.

TED: No you aren't. You're right. I'd... I just don't work that way. In order to not be, to not have doubts- my doubts come from a different place than yours. You never question how you feel about something, you feel a certain way and that's it. You've got that passion. If you doubt something- your questions are based on the thing, on the argument for it. When I have doubts, I'm doubting myself. My motivation and conviction. It takes longer to work that out... to be sure.

TERRY: So, you're not sure.

TED: I'm sure in the same way you're sure. I'm sure about the argument. I mean, it's solid. I know myself. It- I take time to get my... to get myself in line. Once I know something is right, it takes a little time to get emotionally, I guess... spiritually, behind it. But if the idea is right, and this is, then I'll get there. So, don't worry.

TERRY: I *am* worried. This is something you've wanted for a long time, how can you have been fighting for it if you haven't got conviction? Or passion?

TED: Because, we're different. For you, the passion comes first and then you just line up your actions with it.

TERRY: I don't do that. You're making assumptions.

TED: That's how it looks to me.

TERRY: You're saying... I'm irrational?

TED: No! Not at all.

TERRY: Then what are you saying?

TED: This is exactly why I didn't want to talk about it. I can't explain, but I know. Just trust me. You don't have to worry about me.

TERRY: Why the hell did you commit to this? You- there's no backing down.

TED: I won't back down. I pushed for this.

TERRY: Exactly, you can't lead us into this and then pull out.

TED: That's not what I'm doing. First of all, I didn't lead you.

TERRY: You know what I mean.

TED: More importantly, I am absolutely not pulling out. I'm just getting ready to actually do it.

TERRY: I'm already ready. I was ready yesterday, last week. You should've been too.

TED: Terry, please. I can't- we're going in circles. Just please trust me. I'm going through with this. I'm certain. Absolutely certain. You'll just have to- (DIANA *enters left in work clothes*) to trust me.

DIANA: You're still awake? (*During the following, DIANA prepares for work*)

TED: Terry's interrogating me.

TERRY: Not interrogating, just... (DIANA *exits right, pause*)

DIANA: (*entering*) Just what?

TERRY: Making sure.

DIANA: Making sure of what?

TERRY: That we're all together on this. I- Ted's hesitating.

TED: Terry, how many times are we gonna do this?

TERRY: (*angry*) Until it's fixed. Until it's right.

DIANA: Terry.

DIANA: They got completely flustered.

TERRY: Told you she's got a thing for uniforms.

KATHY: Knew you'd have some fucking comment.

CATHY: It's going to be a breeze for you guys tomorrow. Just go by in afternoon, with these passes (*Produces visitor passes*) and

TERRY: You sure you don't want to come with? Get one last look at GI Joe before we-

DIANA: The ballroom is off to the right; but we'll show you the details tomorrow.

KATHY: We're going out tonight!

CATHY: Yeah, we didn't have a last supper together. Let's just have one last drinking binge instead!

TERRY: You really think that's a good idea?

KATHY: Fuck, yes. What're you worried about? Tomorrow's gonna be nothing. C'mon, (*nudges TED*) get your coat.

TED: Well, the thing is-

KATHY: *Get your coat.*

DIANA: You can tell us about this thing on the subway.

TERRY: I think it's more important than that.

KATHY: No, you're not important.

DIANA: Terry, we'll talk about anything, all of that, tomorrow.

CATHY: C'mon guys! We've been through some- it's been hard. We should celebrate.

KATHY: The sacrifices we make...

CATHY: Hey, guys, what's up?

TERRY: Talking.

KATHY: What are you talking about?

DIANA: You guys missed a good time, you should have seen Cathy.

TED: What'd she do?

DIANA: We go in and we're looking around, just pretending that we're looking for some officers or something.

CATHY: Our boyfriends.

DIANA: The guards weren't supposed to let us in like that, but they just- I don't know-

KATHY: They were distracted.

TERRY: Oh?

KATHY: Yeah, it's real easy, the right voice and expression-

CATHY: You turn your head to the side and pout out your lips a little and-

KATHY: Stick out your tits!

TERRY: They just caved, eh?

KATHY: Cathy's tits?

CATHY: What?!

TERRY: Ha, no, the guards?

TERRY: (*calmed*) We- after the avengers got busted we all decided, everyone agreed we've gotta do this, but now we're not- I feel like it's not really going to happen.

DIANA: It will happen. We've prepared for it.

TERRY: Yeah, that's what I thought, but it's like everyone, even Ted now, is just *saying* that. It's like, rather than actually- like you just agreed to avoid, or end the argument. Like you're all just pretending.

DIANA: Those crates in the basement aren't make-believe.

TERRY: That's not all there is to this!

DIANA: Terry, this is happening tomorrow.

TERRY: Exactly!

DIANA: What preparations are missing? Are we behind on schedule?

TERRY: No, but people's attitude, it's all wrong.

DIANA: You can't force a change in people's attitudes. They have to do that, and we have to wait and see.

TERRY: Wait and see? But what if...

DIANA: What if Teddy decides he doesn't want this blood on his hands? Then we'll have to do it without him.

TERRY: How?

DIANA: He can go on with the riots, arrests and petty vandalism, or even go back to the reform work and protests.

TERRY: No.

TED: Diana, that's not going to happen.

TERRY: But, if it did, there's some serious security concerns with that.

TED: Security concern? This is crazy; all of a sudden I'm a security concern?

TERRY: If you guys aren't in this I don't want you out there knowing about it.

DIANA: I'm sure Teddy's not going to turn us in, Terry. Unless you do something stupid to penalize him for his cowardice...

TED: Hey!

DIANA: ...and piss him off enough that he wants us to get caught. Calm down.

TERRY: I'm not... I'm very calm. I have been very calm. Haven't I Teddy?

TED: Yes, actually, it's been a very level headed conversation... (*Standing up*) almost academic... I think I'll go ruminate on it in my study.

TERRY: Oh fuck you.

TED: There will be a full report this afternoon. "On Dedication and Revolution, the Life of Terry Robbins, Militant and Poet"

TERRY: I'll prepare one as well, "Ted Gold: Absolutely Certain... I Think."

TED: Good night. (*Exit left*)

TERRY: This is seriously fucked. It's bad news.

DIANA: He'll be alright. Give him time.

TERRY: It's not only him. He's just the biggest surprise. You and Cathy too.

TED: Terry, I'm agreeing with you. (*pause*) The thing is... what are we going to tell Diana?

TERRY: We, we should... we've just got to sit 'em down and explain.

TED: They're all reasonable people. It's gonna be hard, but it's better than if they realize- If they came to the same conclusion after tomorrow.

TERRY: That's true. (*Pause*) God, I'm kinda relieved, to be honest.

TED: Me too, but...

TERRY: But what?

TED: We should have another plan.

TERRY: What kind of plan?

TED: I don't know, but your argument is based on finding a radical solution that doesn't require this. So, do you have one?

TERRY: Not right now, but in the meantime, I don't think we should be going off and bombing-

TED: But then, in the meantime we aren't doing anything to stop the war and we keep-

TERRY: I know... the longer we sit here- every minute... we're letting them do this and more and more...

TED: And we keep killing people. We're killing people right now anyway.

TERRY: Just by sitting here. (*silence*) It's so... difficult! (*Long silence. DIANA, KATHY and CATHY enter right*)

DIANA: I still don't understand how you got out of there.

CATHY: Oh, I've got my ways.

TED: Yes, because, we're trying to, we're going to put an end to killing. And the government gives us no other choice. They criminalize and control every attempt-

TERRY: You're whining.

TED: What?

TERRY: You are. That just sounds like excuses. It sounds like, like we aren't smart enough or creative enough to beat this thing so we're just reverting to violence.

TED: No we aren't, we're approaching the problem from a radical new set of assumptions. We've got a radical solution to this problem. That's the only hope.

TERRY: This can't be the only radical solution. This is just bombing shit when we can't think of anything else. Y'know, that sounds just like US foreign policy, real fucking radical-

TED: But-

TERRY: We've got a moral obligation to find our own radical solution that doesn't involve this kind of- that doesn't require killing a bunch of people.

TED: But there's not-

TERRY: No! You just haven't thought of it yet. You just... c'mon Ted you're a smart guy and you know that people just- that violence is the last resort of the weak minded.

TED: Okay, fine, you're right.

TERRY: I mean it. We're taking the coward's way out of this. There's gotta be a better way.

TED: I said you're right. You've convinced me, but-

TERRY: But nothing! This is-

DIANA: We talked about all this a lot. You were right, you and Teddy. Now you've got to give us time to adjust and prepare, Teddy too. Just because he agreed with you doesn't mean he doesn't need to prepare as much as the rest of us.

TERRY: No. There's more to it. Teddy isn't someone who... he's not unreliable like this. It's all fucked up.

DIANA: You really should get some rest, Terry. We'll talk more about this later.

TERRY: Yeah, whatever.

DIANA: I mean it. *(pause)* Okay? *(TERRY nods)* Good. *(pause)* Oh, and can you and the girls go shopping later? We're almost out of food.

TERRY: No problem.

(DIANA exits right. TERRY sits at the table for a second, then exits left. Time passes. Light changes to full noon, or past, KATHY enters left, turns on TV, makes breakfast, takes some Tylenol, sits down to watch, after a bit CATHY enters left)

KATHY: Morning sweetness.

CATHY: Good morning.

KATHY: Rough night?

CATHY: Oh, Kat, my head...

KATHY: Me too, but for entirely different reasons.

CATHY: Yeah, the guys said you got beat up last night... are you okay? *(KATHY hands CATHY the bottle of pills)*

KATHY: The guys were still up when you got home? That was- what, four?

CATHY: Something like that. Y'know (*puts the pills in her mouth*)
Strategy, something. (*Swallows the pills with KATHY'S water*)

KATHY: What?

CATHY: They were talking about strategy, plans, for the- the thing,
anyway you-.

KATHY: That's not what they were talking about when I went to bed.

CATHY: Kat.

KATHY: Terry was going off on Teddy about dedication and shit... He
got the idea in his head that Teddy was backing out.

CATHY: I don't care about that. You got beat up last night. I wanna
know what happened.

KATHY: Just some pigs. Y'know, the usual.

CATHY: Let me see. (*KAT reluctantly yet proudly shows her bruised
knee and bumped head*) Oooo, that's bad. I don't know how you can do
it. I always kinda revert to the go-limp-and-let-them-arrest-you days.

KATHY: Yeah, you and Teddy both. We had to wait like, hours for them
to bail him out, that's why we got home so late.

CATHY: So, (*gingerly touching KAT's head injury. KAT winces*) Ted's
not actually so sure about this thing?

KATHY: Oh, (*pulling away*) he'd better be. We all better be. It's
tomorrow night and I don't want to have to worry about people flaking
out on us at the last minute.

CATHY: Do we even know what we're doing yet? Where and
everything?

KATHY: No, I'm sure there's lots of ideas, but I think that's something
that's going to get decided this afternoon.

TERRY: No. It's not peer pressure, it's completely self-imposed. Cuz I
know it's right; cuz I wanna be the guy who does the right thing against
the tide of morons and assholes that are doing the wrong thing with every
breath they take. In my head, I know I wanna do it. I'm still going to do
it, regardless of what the rest of you say or do. I just am. But, I don't
want to.

TED: Terry... what are we going to do?

TERRY: I don't fucking know! I just said I'm going through with it; I'm
gonna do it! (*Pause. TERRY takes a deep breath.*) Teddy, I don't know.
Go through the arguments. I'm sure yours are more convincing than
mine.

TED: Okay... So... bringing the war home will end the war. The
American people made the decision to have this war and we will force
them to fight in it. We can't allow them to get away with this anymore.
We need to attack the American people directly and show them that war
is about death and loss and insecurity.

TERRY: But...wait, hold on. The whole point of this is that we want to
do what's right and good with our actions. The war in Iraq is wrong and
if we want to do what's right, we've got to stop it.

TED: Not just in Iraq, the war. The only way to stop that is to fight here.

TERRY: But that's- we're only doing that because our goals are legit;
we're right. The problem is, I don't think killing those people at that
dance is right. Everything, the- the movement was supposed to be about
doing what's right.

TED: You need to consider the full situation.

TERRY: What? Because the government is killing people and because
the only way to stop the government killing people is to kill other people,
does that make us any better than the government?

TERRY: Oh yeah, your little exercises. How many times, in the past week have you gone through the argument? That's obviously not getting you anywhere.

TED: Yes it is; it has. I want to go through it again now, with you, for your benefit.

TERRY: My benefit?

TED: Please!

TERRY: Fine. Okay, this is all just so much bullshit. Y'know what? You wanna know what? I don't want to kill those people.

TED: What?

TERRY: I know I want to do this and I know it's war and everything, but killing those people-

TED: But, Terry, those people are killing people anyway, and if you don't kill them you're just killing someone else.

TERRY: I know all that!

TED: I know you know that... I- Shit, Terry, why have you been- I don't fucking get it.

TERRY: I just- it sticks. In my chest. It's like I can't get past this feeling that it's just not right.

TED: How can you have been marching around and demanding compliance from everyone and trying to.... oh...

TERRY: Yeah, you were fucking right, okay? No matter how hard I tried I couldn't really straighten myself out. I thought I'd get in line if I got everyone else in line, but then- and now, I feel like I lost control.

TED: Well, you have, you're totally out of control and it's insane. This whole thing is. Goddamn it, Terry, do you realize how close you came to doing this, out of like, some kind of peer pressure!

CATHY: It's so soon, and you're talking about it like it's no big thing.

KATHY: Well, it's not.

CATHY: Aren't you kinda worried about it?

KATHY: No, we'll be coming out of the blue. They're too busy spying on mosques and incarcerating every muslim they can find. They think we're just a bunch of kids, stupid hippies. They can't even imagine that we might actually be serious.

CATHY: That's not what I'm talking about. How much have you really thought about this?

KATHY: Cathy, this is something we have to do. It's the next step. It's war and we've gotta win. Are you still...?

CATHY: Well...

TERRY: (*Entering left*) Ladies. (*He crosses to the mirror, looks at his eye.*) Damn, that cop got me a good one here, trying to ruin my beautiful face. (*Nods at KATHY*) How you feeling?

KATHY: Headache. Cathy, you were saying?

(*CATHY remains silent*)

TERRY: Oatmeal again? Boring.

CATHY: You said it. Same thing for breakfast everyday.

KATHY: And we're out of brown sugar and butter now.

TERRY: Thanks, I've always liked it plain. Plain's my favorite flavor.

KATHY: Real funny. Better get used to it.

CATHY: Or worse, prison food.

TERRY: What's with all the dire predictions here? Is Ted contagious or something? Buck up soldier! The time of the glorious fight comes soon. Hup two three four! (*Dumping oatmeal into bowl on count*) eat your oatmeal.

KATHY: Why don't we do a big shopping trip? We could have a nice meal or two before Cathy's dad finds us and kicks us out.

TERRY: Oh yeah, Diana asked if we'd go shopping.

CATHY: Sure, I don't think I have any plans this afternoon. Hold on, I'll go get my cookbook; we can have a real feast.

TERRY: You girls and your bourgeois excess.

CATHY: Bourgeois excess? Terry, you're the one complaining about the oatmeal.

TERRY: So? I-

CATHY: It doesn't need to be anything too extravagant, just, solid food. It'll be like the last supper.

KATHY: Yeah, you can sit in the middle like this (*Mimes Jesus*) and we'll all look up at you in reverence.

TERRY: Who's going to play Judas? Cathy? Would you sell me out for thirty pieces of silver?

KATHY: Terry!

CATHY: If you don't stop talking shit, I'll sell you out for a lot less than that.

KATHY: Hey, let's not-

TERRY: You know I'm just messing around.

CATHY: Sure, you've been a dick for the last week.

TERRY: Fine, yeah, I guess she was acting strange.

TED: Well, what if that's because she- okay, you know how she wasn't really into this at first?

TERRY: Yeah.

TED: ... and now she seems really committed to it. She's really determined, but she's acting strange too.

TERRY: Well, it changes things. I mean, she's hardened up some, but that kinda goes with-

TED: I'm wondering if, maybe deeper she's still unsure, and I mean, with the two of us kinda losing it... I think that'd be really bad for her, as an activist and a person, bad for her self-esteem.

TERRY: So, you're saying that her seeing us doubting ourselves-

TED: When we accuse each other, we shake her faith. I think for her good we need to go through something here. Just as an exercise. No matter how small the doubts are, we've got to give them full voice and analysis, otherwise, they're just going to stick around and ruin everything for everyone.

TERRY: That is such crap. Diana is so completely- how can you fucking accuse Diana now? You're just imagining things, just like you think that you planted some doubt in my mind. C'mon, Ted, get over yourself.

TED: Well, if you're so confident in Diana, maybe she's right about us, too. Either way, she's not happy. (*pause*) She thinks we have problems with this. So, we've got to work something out and reassure her.

TERRY: Fine, what'd you want to do?

TED: I don't know, just go through the argument.

TERRY: What, just cuz the whole dance thing sounded a bit harsh at first, you think I'm totally wussing out on this?

TED: No, not just that. Your paranoia, losing shit left and right. You took four hours to go grocery shopping. Something isn't right, man. I'm concerned.

TERRY: I've always been absent minded. You know that doesn't mean anything. And we already talked about me being paranoid.

TED: I'm not convinced there isn't anything more to it.

TERRY: You're just attacking me cuz you can't go through with this, so you- rather than facing it and figuring yourself out you're trying to put this on me... and that- that's bullshit.

TED: No, you're the one sabotaging this. All your paranoia and your-

TERRY: Goddamn it! How many times do I need to apologize for that? I was being paranoid because I wanted to make sure it happened, not cuz I was looking for some way to stop it from happening. That doesn't even make sense.

TED: Okay... Let's- we can't go anywhere from here, let's just both admit that- admit we're... there's obviously doubts from both of us.

TERRY: From you maybe.

TED: (*Shouting*) No, stop that! Terry, it's like Diana said.

TERRY: Diana's full of shit.

TED: No, she isn't. She might be exaggerating, but I think... I think, for her sake we need to get things straightened out.

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

TED: Okay, did you see how she just ducked out of here, didn't even want to talk about it, didn't want to hear us expressing our supposed doubts even as we dispel them?

TERRY: C'mon, we had our little disagreement, but I thought that was all resolved. Under the bridge.

CATHY: Me too, but- Terry, you're holding some kind of grudge. (TED *enters left, in pajamas*)

TED: Morning.

KATHY: How'd you sleep? I heard you were up late last night.

TED: Yeah. I feel great though, slept well. (*Dumping oatmeal into a bowl.*)

CATHY: Today's your last day at the office?

TED: Well, I'm thinking I might be able to go in for a few days next week. I mean it all depends on how we want to go about it. How the police react and everything. It might be better to appear as though everything is normal and it wasn't us who did it. On the other hand it might be better to make tracks right away; we'll have to see what happens. But, yeah today is very possibly the last day.

CATHY: That must be nice.

TED: Well, I know I complain about it a lot but, some of those kids are alright and it's going to be weird not being able to say good-bye to anyone. (TERRY *finishes eating and is looking around the apartment for something*)

KATHY: Well, it's going to be weirder with our friends and parents and everything.

CATHY: That's why I went out last night. I got to say good-bye to everyone.. none of them knew I meant *forever* but, still.

TED: That's a good idea, I should see if I can get together with people for coffee, tomorrow or something.

KATHY: How are you getting your last paycheck?

TED: I hadn't thought of that. I guess we'll see. I'll get one today, but if I work next week I'm pretty sure I won't be able to get that.

KATHY: Then why go in?

TED: Because... those kids are counting on me.

KATHY: Those kids? C'mon they're a bunch of reformist wannabes. Totally ineffectual nonsense.

TED: Oh, the job is. I mean campus organizing is just- it's hardly even grassroots anymore. It's just raising money and cutting costs by putting students and volunteers to work. But you can't hold that against the kids, they're really optimistic about activism and it kinda rubs off on me some times.

KATHY: Yeah right, sure.

CATHY: Hey Kat, speaking of activism, guess who I ran into last night... Bobby!

KATHY: He's back?

CATHY: Uh-huh, he wants to hook up with us this afternoon.

KATHY: Fuck yeah! Is he still crazy?

CATHY: Yep, he and what's his name even went and got married.

KATHY: Huh, crazy fags getting married, eh?

CATHY: You know what I mean.

TED: Like... legally married?

CATHY: Yeah, in San Francisco, years ago.

TED: Oh, well, it's void now.

TERRY: Me?

DIANA: Yes, both of you, accusing each other back and forth. You're just- I don't want to talk about it; I don't even want to hear about it. I just want you to straighten it out. When I get home I'll make sure you're okay. If you aren't, we'll deal with that then. We've got work to do and we can't have any more of this.

TERRY: But, I don't even know what you're talking about!

DIANA: You do. Straighten it out and I'll talk to you guys later. (*Exit right*)

TERRY: What is she talking about?

TED: She's talking about you being totally crazy.

TERRY: Crazy? What?

TED: Obviously she didn't buy your whole 'I'm just being paranoid' thing. Neither did I.

TERRY: I can't believe *you're* trying to talk down to *me*, you-

TED: Terry, we talked about me before. I've gone through everything and I'm fine, like I told you I would be. Except that now, I'm worried about you.

TERRY: What've you got to be worried about?

TED: I think maybe I planted some doubt last night. I should've just pretended that-

TERRY: Fuck you! I- you didn't. I'm not going to doubt shit just cuz you do.

TED: Well, I don't doubt anything but it's pretty clear you've got some misgivings.

KATHY: Shit, we're in trouble.

TED: I don't know if we should get the PIRG's involved.

KATHY: Yes, protect your little campus organization from bad press.

TERRY: we'll switch the plates.

DIANA: There's a park n ride out there. Are the bombs ready?

TERRY: Yeah, pretty much, they're all set except for the final connections, to minimize the risk of accidents.

DIANA: Good. Tomorrow morning we do the final wiring and then we're ready to go.

TED: Sounds good.

DIANA: Okay, well girls, we should get going now if we're going to make it there and back before too late.

CATHY: You know how to get there?

DIANA: We'll take the train.

(They all get up and get ready to leave, just as they're going out the door, DIANA pauses.)

DIANA: Oh wait, I forgot- you go on ahead and I'll catch up. Okay?

CATHY: What?

KATHY: Fine, c'mon Cathy. *(Both exit right)*

TERRY: What did you forget?

DIANA: Nothing. I wanted to talk to you. You don't have your shit together. Neither of you.

TED: What?

CATHY: Yeah but he said, *(CATHY imitates Bobby's voice, typical flamboyant diva sort of voice)* it still counts in *my* eyes. The funny thing is he and the guy, what was that guy's name?

KATHY: Patrick.

CATHY: That's right, Patrick. Well, they split up-

KATHY: *(sarcastic)* That's wonderful.

CATHY: What?

KATHY: He's such a...

CATHY: I know. They got a lot of shit for it over there; I think that might be part of why he's back.

KATHY: Well he should get shit for it. He's a public figure, in the public eye, and- he can't just...

TED: Can't get divorced? That's kind of a double standard, Kathy.

KATHY: Yeah, there is a fucking double standard. He's gotta recognize that and be responsible for it. His actions reflect on-

CATHY: Well, Bobby says, *(again imitating)* 'I've got a right to get married so, I've got a right to get divorced. I'm just trying to exercise all the rights I can, honey!'

KATHY: He's making the issue look ridiculous!

CATHY: Of course he is. The issue is ridiculous, the laws are.

TED: Yeah, he just makes that ridiculousness apparent, it's a tactic-

CATHY: He's even fighting for alimony.

TED: And why not? It's his way of pushing the issue, historically, the community has-

KATHY: We'll see about that this afternoon. I'll fucking teach him how to push the issues.

TERRY: Hey, you know, you can't let him know what we're doing.

KATHY: Wait, this is supposed to be a secret? (TED and CATHY drop their spoons, gasp and cover their mouths. Laugh.)

CATHY: Y'know, if we're going out with Bobby, I'm gonna have to cancel that appointment... y'know, to have 'terrorist' tattooed on my forehead.

TERRY: Very funny.

TED: Well, okay, I hope you guys have a good time. We're going to have the meeting after I get back, so you should be here by five. (*Exit right with dishes*)

CATHY: It's already like, one, how long are you working?

TED: We're just having a short meeting, about some new people.

CATHY: Okay, we'll be back by five.

KATHY: No problem.

TED: (*Enters right*) Alright, see you then. I gotta take a shower. (*Exits left. Awkward silence follows, TERRY continues to search the room throughout dialogue*)

KATHY: Hey Terry... what're you looking for?

TERRY: Have either of you seen my bag?

KATHY: That red one? No.

CATHY: Nope.

TERRY: Fuck.

KATHY: Yes.

CATHY: Well, yeah.

TERRY: Alright. Then let's do it, unless Ted has a more convincing argument than dirty looks from that statue.

TED: No. The NCO dance is definitely where we should start with this. Everyone agreed?

(EVERYONE says "yes" in some form or another.)

TERRY: Alright, we've got a target. Let's make a plan.

DIANA: We need one group to scout the place out, tonight. Tomorrow, we work out details then plant the device.

TERRY: Well, Kathy and I have the best handle on explosives...

KATHY (*to CATHY*): So, you're on the scout team, right?

CATHY: Yeah, I can do that.

TERRY (*joking, winking obviously and repeatedly, like a fool*): You're not going give them soldiers the tip off or anything right? I know about your thing for men in uniform.

KATHY: She makes one comment when she's drunk and-

DIANA: The Cathys and I will go to Fort Dix tonight. Tomorrow we'll either Terry and Kathy will go set the bombs. Either before hand, or during the dance. Ted, can you get the rental car from work?

TED: Sure.

DIANA: That might make transportation easier.

TERRY: Hey, Kathy, Teddy's gonna be our getaway driver!

TED: Okay, well, it's all beside the point. (TERRY *goes silent, sits to the side, absorbed in his own thoughts.* DIANA *is the only one who notices this.*)

KATHY: The point is, the people are responsible.

DIANA: If they support this government then they are engaging in warfare. They are combatants, and they can be killed as combatants.

CATHY: So, you're saying it's their choice?

TED: People make political choices everyday without realizing it. We need to make them recognize these choices.

CATHY: Even the elections; when they have that choice, they choose to keep the war on. Even all the people who vote against Bush, since then, they haven't done anything.

TED: They've accepted the Bush government; they're consenting to it.

DIANA: They're still choosing American imperialism.

KATHY: Everyday they choose to participate in state violence.

TED: We're only making the ramifications of that choice unavoidable.

KATHY: Make them take responsibility for it.

CATHY: They chose and this is the consequence of that choice.

TED: We're going to make them think about whether or not they really want to be at war, and which side of the war they want to be on.

TERRY: We're really going to start going after people indiscriminately?

KATHY: That's what this has been about from the start.

TERRY: Okay. We're gonna make the biggest mess we can. We're gonna make America unlivable until they give up this insane crusade. Is that what we're all saying?

CATHY: What's in it?

TERRY: Just some papers, something important I wanted to go over before the meeting. Nothing you'd care about, anyway.

CATHY: What's that supposed to mean?

TERRY: You wouldn't understand.

CATHY: Terry, this is crazy. Don't pretend you don't know what I'm talking about. Just cuz I'm a little apprehensive about this new campaign and everything doesn't mean you should treat me like this.

KATHY: She's right, and the way you went after Ted last night, I don't get it. What's your problem?

TERRY: Hey, I was right about Ted, remember?

KATHY: So what?

TERRY: We need dedication and mental preparation if we're going to do this and it's being neglected. Certain members of the collective are neglecting it, and that's gonna seriously jeopardize our entire project. C'mon, Kathy, you of all people should understand that.

KATHY: I do, but that doesn't mean you should be a dick all the time. How does that mentally prepare us?

CATHY: You know what? I'll be upfront about it; I'm still not fully into this.

KATHY: Oh, Jesus. Thanks Terry

CATHY: I don't want to be very involved. I understand why you've got to do this.

TERRY: Then you should understand why you've got to do it too. Because it's right. It's the right thing to do and if you aren't going to do it, then you're doing the wrong thing. (*Searching while talking*) If you don't want to be very involved, then you're just... getting in the way,

you're just- you've gotta make a bigger contribution to our side than you do to theirs.

CATHY: I do! How am I not making a big enough contribution? I'm sacrificing a lot to do this, to go with you and support you guys. I just don't want to- to be- to do this one aspect of the thing.

KATHY: The one most important aspect. The one thing that we're entirely based on. The only thing that's actually going to make a difference.

CATHY: See? All of a sudden its like we're entirely based on just...

TERRY: That's what's going to bind us together. This is a criminal enterprise, Cathy. We're facing serious life sentence, death penalty stakes here. If you're scared of that, then we can't have you here. If you're in, you have to be in all the way, otherwise, we just can't trust you.

CATHY: Trust? This is about trust? You've been berating me and insulting me again and again because you don't trust me? How does that make sense? You want to bring us closer together by doing this shit that just makes me want to get out.

KATHY: He's right though, if you're scared of the police then you're a security risk.

CATHY: I'm not scared of the police, I'm... this is something that I don't want to do for personal reasons- cuz I don't think it's-

TERRY: You don't think it's right? Then, that's even more of a problem. If you think we're wrong and we're bad and what we're gonna do is evil, which is just *insane* considering what- besides that... besides the fact that you've got your whole moral structure as upside-down as the rest of this damn country, then you-

CATHY: My moral structure-

TERRY: No, let me finish... then you've got all the more reason to rat us out.

DIANA: We will. We'll be doing a lot more of this and some targets will be government buildings; others will be strictly civilian. It doesn't matter to me what we do first, because we're going to be doing both.

TED: But, I think the dance is a good way to start. It's a civilian target in a military setting; it shows we're fighting both.

TERRY: So...uh... why aren't we just fighting the government?

KATHY: If you want to do this, you've gotta get at the root of the problem and that's the people. You do wanna do this, right?

TED: The government is an extension of the people, it's like... well American politics has separated people's political life into this representative state. So the people don't think about politics as part of their daily lives. For most of them, it's something they do on November second and watch on TV.

KATHY: If you exclusively strike the government, you legitimize the state. The people will react by giving more power and freedom to the government. It'll just get stronger.

TED: We want to politicize the people's daily lives.

KATHY: When we attack the people, we drive a wedge between them and the government, expose the government's failure to fulfill it's duty to the peoples' security. People will lose faith in-

CATHY: How do you know what the people are gonna do?

KATHY: Conflict theory. Just look at their interests, the government-

TERRY: Maybe you're wrong. Maybe attacking the government will show that it's weak and can't defend the people.

KATHY: That's not what we're looking for.

CATHY: You're just *guessing* what *might* happen. I agree with the whole 'personal is political idea' but this application is pretty strange.

DIANA: It's not a public event. They have no reason to think that we know about it.

TED: And it's not a typical target. They're focusing on guarding airports and big public sites. Lack of imagination is Homeland Security's biggest weakness. Besides, it's a dance; they aren't going to want a lot of security there.

TERRY: Not a lot of security? It'll be a ballroom full of trained soldiers.

KATHY: (*Imitating him with a whiny voice*) It'll be a ballroom full of trained soldiers. When did you go soft?

DIANA: We've got to learn to handle trained soldiers.

TERRY: Okay, that's... those are pretty snappy answers, but- let's consider the federal buildings.

KATHY: That's so, like, ten years ago. C'mon, Fucking rednecks did that shit in Oklahoma.

TED: He's right we've gotta give all sides an argument. So, Terry tell us about the buildings.

TERRY: Okay, if we're fighting the US government then we should continuously attack institutions of American injustice. Let them know that we're going to come at them on a regular basis and try to tear the system down. Eventually, maybe we can even incapacitate the government. Realistically, how many bombings can they withstand before they can't function normally?

DIANA: We're not just fighting the US government; we are fighting the American people.

KATHY: Hold on Diana, Fort Dix is a government institution too. If we're gonna attack the American people, then we should attack the American people. Macy's.

CATHY: Stop, Terry- god. Why do you have to be so stubborn?

KATHY: But Cathy, that's true.

CATHY: No, Kathy, it's not! It's not that black and white. It's not us or them. It's- there's levels of involvement. I'm not joining the army, I'm not supporting the war- that should be pretty obvious to everyone here, but I'm also just not comfortable with this 'create chaos in the mother country' idea.

KATHY: Why are you here then?

CATHY: No, I said that wrong, I didn't mean that.

TERRY: What did you mean?

CATHY: I mean.... I'm not comfortable doing it. I understand it, I understand why. I'm- that's just the point, the- that's just how far I want to go with it. That's where I'm comfortable.

KATHY: You're comfortable giving us a place to stay and helping with small actions and what, cooking food and taking your turn driving? But you aren't comfortable doing the work that we're going to do? You didn't even come with last night.

CATHY: What? I've been along on I don't know how many of those street-fighting missions.

TERRY: The other thing is; you're comfortable now. Doing those things now; you're comfortable. But this whole thing is about to get a lot less comfortable.

CATHY: You think I don't know that?

TERRY: Right now you're giving some activists a place to sleep.

CATHY: Hey, I'm an activist too! Don't talk like the only reason I'm here is because my dad's house is vacant. Unless, I guess, that is the only reason you want me here.

KATHY: No, it's not.

TERRY: Whatever, right now you're part of an activist collective, after tomorrow night you'll be an accomplice to- you're going to be harboring criminals and you'll be part of a revolutionary cadre, a military outfit. We'll be fugitives. The FBI are gonna to put us on their most wanted list. All across the country, all of us are going to be up against a lot more shit. So, yeah, it's not going to be so comfortable in a while.

CATHY: Terry, you asshole. Do you really think this is news to me? That I haven't already accepted all that?

TERRY: I don't know what to think. I just know that this- this whole comfort level of involvement thing sounds like chickenshit, and it makes me uncomfortable.

CATHY: If you'll just shut up for one minute I can- (DIANA *enters left*) I can explain! (*Silence as DIANA walks into room, pause*)

DIANA: Um... Hi. (*silence*)

TERRY: Okay, let's hear it.

CATHY: What?

TERRY: Explain. Explain how you're backing out.

CATHY: I'm not backing out! I just don't feel good about- Diana, Terry's acting like a...ugh...

DIANA: First, I need both of you to calm down. Now, what's wrong?

TERRY (*forced, sarcastic calmness*): Cathy's got an issue with the new program.

KATHY (*more sarcastic*): No, Cathy's got an issue with you being an asshole. We're just trying to work out what people's roles are gonna be.

TERRY (*the sarcasticist*): All I'm saying is it looks like some people don't have any role in this. Some people shouldn't even be here.

DIANA: They're all the enemy, the soldiers, their dates, everyone.

TED: They're supporting, participating, whether they formally enlisted or not doesn't matter.

KATHY: I've got more respect for the soldiers than for their dates, anyway.

TERRY: But there could be people there who disagree with the war.

DIANA: Their political opinions are irrelevant.

KATHY: Even if there was a protest going on outside the dance, and some of them kids waving their signs around caught some shrapnel, I wouldn't care.

TERRY: Hey, how long ago were we those kids with signs? Do you really think blowing up our recruitment pool is a good idea?

KATHY: It'll drum home the message that they need to get on board or get out of the way. How's that for recruitment?

TERRY: Kathy, I'm being serious.

DIANA: There are three camps in America: the establishment, the supposed anti-establishment and us, the militants. The anti-establishment aren't us; they aren't even allies.

TERRY: I thought people's opinions were irrelevant.

DIANA: Those lines are drawn by actions, not opinions.

TED: It doesn't matter. Protestors aren't going to be there; it's not high profile. Worst case: there might be a few fence sitters at the dance.

KATHY: So, we don't have to worry about friendly fire, we don't care about symbolism, any other objections?

TERRY: How about security?

KATHY: Cathy... just, don't. Terry, why are government employees any more guilty than-

TERRY: But this just looks like terrorism.

KATHY: And?

TERRY: Your an ally of Al Queda now?

KATHY: No, just use the methods of modern warfare.

TED: No.

KATHY: Same methods the US uses.

DIANA: Listen, it doesn't matter what it looks like.

TED: ...and that's why it's not terrorism. (KATHY *rolls her eyes.*)

TERRY: What?

TED: The spirit of terrorism is entirely symbolic. It's about fear; not action.

TERRY: Terrorism is about this kind of randomly killing people-

TED: No it's not, terrorists choose specific targets. Their goal is to attack our- er America's symbols and scare people. Our goal... We are going to attack people directly, incapacitate their way of life, topple their institutions and build a new world.

DIANA: That's a revolution. It's about action.

TERRY: Well... fine then. It's war. But, what about friendly fire? How do we know we aren't going to kill our own people?

KATHY: At a Fort Dix dance?

CATHY: Okay, dancing with the enemy does not make you guilty.

DIANA: Terry.

CATHY: Oh fuck you, Terry, what are you talking about now, kicking me out?

KATHY: Don't put ideas in his head.

TERRY: You don't want to be here! Or at least you don't want to be here for the right reasons. You aren't here to take action, to do these things with us, you just wanna be a revolutionary without having to-

CATHY: Fuck you! (*Exit left*)

KATHY: Damn it, Terry! (*Exit left. Pause.*)

DIANA: Terry, you've gotta-

TERRY: I'm just trying to straighten things out.

DIANA: It's not working.

TERRY: Why've you got a problem with this? You know we can't have flaky people with us.

DIANA: Cathy is not flakey. Teddy is definitely not flakey.

TERRY: That's your opinion.

DIANA: What's your plan here? Are you going to attack us all one at a time, break us down and- (TERRY *begins searching again*)

TERRY: Just cuz... (*Searching for bag, muttering*) I'm so stupid. Damn it... just cuz I've got some dedication to this and cuz I want to make sure... where is that fucking list... make sure...

DIANA: Terry, we're going to try a different way of dealing with this. If people have issues, we need to boost their confidence, not tear it down and make things worse.

TERRY: Okay, fine. But, if it weren't for me these conversations wouldn't have even happened.

DIANA: Maybe they shouldn't have-

TERRY: Last night, Ted, we talked about shit and I wasn't just making it up. He had issues, I was right.

DIANA: Okay, good, but we need to approach that in a different way, (TED *enters left, carrying coat and dressed for work*) You need to let me be there to-

TERRY (*blowing her off*): Okay

TED: Hey Diana.

DIANA: Good morning, (TED *exits right*) Terry...

TERRY (*sincere*): Okay. (*pause*) Ted, have you seen my bag?

TED: What bag?

TERRY: My red messenger bag, I lost something, it has got to be in there.

TED: (*Enters right with empty granola bar box*) Do you see this?

TERRY (*occupied, searching for bag again*): No.

TED: Somebody put the empty box back on the shelf.

TERRY: It's a fucking tragedy! I'm going grocery shopping. (*Finds bag*) Hey! Here it is, (*grabs bag*) alright... (*sorts through it*) no. Fuck. (*Sits down*) I can't find it.

DIANA: So, about groceries, Terry?

TERRY: I just got up. I talked about it with the girls; Cathy wants to do some big thing, a last supper.

KATHY: Macy's.

TED: Diana?

DIANA: The Fort Dix non-commissioned officer's dance. (*Puts flyer on the table, TED picks it up*)

KATHY: Whoa. (*Looking over TED's shoulder*) That's hardcore.

CATHY: But... well, the officer's dates- there's still going to be a lot of innocent people there.

DIANA: No one is innocent.

TERRY: But, what does this really say? If no one is innocent then we might as well blow up a kindergarten.

KATHY: Sure. We'll do that too.

CATHY: Stop joking.

TED: Let's try to focus... why is the dance a good idea?

TERRY: It's not. It's not high profile and it's high casualty.

KATHY: So what?

DIANA: Exactly. It's not high profile, so this isn't just a symbolic gesture. It's a direct strike. If it's high casualty that just means more of the enemy eliminated.

KATHY: Yeah.

TERRY: But there's no discrimination between- it's... with the federal buildings we're only hitting employees of the US government.

CATHY: We could even do the federal buildings at night, or call in and clear the building. Then we'd minimize casualties, or even eliminate them.

CATHY: You really expect us to believe that this is just you being a little paranoid.

TERRY: What do you want me to say? It is. Why would I have a grudge against you? I just, I've been wanting to make sure you were all in. The whole time my only concern was with this coming off without a hitch and maybe I've been too... thorough with that, but-

KATHY: and too easy on yourself.

TED: Terry, we talked about all that. There's no good reason for you to feel that way. So now, we want to know, what's the real reason?

DIANA: Just because trust isn't an issue for you or for the rest of us doesn't mean it can't be an issue for Terry.

TERRY: Exactly, that is what my problem was and I was wrong. I shouldn't have felt like that, okay?

KATHY: Not good enough.

DIANA: We'll just have to trust him.

KATHY: What the hell is going on here?

TERRY: Nothing, just- It's really, I'm being paranoid. That's it, and you're right it's not justified, and I'll stop.

KATHY: You fucking better.

TED: Kathy, he's just- you know he has a hard time apologizing.

TERRY: Could we get back to the plan?

KATHY: Fine.

TERRY: *(Pause)* What choices do we have? That statue, a federal building-

DIANA: The girls aren't going to want to go with you right now.

TED: Why's that?

DIANA: There was an argument.

TED: I thought I heard something.

TERRY: But they- Cathy was talking about some kind of feast. Maybe they'd want to go instead. Where's my list?

DIANA: I'll go talk to them and find out. Why don't you make up a list, a grocery list?

TERRY: Okay, fine. What do we need?

TED: Everything.

DIANA: *(As she exits left)* Rice and beans.

TED: *(Exit right, rummaging through kitchen, shouting from offstage)* Can of corn, can of beans, garlic, sauce and pasta, get the wheat kind, some kind of protein.

TERRY: *(Counting on his fingers looking around the room)* Okay, not-dogs or garden-burgers?

TED: Those're too expensive. Peanut butter, falafel. Okay? Bread, chickpeas. Diana?

TERRY: She's upstairs.

TED: Oh, okay... *(Enters right)* Got it?

TERRY: Yep, sounds like a real feast.

TED: Did you write it down?

TERRY: No. *(Grabs paper, scrawls list)*

TED: Did you get granola bars?

TERRY: (*Exits left*) Yeah, yeah, yeah. (TED *puts on his coat*) Found it!

DIANA: I don't think the girls are going to go. They don't want-

TERRY: (*Very happy and excited*) Fine, I'll take care of it. I found it. The thing I was looking for, the list. It was up here. I've gotta show this to you.

DIANA: Terry, I-

TERRY: One second, I just gotta put on my shoes.

DIANA: (*Entering left shaking her head*) Okay. (*crosses to table*)

TED: (*stopping her*) Hey, what's... how are the girls?

DIANA: They're upset.

TED: Cathy?

DIANA: Yeah.

TED: Well, she was talking about going out with Bobby Briggs, maybe... did you ever meet that guy?

DIANA: I've heard about him, I was still in Chicago when he was around here.

TED: Well he's back in town and the girls were pretty close to him, so maybe lunch or something with him will help.

TERRY: (*runs in left, dressed*) Okay, you've gotta see this... (*doesn't have the list*)

TED: No.

TERRY: Oh, shit I left it up there, wait a second. (*Exits left, running with the list, falls, gets up.*) Alright, here! (*Hands it to TED*)

TED: Terry.

TERRY: Well, if she's not going to have just as much hanging over her head as the rest of us...

TED: No, that's- you've already gone through that and you're wrong. So, either you've got something personal against Cathy or something else is going on.

TERRY: I don't! I like Cathy!

TED: I know you do. So, something else is going on. You've got this fixation with everyone being all the way in or you're out. Well, I'm starting to think that's what you want.

TERRY: Who's playing head games now?

TED: I just want to understand.

KATHY: So do I.

(DIANA *has been sitting back, watching, disengaged until now. She leans in, looks at TERRY, expectantly. TERRY looks at her, then looks down.*)

TERRY: It's... it just... alright, fine, I guess, I mean, fine. Whatever. You're right, maybe I'm just paranoid or something. Okay, fine... so, I mean, Christ... can someone else talk now?

KATHY: No, explain this.

TED: If *you* have a problem doing this, then-

DIANA: Ted-

TERRY: Stop it. You guys are going fucking crazy. I don't have a problem doing this. We're all thinking too much about it, psyching ourselves out. I'm being paranoid about people turning on us, and I just admitted to that, but now you're being, like, crazy and weird.

TED: Why does it have to be that way?

CATHY: It doesn't. He just wants that way.

TERRY: What?

CATHY: You. You've been doing nothing but attacking, manipulating, and isolating people.

TERRY: What the fuck are you talking about?

CATHY: You're trying to... to wedge me out of this or something.

TERRY: I am not! Why would I?

KATHY: I don't know, jealousy.

TERRY: Wow, this is a loyalty assessment. We're gonna take this shit to that level now?

KATHY: Explain yourself.

TERRY: I already did. I'll say it again. I don't think this will work with Cathy involved. I don't trust her.

CATHY: You're an idiot. Then why let me in this far?

TERRY: Cuz it was the only way. Cuz Kathy wouldn't leave you and without her, none of this-

KATHY: Fuck you!

TERRY: She's been holding you back.

CATHY: I'm holding her back? How many times do I have to say I support this?

TERRY: You're saying whatever you need to to keep your little family together, but it's horseshit.

DIANA: What is it?

TERRY: A list of all the government buildings in New York, it's even got schematics and maps and everything.

TED: Where did you get this?

TERRY: I know people.

DIANA: That'll be really useful.

TERRY: I was starting to kinda go through and prioritize, but then I lost it and... well, anyway, I should have it for the meeting, five o'clock right?

DIANA: Yeah, but what about the groceries?

TERRY: Right, I'll do the groceries first. Okay, see you when I get back. *(Puts list somewhere noticeable, grabs grocery list, exits right)*

TED: He's losing it.

DIANA: He's-

TERRY: *(Returning)* I... um... have you guys got any money for this... I'm short. *(Puts grocery list down on the table)*

TED: No sales lately?

TERRY: I've been kinda keeping a low profile. I don't wanna get busted when we've got all that stuff in the basement.

TED: I haven't got any cash on me.

DIANA: *(Hands him cash.)* Here. *(TERRY leaves again)*

TED: He's really stressed out. I think it might be my fault. I should've kept my mouth shut.

DIANA: *(Finding list on table)* He left the list.

TED: Well, this will be interesting.

DIANA: And he didn't even write down half the stuff. No rice and beans.

TED: See, he's got to calm down. It's out of hand.

DIANA: He's always been absent-minded. *(Goes to couch turns on TV)*
I think he'll be fine.

TED: Diana, I'm serious.

DIANA: I am too. We don't need- *(CATHY and KATHY enter left, with jackets on)*

KATHY: Did he leave?

TED: Yeah.

CATHY: Good.

KATHY: We're gonna have an assessment.

TED: A loyalty assessment?

DIANA: No.

CATHY: I told you-

KATHY: We need to take care of this shit.

DIANA: We've talked about this.

TED: Everything I've read- they all advise against it.

DIANA: Sitting down to denounce each other is counter productive.

KATHY: Well someone needs to remind Terry of that, cuz I'm tired of him holding his own assessment every time you turn your back.

DIANA: Kathy, I'm trying. *(pause)*

TED: Please, seriously think about it, could you do that?

KATHY: *(pause)* No.

TED: Terry?

TERRY: Huh? Of course not.

TED: Then why- then how can you think any of the rest of us could?

KATHY: I don't know.

TERRY: How it works is: everyone has to be equally complicit in things.

CATHY: Stop. Stop talking about how it works. Unless you've got one solid reason to doubt my dedication to the cause, then you'd better stop wasting our time.

KATHY: Okay, but-

CATHY: Do you? Do you have a reason to think I'm gonna turn on you?

KATHY: No.

CATHY: Okay then, Terry?

TERRY: I don't know, Cathy.

CATHY: Then it's too late already. If you don't trust me, didn't trust me, then you were pretty stupid to-

TERRY: To, what? To drag you kicking and screaming into this? I- we're a group and I tried to do this without breaking up the group, but clearly that's not possible.

CATHY: Listen to him; trying to keep the group together. Yeah, right.

KATHY: Terry, this isn't broken. We're the tightest-

TERRY: If she's not one hundred percent in this, then it is.

TED: Or is it that you just plain don't-

DIANA: We're all already taking this risk. Terry, Cathy is- just being here now, she's already an accomplice. You can't-

KATHY: What about plea bargains?

(DIANA *is stunned. She withdraws from the conversation.*)

TED: This is- I can't believe we're having this conversation! Terry, Kathy, nobody is going to cooperate with the United States government. We've already sacrificed a lot and a prison sentence is just the next step. We're all aware of that and we're all willing to take that risk.

TERRY: Are we?

CATHY: I am. It's like Thoreau said, in a world like this, the only place for a just and right- a good person- to be is in jail. As far as I'm concerned, we'll all end up there or dead at some point or another, regardless of who does what right now. That's basically where we belong-

TERRY: It's easy to say that now, but... c'mon.

TED: No it's not.

KATHY: You don't know, Ted, none of us do.

CATHY: What? Do you really think I'm lying?

KATHY: But Cathy-

CATHY: But nothing. If you don't trust me by now, neither of you, then were already completely-

TED: Just think about it for a second. Imagine the FBI takes you in and they're asking you to finger one of us, could you do that?

KATHY: Ted-

KATHY: Maybe- All I'm saying is we'd be better off if all this shit was brought out in the open- in a controlled... like you said last night.

DIANA: I don't think it's a good idea.

KATHY: If you don't think we can handle it, you're wrong. Shit, I've sat around a table with some vicious assholes that'd make Terry look like a baby kitten. We're so much-

TED: And where are those assholes now? What are they-

KATHY: They're fucking running-

DIANA: We'll discuss this tonight. When Terry is here.

KATHY: Alright. That's all I'm asking for.

TED: Oh, shit! I'm late, I gotta run (*starts to leave*)

DIANA: Five, right?

TED: Yeah, have a good afternoon.

KATHY: Why is he even bothering?

CATHY: He's got friends there.

DIANA: It'd be pretty suspicious is he didn't show up.

KATHY: You're right.

DIANA: Are you two going to be alright?

CATHY: Yeah, we're gonna get lunch with Bobby.

DIANA: I think you should.

KATHY: Yeah. If some of this shit doesn't change when we get back...

DIANA: It's gonna get worse before it gets better. But it will get better, I promise.

KATHY: Thanks.

DIANA: You're welcome.

KATHY: Really... I'd be...

DIANA: I- You're welcome... I...

CATHY: Hey, let's roll. Bobby's waiting.

KATHY: Bye. *(she awkwardly hugs DIANA, the CATHYS exit right. DIANA watches TV for a little while, then goes upstairs to take a nap. Pause. TERRY enters right with no groceries. Turns on some music. Searches for the building list, finds it, sits at the table with it.)*

TERRY: Oh, shit *(Picks up grocery list)* goddamn it. *(Grabs coat exits right. Time passes. TED enters right, exits left, re-enters without coat and with DIANA, they're each carrying an extra chair)*

TED: So, I think I'm leaving the office in good hands.

DIANA: Yeah?

TED: Well, I told you about Abe. He seems to be really coming around, taking more responsibility.

DIANA: That's great.

TED: Yeah, sometimes I still wish it could work. I mean, these kids really are trying.

DIANA: There's so many more who don't, and who aren't going to.

TED: I know, and they're the ones who really should. The rich kids who have the time to, cuz they don't have to work or worry as much about school.

KATHY: No it's not the same thing. It's totally different. The school of fish doesn't need- or it's not the... we don't need the people to help us, we just move through them.

TERRY: No, Diana's right- it's basically guerilla warfare, we need safe-houses and everything, but we don't need dead weight following us around.

CATHY: Dead weight?

KATHY: We want you with us, we all do. The thing is, if you're- we can't do it. We just can't.

TED: Hey, I thought we decided not to go into this. We're supposed to be talking about targets right now, let's deal with this after that.

TERRY: How can we make up a plan before we know who's in?

DIANA: First we choose targets, then decide what things need to be done, and who'll do which. We make sure everyone is okay with their roles and change the plan if we have to.

TERRY: It's not just a matter of making sure everyone is okay with their role in the plan; it's making sure the plan is solid. That everyone who is in is in for real, and what happens if someone isn't.

DIANA: We talked about that this morning. We have to trust each other.

TERRY: We need something more than-

TED: Why, Terry? Why do we need that? Why can't we just make up the plan and stick people in the roles they want to play and just *do* it.

TERRY: Seriously, I don't want to do this if I have to watch my back.

TED: Why? Are you actually scared that Cathy is just going to turn around and rat you out?

TERRY: Well-

CATHY: I know. But I still am- I want to be involved!

DIANA: We know.

CATHY: Terry doesn't! ..and I don't want to have to listen to him insult me and insinuate things about me just because I was on the other side of that argument after the judge's house.

TERRY: There's more to it than that. Diana was with you but she actually changed her mind. You're not decided; it's not resolved.

CATHY: I'm resolved. I know what I want to do. I know what part I want to play in things.

KATHY: Yeah, but- the problem is, is that a part that we need you to play?

TERRY: Do we need someone who's just along for the ride?

DIANA: We're going to need anyone we can get. A whole network of people; we can't stay here past next week. After that, we'll be moving around wherever anyone is willing to take us in and risk helping us out. There's going to be a lot of people who want to help us without joining the fight.

(KATHY and TED *simultaneously*)

TED: We need-

KATHY: That's not true.

TED: We need, what did Che call it, or was it Mao, a school of fish to swim in.

KATHY: It was Mao, and you've got it wrong. Mao said we're the school of fish and the people are the water we swim in.

TED: Okay, same thing.

DIANA: The rich kids don't really benefit from it.

TED: What?

DIANA: Community isn't important to rich kids. It's not necessary.

TED: Yeah, but they should get involved. They're the ones who benefit most from society so they should put something back in.

DIANA: Yes, but the reason they don't is that they don't *need* to.

TED: What do you mean by that?

DIANA: In terms of self-interest, community and activism do more for poor people. Anyway, it's good that you're leaving the office in order.

TED: Yeah, it's like, just when that's coming together this starts falling apart.

DIANA: What?

TED: Well, I... I'm nervous.

DIANA: I thought you said you were alright.

TED: No... I'm worried about Terry. I think... he's gonna back out on us.

DIANA: Terry? No. He's going overboard, not backing out.

TED: That's the problem... I think that's a front. I'm afraid he's kinda fooling himself. Kathy might be right about the assessment.

DIANA: Kathy wasn't doubting Terry. Ted, I need your help here. Terry is so hard to control and Kathy is trying, but...

TED: We need to do something. And I don't think he slept well last night. He's conflicted. (CATHY and KATHY *enter, laughing about something*)

DIANA: I really don't need you to join in.

KATHY: And then he said, (*in poor imitation of Bobby Briggs' voice*) 'only if they can't get these boots offa me.' Well, you know how he talks.

CATHY: God, what a dork!

KATHY: Yeah it's great, you gotta love the Briggs.

TED: So, what's he got planned?

KATHY: Oh, he's gonna bomb some right wing churches. Ka-blooie they all go up at once, Sunday morning middle of mass.

TED: What, he join the Avengers?

KATHY: I wish.

CATHY: No, he's not bombing anything. He's gonna set up a dating game.

TED: A dating game?

KATHY: Yep, he figures, since there aren't enough gay politicians, he'll just have to convert some of the straight ones.

CATHY: He's gonna give New York's political elite a chance to go out with the gay community's most eligible singles. He's got plans for the senators and the mayor. It's fabulous. Speaking of fabulous, where's Terry?

DIANA: I don't know. He went to get groceries, but he should be back.

TED: He was real excited about this thing. (*Lifting list off table*) But, obviously he's not doing anything with it now.

KATHY: Oh, whatever. Bobby's dating game has some potential.

CATHY: It's great! He thinks the lucky couples are gonna end up in long-term relationships, even marriages.

CATHY: Well, I kinda like Ted's idea with the statue.

TERRY: Of course you would. That's pussy shit. Just fucking vandalism.

TED: Hey!

TERRY: Let's get real.

CATHY: Terry, I really don't need to hear anymore of this from you.

TERRY: Well I don't need to-

CATHY: No, Terry, I'm serious. Didn't we just say-

TERRY: *We* might have, *you* were pretty quiet.

CATHY: God! ...before last week I felt like- this felt like a real family to me.

TERRY: But it's not just a fucking family. This isn't some kind of club or support group or something. We're doing something, and if you aren't-

CATHY: I am doing something. I've been an activist longer than you've known me. I was here getting arrested every two weeks back when you were in Ohio picking fights with cops. So don't talk to me like I'm naive or not dedicated.

TERRY: But you aren't on the same- we've moved beyond that shit. We're ready to get our hands dirty.

CATHY: How're you so sure I'm not?

TERRY: Um... you said you weren't.

CATHY: I'm ready. I-

DIANA: Cathy, we all know you've got reservations about this; you don't have to pretend you don't.

DIANA: If anyone wants to leave this group they know where the door is. I'm not going to babysit you and I'm not going to assess, or iron out these conflicts. We don't have time for that. Instead, we've got an escape clause. (*she points to the door.*)

TERRY: But we can't-

DIANA: Terry. (*pause*) If anyone does not want a role in this action, speak now. (*TERRY looks at CATHY intensely*)

DIANA: Okay: targets.

TERRY: If no one else prepared anything-

TED: I thought- that police statue in the park; I hate how that thing stares at me as I walk past everyday.

KATHY: Macy's. Get the pigs where they shop.

CATHY: When it's open?

KATHY: Fuck yeah.

CATHY: But-

KATHY: C'mon, that's what the avengers were gonna do.

CATHY: They were?

DIANA: Yes.

CATHY: But that's... there's gonna be a lot of people there.

TED: Well, yeah... I mean... that's kinda the point.

CATHY: I just- okay.

TERRY: You got any ideas?

KATHY: For us I mean, if only any of the politicians would play along.

CATHY: How about Senator Clinton? (*KATHY rolls her eyes*)

TED: Her PR isn't going to let that happen.

KATHY: Well, Bobby will keep them real busy. He's working hard on the mayor too.

CATHY: He's hoping to sweep him off his feet, get him to go after his own marriage license.

TED: Isn't the mayor already married?

(*TERRY enters right, with three paper bags of groceries.*)

TERRY: Hey.

TED (*crossing to TERRY*): What took so long? (*TERRY shrugs*)

KATHY: That's obviously a screen. The mayor is *so* in the closet, and Bobby's going to drag him out, then what I'm thinking is-

TERRY: Gimmie a hand here?

KATHY: Sorry.

(*TED grabs the middle bag, KATHY comes to take the second bag, awkward moments as TERRY tries to hand off third bag, TED tries to take it and KATHY, assuming TERRY will carry it, crosses between them to right exit.*)

TED: Why don't you just- (*TERRY drops the last bag on the floor*)

KATHY: Shit- Sorry again!

TERRY: Hope the eggs weren't in that one. Oh yeah, I didn't buy any eggs. (*TED and KATHY exit right. TERRY throws his coat over the chair, stretches and rubs his shoulders*) That's a long walk with- So, what's up?

DIANA: We were waiting for you to get back so we could have the meeting.

TERRY: Alright, well let's do it. What do you want to talk about first, the targets (*Picking up his list from the table*) or who's doing what?

TED: (*from off stage right*) Where's the granola bars?

TERRY: In the other bag. (*pulls granola bar box out of remaining bag, mocking*) You see this?

TED: (*grabs granola bars and third grocery bag, exits right. In kitchen unloading bags*) I think targets first makes more sense, then we'll know what we need people to do.

TERRY: Most of these are just pretty much the same kind of thing.

DIANA: We don't know for sure we're doing one of those.

TERRY: No? Well, what do you want to do?

CATHY: What is that anyway?

TERRY: It's a list of government buildings, politician's offices, courthouses, federal buildings, stuff like that. But, what're your ideas?

DIANA: First, before we get into any of that, Kathy wants to suggest something.

KATHY: I kinda changed my mind, but I was thinking we should have an assessment.

TERRY: Why's that?

KATHY: Like you have to ask. You've been running your own little inquisition-

TERRY: Fine, well, why'd you change your mind?

KATHY: It's- there's not enough time.

TERRY: Alright, then we can move on-

TED: I- I was thinking an assessment wouldn't be a terrible idea.

KATHY: You're the one who changed my mind.

TED: I just think- I mean, we kind of arbitrarily assigned this deadline-tomorrow, and with everything-

KATHY: We're not moving the deadline.

TED: Part of the advantage of our method here is flexibility.

KATHY: Flexibility so we're prepared to put something together quickly, to respond quickly to events. Not flexibility to push back the deadline cuz we don't have our shit together enough to meet a deadline we've been aware of for-

TERRY: Besides, we let you start backpedaling now, what happens to our resolution? We said March sixth. It's now or never.

TED: It's so arbitrary.

TERRY: Listen, you aren't going to use Kathy's assessment idea as an excuse to back out of this without looking like a shithead, so-

TED: Do you want to have an assessment or not?

TERRY: No!

TED: Then don't start one on me.

TERRY: Should I want to have one?

CATHY: Diana.

TERRY: Is there something you need to say?

TED: Not for me.