

LISA

(Please read
'MARY' lines)

2

* Scene from "The Newsroom"

10.27.14

INT. DORM ROOM - DAY

The a cappella group can now be heard through the wall singing the Backstreet Boys hit, "I Want It That Way."

START →

MARY

The law is plainly failing rape victims, that must be obvious to you.

DON

It is, but in fairness, the law wasn't built to serve victims.

MARY

In fairness?

DON

I know.

(pause)

They're singing the Backstreet Boys now?

MARY

Do you believe me?

DON

Do I believe you? Of course I do.

MARY

Seriously.

DON

(pause)

I'm not here on a fact-finding mission.

MARY

I'm just curious. Be really honest.

DON

(beat)

Okay. I've heard two competing stories. One from a very credible woman who as far as I can see has no reason to lie. The other from a guy I judge to be a little sketchy who has every reason to lie. And I'm obligated to believe the sketchy guy.

1/4

LISA (Please read
'MARY' lines)

10.27.14
2.

* SCENES FROM ~~Green Rev. (mm/dd/yy)~~
"The NEWSROOM"

MARY

This isn't a courtroom, you're not
legally obligated to presume
innocence.

DON

I believe I'm morally obligated.

MARY

(pause)

You know you're a good guy but do
people tell you a lot that your
head's up your ass?

DON

They do. And I absolutely allow for
that possibility. I'm the guy who
goes around saying O.J.'s not
guilty because a jury said so.

MARY

I'm not gonna get a jury.

DON

I know and I can imagine how
frustrating that must--

MARY

No you can't imagine.

DON

I can't.

(beat)

But it's a huge, dangerous,
ominous, scary-as-shit mistake to
convene your own trial in front of
a television audience. Where
there's no due process, no lawyers,
no discovery, no rules of
procedure, decisions on admissable
evidence, threat of perjury,
confrontation of witnesses or any
of the things we do--

MARY

--to ensure that rapists go to
Stanford Medical School.

DON

To ensure that an innocent person
isn't destroyed. The law will
acquit him, but the Internet never
will.

(beat)

(MORE)

2/4

LISA (Please read 'Mary' lines)

10.27.14

*Scene from "The Newsroom"
~~Green Rev. (mm/dd/yy)~~
DON (CONT'D)

3.

The Internet gets used for vigilantism every day but this is a whole new level and if we go there we're truly fucked.

MARY

I'm not a vigilante.

DON

Do you want to live in a world where--

MARY

You want to hear the advice I get? I mean this is real advice, in pamphlets. Say you have a boyfriend. Wear a wedding ring. I'm supposed to protect myself from a man by pretending I'm the property of another man. And of course there's no shortage of good fashion advice.

DON

Mary--

MARY

When you came in here you wanted to go to a public place because you were scared I'd cry rape. I'm scared of getting raped. I'm scared all the time. All the time. So you know what my site does? It scares you. It scares the living shit out of any guy who thinks even once about putting his hands on someone without an invitation.

DON

You're right to name your attacker. You may even be obligated to. But the site's gonna clobber an innocent person, there's no chance it won't. And if you face off with the guy you've accused on TV it's gonna be a lawless food fight with irreversible, irretrievable consequences. Teams will be formed, you will be slut-shamed and you won't get the justice you're looking for. That's why I'm asking you to refuse.

3/4

LISA

(Please read
'MARY' lines)

10.27.14

4.

A scene from "The Newsroom"

~~Green Rev. (mm/dd/yy)~~

MARY

I don't understand why you need me to refuse. It's your show, why don't you just not do it?

DON

I've been overruled. It's a promotable story that'll bring in a younger audience.

MARY

I don't have a problem with that.

DON

It's sports, Mary. It's gonna be covered like sports.

MARY

I'm gonna win this time.

DON takes a long moment before...

DON

(pause)

Alright. Thanks for hearing me out. We'll be in touch with you.

END

4/4