

LOOKING FOR GEORGE

(a desperate play for desperate times)

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CHARACTERS:

TOM, an Iraq war vet
AMELIA, a concerned citizen
GRACE, a mother
HANK, a father, a Vietnam war vet
LIBBY, a lost soul
MARK, disillusioned
VOICES OF SEVERAL IRAQI PARENTS

EXTRAS on Camera, playing themselves:

AL ROKER
ANN CURRY
MATT LAUER
WILLARD SCOTT
PETER JENNINGS
MARTHA STEWART
GEORGE W. BUSH

TIME:

2007 (and any year thereafter).

PLACES:

PART I

A line drawing of the United States on the stage floor, each character in a different state. A constant screen backdrop of various weather reports, tips about love, and moving landscapes.

INTERLUDE

Onscreen depiction of two boys getting fatter and fatter over a ten-year period via a computer program that predicts obesity, accompanied by Matt Lauer warning about the American diet and its effects on children's weight.

PART II

Onscreen cartoon-like image of the Oval Office.

PRELUDE

Audience enters the space and gets situated. House lights are up. On the large screen backdrop the title *Looking for George* sits above a red line drawing of the United States superimposed over the globe. The DVD “play” prompt in the lower left corner of the screen indicates that the show will eventually go on.

PART ONE

House lights fade and as stage lights come up, a news update flashes across the screen.

ANNOUNCER’S VOICE

(accompanied by manic news “music”)

This is a News Channel 31 update.

(Cut to a local weather report in Channel 31’s studio.)

GABRIELLE KOMOROWSKI

And, good morning to you. It’s four minutes before 9:00. It’s Friday and, Jim, what a great Friday it is.

JIM MOORE

I think we need to give the sunshine another round of applause. Look at this shot from our eco-cam.

(Zooms in on a sunny New York skyline while **JIM**’s voice continues.)

Lots of blue sky overhead. You can see the adiron—

(Cut to **MARTHA STEWART** in her television studio.)

MARTHA STEWART

There are some things in life that are simply out of our control. Like natural disasters. Storms. Hurricanes. Tornados. Fires. And if you’ve ever been affected by one, you know how important it is to be prepared when the disaster hits. And after it’s over.

(Cut to excerpt from *Deep Impact* where the meteor is hitting the earth and about to destroy New York City.)

(As the tidal wave begins to hit the city, actors walk onstage declaiming the following litany of salutations to the President. Their lines overlap and repeat with increasing frequency and urgency, ending with **GRACE**'s desperate plea synchronized with the Statue of Liberty's head getting pulled off the screen by a relentless onslaught of water.)

George,
G.W.,
Mr. President,
President George,
George W.
Mr. President,
G.W.,
George,
George,
George,
To the President,

GRACE

(shrieking)

George!!!!

(Cut to serene postcard image of lower Manhattan without the towers. This continues for awhile.)

LIBBY

Dear George,

How are you? I'm fine. Just heard that another plane flew into a building in New York. This time a baseball player. How strange is that?

GRACE

(defiant, insistent)

I am going to the top.

MARK

I am trying to reach the President of the United States.

AMELIA

Yes, the President. He's expecting me.

TOM

I'm here for the commercial.

HANK

I only have good things to say.
The rest of these people are nuts.

AMELIA

Look, it was pretty much 50/50 across the nation.
So don't feel so superior. OK?

GRACE

Are you the last of the just?

AMELIA

Oh, please.

LIBBY

He told me to say he's expecting me.
(beat)
Yes he did. Ask him.

AMELIA

Who do you think you are?

HANK

I am a patriotic citizen of the United States of America.
That's who **I** am.

(Cut to a news update.)

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

(accompanied by manic news "music")

This is a News Channel 31 update.

(Cut to a local weather report in Channel 31's studio.)

GABRIELLE KOMOROWSKI

Well, good morning to you. It's twenty seven minutes past eight o'clock. Hope you're running on time this morning. Not spending too much time outside just yet being **AMAZED** by this wonderful weather.

JIM MOORE

Everyone that's coming into work has a huge smile on their face.

GABRIELLE KOMOROWSKI

As do we!

(Cut to scenic forest postcard vista.)

MARK

Christmas is coming and I'm just plain sad.

(beat)

My church is a church of love. At the service this morning the Minister spoke about seeing people's homes brightly colored with Christmas lights and being filled with joy. I do not feel this. I am mourning the loss of America's soul.

LIBBY

I'm about to be hauled off to group therapy which has been quite pleasant though I must say a bit dull. The therapist passes out chocolate kisses, which I really do appreciate but everything I once held dear has slipped away from me and I'm not sure what I should be thinking anymore.

TOM

I served in the war. It was the right thing to do. No, I don't feel good about losing my leg, but I'd feel a lot better if the people of this country were more grateful for what we're trying to do over there.

GRACE

Support the troops.

TOM

No, it's not easy. It's not going to be solved overnight.

HANK

Support the troops.

TOM

People are losing their lives. That's what happens in war. You know that. I know that. Freedom requires sacrifice.

HANK and GRACE

Support the troops.

(Cut to *Today Show* weather update with **AL ROKER**.)

MATT LAUER

Let's get another check of the weather, Al. Ann is still arguing.

AL ROKER

OK, Ann. I want you to pay attention.

MATT LAUER

She is still arguing.

AL ROKER

Are you ready?

ANN CURRY

No. No. We were —

AL ROKER

Ann. Ann.

ANN CURRY

It's because the arctic air —

AL ROKER

Ann. Zip. Zip. Zip.

Allright. Let's take a look at the graphic.

(Cut to cartoon-style weather map with moving arrows indicating air shifts while **AL**'s voice continues.)

We'll show you. This is the normal weather situation at this time of year. The polar jet stream — the band of air about 20,000 feet above the earth's surface — it is usually up to the North. Now, this Easter it has dipped to the South, allowing the cold air to come in. There is still a jet stream but it has moved to the South. And THAT means frigid air in the East. OK?

ANN CURRY

Exactly. That's what I was saying.

AL ROKER

You weren't. You were saying it wasn't a jet stream. The jet stream dipped down.

ANN CURRY

No, I'm saying it's the frigid air.

AL ROKER

Yes, but the jet stream dipped down. It dipped down.

ANN CURRY

Bickerson this morning. OK. I will never argue the weather with you again.

AL ROKER

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

(to a member of the sidewalk audience)

You're missing your marine. Who is that?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

David Lane. My fiancé.

AL ROKER

Oh. Well, we hope he comes back son — soon. OK?

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Yes, thank you.

(Cut to animated weather map with twirling suns and raining clouds on different states.)

AL ROKER

Now let's check your weather. See what's going on. We'll show you today. We've got heavy rain in the Pacific Northwest. There is NO disputing that!

(Cut to wheat field vista.)

LIBBY

Things I like about you:

- 1.) You don't take the Lord's name in vain.
- 2.) You keep trim.
- 3.) You won't be running for President again.

AMELIA

I DO support the troops, God damn it!!!

HANK

My son was killed in Iraq. He did not die in vain.

LIBBY

My jello is excellent. I put ketchup on everything. They treat me well here. Really well. When I got molested last week, the doctor who did it was immediately sent to the cafeteria. He had to bring me tapioca and I was happy.

GRACE

My daughter was killed in Iraq. She did not waste her life.

HANK

We're a proud military family.
We care about this country and we act on it.

GRACE

We trust your judgment and your love of this country.

AMELIA

I have lost all faith in the American government.
Not that I ever had any in you.

(Cut to **ANN CURRY** and **AL ROKER** in the NBC studio with a heart shape graphic around them.)

ANN CURRY

Thanks a lot, Al. Coming up next. Where you can find love. Right after this.

(The heart breaks in half. Fade in snowy vista.)

MARK

In this, my fourth letter to you, I fear that redundancy will become all too apparent and even new turns of phrase will not suffice in keeping me amused. In other words, I am running out of steam.

(beat)

Perhaps instead I should tell you about my life, which has thus far amounted to a colossally long series of impractical choices made solely on the basis of love and art. I have no regrets because these are my possessions – the gifts of touch, memory, language, inspiration.

LIBBY

Dear George:

Just wanted to say hello and that I'm wondering why you haven't written me in all these weeks. I know how busy you are, but I've written you five letters, and it's rude of you not to even drop me a line saying something like, "hey, I'm here. Just swamped. I'll write you in more detail soon."

GRACE

We know you're making hard decisions and that you're weighing them carefully.

HANK

We know you would never be reckless with our children's lives.

AMELIA

Yet I ask myself, why should I not want the very best for you? So far I have only expressed resentment for all that you have and abuse. What if your power, greed, duplicity, and confusion were all suddenly replaced with a miraculous understanding of the intangible values that would bring you a peaceful heart? What would happen then? It's radical, I know. It's unimaginable. But tonight I feel like dreaming.

LIBBY

Anyway, I'm going to bed now. It's late. No word from you again today. And, frankly, I am not amused.

(Cut to undulating flower image. The undulations get faster and faster as **GRACE**'s lines reach a climax.)

HANK

I have nothing much to say except to speak my support.
I support the President of the United States.
I support all the decisions of the American Government regarding this war.
I support spreading American freedom around the world.
I support the American economy and way of life.

GRACE

I support Walmart and Target and all our wonderful stores.
I support Slimfast and Jenny Craig.
I support Velveeta and Wheatina.
I support CVS and all other multinational chains.
I support Christianity and chemical weapons.
I support Oprah and Dr. Phil.
And I support taking care of me.

(Cut to a weather map with the title, "Why so cold?")

MARK

You remind me what H. L. Mencken had once said about President Harding's use of the English language. It is "a string of wet sponges; it reminds me of tattered washing on the line; it reminds me of stale bean soup, of college yells, of dogs barking idiotically through endless nights. It is so bad that a sort of grandeur creeps into it. It drags itself out of the dark abyss of pish, and crawls insanely up the topmost pinnacle of posh. It is rumble and bumble. It is flap and doodle. It is balder and dash."

AMELIA

I've been forlorn this week, nearly inconsolable. I sent my five-year-old daughter to kindergarten on the morning of September 11th. Five years ago that day she was in her crib while our building shook from the blast of the second plane entering the tower.

My husband, an elegant Englishman, couldn't believe it had been a terrorist attack after the first plane crashed. Then we moved away, he was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and he died. His childhood home in London was blown apart during the blitz when he was three, after which he suffered from a lifelong stutter. In other words, I know well the direct and indirect consequences of war.

LIBBY

I don't know how to try to convince you of anything because that piece in the center of my head, the part where hope used to be located, has gone missing, it seems, forever.

(Cut to a news update.)

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

(accompanied by manic news "music")

This is a News Channel 31 update.

(Cut to a local weather report in Channel 31's studio.)

GABRIELLE KOMOROWSKI

Well, good morning to you. It is four minutes before nine o'clock. We're in such a good mood today because the weather's so nice.

JIM MOORE

Let's give the sunshine a round of applause.

(Cut to dark clouds, thunder, lightning. Then to ominous mountain vista.)

GRACE

My fantasies of you are filled with love.
We are in love. I help you with your hard job.
You come to me at night, lay your head on my breast.
We are inseparable. You are important.
Your secretary buys me shoes. Because you know I love them.
Is this how it could be? The two of us against the world?

TOM

I moved to Montana. It's quiet here and I thought that would do me good.
Trouble is that all the noise is in my head. That, I could not have known.
Why? Well, the noise was so loud I was sure it came from outside me.

GRACE

I dream of you, wonder what you feel.
I conjure you up in the night.
I need you. I know you need me.

LIBBY

Even with my brain capacity diminished as it now is, I can't seem to stop myself from reaching out to you, trying to get you to take notice of me — to feel the pain that I feel. If only you could feel for all those dead and dying, if you could see the folly of your life, everything would change. Gardens would start growing from sidewalks rainbows would shower the skies every afternoon at 3:00 (just when we all need a break), and artists would come bearing poetry for you, bring you sweets, show you what love is.

(Cut to ANN CURRY and MATT LAUER in the NBC studio.)

ANN CURRY

Boy, do we need it. We want it.

MATT LAUER

Yeah, We've had a miserable week here. Inside Studio A. I'm Matt Lauer along with Ann Curry. Meredith's gonna be back on Monday. Coming up in this half hour, Alec Baldwin unhinged.

(Cut to ice scape vista.)

TOM

I'm freaking out. That's my life. 24/7. I know it's hard. I've acknowledged that. But my sores are festering. My brain is swirling. My heart is pounding. And there's never a moment of pure calm. It's all ashes and bones and bodies and fire. It's all gun shots and shrapnel, tar and bombs. Pie is not even pie anymore. Pie is a dead man's eyes with a heart flailing on the ground like a jellyfish out of water. I thought I'd survived.

(Ice scape fades into mountainous region with airplanes.)

LIBBY

This I wish from my dilapidated cell. This I wish every minute of every day.

AMELIA

Sometimes I ask myself, do you have vagina envy? Then I think of Laura, Barbara, Nancy, Condi, and Margaret (Thatcher, in case you don't remember who she is) and my half-assed, one-cup-of-tea theory goes straight out the window. These women, selling their bodies and souls, just to play poker at the power table, dress in Chanel, and feel the cellular rush of being "on top."

(Airplanes fade into Google space image, then rushing clouds.)

MARK

Who are you? I wonder if you know. If you do know, you should fly far away for the rest of your life and serve soup to the poor. If you don't, just as I've suspected from the start, there's no reason to write you these letters except that these words need to come. And I'm allowing myself this indulgence for what reason it will no doubt eventually become clear.

AMELIA

It would be crude to send you best regards at this point. You know that's not what I send. But I do pray, for the sake of this country and the world, that whatever mind you have be swiftly connected to something we used to call a conscience.

MARK

Maybe I will kill you.
Strap a bomb to myself and enter the White House, blowing it all to smithereens.
The problem with that idea is how many more of you there are.
You seem to be a dime a dozen. I don't know how that happens.
How do so many people get to be as crazy, stupid, greedy, and vicious as you?

(Cut to a news update.)

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

(accompanied by manic news "music")

This is a News Channel 31 update.

(Fades into desert vista.)

HANK/NEWS ANCHOR

More than 3,000 Iraqis are dying every month in this war -- roughly the total deaths in the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon or all the American troops killed since the war began.

VOICE OVERHEAD

Our life now, it's not a life, it's a kind of dream.

HANK/NEWS ANCHOR

The words of Qais Ataiwee Yaseen, whose two boys, ages 8 and 11, were killed that day.

VOICE OVERHEAD

Life has no taste. I even feel sick of myself.

HANK/NEWS ANCHOR

When the bomber struck, apparently aiming at a convoy of American Humvees parked at the end of the street, one American soldier and 34 Iraqis were killed. All of the Iraqis were boys, and all but four were younger than 15. The youngest was 6. In all, 29 families lost children; one lost three sons.

In the seconds after the explosion, the world narrowed to one child for Sattar Hashim, a 39-year-old security guard whose son had gone out to see the American patrol. Mr. Hashim moved frantically through the wreckage, just outside his front gate, a scene now burned into his memory. He found his son unconscious, his body torn by shrapnel. We spoke this morning in his sparsely furnished living room with the curtains drawn.

VOICE OVERHEAD

I pray to God that no one in this world will ever have to face such a scene. As if they had been scattered on the ground. Legs. Arms. Heads. Bodies still burning.

HANK/NEWS ANCHOR

His son died in a hospital operating room several hours after the explosion.

GRACE/NEWS ANCHOR

Qais Ataiwee Yaseen lost his knack for numbers and found himself fumbling in front of customers at the hardware store where he had worked for years. Eventually, he quit.

Reading and writing became difficult for Zahra Hussein, the mother of 11-year-old Hamza. She had lost her ability to concentrate and some of her eyesight.

HANK/NEWS ANCHOR

Hadi Faris, Hamza's father, stopped his work as a driver. He could not control his thoughts, and concentrating on the road and split-second decisions became too onerous.

VOICE OVERHEAD

I kept thinking how life is cheap, how so many innocent people are killed.

HANK/NEWS ANCHOR

After some months, he applied for, and was given, a job as a guard in his son's school. It felt somehow reassuring to do after his son's death what could not be done during his life: protect. He now lives in a small guest room with a kerosene heater for warmth.

GRACE/NEWS ANCHOR

Mr. Yaseen is haunted by the helplessness he felt that morning when he found his younger son, Ali, still alive. He was badly burned and missing his feet.

VOICE OVERHEAD

I said to myself -- two feet, it is nothing. I have my son.

GRACE/NEWS ANCHOR

But within several hours the child was dead.

VOICE OVERHEAD

I did not have the ability to do anything for him. To save him.

GRACE/NEWS ANCHOR

His wife and daughter have moved out, and he has retreated into his apartment, a 12-foot by 14-foot room.

VOICE OVERHEAD

I'm like a dead man. I have no ambitions. I have no goals in life. I have lost everything.

GRACE/NEWS ANCHOR

He stopped shaving. The room is now piled with baskets of laundry, old children's toys and a metal bassinet.

VOICE OVERHEAD

I live in this room. I sleep in this room. I eat in this room.
This is my whole life. As if I'm in prison.

(Cut to **AL ROKER** at Rockefeller Center with the sidewalk audience.)

AL ROKER

Now let's head on down to a man who is still in fact proud to be wearing his grandfather's shoes. Mr. Willard Scott. How are you, sir?

(Cut to **WILLARD SCOTT**.)

WILLARD SCOTT

I'm wearing my grandfather's underwear. They didn't take it off until the first of June back in the old days. What a que bella journa. I mean what a fantastic day this is in your nation's capitol. The iris is up and the beautiful honeysuckle are beginning to smell good. Lovely. Lovely. Lovely.

Happy Birthday to our friends at Smucker's. How nice it is to have some friends. Like Mary Ray. Hey Hey Hey. Westmoreland, New Hampshire. 112. Never believe it. Look at her. Enjoys playing, cribbage, solitaire, and reading the paper. Every big Red Sox game is on her TV. Never misses it.

(Cut to landscape of 100-year-olds on Smucker's jelly jars.)

AMELIA

You need to resign.

MARK

You need to atone.

GRACE

You need to stop.

LIBBY

You need to reflect.

TOM

You need to withdraw.

HANK

You need to leave.

AMELIA

Give up. Give in. Go back to Texas. Kill buffalo. Or something like that. It's time to end your reign of terror — before you go down in history as the WORST barbarian of the 20th/21st century.

(Cut to **PETER JENNINGS** in the ABC studio.)

PETER JENNINGS

Because I think we all know at moments like this the country looks to the President of the United States for understanding, for knitting the country together, and some Presidents do it brilliantly and some do not.

(Cut to multicolored emergency broadcast image with long beep sound, which slowly fades out.)

MARK and TOM

Surely it never crosses your mind that the historical moment upon which you are perched will be looked back on as one of the bleakest, lowest, darkest times in American history — as a time when a group of deeply uncivilized, deluded men running the most powerful nation in the world lost all control of their senses. The consequences, so far nothing less than catastrophic, remain to continue unfolding.

GRACE

I love you. I really do.

LIBBY

Well, I'll sign off for now, as I get tired easily. You take care of you and yours. And please bear with me during this learning curve. My lobotomy was only performed yesterday.

TOM

She was loved. She was a soldier. She was my friend. Her country forgot her when she needed it to help her heal.

LIBBY

I went to the store today to buy some tampons. Then I forgot to get them. Even though I was bleeding right through everything, right there.

TOM

She needed you so badly, and she reached out for help, she begged you to help her.

LIBBY

Then they asked me to leave the store. But I said I'd forgotten what I'd come in for, and that it must have been important because I don't like to leave the house.

TOM

I was there when her lousy chain of command failed her all the way up to you, the Commander-in-Chief. I was there when your Army discarded her after using her and allowing crimes to her person.

LIBBY

And surely they could understand that, I thought.

TOM

I was there when we talked to all the reporters and T.V. and media people that wanted our stories.

LIBBY

But they insisted and I didn't want to make a scene. So that was hard and I left. It's hard to go out and be told to go home. My doctors say I need to go out. But I don't seem to be fit for human contact.

TOM

May her soul enter into the light of a loving Creator. May she dwell in a place in our Father's Mansion where there are no lying officers, rapists, or medical board bandits and medical hold abusers.

LIBBY

Why am I telling you all this, you must wonder. You've got better things to do, no doubt, than read about the troubles of one lonely citizen.

TOM

She died from the bottle and the wheel, that's on paper down at the county morgue, along with her small spent body. But I know why Jesse really died, and I call her a casualty of war, and the other brothers and sisters are in agreement with me.

LIBBY

But I know how much you care. And the people where I am right now, they mean well I'm sure, but —

TOM

I know she sees us, and I know YOU know WE cared, WE gave a damn. I grieve for her, more even because of all the dishonor done to her.

LIBBY

It's not that anything really horrible has ever happened to me. It's just that I was really hoping to be somebody and —

TOM

(interrupting)

I believe she will now be this war's Saint of the Female Soldier. I believe this because she suffered so in this life, and her heart is now light and free, and her name is in a place of the honor she deserved here, and her mind of a good way.

GRACE

If I see one more homeless vet today, I'm going to give him everything in my wallet.

HANK

Thanks America.

TOM

And have a happy indulgent Christmas.
Be sure to get your brat a Playstation and your chick a big rock.

AMELIA

Here's the thing: you are a very mean man. That's bad enough. But you're a mean man with one of the most powerful positions in the world. I ask myself over and over again how this happens. Then I remember that people who want the kind of power you have are usually at best highly compromised, in the middle somewhat evil, and at your end of the spectrum hopelessly ignorant and foolish.

That's about it for tonight. I'll be in touch again soon.

MARK

I wish you would end this war now.

LIBBY

I wish my brother hadn't been killed.

TOM

I wish I could see my girlfriend.

GRACE

I wish my legs weren't so fat.

LIBBY

I wish my mother would take me to lunch.

HANK

I wish you would end this war now.

VOICE OVERHEAD

I wish you would end this war now.

GRACE

I wish you would end this war now.

VOICE OVERHEAD

I wish you would end this war now.

LIBBY

I wish I could end this war. Now.

(Emergency broadcast beep sound fades back up, as lights begin to
fade to black.)

PART TWO

Empty stage. Lights up on **MATT LAUER**, **ANN CURRY**, and **AL ROKER** standing outside Rockefeller Center with their usual audience of average Americans.

MATT LAUER

Coming up in this half hour we're going to talk about the obesity problem among children in this country.

(Cut to a screen image of two chubby boys morphing into obese adults while Lauer continues talking.)

You know there's a good chance if your child is chubby now, he or she will be obese later in life. We're gonna take a look at a television show that's using this innovative technology to show you what your children are gonna look like some twenty or twenty five years down the road if you don't change their eating habits today.

(Cut to a cartoon version of the oval office. A new mood. As if childhood has returned. Actors begin the following dialogue offstage and continue as they enter the space.)

GRACE

He's MY George!

MARK

No he's not. He's MINE.

TOM

He's MINE!

HANK

Nuh. Unh. Mine.

AMELIA

Fine. Have him. See if I care.

(**AMELIA** runs off stage and returns with a box.)

LIBBY

My George. All mine. Come here, little Georgie. I will love you.

TOM

Georgie, Porgie puttnin' pie
Kissed the BOYS and made THEM cry

HANK

Nothin' but a little faggot is all he is.

MARK

Who you callin' a faggot?

LIBBY

Come on over here, Markie.
You can play with us.

TOM

Fine little faggot.

(**AMELIA** pulls her puppet out of the box.)

AMELIA

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

This is historic times, I tell you. Historic times.

(**MARK, HANK,** and **TOM** take out straws and throw spit balls at **G.W.**
Then they all go grab their puppets.)

GRACE

The key to world peace is the orgasm. The concept appears absurd upon first glance, and I anticipate such immediate reactions. Allow me to elaborate. The orgasm is inherent to humankind. Every human being with the proper functioning organs has the ability to produce the orgasm, and you know as well as I, humanity enjoys it. Achieving an orgasm has many positive physiological effects: not only does it lower blood pressure, but it also serves as a primary strategy to relieve stress, something humans experience today more than ever.

HANK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

My job is to, like, think beyond the immediate.

GRACE

Have you ever wanted to kill someone while experiencing the orgasmic thrill? Hardly; and together we both agree that such violent thoughts are rare, if they exist at all, among the sexually satisfied. The orgasm, and not some ephemeral idea of love, then, is what shall quench humanity's self-centered power struggles.

HANK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

See, we love—we love freedom. That's what they didn't understand. They hate things; we love things. They act out of hatred; we don't seek revenge, we seek justice out of love.

GRACE

Like eating and defecating, it should become a core part of our daily routine. Perhaps these precious five minutes spent in private will provide us with not only pleasure in the pure act itself, but pleasure in the anticipation, just as we look forward to a big steak dinner with the family.

HANK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

I think the tide's turning. See, as I remember — I was raised in the desert, but tides kind of — it's easy to see a tide turn. . .

(beat)

Did I say those words?

GRACE

President Bush, I understand that masturbation is considered a sin in Christianity and many other religions, but I say to you, God would not have molded our bodies and perfected our anatomical structure with the capacity to obtain such pleasure had he not wanted us to experience it. The tiny clitoris in the female body contains more nerves than the penis, and it is the only known tissue in the body whose sole purpose is to provide pleasure. Surely, we should reap from this gift.

HANK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

And I am an optimistic person. I guess if you want to try to find something to be pessimistic about, you can find it, no matter how hard you look, you know?

GRACE

(while holding up her **G.W.** puppet and stroking him)

In short, the orgasm is a fundamental experience that unites us all. Even the organs of five-month-old babies have developed sufficiently to reach the orgasm. It is the one answer to world peace. Men will lower their guns, women will stay with their husbands. The youth will mature with the skills, pride, and confidence to please themselves, and consequently, please others. And the poor, the homeless and wretched! Those who had nothing to live for now have something of their own, something that they can give themselves and no one can take away.

HANK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

And everybody wants to be loved—not everybody, but—you run for office, I guess you do. You never heard anybody say, “I'm running for office; I want to be despised.”

GRACE

George, please, masturbate me!

AMELIA

I hate the fact that you are president. I hate the fact that you think you're in charge. I hate the fact that you go to bed each night and wake up each morning. You are America's worst enemy.

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

They did misanderestimate me.

TOM

I have begun to think the world is going to end. I'm scared to go bed each night because I'm afraid nothing will be there when I open my eyes.

LIBBY

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

Families is where our nation finds hope, where wings take dream.

TOM

The sun has disappeared. I haven't seen it for days. Will it even come back?

HANK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

There are jobs Americans aren't doing. . . If you've got a chicken factory, a chicken-plucking factory, or whatever you call them, you know what I'm talking about.

AMELIA

I feel that a flood is coming and you will be the first one washed away.

LIBBY

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

When we moved in here, I said to Laura, make sure the rug says 'optimistic person comes to work.'

LIBBY

(giving her **G.W.** puppet a few kisses)

I'm sorry about last week. I'm actually a very nice person, but I have some anger issues. They stem from my childhood, as most issues do. Maybe I'll tell you about it someday.

MARK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

I've been in politics long enough to know that polls just go poof at times.

LIBBY

(tenderly, to her puppet)

Anyway, my therapist says I don't express my anger enough and that's why when I do it is unusually strong.

MARK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

My job is a job to make decisions. I'm a decision -- if the job description were, what do you do -- it's decision maker.

LIBBY

I just want to make it clear that I don't wish you any bodily harm at all and hopefully prevent any anxiety on your part, or an official investigation.

MARK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

Information is moving -- you know, nightly news is one way, of course, but it's also moving through the blogosphere and through the Internets.

LIBBY

All I want is for you to love me.

MARK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

I know the human being and fish can coexist peacefully.

LIBBY

I am nervous. I'm afraid of being nothing. I'm afraid of working in an office under florescent lights. I'm also afraid of spiders. When I was ten I was swarmed by ants in my Uncle Dan's alfalfa field.

AMELIA

I'm curious, Mr. President. Have you ever googled anybody? Do you use Google?

TOM

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

Occasionally. One of the things I've used on the Google is to pull up maps.

HANK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

It's very interesting to see -- I've forgot the name of the program -- but you get the satellite, and you can -- like, I kinda like to look at the ranch. It reminds me of where I wanna be sometimes.

GRACE

Mr. President, did you see Brokeback Mountain?

MARK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

I like my buddies from west Texas. I liked them when I was young, I liked them when I

MARK cont'd.

was middle-age, I liked them before I was president, and I like them during president, and

I like them after president.

GRACE

And, the movie?

MARK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

I'll be glad to talk about ranching, but I haven't seen the movie. I've heard about it. I hope you go -- you know -- I hope you go back to the ranch and the farm is what I'm about to say.

LIBBY

I'm not afraid of the truth. Truth is beauty. Beauty is sometimes ugly. Are you still reading this? If you are, please say aloud, right now, "I don't know you, but I love you." I don't know you but I love you.

HANK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

You know, too many good docs are getting out of the business. Too many OB-GYNs aren't able to practice their love with women all across this country.

TOM

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

I know how hard it is for you to put food on your family.

AMELIA

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we.

MARK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

The best thing about my family is my wife. She is a great first lady. I know that sounds not very objective, but that's how I feel. And she's also patient. Putting up with me requires a lot of patience.

GRACE

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

The question is, who ought to make the decisions? The Congress or the commanders? And as you know, my position is clear -- I'm a commander guy.

GRACE

Oh, George. We can work together. I know it.

LIBBY

This summer I rode the train to Boston in the mornings quite often. Sometimes a

business man would sit down next to me and I always wanted to lay my head on his shoulder. I never did. I think if you sat down next to me on a train I would want to lay my head on your shoulder. I'm not sure if I would. But the point is I need to feel I could.

TOM

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

Make no mistake about it, I understand how tough it is. I talk to families who die.

AMELIA

Mr. President, are you in total denial about what we've done to Iraq?

TOM

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

It's bad in Iraq. Does that help?

(beat)

And I'll tell you, forms of government matter, in my opinion. It matters how -- the nature of the government in which people live. It's important.

MARK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

But this business about graceful exit just simply has no realism to it at all.

HANK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

The only way we can win is to leave before the job is done.

LIBBY

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

Suiciders are willing to kill innocent life in order to send the projection that this is an impossible mission.

LIBBY

(tenderly, to her puppet)

Now, Georgie, that just doesn't make any sense.

LIBBY

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

You know, when I campaigned here in 2000, I said, I want to be a war President. No President wants to be a war President, but I am one.

AMELIA and MARK

And how does that make you feel?

HANK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

You know, one of the hardest parts of my job is to connect Iraq to the war on terror.

GRACE

George, don't give up!
We need you.

(beat)

I need you.

HANK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

The United States of America is engaged in a war against an extremist group of folks.
And they make me tired.

GRACE

Come to me, George.
I can relax you.

TOM

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

See, the irony is that what they need to do is get Syria to get Hezbollah to stop doing this
shit, and it's over.

GRACE

Shhhh. Shhhh.

MARK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

One thing is clear, is relations between America and Russia are good, and they're
important that they be good.

HANK

Shut up!
Shut the FUCK UP!

(**HANK** falls down with his puppet and sits curled in a ball,
shaking, until the end.)

LIBBY

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

There are some similarities, of course — between Iraq and Vietnam. Death is terrible.

GRACE

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

And anybody who is in a position to serve this country ought to understand the
GRACE cont'd.

consequences of words.

(**GRACE** tiptoes over to **HANK** and holds him until the end.)

TOM

What would you say has been the proudest moment of your life?

LIBBY

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

I would say the best moment of all was when I caught a seven-and-a-half pound largemouth bass in my lake.

AMELIA

And your presidency? The war?

MARK

(holds up **G.W.** puppet, imitating **G.W.**)

I like to tell people when the final history is written on Iraq, it will look like just a comma because there is -- my point is -- there's a strong will for democracy.

(beat)

And like I said before, I'm the decider, and I decide what is best.

(Cut to screen image of President Bush. Final moments of his State of the Union address.)

GEORGE W. BUSH

Thank you.

Good night.

God bless America.

(Lights fade on the President's face, as the globe fades in spinning.)

The End.