



Scripts.com

Quiz Show

By Paul Attanasio

So this is the 300.

The forward look.

That's the ermine white.

Seventeen coats, hand-sanded.

- I'm sure it's

the 17th coat that does it.

- Power steering, power windows,

power brakes,

power mirrors.

The new auto-pilot

will make you virtually superfluous.

- I'm not sure I need a car for that.

- TorqueFlite transmission.

The standard that

sets the standard.

And the top operates by

just the touch of a button.

-I can feel the wind in my hair already.

-You just out of school ?

- Harvard Law School.

- That degree sells itself.

Do you live here

in Washington ?

- I've been working for the government.

- Oh.

- Not that it's permanent.

- Oh.

- Care to get behind

the wheel, Mr. Goodman ?

- Goodwin.

Oh.

Just be careful

with the cigar.

Used to be a man drove the car.

Now the car drives the man.

Go on. Turn it over.

- Here ? Is it, uh--

- Go on. It's in neutral.

[Engine Humming]

Listen to that power.

- This is the town for it.

- And with the new Bendix Electrojector,

we can rate this honey

up to--

- 390 horsepower.
- Correct to the hoof.
- If my wife knew
I was here, she'd kill me.
- What a way to go.
- Yeah.
- I see you're admiring the seats.
That's pigskin
and calfskin.
Hand rubbed.
- Nicest piece of furniture
I own would be in the garage.
- Try the radio.
The only thing that sounds
better than the engine is the radio.

[Beeping]

The Russians have beaten
us into outer space.
You are listening
to the sound of Sputnik,
a satellite launched
this morning via rocket,
in orbit, right now,
directly over our heads.
A sound that says
all is not well with America.
America doesn't own
the 300.

["'Mack The Knife'"]

Oh, the shark, babe
Has such teeth, dear
And he shows them
Pearly white
Just a jackknife
Has old Macheath, babe
And he keeps it
out of sight
You know
when that shark bites
With his teeth, babe
Scarlet billows
Start to spread
Fancy gloves, oh
Wears old Macheath, babe

So there's never
Never a trace of red
Now on the sidewalk
uh-huh, uh-huh
Ooh, Sunday mornin', uh-huh
Lies a body
- Just oozin' life
- Hi.
And someone's sneakin'
'Round the corner
Could that someone
Be Mack the Knife
Now did ya hear
about Louie Miller
He disappeared, babe
After drawin' out
All his hard-earned cash
And now Macheath spends
Just like a sailor
Could it be our boy's done
somethin' rash
- Ah, Jenny Diver
- [Cheering]
Hey, Suki Tawdry
Ooh, Miss Lotte Lenya
And old Lucy Brown
Oh, the line forms
On the right, babe
Now that Mackie's
Back in town
- What's this ?
Get this thing out of here.
- It's not my station.
- Yeah, yeah. Let's go.
- We're still hot on the right.
- Watch it.
- Oh, it's very exciting.
You know, my mother said that--
- Hey, those are the questions.
Ah, he's got
the questions there.
Like walking on
the bottom of the sea,
as if I had drowned

long ago.

- As if--

- Five minutes, Mr. Barry.

- [Woman] We're ready, Mr. Barry.

- You ready, America ?

- Oh, thanks, Tim.

- All right, one minute.

- Move a little to your left.

- Hey, video, you done
with the test patterns ?

- Camera one.

Okay, clear the floor,
folks.

- Marty, you're still very hot.

- Light it up, lighting.

- Stand by. Thirty seconds.

- Give me his opening shots, please.

- Thirty seconds to air.

- I'm getting a glare on camera one.

You think you can adjust the barn door
on Jack's back light ? Yeah, if you can.

- Twenty seconds.

- My light okay ?

My nose doesn't look big ?

- You look great, Jack.

- Last week I looked like a sun dial.

Jack, we're on countdown.

Coming to air in ten,

- nine, eight, seven,

- Stand by, timpani.

Stand by, opening film.

- Stand by, music. Stand by, announcer.

- six, five,

- four, three, two, one.

- Cue the timpani.

And fade up.

Announce.

Geritol. America's #1 tonic.

Geritol, the fast-acting,
high-potency tonic...

that helps you

feel stronger fast,

presents the exciting

quiz program...

Twenty-One.

Brought to you by NBC, the
National Broadcasting Company,
broadcasting nationally
coast to coast,
from New York to Los Angeles,
from Seattle
to St. Petersburg...
via a vast network of affiliates
crisscrossing the country.

Coming up next, Twenty-One,
starring master of ceremonies
Jack Barry !

Two players
racing to score 21 points,
each in a soundproof
television studio,
not knowing
the other one's score,
- with \$500 riding on each point...
- Damn it !
as they both play...

Twenty-One !

And here's your host,
Jack Barry !

[Applause]

Good evening.

I'm Jack Barry.

Due to a series of ties,
Herbert Stempel, our 29-year-old
ex-G.I. college student,
must play at
\$3,000 a point,
which means that
in a few brief minutes,
he can either win as much as
\$100,000, the most money
won on television to date,
or lose everything he's won
in the last eight weeks.

- You nervous ?

- [Chuckling]

It's only money.

Isolated in their

soundproof studios,
neither player is aware
of the other's score.
I've been assured by our friends
at the encyclopedia...
that they've concocted
some real brain-breakers this week,
so we'll find out
in the next 30 minutes...
if the unstumpable
Herbert Stempel can be stumped.
- Could I have the questions, please ?
- [Drumroll]
Thank you, gentlemen. Remember,
the questions on Twenty-One
are secured each week...
in a Manhattan bank vault
'til just before show time.
So right now, let's meet Herbert Stempel
and his challenger as Geritol,
American's #1 tonic,
presents Twenty-One.
[Fanfare]
Welcome back to the show,
gentlemen.
Mr. Peloubet, a very cordial
welcome to you, sir.
How are you, Herb ?
How's everything in Queens ?
- Fine, Mr. Barry.
- It's a nervous strain
in the family, I bet.
- How's your wife holding out ?
- She's fine, thank you. Thank
you, Mr. Barry, for asking.
As you know, Herb, the questions
are graded for difficulty by
the Encyclopedia Britannica--
I might add that my wife
no longer suffers from tired blood,
now that I've got her
on Geritol.
That's fine. Graded
on a scale from one--

I personally vouch that
it's a fine product.

I'm sure our sponsor will be
pleased to know that. Now,
to get on with the show--
I'd like to take this
opportunity to thank Geritol...
for giving a poor ex-G.I.
this amazing opportunity...
to realize his dream
of a college education.

[Faint Applause]

Now there's a face
for radio.

[Barry] Dick Peloubet back again from
sunny Miami, Florida, and Herb Stempel.

- Yeah.

- Stempel is giving me a headache.

- Well, he sells Geritol.

- Have you seen the ratings ?

- Well, they've evened out.

- I don't think he works anymore.

Stempel is an underdog.

You know, people root for that.

It's a New York thing.

Queens is not New York.

- [Dial Tone]

- [Barry] Let's play Twenty-One.

Mr. Kintner's office, please.

- [Phone Ringing]

- Office of the president.

Could you hold, please ?

- [Ringing]

- Mr. Kintner's office.

Once inside the isolation booth,
neither player can see the other,
nor can they hear anything
until I turn their studios on,
which I'm gonna do right now.

[Barry] All right, gentlemen ?

- He's not hurting sales, is he ?

- He just doesn't think he works.

- Why ?

- Look, I don't know.

I guess the sponsor wants a guy
on Twenty-One who looks like
he'd get a table at 21.

You just tell him I said Stempel
has an everyman quality.

You know that whole American dream
thing? You, too, can be rich?

- If the ratings stay high.

- Very funny.

- I'm just passing it along, sir.

- [Click]

Every schoolboy knows about the
midnight ride of Paul Revere.

For 11 points, how many lanterns
were hung in the Old North Church?

Who rode with Paul Revere?

Who lent him his horse?

Was it a mare or a stallion?

And what was
the horse's name?

- Stand by, Joe, on Herbie.

- Kill the air.

Tommy, air off.

Uh--

- [Muted Ring]

- A little tighter.

Kelly, put the sign up.

Control booth.

Uh, yeah, hold on, sir.

Dan, it's for you.

It's Kintner.

Would you mind, Mr. Barry,
could I take the third part last?

[Barry] That's fine.

The code was, uh,

'One if by land, two if by sea.'

Therefore, it would have to be
two lanterns in the Old North Church.

That's right. And the second part.

Who rode with him?

- Dawes and Prescott.

- Dawes and Prescott.

[Chattering]

What these books

have conclusively proven...

is that the difference between men
and women is exactly 38 pages.

- Can I quote you, Mark ?

- Not before I quote me.

His own quotes are

his greatest pleasure.

Did you hear the market
dropped 30 points today ?

There's a rumor Eisenhower died.

- How would they tell ?

- Oh, please, don't get

Dorothy started on politics.

- There'll be a raid.

- Good night.

Good night, Dorothy. Sorry I'm late.

It's impossible out there.

- You can't get a cab without a dragnet.

- Eisenhower died.

- What ?

- Professor Van Doren, I took
your course at Columbia--

'Hawthorne, Original Sin
and the American Experience.'

- Nixon is president ?

- Well, as silly as it sounds,
it changed my life.

- Was it the Hawthorne or the sin?

- Perhaps you'd like to meet
my son, the unmarried Van Doren.

- Oh, where is Charlie ?

- You're right again, Herb.

You got the first two parts correct.

Just three more for 11 points.

Excuse me.

Are you the son ?

- I'm Charlie. Pleasure.

- Elizabeth. The pleasure's all mine.

It was a mare,

Mr. Barry.

How did he know that ?

- Oh, there you are.

- We're making our getaway,
Charlie, if you want a ride.

Have you ever watched one
of these quiz shows, Dad ?
The \$64,000 Question
or Twenty-One ?
For \$64,000, I hope they ask you
the meaning of life.
Okay, Herb, finally: Name the man
who loaned Paul Revere his horse...
for that fateful
midnight ride.
The horse.
Who loaned him the horse ?
- Okay, Herb, I'm afraid I'm going
to have to ask for your answer.
- Yes, Mr. Barry.
[Kintner] Look, just give him
what he wants. I don't want
to talk to these agency guys.
- So what do you want me
to do, Mr. Kintner ?
- You're a producer, Dan.
- Produce.
- [Barry] Would you
like more time, Herb ?
- Right.
- [Herb] If I may.
Herbie's dead.
Larkin ?
Deacon John Larkin ?
That's correct for 11 points !
- [Applause]
- [Sighing]
- [Fanfare]
- All right, Herb, take a deep
breath and relax, will you ?
And we'll get back to the game
after this word from our sponsor.
Now, friends, I was just wondering,
what kind of a day did you have today ?
Did you greet the sunrise with plenty
of vim, vigor and vitality,
only to feel the wind go out
of your sails just after lunchtime ?
Do you find you're not having

as much fun as you used to ?

- This beats the subway,

huh, Mr. Stempel ?

- You said it.

- Hey, Dave !

- Hey, Herbie !

[Cheering]

You were the greatest

tonight, Herbie !

Great, huh, big guy ?

- [Woman] Hey, the
audience really loves you !

- Herbie, you remember me when !

Herbie !

I remember you when !

- Hi, Ellen.

- Hey, Herbie, what color was she ?

You looked so good

on TV tonight, Herbie !

- You should have gone for 11

on the movies, Herbie.

- You should win \$100,000.

Hey, you were really

cookin' tonight, Stempel.

- Of course I watched it.

- You didn't go to the show ?

The genius is home.

The rich genius is home.

- I watched it on television

like everybody else.

- Would you tell him that--

You were great tonight, Herb.

Come on. I wanna dance.

Dance with me.

- Looking for the light

- Would you ask him for me,

please, right now ?

- Of a new love

- Mother wants to know why you

only went for 8 on the movies.

Because my real expertise is

pain-in-the-ass in-laws. Now

would you get off the phone ?

- I'm not gonna start with this.

- Tell him that everybody
is watching that show.
Steve Allen is gettin' a busy signal
because my mother-in-law won't shut up.

- Look, Ma, I got-- I gotta go.

- You're upset, and I don't
want to have to deal with it.

- All right. Good-bye.

- Call me before you go to bed.
That's all I'm sayin'.

What are you doin' ? My father
paid good money for this suit.

- He wore it to his own funeral.

- You make it sound like
it was the suit that killed him.
You wanna know why Enright makes
me wear that suit ? Because
it makes me look like a schmuck.
Yeah, well, stop actin'
like a schmuck then.

You don't get it, do you ? I go out
on the street, and everybody knows me.
Me. Herb Stempel. And they love me for
the same reason they used to hate me.
Because I'm the guy
who knows everything.

You should worship the ground I walk on,
what my family's done for you.
You wanna be worshipped ?
Go to India and moo.
Without my family, you'd be
on that show in your underwear.
Things are gonna change
around here, boy.

What does that mean,
everything's gonna change ?
You think I should
get my teeth capped ?
What's gonna change, Herbert ?
Everything's gonna change.
For us.

Hey, what the hell
were you thinking ?
Toby, that box

is the biggest thing...
since Gutenberg
invented the printing press,
and I'm the biggest thing on it.
We don't need your mother
and her money anymore.
Don't you wanna tell her where
to get off after 28 years ?
Now would you please...
dance with me ?
Dancing in the dark
Until the tune ends
We're dancing in the dark
And it soon ends
We're waltzing
In the wonder
of why we're here--
Because of a disagreement
with his commanding general,
Ulysses S. Grant was virtually
placed under arrest for
a brief time early in 1862.
Who was the commanding general
of the Union army at that time ?
Oh, I know that. Uh, Halleck.
General H.W. Halleck.
That's correct.
Who was Sebastian Cabot...
- and what country was he
in the service of ?
- Hey, Terry.
- [Van Doren] He was,
uh, an explorer from Spain.
- That's correct.
- Who founded the former hub
of the Byzantine Empire,
- Who's that guy in the corner ?
- Constantinople ?
- Constantine the First.
Charles Van Doren.
Charles Van Doren ?
Like Van Doren Van Doren ?
- He wants to be on Tic-Tac-Dough ?
- I guess so.

- Meriwether Lewis.

- That's it.

Who was the editor
of the socialist paper--

Oh, this is the guy.

This is the guy

I got the guy

I got the guy

I got the guy !

- [Door Opening]

- I got the guy.

So I turned to astrophysics,
but, of course, as you know,
all the great physicists were
great before the age of 25.

[Chuckling]

It just wasn't in the cards.

- So I went to Paris and wrote
my novel about a patricide.

- What ?

A boy who kills his father.

M-My dad liked it

quite a lot, actually,
although you could fill Yankee Stadium
with the world's mediocre novelists.

And your father

is Carl Van Doren.

My uncle. My father

is Mark Van Doren, the poet.

He also teaches-- I-I mean,
I also teach at Columbia. Literature.

- Same as, uh, same as Dad.

- Oh, same as Dad, huh ? That's nice.

Could I ask you

a personal question, Professor ?

Actually, I'm not a professor
yet. I'm just an instructor.

How much do they pay instructors
up at Columbia ?

- Eighty-six dollars a week.

- You have any idea how much

Bozo the Clown makes ?

Well, we-- we can't all
be Bozo the Clown.

No, no, not to question your choice of profession. Not at all.
I'm questioning the values of a society that pays somebody like you--

- What was it ?

- Eighty-six dollars a week.
Eighty-six dollars a week. You plan on raising a family, right, Professor ?

- Yes, I hope to, very much.

- Can you imagine raising a family on 86 dollars a week ?

Eighty-six dollars a week. And meanwhile, look at the crisis of education in this country.
W-Well, yes, I-I agree.
It's a national problem.
So I understand you came down to try out for Tic-Tac-Dough.
Well, my friends tell me I have a good mind for this sort of thing. They coaxed me--
How'd you like to be on Twenty-One ?

- Twenty-One ?

- Dan produces both shows.
You're young; you're clean-cut; you're from a prominent family.
Kids would run to do their homework to be like Charles Van Doren.

- What about, uh, Herbert Stempel ?

- What about him ?

- Herb ? Oh, I love him.
People don't like him.

- Well, we love Herb.

- Kids don't look up to him.

- If you were a kid, would you want to be...
an annoying Jewish guy with a sidewall haircut ?

- Well, I wanted to be Joe DiMaggio.

- Oh, yeah ? Me too.

- Especially after he signed for the hundred grand.

- Yeah, Al--

But you see, that's what this country needs, is an intellectual Joe DiMaggio, with the women and the money and all of it, but from his brain instead of a bat and ball.

- Dan.

- I know. You're probably right.

Yeah, boy.

What are we gonna do here ?

Well, I could take

a whack at it.

Yeah, see, the problem, Professor, is the old college try ain't gonna do it.

And you've seen Stempel.

[Chuckling] The guy's unbeatable.

I have to admit Tic-Tac-Dough seemed more feasible.

What if we were to put you on the show--

Put you on Twenty-One

and ask you questions that you know.

Say, the questions that he answered correctly on the test this morning.

- I-I don't follow you.

- Just thinkin' out loud.

I thought the questions were in a bank vault.

- In a way, they are.

- You wanna win, don't you ?

- Well, I think I'd really rather try to beat him honestly.

- What's dishonest ?

When Gregory Peck parachutes behind enemy lines, do you think that's really Gregory Peck ?

That book that Eisenhower wrote ?

A ghostwriter wrote it. Nobody cares.

It's not like we'd be giving you the answers. Just 'cause we know you know, you still know.

Right. It's not like you're putting me on the show, or Al, and pretending to be some sort of intellectual.

You have put in
years of study and erudition.
I mean, I-- I'm just trying
to imagine what Kant would make of this.
I don't think
he'd have a problem with it.
Think about what this could mean for
the cause of education.
Forty million people
will watch you on Twenty-One.
It's not like anybody
has to know. Just us three.
It just doesn't seem right.
I-I'd have to say no.
Just an idea.
Was that part of the test ?
- So we're okay.
- You're gonna give it a try.
Well, uh, I just want to make sure
it'll be, you know, not...
the way we
discussed it before ?
- No. So pure, it floats.
- Not at all.
Okay ? So we'll see you
Monday night then.
- You'll come by
and see how the show works.
- Great.
- All right. And we'll
look forward to that.
- Monday night.
- Nice meeting you.
- Okay. Good-bye.
- Take care.
- Bye-bye.
- Reservations are at 9:00.
- Thanks. All right.
- Boys.
- Hi, Jack.
- Hi, Jack.
- Who's that ?
- That's Charles Van Doren.
- As in Van Doren Van Doren ?

- Van Doren. Yes.

- Oh.

- He wants to be on Tic-Tac-Dough.

Now, why would a guy like that
want to be on a quiz show ?

Richard Goodwin.

I'm an investigator.

An investigator. Richard
Goodwin with the Subcommittee
on Legislative Oversight.

I'm calling because the rate schedules
for the Baltimore and Ohio...

for the first four months
of 1954 seem to be missing from
the documents you just sent me.

Oh, go get 'em, Dickie.

They're sweatin' now.

Do they know you were first
in your class at Harvard Law School ?

Don't talk to me like

I'm an idiot. I was first in
my class at Harvard Law School.

- There we go.

What have you got ?

- Forty-three seconds.

- Not bad.

- Railroad regulation.

- Now that's political
dynamite he's playing with.

- Oh, just an oversight.

-[Both] We're an oversight committee.

-Right.

The end of next week.

That'll be just fine.

And I'll send you a little
helpful reminder, okay ?

- You'll notice it 'cause it'll
look very much like a subpoena.

- [Men] Ohhh.

- Thank you.

- You know, Dick, you stick
with this-- I don't know.

Ten, fifteen years, you could
bring the Interstate Commerce

Commission to its knees.
Of course, by then,
there may not be railroads.

- [Laughing]

- You'll still be sittin'
right there, too, Alex.

- He's so sensitive.

- Truce.

Herb, you got ten points.

The category is 'Explorers.'

How many you want to try for ?

- [Herb] I'll try

for 11 points, Mr. Barry.

- Hello !

[Barry] Gonna go all the way, huh ?

All right.

I'm gonna name four spots
on the globe. You name the
explorer who discovered them.

- **First:**

- John Cabot.

Hi. I see you're really churning out
the chapters today.

Go away.

No cigar in the bedroom.

- That's correct. The Cape of Good Hope.

- Out.

No cigar in the bedroom.

We allow a television in the bedroom,
but no cigar in the bedroom.

- This--

- [Herb] Bartolomeu Dias.

- He originally called it--

- You're right, Herb.

So today, chairman
calls me aside.

My big break, right ?

He asks me to write him a speech
to deliver to the Kiwanis Club
of Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

You're good at that.

Gee, do we get to go there ?

Yeah. Just like to know

where the challenge is.
You know ? I feel like a race horse
whose gate won't open.
You didn't want
the Wall Street job.
Yeah, I know. Well,
money isn't everything.
I'm not the one who came home
with the Chrysler catalogue.
Give me the name of the explorer
who discovered Mozambique.
- Vasco da Gama.
- Vasco da Gama.
- [Herb] Well--
- Maybe I should get on a quiz show.
At least I could get
in my own bedroom.
It's just a job, Dick.
It's not sex.
Vasco da Gama ?
- Great show, Herbie.
- Terrific show. I really think so.
- Jack, wasn't Herb terrific tonight ?
- Can't you see I'm busy, Dan ?
- Oh, Herb, I'd like you to meet
next week's challenger,
- [Van Doren] Okay.
- Charles Van Doren.
- Hello. I'm scared of you.
Boy, oh, boy, let me tell you.
Scared of me ?
- More wine, Herb ?
- Thank you, Dan. Why not ?
You've earned it.
How's that steak ?
Nothing like
a fine piece of meat.
You know, Herb, it's a hell of a thing.
I'm lookin' at the thing today.
- You know, the Trendex rating ?
- Yeah ?
Well, it's the damndest thing,
but you've plateaued.
Plateaued ? Wh-What

kind of word is that ?

- What, plateaued ?

- Plateaued.

Plateaued ? Uh, well,

it's like, uh, you--

-You mean people don't like me anymore ?

-No, no, no, it's not you per se.

- It's just-- No, it's--

- Maybe I should get my teeth capped.

It's the nature of the show.

They've already seen you win,

and they want something new.

So what are you saying ?

You think they want me to lose ?

Well, don't you think

that's natural ?

Joe Louis was the champ for 12 years.

Nobody ever wanted Joe Louis to lose.

- Think about the cause of education.

- The cause of education ?

I waited 29 years for this.

Now I'm supposed to take a dive

for the cause of education ?

I didn't say take a dive.

Now I'm askin' you for your help.

Fine. Just let me

play it honestly.

- Will you keep your voice down ?

- Give me a number. Go ahead.

Give me a number.

- Excuse me, sir. Give me

a number, a-a random number.

- I don't know. Twenty-three ?

Beethoven was 23 when he

composed his first piano sonata.

In 1923, Jack Bentley set the record

for average by a pitcher, batting .427.

There are 23 chromosomes

in the human egg.

- Herb--

- Also, the human sperm.

Twenty-third president: Benjamin

Harrison. Asian countries along

the 23rd parallel--

Look, don't start believing
your own bullshit, all right ?
You wouldn't know
the name of Paul Revere's horse
if he took a crap on your lawn.

- She.

- What ?

- It was a mare, remember ?

- Look, you lose when
I tell you to lose.

- But why now ?

- It's an arrangement.

- It's always been an arrangement.

- But if you told me to lose before,
if you told me to lose right from
the beginning, that I'd understand.
That'd be the story of my life.
But why now ? What did I do ?
Look at the big picture. It's not like
television is gonna go away, you know.

- I mean, think about the future.

- You mean like a panel show ?

Uh, check. Look, I'm gonna do
what I can do, Herb.
But meanwhile, maybe you could use
somebody to talk to.
I'm gonna give you the name
of my analyst. Just send me the bills.

- You know, I could be terrific
on one of those panel shows.

- Here you go, sir.
Witty, off-the-cuff.
A Bill Cullen sort of thing.
Now the last category
is movies.
We're gonna ask you what won the Academy
Award for Best Picture in 1955.
You don't know it.
Your answer On The Waterfront.
Oh, no. Oh, no.
Don't-- Don't do that.
Not Marty.
I saw Marty three times.
The Best Picture from two years ago

and I don't know it ?

Someone of your intellect,
and it's such a simple question.

- Don't you see the drama of that ?

- Drama ?

Herb, don't do this
to yourself.

Please, let me lose on a physics
question, not Marty, Dan.

Don't do this to me.

It's too humiliating.

For 70 grand, Herb,
you can afford to be humiliated.

- Who was the captain of the Mayflower ?

- Christopher Jones.

- What year ?

- 1620.

Here's Mr. Moto !

[Sports Announcer] And we'll return
to Mr. Moto after this.

[Announcer] Will Herbert Stempel
become the first man...

to win over \$100,000
on television ?

No, Herbert Stempel is not
going to win over \$100,000.

Herbert Stempel
is going to take a dive !

Dad, the quiz is tomorrow.

If you're gonna talk to the TV--

- All right, big shot. So who bought
Manhattan Island from the Indians ?

- Peter Minuit.

- What year ?

- 1626.

- How much ?

- Twenty-four dollars.

[Announcer] ...this week
on Twenty-One.

- Now back to our program.

- This week on Twenty-One,
watch Herb Stempel be fed
to the Columbia Lions.

Watch Charles Van Doren eat his first

kosher meal on Twenty-One.

What are you doing ?

Why aren't you dressed ?

The child has to learn. The
child has to learn the depths
that humanity can sink to.

The tribes of

the Iroquois League: Mohawks,

- Cayugas, Oneidas--

- Twenty-four bucks for Manhattan.

First the Indians, then us.

- What's eatin' you ?

- You know why they call them Indians ?

- Because Columbus thought
he was in India.

- Mohawks, Cayugas--

They're Indians because
some white guy got lost.

You're gonna give him your ulcer.

Let him grow up with his own ulcer.

- He wouldn't let me practice my drums.

- Who won Best Picture for 1955 ?

- Marty.

- Marty.

- Thank you.

- Well, what's the problem ?

- Lester, do me a favor.

Go in your bedroom, do your
homework, all right ? Hey, hey !

With your books.

Homework with your books.

[TV Announcer Shouting Excitedly]

- They want me to take a dive.

- What ?

They're going to ask me

what won the Best Picture for 1955,
and I have to answer

On The Waterfront.

They have to ask me

with a question any child knows.

H-How can they do that ? I thought
the questions were in a bank vault.

They just put me in an isolation
booth and pump cyanide into it.

Herbie, they
can't do that.

- How can they do that ?

- Well, obviously, Toby,
this particular question
isn't in the bank vault.

- Why ?

- How the hell do I know why ?

Well, then the hell with them.

Just answer Marty then.

- I already agreed.

- Well, screw them.

Let them ask you a question you really
don't know. Ha. Good luck.

You're Herbert Stempel. What are they
gonna do to you ? Huh ?

[TV Announcer] Judo chop into the
throat. Once again, it's a judo chop.

- You're right.

What could they do to me ?

- Yeah.

- Screw 'em.

- Yeah.

Remember, call him ''Jack''
as often as possible.

Jack.

Fifteen seconds.

[Low Voice] Good evening.

I'm Jack Barry.

[Brightly] Good evening.

I'm Jack Barry.

- [Stage Manager] Five.

- Good evening. I'm Jack... Barry.

- Watch your headroom.

- Coming to air in ten, nine,

- I'm Jack Barry.

- eight, seven,

- six, five,

- Steady, one.

- four, three--

- Good evening. I'm Jack Barry.

- Two, one.

- Fade up. Cue up.

Good evening.

I'm Jack Barry.
So let's meet our
first two players as Geritol,
America's #1 tonic,

presents:

From New York City,
Mr. Charles Van Doren.
- And returning with \$69,500,
from Queens, New York,
- Van Doren ?
Mr. Herbert Stempel.
- Think that's his son ?
- [Barry] Are you related
in any way...
- to Mark Van Doren
of Columbia University,
- I don't know. I guess so.
- the famous poet and author ?
- Yes, he's my father.
- He is your father.
- Yes, both he and my uncle Carl
have won the Pulitzer Prize,
and Dorothy Van Doren, the author of the
recent *The Country Wife*, is my mother.
- [Barry] Okay, Herb, you know
something about Mr. Van Doren.
- Joey, punch the audio a little.
You have \$69,500. Do you want to take
it and quit while you're ahead...
or risk it by
playing against him ?
It's a tough decision,
I know.
- What'll it be ?
- I-I'll take a chance.
You will take a chance.
All right, then, here we go, gentlemen.
You sure Herbie's
on board with this ?
Can I take
the third part last ?
I guess-- I guess that Atahualpa
was the leader of the Incas

at the time of the conquest.

- [Barry] Correct.

- Wouldn't that be William Allen White ?

- [Barry] That's correct.

- I'd like to take the third part last.

His fourth wife

was Anne of Cleves.

He divorced Catherine of Aragon.

- He divorced her.

- He beheaded Anne Boleyn.

- Well, they all died.

- Herb Stempel leads

at this point by 18 to 10.

- Herb ?

- Yes, Mr. Barry ?

The category is 'Movies.'

How many points you want to try for ?

I'll try for three.

Three points.

Which motion picture

won the Academy Award for 1955 ?

Marty.

Best Picture.

- Marty.

- Best Picture.

Marty.

He doesn't know it ?

[Barry] All right, Herb, I'll

tell you when your time is up.

I don't re-remember.

I don't remember.

Are you sure you wouldn't want

to guess at it, Herb ?

- Otherwise, I'll have to call it wrong.

- Wait.

Marty.

[Barry] Your time is up, Herb.

I'll need your answer.

Best Picture...

of 1955--

On The Waterfront ?

[Barry] No, I'm sorry.

The answer is Marty.

[Audience Exclaiming]

Marty. It was Marty
that won the Academy Award...
for Best Picture
in 1955.

- Marty was Ernest Borgnine.
- Geez, what an easy question.
The Academy Award for 1955.
You lose three points.
You go back down to 15.
Better luck on the next round.
And now for you, Professor,
the category is...
Civil War.
How many points you want
to try for, from 1 to 11 ?
Civil War. That's a--
That's an awful big subject.
Well, here goes nothing.
I'll-- I'll try for 11.
Eleven points will bring you to 21,
and you will be our new champion !

- [Thump]
- Because of a disagreement
with his commanding general,
Ulysses S. Grant was virtually
placed under arrest...
for a brief time
early in 1862.
Who was the commanding general
of the Union army at that time ?
Tough question.
It's just so oddly familiar.
[Barry] Would you like
some more time ?
- Whatever you can spare.
- All right.
Do you know
the name ?
Yes, I know his name.
Halleck. General H.W. Halleck.
You are our new
champion for \$20,000 !
[Audience Applauding]
[Barry] Come on out, Herb.

Come on out, Professor.
Wasn't that somethin',
folks ? Huh ?
You feelin' all right ?
Very good. Perhaps we can get
an ice pack out here for the professor.
I suspect his gray matter
is red-hot.
I wonder if
he's married.

Our congratulations for a wonderful
victory. Professor Charles Van Doren.
I am constantly amazed at the facts
these guys have at their fingertips.
- Tough questions tonight.
- Uh, yeah. Oh, well, not really.
Wow, you were fantastic. Hey, you
better unlist your phone number.
Can you believe the pressure ?
Look at him; he's soakin' wet.
- Is this guy a natural or what ?
Jesus !
- He's a natural.
- Do you think he's
involved with anyone ?
- I don't know.
I'm gonna miss ya, Herb. You know, I'm
really gonna miss this guy.
- Hey, Dan, listen, that guy is
really terrific.
- Oh, hi.
- We could easily beat out
I Love Lucy with him.
- I know we can.
Let's get a photo here.
Oh, George. Here we go.
Charles Van Doren. Miles Bronfman,
an executive here at the network.
- Oh, there we go.
- So what do you think, Charlie ?
You excited ?
- Professor, can I interrupt you ?
- Charlie, I just wanted to--
- My son was in your father's class.

Says he's a saint.

- Oh, really ?

Charlie, I want you to meet

Bill Henderson. He promotes the show.

- Congratulations.

Sensational. Just sensational.

- Thank you.

Now we have a clean-cut intellectual
instead of a freak with a sponge memory.

- See you next week, Charlie.

- Oh, I don't even want to think
about that. I was so nervous.

Dan ! Dan !

So pure, it floats ?

Hmm ?

Are you kidding ?

It was great.

Go home and have a martini.

We'll talk in the morning.

Uh, I-I'm gonna

take the stairs.

- How did you know he'd go for it ?

- What would you do ?

[Muttering]

Meanwhile, it's okay

if you know the answer.

Yeah, so it's-- My God, it's not like

I haven't worked hard.

I deserve \$20,000

as much as anybody.

My God ! \$20,000.

The highest navigable lake

in the world is:

- Lake Titicaca.

- Lake Titicaca.

- That'd have to be Lake Titicaca.

- Correct for ten points !

[Applause]

[Charlie] Michel Montaigne.

Around his neck,

Montaigne wore a medallion

which read:

- Hello. This is Herb Stempel
calling for Mr. Enright.

- I'm terribly sorry; he's not in.
Our current reigning champion,
from New York, New York,
Mr. Charles Van Doren.

[Barry] ...twenty-four hours,
Geritol liquid, or now, in new--
It's the only town house
available in the Village.

I think I'll take it.

- Will do. It's just that he's
out of the office right now--

- This is Herb Stempel.

This is about the 17th time
I've called.

I guess William Pitt
the Elder.

You have 21 !

[Applause]

Come to me, Charlie. Good. Smile.

Hold the bag right there.

Hold it right there.

Good.

[Announcer] Here, Professor
Van Doren turns in the evidence
of his amazing popularity:
thousands of letters a week for
the egghead turned national hero.

Winnings to date:

\$50,000 !

Hey, Charlie !

The check's in the mail.

- Is Mr. Enright in ?

- I'm sorry; he's not right now.

This is Herb Stempel. You tell him that
he promised that he would call me back,
and if he doesn't, something
is going to happen.

- Do you understand that ?

That's right. Okay, bye.

- I understand.

You just tell Mr. Enright that if
he doesn't want to talk to me,

maybe the district attorney
would like to talk to me.

- If he wants to play hardball,
I'll play hardball.

- Very well.

- Good morning, Mr. Van Doren.

- Hello.

[Barry] And returning with \$83,000,
our champion, after seven weeks,
Charles Van Doren.

- [Applause]

- Welcome to Twenty-One, gentlemen.

- [Van Doren] Evening, Jack.

- Charlie--

- [Screaming]

- Gentlemen, please.

It was a totally humiliating experience.

All my friends knew that I loved Marty.

It's one of my favorite films.

I-I-I saw it three times.

It's about a boy in the Bronx--

Mr. Enright

will see you now.

Have a seat, Herb.

Thanks for comin' up.

I feel we have some unfinished
business we need to hash out.

I have some unfinished
business with you too.

This whole thing with the grand jury
and the things you said,
well, they hurt me.

I can't tell you how--

Well, they hurt me deeply.

- I told the truth.

- There you go again.

You promised me, Dan.

Y-You promised that you'd help me out.

Don't you think that I want to help you
more than I already have ?

- But the point is,
you've made it impossible.

- Look, you want me to apologize ?

- I want you to sign this statement.

- I apologize.
- What kind of statement ?
- It clears me and the show
of any wrongdoing.
- What about the panel show ?
- See ? That's a perfect example.
I told you I'd do what I could,
and I did. I put your name on a list.
You put me on a list ?
That's it ?
NBC owns our company.
Everything goes through them.
NBC bought your company for
two million bucks. What about me ?
People watched me on that show. Look.
Look. Look at this.
- Oh, Herb, don't start--
- ''He has become a friend
in over 50 million homes,
whose weekly visits the whole family
eagerly anticipates.''
- I was a friend, too,
in 50 million homes.
- Look, what can I tell you, Herb ?
- Life is unfair.
- Life is unfair to me.
Life's not unfair
to Charles Van Doren.
Remember how he snubbed me
after the show ?
- There'll be other shows.
- What other shows ?
I need the money, Dan.
Wha-- What ?
How could you need the money ?
It's gone. I mean it's invested.
It's tied up. It's--
- Well, can't you talk to your broker ?
- He's not a broker.
He's more of a bookmaker.
It's seed money.
He's setting up in Florida right now.
He says it's the next growth area.
You gave your money

to a bookie who skipped town ?
I-I want what I have coming, Dan.
I have to get back on television.
-Herb, I'm gonna--
-Show me this list. Where's this list ?
[Sighs]
I submitted a list of 45 names.
They rejected three.
You were one of them.
That big uncircumcised putz is
on the cover of Time magazine,
and I can't even make
the top 42 for a panel show.
Look, maybe you could warm up
the audience before the show.
- I could throw you 50 bucks a week.
- Fifty bucks a week ?
That should be me
on the cover of Time.
- Shit, Herb, just sign the statement.
- Charles Van Doren.
He wouldn't know the answer to
a doorbell if you didn't give it to him.
Sign the statement,
and get on with your life !
Sign the statement, Herb. Sign
the statement. Who cares if it's true ?
- I'm giving you a chance.
- You promised me !
You get me that panel show,
or I'm gonna bring you down
with me, ya lousy, lyin' prick !
- You and Charles Van fuckin' Doren !
- No, you're not.
I'll just tell everyone that it's
a fraud. That'll warm 'em up.
- ''The fix is in,
this week on Twenty-One.''
- When's my next appointment ?
The cover of Time ? His mug shot
will be on the cover of Time !
What the hell
happened ?
[Sighs]

Oy.

Why am I the only one
workin' this mornin' ?

- You got here earlier, Mooie.

- ''Demonstrators stoned Vice
President Nixon's motorcade...

as it proceeded
through Caracas.''

- Gee, Dick, what's the New York
Times say ? Same thing ?

- Generally.

Most people who live in Washington
settle for the Washington papers.

[Goodwin] Well, the Times
is the paper of record.

- Ahh.

- Ooh.

Dick hopes someday to be confused
with an important person.

''Although the crowd was cordoned off
at a distance of a hundred yards,
an unidentified Venezuelan struck Nixon
in the head with a thrown onion.''

- Ow !

- The Senators should sign this guy.

Did you guys know there was a grand jury
in New York on the quiz shows ?

Jim Lemon can't even hit
the cutoff man. This guy throws
a 300-foot strike with an onion.

- Have they come up with anything ?

- They sealed the presentment.

- That's a no.

- Why do you say that ?

A presentment's
a statement of findings.

If there were anything in it,
they'd want to release it
to the public, right ?

If the purpose is to make findings
public, then why keep it a secret ?

[Goodwin] Why seal the presentment ?
It's illogical.

- It's a local matter.

- It's television.

Whoa. TV.

It's under our jurisdiction,
right ? I mean, we have
oversight over all the agencies.

- It includes the F.C.C.

- You're gonna investigate
a dead investigation ?

We're gonna put television
on trial. Television.

Everybody in the country'll
know about it.

- What do you have ?

- There's somethin' there.

Mr. Chairman,

I'll find it.

The networks,
pharmaceutical industry ?

Cosmetics ?

[Chuckling]

That's big game, son.

You don't go huntin' in your underwear.

Sir, I smell somethin'. At least give
me a chance to see what I can dig up.

Let me go up to New York.

[Lishman] Ya know, this isn't
some junket for you to stay in
a hotel and see a Broadway show.

I'm givin' you exactly one week to
find something. You get that ?

Unseal a presentment.

I don't know.

I don't know how you go about that.

I've never--

Oh, here you go.

Look at this.

Hasn't been a presentment under seal
in the State of New York since 1869.

That explains it.

- 1869 ?

- Yeah.

Counselor, I've reviewed in detail
the material submitted in your request.

A man's reputation

is coin of the realm to him.
I sealed this presentment...
to protect the reputations
of those unfairly implicated...
by a certain mentally
unstable finger-pointer.
That interest, along with
important issues of federalism,
dictate that I reject your committee's
request at this time.

[Phone Ringing]

Mr. Enright's office.

Mr. Enright ?

It's Judge Schweitzer.

- Yes ?

- Hi. Miss Mitchell ?

- Uh-huh.

- My name is Richard Goodwin.

I'm with the Congressional Subcommittee
on Legislative Oversight.

We've been investigating
the quiz shows recently.

- Uh, I was wondering if I could
ask you a quick question.

- Oh ! I've got people.

- Could I just have
a moment of your time ?

- No.

I was curious how many
episodes you appeared on.

- Not very many. No.

- How--

- Three weeks.

- Did anyone ever ask you
not to talk to anyone ?

[Announcer] The Today Show
with Dave Garroway...

and Dave's regular co-host,
Mr. J. Fred Muggs.

Dave's guests this morning are:

the Aga Khan,

Lyle Goodhue, inventor

of the aerosol spray can...

and quiz champion

Charles Van Doren.

Take a look at that.

Look at that. You see that ?

- Yes. Uh-huh.

- [Chattering]

Well, you have that conversation,
and I'm gonna begin the show.

I'll see you, Mr. Muggs.

Good morning.

- And good morning, Charlie.

- Good morning, Dave.

- How are you this morning ?

- I'm fine, thank you.

I see we have a, uh, an unusually
large crowd outside there this morning.

- So how long has it been now, Charlie ?

- It's been nine weeks now.

- And you've won how much ?

- \$93,000.

- Hmm, so that's, uh, \$10,000 a week.

- That's right.

Although last week, I know you were
preempted for another program.

Well, that's the problem
with television. The pay's
good, but it's not that steady.

- Don't remind me. I'm up for renewal.

- [Laughing]

So tell us about the book
you're working on.

Well, it's called
Lincoln's Commando,
and I hope people will find it
as interesting as I do.

How do you think
Honest Abe would do on a quiz show ?

- Honest Abe ?

- Yeah.

Well, I think he'd do very well.

And, of course, on a show
like this, he'd be wonderful.

I'm sure he would.

[Church Bells Ringing]

- Here we are, Professor.

- Yeah, I-I'm just--
I just have to tie my shoe.
[Chattering]
- Hi, Mr. Van Doren.
- Hey, Mr. Van Doren.
- Hey !
- [Chattering]
- Oh !
- Good morning. Hi.
- Good morning, Mr. Van Doren.
- Good morning.
- Where's the monkey ?
- I saw you on TV this morning.
- Is Thomas Merton Episcopalian
or Catholic ?
- Catholic.

Hello. Are you here
for office hours ?

Oh, no.

I'm Richard Goodwin.

- Did Clark Byse call ?
- Clark Byse ? No, he didn't.
See, I'm up from Washington. He
suggested I might look you up.
- You're not a stockbroker, are you ?
- Lawyer, which is bad enough.
- Professor Byse taught me Contracts.
- Then we have something in common.
- He taught me my backhand.
- I'm with the House Subcommittee
on Legislative Oversight.

I've been swarmed by
stockbrokers lately.

I feel like a girl
with a bad reputation.

The Committee has jurisdiction
over television.

I'm sorry. Please,
um, have a seat.

Thank you.

You must have done very well at Harvard.

Clark doesn't like anyone.

Uh, I was, uh, actually
first in my class.

- You make it sound like an affliction.

Did you clerk ?

- Well--

- Uh, Frankfurter.

- Oh, really ? Hmm.

It's nothin'. I tell you, what I love is what you do, literature.

Well, hell, if I was

first in my class, I'd get a tattoo.

- So, what brings you to New York,

Dick, uh, literature ?

- Let me ask ya.

Did you ever notice anything out of the ordinary about the quiz show you're on ?

What ?

Anything suspect.

Anything at all.

You mean besides

its popularity ?

What I'm hoping is that

you might be able to give me

some kind of road map here.

- I feel like we speak

the same language.

- Well, of course.

- Anything I can do to help.

- [Door Opening] Oh, um,

- Mr. Van Doren.

- Yes ? Yes, yes.

- I'm sorry. I'm in your class

on the Romantics, and, uh--

- Of course you are.

I-I-- Actually, I'm auditing it

because you've been on television.

- Do you-- Should I come back later ?

- Oh, um, if you don't mind--

- I'll come back.

- I tell you what. Why don't you

meet me tomorrow ?

- I'll take you to lunch

at the Athenaeum.

- The what ?

I'm sorry. The Athenaeum Club

at Forty-third and Fifth ?

Say, uh, tomorrow at noon ?

- Lunch at The Athenaeum.

- At noon.

- Great.

- Great. See you then.

I wanted to talk to you
about Ode on a Grecian Urn.

'Beauty is truth;

truth, beauty.

That is all ye know on earth
and all ye need to know.'

- Does he really mean that
about beauty and truth ?

- Why foster child ? I don't under--
Congress investigates
communists.

Congress investigates
mobsters. That is not me.

Yeah, well, look on the bright side.
You'll be on national television.

- That's a joke, Charlie.

- Well, that's not funny.

- Charles Van Doren.

Hey ! Charles Van Doren !

- It's just not funny.

- How ya doin' ?

- I'm worried about this.

- Yeah, well, look, I alr--

Who was that ?

- It's just some guy.

Well, look, I already know about
this guy Goodwin, and I'm on top
of it. So trust me.

- You callin' information ?

What are you dialin' for ?

- You don't understand.

- Oh, for information ? Charles Van
Doren, he's dialin' for information.

- I have a name.

Hey, Chuck, what do you do ?

Chuckie ! Answer this question.

- I-I'm sorry. I gotta go.

- What street do I

live on in Brooklyn, huh ?

- D-Did you tell him anything ?
- N-No, no, I didn't--
- [Shouting]
- I-I gotta go.
I gotta go ! I've gotta go !
Come on ! Let's go !
Hey, Chuck, how ya doin' ?
How ya holdin' up ? All right ?
Hey, can I get an autograph
for my wife ? Give me
an autograph for my wife !
Come on, Chuck ! Don't be a snob !
Give me an autograph for my wife !
[Goodwin] So Sandra says
what's ever on her mind.
And you've been married
how long ?
Five years.
You ?
Oh, no. I'm supposed to be
fixed up with this girl...
on the cover of the new
Harper's Bazaar, but--
- Well, you know how that is.
- Yeah.
- Waldorf salad for you, Mr. Van Doren.
- Oh, thank you.
- And a Reuben sandwich.
- Thank you.
- So--
- Oh.
What do you know about this
grand jury investigation, Charlie ?
Oh, I remember Dan mentioned
something about this,
that it was all some--
some wild goose chase.
Uh, a political thing.
- They talk so fast in that business.
Half of it goes right past me.
- Dan ?
Enright.
He's really the one to talk to.
- You know if he testified ?

- Uh, uh, more water ?

Uh, you can reach him
at NBC. Dan Enright.

So, how long have you been
with this committee, Dick ?

Six months. Seemed like a good way
to postpone the inevitable.

Postpone the inevitable.

Is there a spot for me ?

I mean Wall Street.

- Oh.

- [Chuckles]

So, back to this, uh,
grand jury business.

- I'm wondering--

- Oh.

- Dad !

- Charlie.

Excuse me, Frank.

This is a surprise.

How are you, son ? We share an office,
and I never see you anymore.

Oh, I'm there, Dad.

I'm just hiding behind your reputation.

[Mr. Van Doren] No, I'm serious.

We all miss you at home.

Please, join us. Dad, this is
Dick Goodwin. He's up from Washington.

- Narrow escape.

- Dad doesn't like Washington.

A swamp that traded
malaria for politics.

- What's the special ?

- It's the Reuben.

Reuben sandwich is the only
entirely invented sandwich.

Won the National Sandwich
Contest two years ago.

- A salient point. Who invented it ?

- Uh, Reuben Kay.

- At a poker game in Omaha.

- I knew there was a 'k' in Nebraska.

Unfortunately, they have
the sandwich here, but they

don't seem to have any Reubens.

- Touche.

- Dick's a protege of Clark Byse.

I just finished a clerkship
with Justice Frankfurter.

Of course you did.

Frankfurter collects brains
the way other people collect stamps.

Uh, did you happen to see
the show Monday, Dad ?

Monday. Uh, we were
with Bunny Wilson.

Oh, no, it's nothing. Just there
was a question about Hawthorne.

Oh, well, you know how it is
with Bunny once he gets going.

So, Dick, Charlie invite you
to his poker game yet ?

He's a helluva poker player.

W-We have a regular game
Thursday nights, just some
friends I went to school with.

- You're welcome to come over next week.

- Are you a gambler, Dick ?

I don't know if I'm a gambler.

I know which end of an ace is up.

Well, Dick, if you look round the table
and you can't tell who the sucker is,
it's you.

Yeah, Dan Enright,
please.

Uh, Dick Goodwin.

Uh, no. Actually,
I'll just call back. Thanks.

'Name the three heavyweight
champions who preceded Joe Louis.'

Oh, I know that.

Uh, Jim Braddock.

- Mm-hmm.

- Max Baer.

And--

- Damn.

- Primo Carnera.

- Primo Carnera. Of course.

- Yeah, good old Primo.
- I was there that night at the Garden,
the night Baer beat him. Yeah.
- Really ?
The big guinea.
Twelve times Baer knocked him down.
Al, I've been thinking. Maybe you
shouldn't give me the answers anymore.
Now what do you wanna
do that for, Professor ?
Charlie, you're doin'
the right thing, really.
- Everybody's makin' money.
- Well, what if you just
gave me the questions...
and I could look up
the answers on my own ?
I mean, don't you think that'd be--
Well, be less egregious.
[Bob Barker] Only in the balcony.
You know
about that.
All right.
Now, your consequence--
Doesn't want the answers anymore.
Just wants the questions.
- Who ?
- ''Who.'' The Great White Hope.
[Sighs]
Dan, what the hell
is ''egregious'' ?
He just wants
the questions ?
Uh, excuse me.
Uh, Mr. Noland ?
- Yeah ?
- My name is Richard Goodwin.
- I'm with the Congressional
Subcommittee on Legislative Over--
- Ahh.
[Man] No, no, I don't wanna say
anything. No, can't help you.
[Woman] I told them
everything I had to say.

Everything I knew

I told them.

[Buzzer]

- Yeah ?

- Mr. Stempel. My name is Dick Goodwin.

I'm an investigator with the
Subcommittee on Legislative
Oversight of the U.S. Congress.

- Yeah ?

- Did you recently testify
before a grand jury ?

- Yeah.

- Well, if you have a minute, I'd
really like to talk to you about it.

- [Drums Banging]

- Gee.

Fi-- Finally. I-I knew
it was just a matter of time.
Come in.

- [Drums Continue]

- Didn't you go to City College ?

- Uh, Harvard.

- Toby !

- [Gasps]

- This is my wife, Toby.

This is Mr. Goodwin.

He's an investigator from
the United States Congress.

Would you like a cup of coffee, Mr.--

I-I already got the pot on.

I tell ya, that

sounds great, actually.

And bring some rugulach
if there are any left.

- I love my wife, but it's like
livin' with a plague of locusts.

- [Drums Continue]

If Charles Van Doren told 'em
what I told 'em,
do you think this whole grand jury
thing would be squashed ?

- Quashed. It's not ''squashed.''

- Not in a million years.

- Quashed, okay ?

- What exactly did you
tell the grand jury ?

- Have one.

- Uh, no, thanks.

Lester, will you
knock it off for ten minutes ?
Come on. They're a Jewish delicacy.
Before Toby eats it.

- I'm retainin' water
for your information.

- You and the Grand Coulee Dam.

Come on. You don't know
what you're missing.

I'm quite familiar with
rugulach, thank you.

-How'd a guy like you get into Harvard ?

-Capped teeth.

- Lester !

- [Drums Continue]

Herb, what exactly did you
tell the grand jury ?

No, you can't ask me that.
It's-- It's sealed. It's illegal.

Well, uh, just between us.

They made me take a dive.

Marty.

They made me lose on Marty
just to humiliate me.

- Who made you take a dive ?

- Dan Enright.

He told me I had plateaued,
that the ratings had plateaued.

A sinking ship
and the rats stayed.

Do you think in a million years
I wouldn't know Marty, and
meanwhile, Charles Van Moron...

would be on the show

I don't understand. H-How could they
make you take a dive ?

- What ?

- Why didn't you just answer Marty
if you knew it ?

- What, and throw away

his future in television ?
- Would you please go inside...
and tell Gene Krupa
to take five ?
Lester.
Lester !
You're so naive. It's a fix.
It's all-- it's all a fix.
A setup. I made a study of it. They
always follow a Jew with a Gentile.
And the Gentile wins more money.
What is that, a coincidence ?
Herb, you're saying this whole grand
jury thing was because of you.
You know what you have to do ?
You have to nail Van Doren.
- Are you gonna nail Van Doren ?
- Look, first of all, I'm not
here to nail anyone, okay ?
- This isn't McCarthyism.
- Listen, think about what
McCarthyism did for McCarthy.
Let me ask you something.
Do you have any corroborative
evidence to what you're saying ?
Listen to me. Don't make
necessarily the mistakes
that I might have made in life.
Think about your career. You nail
Van Doren, it'll be bigger than Sputnik.
It'll be like a big, blond
Sputnik crashing right down
on his, whew, friggin' head.
Charlie ? Hi.
Dick Goodwin.
I hope you don't mind.
The English Department gave me
your number up in Connecticut.
Yeah. Look, um, I met with
Herbert Stempel yesterday.
He told me a couple of things.
I'm kinda curious--
What ?
Sure. Well,

what train was that ?

Yeah, just hold on.

I got a pen right here.

Grand Central Station.

Housatonic.

Cornwall, Connecticut.

I will, uh-- I will, uh--

I'll get right on the way.

- Dick, I'm glad you could make it.

- Charlie.

That's some

snappy-looking Mercedes.

- Come around the back.

We're just about to eat.

- What's that, the 300 ?

Yeah, it's my father's birthday,
so I bought myself a car.

- It's only got 110 miles on it.

- The show's treatin' you well, huh ?

[Mrs. Wilson] Dorothy, your
tomato salad is fabulous.

- What's your secret ?

- Manure.

Now, look at Thomas. Thomas
is aerodynamically designed
to go directly to heaven.

- And who are you ?

- Dick. Goodwin.

- I'm a friend of Charlie's.

- Ah.

- You sound like you're from Boston.

- Brookline, actually.

[Both Laughing]

The wrong girl for me.

- You know I didn't.

- You did. We have horseradish
growing in the garden.

Well, that's good.

[Laughs]

- How long have you been married ?

- Twenty years.

- Aunt Irita had an affair
with Wendall Willkie.

- Hmm ?

' 'Now see summer bloom upon this lea.
Three score rings around this tree.
Once green;
now bare.
Once lush;
now sere.
Consoled only that I am...
- planted here.
- You certainly are.
- Roots thick...
- And old.
- and deep,
- And doddering.
- assuage my woes--''
- A termite nibbles at my toes.
- Et tu, Bunny ?
- Charlie, is Jack Berry single ?
- I think so.
- My roommate has a crush on him.
She wants you to introduce her.
- What's Dave Garroway like ?
- Cheap.
- Cheap ?
- Wasn't I talking ?
- You were, yes. Talking
and talking and talking.
Charlie's famous,
like Elvis Presley.
Like Leopold of Belgium,
usurped by his son before his time.
I suppose that makes me
King Baudouin ?
Next birthday, you all get
a dirty limerick.
- I certainly hope so.
- [Laughing]
[Woman] So how's it feel, Charlie ?
[Charlie] Well, I can't even
eat dinner in a restaurant anymore.
People follow me inside to discover
what kind of 'brain food' I eat.
In my day, it was flagpole-sitting
and swallowing goldfish.
Last week alone,

I had 11 proposals of marriage.
Perhaps you should
accept one of them.
To think they unleash you
on those impressionable young minds.
Why not ? He's 33 years old. Jesus
Christ had a girlfriend at 33 years old.
- Look how that turned out.
- And he shared an office
with his father.
I'm sure they're
all very nice girls.
In that case, perhaps I should
appear on a quiz show.
The money, meanwhile,
no one knows what to do with it.
Though every stockbroker
in New York seems eager to try.
Why don't you just put it in
the bank ? That's what I've
always done with my prize money.
No, it's just-- You don't
understand, Dad. There are
all sorts of tax implications.
I think I can understand
the concept of taxes.
- At this level,
it's a bit more complicated.
- And at my level ?
I never thought of myself
having a level, Charlie.
What level might that be ?
I mean, it's not as if the money fell
into my lap. I worked for it.
- Work ? Oh-ho-ho-ho.
- Millions of people watch
the game shows, Dad.
Then I suppose we've become
a nation of proctors.
- [Dorothy] Mark.
- Help me out here, Harvard.
Uh... claim victory
and depart the field.
- We don't have a television.

- [Mark] Why on earth
would we need a television ?
[Rita] How much money is it again ?
- What ?
- They don't have a television.
- You haven't seen the show ?
- We were supposed to watch it
the other night at Thurber's--
- Even Thurber has a television,
and he's blind.
- How much is it now, Charlie ?
- \$122,000.
- What ?
- [People Gasping]
- She heard that all right.
Well.
'Some rise by sin
and some by virtue fall.'
Measure For Measure.
'To do a great right...
do a little wrong.'
- Merchant Of Venice.
- It's this game our family plays.
'O what men dare do !
What men may do !
What men daily do,
not knowing what they do.'
Much Ado About Nothing. 'Things without
remedy should be without regard;
what's done is done.'
'Things without all remedy.'
Macbeth.
[Dorothy] 'How the ill white hairs
become a fool and jester.'
- Now, Professor, open your presents.
- [People Laughing]
- Well, what have we here ?
- [John] After-shave.
- [People Laugh]
Uh-huh.
- [People Clapping]
- Oh, now !
- Oh, my God ! How swell !
- [Chuckles]

I guess I'm surrounded.
Thank you, Charlie.
I-I thought
you might like it, Dad.
So do you remember
Herbert Stempel ?
Remember him ?
I still can't believe I beat him.
Stempel tells me that Dan Enright
made him take a dive from the show.
What ?
He tells me that Dan Enright
made him take a dive.
- [Chuckles] That's ridiculous.
- Yeah ?
A little odd, though, don't
ya think ? I mean, losing
on such an easy question ?
You know, frankly, Dick,
if Stempel can just run around...
and smear a man like Dan Enright
to the United States Congress--
No, nobody's smearing anybody. I'm just
trying to figure out the truth here.
Could you just untie
the bowline there and shove us off ?
All right.
Dick, could you raise
the jib for us, please ?
The jib.
Just, uh-- Yeah.
Do you remember what it was like for
guys like us when we were in school ?
Being smart was like
being cross-eyed.
But you should see
the letters I get.
Kids are excited about--
about books...
and learning
and general knowledge.
Dan Enright had a lot
to do with that.
Yeah, but don't you think

he wanted you to win ?

I mean, if you look at the ratings,
they're staggering.

[Chuckles] Well, what did he say,
they ''made'' him take a dive ?

- Well.

- Well, how did they ''make'' him
take a dive anyway ?

He didn't want to jeopardize any
future he might have in television.

- [Chuckles]

- Yeah, well-- [Chuckles]

Anyway, how many people did you say
testified in front of the grand jury ?
Why ?

What's your point ?

Well, if what you're saying
is true, then everybody lied.

- [Freedman] Hi. Al Freedman.

- Hi. I'm Danny.

Good to see you. I'm sorry for
the delay. Come on in. Have a seat.

- Would you like a cup of coffee
or a soft drink ?

- Anything ?

- I'm fine. Thanks.

- You sure ?

- We're very well stocked up here.

- Nothing ?

- I'm fine.

- No trouble.

- I understand you've spoken
to Charles Van Doren.

- And Herbert Stempel.

- Oh, I was afraid of that.

He says and I quote,

that he was made to ''take a dive.''

Believe me, I'm quite familiar
with Herb's allegations.

I could recite them by rote.

Forty-six witnesses swore up and down
Herbie's a lying tub of shit.

- Al.

- Sorry.

- Why the big secret ?
- Well, to protect people's reputations.
I mean, frankly, you never know what
the public is gonna believe, you see ?
There's that and, um--
And what ?
- Look, Dick, I wa--
Can I call you Dick ?
- Sure, Dan.
After the loss, Herb came to
visit me in an agitated--
- Well, I suppose the clinical
term would be, uh... what ?
- The guy's nuts.
- Manic. He was in
a manic frame of mind.
- Manic.
And I took the precaution
of tape recording that meeting.
Al, would you...
play the tape ?
Listen to this.
[Stempel] You get me
that panel show...
or I'm gonna bring you down,
you lousy lyin' prick !
You and Charles
Van fuckin' Doren !
[Enright On Tape] What is this,
Herb ? Are you blackmailin' me ?
I need that money, Dan. I need
to get back on television.
You get me that panel show...
- or I'll tell everyone it's a fraud.
- You know that's not true.
Who cares if it's true ? 'The fix is in
this week on Twenty-One.'
Okay.
So he needed more money
after all that money he won.
Gambling.
And that's the least of it.
I mean, if the judge was protecting
anyone, he was protecting Herb.

Given--

Well--

- His medical condition.

- [Scoffs] His medical condition ?

- Oh, yeah.

- Al, get the bills.

I mean, put yourself
in his shoes.

He's no longer
in the public eye.

He's remembered, if he's
remembered at all, as ''the guy
that lost to Van Doren.''

Television is like
a monkey on his back,
and we're not talking about someone who
is necessarily stable to begin with.

- No.

- So you paid for his psychoanalysis ?

- I felt responsible.

- You're too nice.

- No, I'm not.

- If it were up to me, I would've sent
him to the skating rink the fast way.

- Five sessions a week ?

- Five, and not a dent.

Herb is so angry with himself
for losing, and it was on
such a simple question too.

- Marty.

- Marty. His ego couldn't handle it.

He blames Charles Van Doren
for his downfall.

And of course, the real downfall
of Herbert Stempel has always
been Herbert Stempel.

Herbert Stempel. Absolutely. You met
him. Does he seem stable to you ?

Well, I definitely have an inkling
of what you're talking about.

He told me this whole story about
how when a Jew is on the show,
he always loses to a Gentile, and then
the Gentile wins more money.

Right ? [Chuckles] Who could
dream up a scheme like that ?

A symptom of his
Van Doren fixation.

The thing of it is,
I looked it up. It's true.
We could check it.

[Toby] Herbie, I wanna go home.
I took you to dinner, didn't I ?
Just hold your horses.
This is ridiculous.

Wha--

Where have you been ? Why don't
you return my phone calls ?

Did you talk to Van Doren ?

- I'll tell you who I spoke to.

I spoke to Dan Enright.

- Forget Enright.

Goodwin, 1535. You threatened
to blackmail him if he didn't
get you on a panel show ?

What ? When ? I didn't blackmail him.

What are you talking about ?

- He's got the whole thing on tape.

- He promised me that panel show.

What tape ?

What are you talking about ?

Listen, Goodwin, don't think
I don't see what you're doin'.

You're building this great case
against me. A pile of evidence,
an army of witnesses
against me, Herb Stempel.

And meanwhile, you and Van Doren
are off giving each other
the secret Ivy League handshake.

Herb, you're makin' me
look like a jerk.

I know what they're doin'
to you. They did it to me.

Just because you went to
Harvard, you think you have
some stake in the system ?

- He didn't pay for

your psychiatrist bills ?

- The point is...

Van Doren got the answers.

He did not get the answers. If anything, he gave them answers.

- I know he got the answers.

- Ah, bullshit, Herb. How do you know he got the answers ?

Because I got the answers.

You got the answers ?

What do you mean, you got the answers ?

Not very many answers. I just wanted to get out from under the financial thumb of my in-laws.

I don't understand.

I thought you were a victim in all this.

I didn't hold myself up to be the crowned prince of education.

I didn't preen myself on the cover of Time magazine with a face full of phony humility--

Good night, Herb.

[Elevator Doors Close]

Toby.

Toby, where do you think you're going without me ?

You never told me

you got the answers.

I knew the answers to a good part of the questions anyhow.

The ones I didn't, they fed me.

- I'm sure I must've mentioned it.

- It's not a thing you mentioned.

What else did you do that you didn't mention ?

Enright sat right in our kitchen and said, ''How'd you like to make \$25,000 ?''

I don't know any man in America who would turn that down.

- It's dishonest.

- Let me tell you about honest.

You know what my father used to tell me ? ''Work hard and you'll get ahead.''

Was that honest ?

Look at Geritol.

'Geritol cures tired blood.' And I'm the one who's supposed to be ashamed. You never said that you were getting the answers.

Let them believe whatever they want.

What do I care ?

- What do I care if a bunch of saps--

- I was one of those saps, Herbert.

He got the answers.

Now why would he admit that ?

He's only implicating himself.

- Well, maybe it's the truth.

- Yeah, well I have a hunch

it is the truth.

Though meanwhile, we'll have to have him testify in a straitjacket.

But Van Doren isn't crazy. Maybe you should put him on the stand.

- What's Van Doren

got to do with this ?

- They gave Stempel the answers.

Why would Van Doren

be any different ?

You have no idea what these people are like.

- It's all Thurber

and Trilling and Bunny Wilson.

- Bunny ?

Yeah, Edmund Wilson.

That's what they call him.

Well, that doesn't mean you have to.

Look, my point is, why would a guy like that jeopardize everything he has ?

- Which is what ?

- Sandra, the man is on

the cover of Time magazine.

He's not gonna be on the cover of Time as Mark Van Doren's son, Dick.

[Barry On TV] Boxing. How many

points would you like to risk ?

I'll risk eight points, Jack.

All right. For eight points, name

the three heavyweight champions...
immediately preceding
Joe Louis.

- Well, my father would know that.
- [Barry Chuckles]
- That'd be James J. Braddock.
- Correct.

Max Baer lost the belt
to Braddock.

Yes. And the fellow
Baer beat ?

[Charles] Oh, now, I remember
he knocked him down 12 times
before he finally succumbed.

- Would you like to guess ?
- Primo Carnera.

[Barry] Correct !

You have 21 !

[TV Audience Applauding]

[Jack] Second base is Eddie Stanky.

[Fred] No, it's Red Schoendienst.

[Goodwin] I hear that Pat Boone
plays on the White Shoes.

- No, that's Daniel Boone.
- [Charles] Ace-King bets.
- Check.
- Check.
- Bet five.
- I'll raise that a dollar.
- I'm out.

You better watch out, Fred.

Dick's one of the brightest
young lawyers down in Washington.

[Fred] Great. All my money already
goes to Washington. Taxes.

- It's nothin' but organized theft.
- [Goodwin] No, property.
- What ?
- "'Property is theft,'" I believe.

That's the locus classicus
from Proudhon.

- [Groans]
- I warned you.
- Oh, great, another one.

- [Jack] Ace bets five.
- And another one.
- I'll see that.
- What are you working on, Charlie ?
- I raise five dollars.
- I'd love to know what
you got under there, Charlie.
- The truth has its price.
Everything has its price.
- So where'd ya prep, Dick ?
- Dick's up here on a witch hunt.
He thinks Twenty-One is rigged.
Is it ?
[Men Chuckling]
Hey, uh... which face cards are
in profile, without looking ?
Jack of spades,
king of diamonds, jack of hearts.
Can we play cards ? It's bad enough
my wife makes me watch this crap.
Okay, you're writing a book
on Lincoln. The night he was
shot, who was the doctor...
at his deathbed ?
Joseph K. Barnes
was the doctor.
- Whoa.
- Who was the detective on the case ?
[Charles] The detective was Clarvoe.
John Alexander Clarvoe.
- Who embalmed him ?
- Come on.
Black or brown,
Charles D. Brown.
Then he was murdered
with estate taxes. Let's play.
- You're not impressed ?
- Ace checks.
Check.
Um--
- [Jack] Whoa.
- Now I'm impressed.
Go ahead, Dick, call 'em.
- [Fred Chuckling]

- What do you say, Dick ?

I know you're lying.

- [Jack] Whoa-oh.

- [Chuckles]

Bluffing.

The word is bluffing.

[Chuckles]

Too rich for my blood.

- [Jack] Try Geritol.

- Sandwich time.

- [Groaning]

- How 'bout a drink ?

This game could use
a little juice, huh ?

[Men Chattering]

[Enright] Charlie ? Charlie ?

The only people who can implicate you
directly are all in this room.

Just think about that.

- You think that nudzh
is gonna get me to talk ?

- He may be a nudzh,
but he was also first in his
class at Harvard Law School.

- Oh, Harvard ?

- Will you please stop that ?

- Al, stop it.

- Sorry. Charlie, they could
kill me, I wouldn't talk.

They could subject me
to any kind of torture, um--

- The rack ?

- Thank you. They could
put me on the rack--

- The iron maiden ?

- Whatever.

- The bastinado ?

- Charlie, I'm not tellin' 'em
a goddamned thing.

- Correct me, Dan, if I'm wrong.

- No, you're right.

Plus, what did you do wrong ?

Everybody knows the magician
don't saw the lady in half.

- It's not exactly the same thing.

- It's entertainment.

I am a college professor !

- [Groans]

- [Knocking]

They need the professor

in make-up.

Oh-ho, well.

[Chuckles]

- Aren't you Charles Van Doren ?

- [Chuckles]

I'm sorry, Dad. I didn't mean to wake
you. I just had to get out of the city.

You're always welcome,

Charlie.

Sometimes it's hard

sleeping in the city.

- I hope you don't mind.

I took the rest of the cake.

- You look like you could use it.

- Under a little strain lately.

- That's the way it always is
when you're finishing a book.

Oh, no, actually,

it's the... television show.

Ow, Jesus, I just realized,

we watched your show.

Did I tell you ? Mother and I
moved the television to the den.

- No, no, you didn't mention it.

- Anyway, what was it ?

Something about

the Galapagos Islands ?

You know what ?

I'll try some of that.

The origin and the destination
of the voyage of the Beagle.

That's right.

Biology for six points.

Good God,

the pressure !

All those lights, the money,
those strange little booths,
that man talking so fast,

like being in a bull ring.

I don't think I could
remember my name.

You know, I always had a good head
for that kind of stuff.

It's just amazing that
you could make it look so easy.

But your mother always said you were
the actor in the family, Charlie.

[Chuckles]

Yeah.

As long as it doesn't interfere
with your teaching, why not ?

Dad.

Huh ? What ?

Something on your mind ?

You never told me
you felt pressure...

you know, um...

like finishing a book.

Oh-ho, are you kidding ?

When I was finishing the Hawthorne book,
I tossed and turned so badly...

your mother threatened
to check into a hotel.

Oh, sure.

[Chuckles]

You know, I think the old bird's
finally getting the hang of this.

You know, I just had
the strongest memory.

Coming home from school,
going to the fridge.

Ice-cold bottle of milk,
big piece of chocolate cake.

It was just
the simplicity of it.

I-I can't think of anything that will
make me feel that happy again.

Not 'til you have a son.

[Barry Over Kinescope]

That would be our most difficult
question on American Literature.

For 11 points, I'll read you lines

from America's greatest poets.
You must identify the author.

First:

'I'll hear America singing
the very carols I hear.'
That would be...
Walt Whitman.
That's right.

Second:

'I shot an arrow in the air.
It fell to earth I know not where.'
- [Contestant]
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.
- Right again, Jim !

Finally:

feathers that perches in the soul.'
[Jim] That is, uh... actually
by one of my favorite poets,
Emily Dickinson.
I'm sorry, Jim. Did--
Did you say Emily Dickinson ?
Oh ! Well, yes !
All right !
[Kinescope Stops, Rewinds]
- ...Dickinson.
- I'm sorry, Jim.
Did-- Did you say Emily Dickinson ?
Oh ! Well, yes !
...favorite poets,
Emily Dickinson.
I'm sorry, Jim. Did--
Did you say Emily Dickinson ?
- Oh ! Well, yes !
- [Kinescope Stops]
- Who is it ?
- Mr. Snodgrass ?
- Yeah ?
- My name is Richard Goodwin.
- Yeah ?
- Hi. I'm a Federal Investigator
on a congressional subcommittee.

- The committee's been investigating the quiz shows.

- [Chuckles]

I was just looking at a kinescope of your appearance on Twenty-One, and I noticed--

- Mr. Snodgrass ?

- [Snickering]

- This is good.

- Yeah ? What is it ?

[People Chattering]

- Drive on by.

- What ?

- Go around to the back entrance.

- Okay.

- [Phone Ringing]

- [Woman] Mr. Kintner's office. Excuse me. Do you think he might see me before the peacock molts ?

- Who are you with again ?

- I'm with the U.S. Congress. Perhaps you've heard of them. Oh, your name is Gold-- Excuse me, not you. Your name is Goldwyn ?

- Goodwin.

- Ah, yes. Please have a seat, Mr. Goldwyn-- Goodwin.

- I'll see if he's available.

- Right.

- Yes, that's red, long stem. Thank you.

- [Sighs]

Well, I'm sure he'd be available if my name were Geritol.

- Perhaps if you could come back another time.

- [Door Opens]

- Good night, Rose.

- Good night, Mr. Kintner.

- Mr. Kintner.

My name is Richard Goodwin.

- Oh ?

- I'm with the Congressional Subcommittee on Legislative Oversight.

- Congratulations.

- How's Chairman Harris ?

- Oh, he's fine.

Still in that sand trap

where I left him ?

I am here to give you

a chance to cooperate.

We'll cooperate in any way we can.

Now will you excuse me ?

Twenty-One is rigged, and I can prove

it. Who won, how long they were on,

it was all a scheme to keep the ratings

up, and NBC made millions off it.

Young man, I am the President

of the National Broadcasting Company.

I have no idea what the day-to-day

operations of Twenty-One are.

Does Chairman Harris know every

little thing you're up to ?

I have Enright cold.

And, sir, that means I have you.

- Really ?

- Really.

Then why are you the one

that's sweating ?

[Barry] This week's challenger

from New York, New York,

welcome Mrs. Vivienne Nearing.

And returning this week with \$139,000,

our champion, Charles Van Doren.

[Audience Applauding]

- A very cordial welcome to the show,

Mrs. Nearing. Mr. Van Doren.

- Jack.

You're back again with

a lot of money at stake.

Mrs. Nearing, let's tell

the Professor and our audience

a little something about you.

[Announcer] A sometimes painter,

pianist and Double-Crostics fan,

she has a Bachelor's Degree

from Queens College, New York,

and a M.A. and L.L.B.

from Columbia.

She and her husband Victor
are lawyers in New York.

- Quite a bean inside
that pretty head, huh ?

- She's terrifying.

All right, I think you both know
how to play the game. Don't
forget to put your earphones on.
The very best of luck to both of you.
Let's play Twenty-One.

Some of the most important airplanes of
World War II were the following:

the P-40, the P-47,

the P-51,

the B-24, the B-25

and the B-26.

Give me the nicknames the
Air Force gave to these planes.

That's much harder than the
question they asked that woman,
and hers was ten points !

-Do you know the names of those planes ?

-Of course not. Sit down.

Who would know the names
of those planes ?

- He's not the Secretary of Defense.

- Shh, shh.

As we enter our final round, Mrs.

Nearing leads by a score of 21 to 16.

It is the moment of truth, as
it were, for Charles Van Doren,

our reigning champion,
after a record-breaking

Will he hold
onto his title ?

Wow.

Mrs. Nearing.

- Yes ?

- You have the required 21 points.

We're going to let you listen in
on this last round.

Please do not divulge your score
or speak in any way.

Mr. Van Doren,

the category is royalty.

- Royalty. Yes, sir.

- [Charles] Royalty.

- How many points would you like to try for ?

- Well, let's see.

I'll take five,

five points.

[Barry] All right. Name the kings of the following countries:

Norway, Sweden, Belgium and Iraq.

- Could I take the third part last ?

- Certainly.

Take as much time as you need, Charlie.

You have a lot riding on these answers.

I sure have. Well, Norway,

that would be Haakon. King Haakon.

- [Barry] That's right

- And Sweden, um, Gustavus.

- Right again, Charlie.

The King of Iraq ?

- Iraq, uh--

Turn it-- Turn it off.

Turn the damn thing off !

- Good God ! What got into you ?

- It's just too nerve-wracking.

I remember that's his,

um...

great-uncle in that wonderful book,

The Seven Pillars Of Wisdom.

Um, Do-- No, um--

- Fais-- Oh, King Faisal.

- Correct. And Belgium ?

Belgium. Belgium. Belgium. Belgium.

Let me see-- That's the third part ?

- [Barry] That's right.

- Um--

King of Belgium, um--

Um--

Um--

Let me see--

Professor, would you

like more time ?

[Charlie] Belgium,
the King of Belgium.
I can picture him, Jack.
Right down to that
Hapsburg lip that they--
I can't seem to summon
the name. Um--
He's gonna dump it.

[Ringing]

Is Garroway here ?

[Ringing Continues]

Professor, I'm sorry. I'm going
to have to ask for your answer.
It seems like an easy one.
Leopold.

- No.

- [Crowd Gasps]

[Barry] No, I'm-- I'm sorry,
Charlie. The answer is Baudouin.
King Baudouin.

Leopold is Baudouin's father,
the former king.

What a stunning turn
of events.

- Mrs. Nearing, you have just
unseated our champion.

- Baudouin. Of course.

- Come out here, both of you.

- [Crowd Applauding]

[All Chattering]

Listen, you don't know what to do ?
Give him another chance, that's what.
Call it a bonus round, but
get him on that show again.

- Someone will call
if he loses, won't they ?

- I'm sure.

- Congratulations.

- Thank you.

Changing of the guard, as it
were. You take home \$10,000
of Mr. Van Doren's money.
We'll try not to hold that against you.
Please, come back next week.

Tell us you want to continue playing. I sure hope you do.

How 'bout a warm hand...

- for our new champion,
Mrs. Vivienne Nearing.

- Thank you.

[Applause]

[Barry] Whoa, who is that in our wing ? Is that Dave Garroway ? Dave Garroway of the NBC Today Show, ladies and gentlemen.

- [Applause]

- Hello, Dave.

- How are you, Charlie ?

- Fine, thank you, Dave.

- I was wondering, what are you gonna do now ?

- Well, I was, um...

hoping to enjoy some peace and quiet now and a chance to get back to my books.

You know, eventually, this sad day had to come, but we don't wanna lose you.

So, at the Today Show, we decided why not make Charlie our special cultural correspondent, to the people and to the school children of America.

Well, I--

I hope you're not firing the chimp.

[Laughs] How does \$50,000 a year sound to you, Professor ?

[Applause]

Um, well, I--

I was hoping to, um-- [Chuckles] to get back to my teaching.

Well, this is the largest classroom in the world, Professor: television.

So, if you will, just sign right here on the dotted line.

Charlie, walk away.

Come on. You don't need it.

[Chuckles]

- Congratulations, Charlie.

- [Applause]

- Thank you.

[People Chattering]

- Did Mr. Garroway leave ?

- Yes, sir.

- Good show, Dave.

- Thanks.

- Mrs. Nearing, congratulations.

It was a wonderful show.

- Thank you.

Gentlemen, this is Mrs. Nearing.

You know Al Freedman.

- [Mrs. Nearing] Yes, we've met.

- [Enright]

You're gonna be needed tomorrow.

You're a very disruptive

young man.

Okay, let's bring the camera out,
and let's bring the blackboard in.

- You remember James Snodgrass ?

- Who ? And can we get

Mrs. Nearing in there ?

- James Snodgrass.

- Get her in there with her family.

- He was a contestant on your show.

- You know how many

contestants we've had ?

- This man was an artist.

Maybe that'll jog your memory.

- Al digs these people up.

- God knows where he finds them.

Now, a picture with her mother.

- He's in Greenwich Village.

There was a question about the first
line of a poem by Emily Dickinson.

Barry apparently expected

he was going to say Ralph Waldo

Emerson and get it wrong.

- Really ? I'm very busy now.

- Yeah, and I have it

on the kinescope, okay ?

- It's clear as day. The man
literally did a double take.

- [Chuckles]

He did a double take. And-And who

told you this ? Is this Herb again ?

- Or is this the Greenwich
Village beatnik ?

- Oh, that's interesting.

Why is he a beatnik ? Because
he's not Charlie Van Doren ?

Yeah, you're damn right.

He's not Charlie Van Doren.

You got crackpots comin' out of
the woodwork. You're snoopin'
around askin' questions.

- You don't have a shred
of concrete evidence.

- Let me tell you somethin'.

In this envelope are all the
questions that James Snodgrass
was asked on Twenty-One, okay ?

The odd thing about this envelope is he
appeared on the show on January 13,
yet somehow he mailed this to himself
January 11, registered mail.

I'd say that's pretty
goddamn concrete, wouldn't you ?

[Barry] Look right into the camera.

[Freedman] I wasn't in there, was I ?

You didn't see me ?

[Photographer] No, you were out.

It's okay.

Why would he do that ?

How's that trap feel
clamped on your leg ?

He sent it to himself
registered mail ?

Why should you be the fall guy
here when NBC and Geritol
are makin' the real money ?

[Sighs]

Dick.

[Chuckles]

Dan.

You want me to implicate
the network ?

You don't owe them
a thing.

lf l even hinted
that the network knew,
and they didn't...
know,
they'd never let me
through the door again.
l got a sneakin' suspicion you're not
going through that door anyway.
Television's my life, Dick.
It's over. Why don't you go talk
to your family ?
l just had a thought.
Would you be interested
in your own panel show ?
- Seriously.
- [Chuckles]
What ?
l'll get back to you
on that, Dan.
[Doorbell Buzzes]
- Excuse the robe.
- That's all right.
First decent night's sleep l've had
in months. Would you like coffee ?
l thought l'd drop by before l head back
to Washington. l got a 10:00 train.
We're going to announce
our hearings later today.
Oh, really ?
As l exit the stage, you enter.
Well, don't forget
the world's biggest classroom.
Oh, that. Well, it's-- [Chuckles]
It's the world's biggest something.
Uh--
How do you like it, Dick ?
You seem like a black coffee man.
Yeah, black's fine.
Here we go.
A toast to... escape.
' 'It is the basket
in which the heart is caught...
when down some awful Battlement
the rest of Life is dropt. ' '

King Baudouin.

Emily Dickinson, actually.

The one you lost on.

Oh, that.

Well, it seems the Belgian Consulate
has formally protested my ignorance.

Up at Cornwall, Charlie, your father
said he felt like Leopold, remember ?

You lost on one you knew.

Same as Stempel.

Well, I--

I must have had a mental block.

I was there last night.

I could swear a smile crept across
your face when you lost.

[Sighs]

I wanted to get off the show.

You can understand that.

I feel like I've been holding
my breath for 14 weeks.

Why ?

What'd you think it was ?

Look, I spoke to the committee,
okay ? We're going to hold
the hearings without you.

I am not out to destroy
you or your family.

- You go on and you live
your life, and God bless you.

- Okay.

But I wanna know, man to man,
did you get the answers ?

- 'Man to man' ?

- Yeah, just between us.

What is this ? Is this still
that business with Stempel ?

I mean, Dan says he's not
the most reliable fellow.

There's a problem, Charlie.

I found another contestant,
a man named James Snodgrass.

- He says he got the answers too.

- Are you sure these people
are telling the truth ?

He put the questions in
a sealed envelope and sent them
to himself, registered mail.

- That was two days before
he appeared on the show.

- That doesn't prove anything.

- You don't have to be
a genius to connect the dots.

- Don't connect them through me.

Don't treat me like I'm some member
of your goddamned fan club !

Are you telling me everybody
got the answers but you ?

- You're so persistent. I envy that.

- Was it just the money ?

You'll forgive me, but anyone
that thinks money is ever just
money couldn't have much of it.

You wanna insult me, fine.

But you can't envy me at the same time.

Jesus ! If someone offered you all this
money to be on some rigged quiz show,
instant fame,

would you do it ?

- No. Of course not.

- No, no.

Throw the whole thing in:

Cover of Time; Dave Garroway;

would you do it ?

No.

And I would ?

[Sighs]

Honestly, Dick.

All right. Look, do me a favor.

Don't embarrass me.

Keep your mouth shut. Don't say
anything. Don't talk to the papers.

Just disappear

for two weeks.

Please, don't make me

call you.

More coffee, Dick ?

Nope. [Sighs]

I better go.

I don't wanna
miss my train.

[Gavel Pounding]

[Man] The subcommittee
will be in order.

The special Subcommittee
on Legislative Oversight...

was created pursuant
to Section 136...

of the Legislative

Reorganization Act of 1946...

to conduct a general investigation
into the operation...

of the federal

regulatory agencies.

I'll ask if you were assisted
in any way. You answer, ''Yes.''

I'll say, ''How ?''

You say, ''I was given the questions
and answers in advance.''

- Why don't you just sit on my pants ?

- I'll ask, ''Was this done routinely ?''

- You answer, ''Yes.''

- Not that tie. The television tie.

- [Alarm Ringing]

- [Groans]

- We've gone over this
five times already.

- Just try to relax.

Be confident. Look at the Chairman
directly when you answer.

Enough ! You're worse than Enright !

I'm telling the truth.

If they prefer to be lied to, they can
just turn on the television.

- There's a lot riding on this.

- You're telling me there's
a lot riding on it, yeah.

- What do you think, Toby ?

- What do I think about what ?

Ready to watch your husband
give 'em hell ?

- I don't know what

you're gonna accomplish.

- As soon as Enright realizes--
What do you want, the two-tone or the
oxford ? You should wear the oxford.
When Enright realizes he's alone up
there and they're gonna cut him loose,
he will implicate NBC and
Geritol like that, and believe
me, you're gonna see somethin'.
I know what you're gonna
accomplish. I just don't know
what he's gonna accomplish.
You wanna know what ? If I do
nothing else, I will convince them...
that Herbert Stempel knows what won
the goddamned Academy Award...
for best goddamned
picture of 1955.

- That's what I'm going to accomplish !

- I'm sick of all this.

The subcommittee calls
Herbert Stempel.

[Goodwin] So, in other words,
you kept on winning.

- Yes, sir, that is correct.

- At any time during
this championship run,
were you ever assisted
in any way ?

[Stempel] I was given
the questions and answers in advance.
Generally, I would receive the questions
and answers on Friday.
Then we'd have sort of
a rehearsal on Monday.

- This is from the very beginning ?

- Yes.

Dan Enright came to see me
in my kitchen and he said,
'How'd you like to make \$25,000 ?'
And I said, 'Who wouldn't ?'
What do you mean
by rehearsal ?

Well, for example, he told me how to
breathe heavily into the microphone...

and sigh such as this.

- [Heavy Sighing]

- [People Laughing]

He taught me how to stutter
and say in a plaintive voice,
'I will take, uh, n-nine--
uh, nine points.'

- It was all choreographed.

- How to bite my lip.

How to mop my brow.

He told me specifically
not to smear my brow, but rather
to pat for optimum effect.

Of course, I'm shvitzing the
whole time because they turned
off the air conditioning.

- Excuse me ?

- [People Laughing]

- That's funny.

- [Goodwin] Mr. Chairman.

With your permission, we might
at this point, view a portion
of the program, Twenty-One.

Whenever you're ready.

Herb Stempel, with your \$69,500
still at stake--

although now at \$2,500 a point--
the category is...

newspapers.

How many points

you wanna try for ?

- There ! There's the lip biting.

- [People Laughing]

[Chairman] Yes, we see.

Finally, I was told to
open my eyes...

and with a dazzling smile, give
the answer and explode when Jack
Barry says, 'That is right.'

The Emporia Gazette ?

- [Barry] That is right !

- [Stempel Chuckles]

I don't know where he got it
all. Some article on mass

psychology he read in Esquire.

[People Laughing]

[Stempel Chuckles]

- I'll try eight points.

- Watch Van Doren.

- He's better at it than I am.

- Mr. Stempel, if I might refer you--

- Are you suggesting that Charles Van Doren was also coached ?

- Of course he got the answers.

Why would they give me the answers and not give him the answers ?

Why would they make me

take a dive unless they knew

the other guy would get to 21 ?

It's illogical. You don't fix one guy without fixing the other guy.

It's implausible, mathematically.

[Barry] It would be, and you have eight points.

You see ? Look at him. You see with the brow ? Patting, not smearing.

Mr. Stempel, have you ever received any psychiatric treatment of any kind ? What ?

- Uh, Mr. Stempel, I was wondering--

- Mr. Goodwin, please.

Five sessions a week.

That's pretty extensive, isn't it ?

Well, I believe we can all use a little help at various times in our lives.

Is it possible that any of your testimony is motivated...

by an irrational animosity toward Mr. Enright ?

I-I-I don't know. If a man doesn't live up to his agreement--

A morbid fixation

on Mr. Van Doren ?

If a man promises certain things just to shut me up--

'How'd you like to make \$25,000 ?'

And you said, 'Well, who wouldn't ?'

In retrospect, look at Van Doren.
I should've held out for a lot more.
You prostituted
your intellectual ability for money.
That's the difference
between me and Van Doren.
I admit it.
I have my morality.
Charles Van Doren is a professor
at Columbia University.
A Master's degree
in astrophysics.
A Ph.D. in literature.
Hails from one of the most prominent
intellectual families in this country.
Isn't it just possible,
Mr. Stempel,
that you got the answers
and he didn't ?
[Crowd Chattering]
[Woman] So I told my husband,
'We really need a vacation.'
My husband says,
'What are you gonna do with the cat ?'
- Uh-huh.
- And I said, 'I don't know.'
Good morning.
Will you excuse us ?
Charlie,
I'm Bob Kintner.
- Oh.
- Don't get up.
- It's about time we met.
- Hi. It's a pleasure.
- This whole... quiz show mess,
- Uh-huh.
- and hearings and all that.
- I've been following that
in the paper.
Well, our legal department
has prepared this for you.
We'd like you to hold
a press conference.
Oh, there's a split infinitive

here in the second paragraph.

[Chuckles]

Shall I schedule it ?

Well, look, um...

I haven't been subpoenaed,
and I can't think of anything
that'd sound guiltier...

than a man who hasn't been accused
of anything protesting his innocence.

Charlie, speculation in our society
has a way of becoming fact.

Television

is a public trust.

We can't afford even a hint of
a scandal in our company.

Well, I--

I'd rather not do it.

I'm sorry.

Haven't we been good

to you ?

Haven't we treated you
like part of our family ?

We have great expectations
for you, Charlie.

I know you're gonna do
the right thing.

- I'm sorry, Mr. Van Doren.

- Is he in ?

- He's gone, Mr. Van Doren.

- He's gone to Washington ?

Mr. Freedman's gone

to Mexico.

I still don't understand how
you can hold a quiz show hearing
without Van Doren.

Van Doren had no contact
with NBC or Geritol.

Don't you understand, they deal
with Enright. Enright's the key here.

The key to what ? The jury
hears the public. The public
doesn't know Dan Enright.

The purpose is not to reform
the souls of the contestants.

The purpose is to reform TV.

- It's like the Barenblatt
and the Sweezy cases.

- You don't wanna call him.

Fine, Dick. Just don't patronize me
with your legal bullshit.

- She's got a point, Dick.

- Bob, maybe it's time
for you to go home.

How'd you like Dick's steak
done, Bob ? Medium ?

- There's absolutely no need to
drag the man into the spotlight.

- You dragged Herb Stempel in.

The man has to be
dragged from the spotlight
with his teethmarks still on it.

Yeah, well, nobody forced
Charles Van Doren to go in front
of 50 million people either.

This is not McCarthyism. We are not
here to expose for the sake of exposing.

- This is not the point !

- That is the point !

That is not your point !

You are ten times the man
Charles Van Doren is.

Ten times the brain
and ten times the human being.

Meanwhile, you're bending
over backwards for him.

You are like the Uncle Tom
of the Jews.

I'm glad it's so easy for you
to destroy a man's life.

I'll have to keep that in mind.

Bob, sit down.

The quiz show hearings without Van Doren
is like doing Hamlet without Hamlet.

The Chairman's instructions
are for me to get you up there
as promptly as possible.

The questions are to take
no longer than 15 minutes.

You're to receive
the questions in advance,
and I'm to thank you for the courtesy
of attending this hearing.

Mercy.

What a grueling line of inquiry.

Must have a familiar ring,
the questions in advance.

Would you excuse us
for a moment, please ?

Take this, please.

Thank you.

- [Door Closes]

- Young man--

The ratings went up if the same
contestant came back week after week.

There was only one way for that
to happen. You had to know that.

Young man, I sell over \$14 million
a year worth of Geritol.

Geritol. That's the kind
of businessman I am.

That show, Twenty-One, cost me three
and a half million year in, year out.

Sales went up 50% when

Van Doren was on. Fifty percent.

So the very idea that I was unaware of
every detail of that show's operation,
frankly,

it's very insulting.

- So you knew.

- That's even more insulting.

- You had to know--

- It's not about what I know.

It's about what you know.

- You don't know what I know.

- You know that Dan Enright
ran a crooked quiz show.

He never informed you ?

Did he ?

[Chuckles]

Let's see what he says.

Dan ? Look, Dan Enright wants
a future in television, okay ?

You have to understand that the public
has a very short memory.
But corporations,
they never forget.
He's not that stupid.
He knows he's through.
No. Oh, he'll be back. NBC is gonna
go on. Geritol's gonna go on.
Makes me wonder what you hope
to accomplish with all this.
Don't worry.
I'm just gettin' started.
Even the quiz shows'll be back.
Why fix them ?
Think about it. You could do
exactly the same thing by just
making the questions easier.
The audience didn't tune in
to watch some amazing display
of intellectual ability.
They just wanted
to watch the money.
Imagine if they could
watch you.
You're a bright young kid with a bright
future. Watch yourself out there.
I turned in my clubs
after that day.
[Kintner] Well, you weren't
too good when you were out
on the links with me that day.
I can't wait to get you
out there again.
- Stuck in that sand trap for an hour.
- No more for me.
Would you state your name
and profession ?
My name is Robert Kintner.
I'm the president of the
National Broadcasting Company.
[Man] My name is Martin Rittenhome.
I run Pharmaceuticals Incorporated.
I take that responsibility
very seriously, Congressman.

We immediately commenced
our own internal investigation.
To ferret out this corruption
wherever it may exist.
Nobody brought the article
in Time Magazine to your attention ?
I was in Europe.
I didn't see it.
You didn't see it.
You were travelling.
I didn't see it.
I was travelling at the time.
You sure you never asked
about particular contestants
or about the ratings, nothing ?
- That was their department.
- I relied on the excellent
reputation of Dan Enright.
Dan Enright was more in the nature
of an independent contractor.
Do you remember what you thought
when you found out ?
I was as shocked as you are. I
mean, this was a terrible thing
to do to the American people.
I never, never imagined...
they could perpetrate this fraud
on the American public.
I'd like to say one other thing. I
think all that money should be returned.
Mr. Goodwin,
any further questions ?
No, sir, thank you.
No further questions.
[Chairman] On behalf of
the subcommittee, I wish to
thank you for your appearance...
and your testimony here.
Van Doren's
made a statement.
I look like the mark in a shell game
here, and you look like the shell.
- Sir, if you--
- Shut up !

- When is Van Doren coming here ?
I don't see him on the schedule.
- He's not on the schedule.
Wait a minute. We discussed this.
The contestants are not the villains.
We were gonna only bring in the ones
who would come in voluntarily.
All I know is in the last hour,
I've gotten over 200 telegrams
from people askin' me...
why I won't let poor
Charles Van Doren defend himself.
I've got every woman in Arkadelphia
squealin' like a pig under a gate.
- Let me tell you somethin'.
These women vote.
- I cannot believe this.
- [Lishman] Where is Freedman ?
- The marshals are bringing him
back from Mexico.
By what ?
By mule ?
Sir, please, just tell me
what it is that he said.
'Mr. Van Doren made himself
available to the subcommittee staff.
He has advised them at no time was he
supplied with any questions, answers--'
[Whistling]
That statement of yours
took me a bit by surprise.
I know. I know.
We had a deal.
I asked myself, 'Why would he make
a statement like that ?
He knows I'll come
after him.'
But then it occurred to me:
He knows
I'll come after him.
I can't decide if you think
too much of me or too little.
Charlie, I wanna think
the best of you.

Everyone does.

That's your curse.

- Did you bring a subpoena ?

- Right here.

Well ?

I remember five, six years ago,
my Uncle Harold told my aunt
about this affair he had.

- It was a sort of mildly
upsetting event in my family.

- Mm-hmm. Mildly ?

You have to put it in context.

The thing of it is, the affair
was over like eight years.

So, I remember askin' him, ''Why'd you
tell her ? You got away with it.''

I'll never forget

what he said.

It was the ''getting away with it''
part he couldn't live with.

I might take that chance.

A chance is what

I'm givin' ya.

- Don Quixote is life.

- [Boy] I still don't see...

how this old guy with a horse and a fat
old sidekick can think he's a knight.

It means if you wanna be

a knight, act like a knight.

Okay.

Act like a knight ?

You act like a knight.

[Boy #2] I am a knight.

- I shall miss them.

- What is this ?

That retirement business again ?

[Chuckles] That'd be like a snail
retiring from his shell.

I can't go on doing this forever.

It's for you now, Charlie.

- So, what's the news ? Did you
read Norman Mailer in Dissent ?

- I only glanced at it.

Everyone's talking about it. They don't

know whether he's a genius or a fool.
Have you heard there's this
congressional committee that's, um--
Well, they're investigating
the quiz shows.

I read that.

What's it about ?

Well, evidently,
certain of the contestants were
given the answers in advance.
Cheating on a quiz show. That's like
plagiarizing a comic strip.

Well, at any rate, it seems
the committee wants to call me
to, to testify.

Oh, I've testified before.

Funding for the arts. It's nothing.

- I think this is a little different.

- You'll run circles round them.

It's not exactly Jefferson
and Lincoln down there anymore.

I think this is
a little different.

I'd think you'd be glad
at a chance to clear your name.

Otherwise, people
might believe--

People will believe whatever they
want to believe. That's not the issue.

Just tell 'em the truth.

You'll do fine.

The real issue, Charlie,
is how this keeps distracting
you from your teaching.

This and that program in the morning,
though you insist that it doesn't.

Dad, I can't simply just
tell 'em the truth.

Can't tell them
the truth ?

Why on earth not ?

It's, it's complicated.

Complicated ?

[Sighs] Yeah, I can't.

l ca--

Charlie, from what l understand,
it's just this bunch of frauds...
showing off an erudition
they didn't really have.

- All you have to do--

- The problem is...

is it seems

l was one of those frauds.

What ?

What--

What do you mean ?

They gave me the answers.

They gave you the answers.

They gave you the answers !

Well-- No, no.

At first, they asked me questions they
already knew l knew the answers to.

We ran through those, and l still
didn't want them to give me the answers,
so l had them give me questions
and l'd go look up the answers,
as if that were any different.

We ran through those
in a couple of weeks.

Then l just didn't have the time.

Finally, it just seemed silly.

They gave you all that money to answer
questions they knew you knew ?

- Now, that's inflation !

- You're not being very helpful.

l'm sorry, Charlie. l'm

an old man. It's all a little
difficult for me to comprehend.

It's television, Dad !

It's, it's just television.

You make it sound like
you didn't have a choice.

What was l supposed to do
at that point ? Disillusion
the whole goddamn country ?

- You took the money !

- Yes, l know ! l took the money.

- Is that what this was about ?

- No. No. I don't know.
It was a goddamned
quiz show, Charlie.
- 'An ill-favored thing, sir.
- This is not the time to play games.
- But mine own.' It was mine.
- Your name is mine.
Charlie.
I'm sorry.
I'm really sorry, Dad.
You'll be, um...
dragged into all this,
you and Mother.
Oh, my God, Charlie.
How are you gonna tell
that committee ?
Will you come down there
with me ?
[Chairman] The, uh, subcommittee
calls Charles Van Doren.
[Crowd Chattering]
[Reporters Firing Questions]
- [Gavel Pounding]
- Photographers will please
clear the room.
- Will you please state your name ?
- Charles Van Doren.
- I've gotta get in there.
I've gotta get in there.
- Excuse me, sir.
Wait a minute !
Hey, you, come back here !
Do you solemnly swear that the testimony
you are about to give will be the truth,
- the whole truth and nothing but
the truth, so help you God ?
- I do.
Now, we are advised
that you have...
a prepared statement that you would
prefer to give at the outset ?
- Yes, sir. Might I first
have a glass of water ?
- Of course you may.

You may proceed.
I would give almost anything
I have to reverse the course
of my life in the last year.
The past doesn't change
for anyone.
But at least
I can learn from the past.
I've learned a lot
about life.
I've learned a lot
about myself...
and about the responsibilities
any man has to his fellow men.
I've learned a lot about good
and evil. They're not always
what they appear to be.
I was involved,
deeply involved,
in a deception.
I have deceived my friends.
And I had millions of them.
I lied to
the American people.
I lied about what I knew, and then
I lied about what I did not know.
In a sense, I was like a child
who refuses to admit a fact
in the hope that it'll go away.
Of course
it did not go away.
I was scared,
scared to death.
I had no solid position.
No basis to stand on
for myself.
There was one way out and that was...
simply to tell the truth.
It may sound trite to you,
but I've found myself again
after a number of years.
I've been acting a role,
maybe all my life,
of thinking I've done more,

accomplished more,
produced more than I have.
I have had all the breaks.
I have stood on the shoulders
of life, and I've never gotten
down into the dirt to build,
to erect a foundation
of my own.

I have flown too high
on borrowed wings.

Everything came too easy.

That is why I am here today.

[Chairman] Mr. Van Doren,
I want to compliment you
for that statement.

Thank you, sir.

Uh, Mr. Van Doren, I would like to join
the Chairman in commending you...
for the soul-searching fortitude
displayed in your statement.

- Thank you, sir.

Thank you very much.

- [Rogers] Mr. Van Doren,
I just wanna add
my kudos.

I have listened to many
witnesses, in both civil...
and criminal matters,
and yours is the most
soul-searching confession I
think I've heard in a long time.

[Van Doren] Thank you, sir.

[Congressman] Mr. Van Doren,
I'm also from New York;
a different part of New York.

I'm happy that you've made the
statement, but I cannot agree
with most of my colleagues.

You see, I don't think an adult of your
intelligence ought to be commended...

for simply at long last
telling the truth.

[Scattered Applause]

[Gavel Pounding]

[Gavel Pounding]

If the committee has nothing to add,
Mr. Van Doren, you are dismissed.

- [Reporters Chattering]

- Charlie ! Over here !

[Crowd Chattering]

Let him out, boys.

- [Chairman] The subcommittee
will come to order.

- [Clears Throat]

Our next witness will be
Mr. Daniel Enright.

[Reporters Chattering]

- Charles, you're gonna have
to answer some questions.

- Okay, one at a time.

- How do you feel, Charlie ?

- Relieved.

...the truth, the whole truth and
nothin' but the truth, so help you God ?

- I do.

- Who helped you write that statement ?

- Did you know you'd been fired by NBC ?

- No, I didn't know.

- What do you have to say
to the young people ?

- Are you proud of your son ?

- I've always been proud of Charlie.

- Proud of what he did ?

The most important thing now is for
Charlie to get back to his teaching.

Did you know Columbia trustees
are meeting right now ?

They're going to ask
for Charlie's resignation.

Professor Van Doren, you spent
your whole career at Columbia.

What's your reaction to that ?

Prof. Van Doren ?

Dad, go ahead with Mother.

I'll meet you outside.

- No reaction.

Charles, a few more questions.

- [Reporters Chattering]

Did the network or sponsor
bring pressure on you...
to bring the same contestant
back week after week ?

No, sir.

Did they express
any approval or disapproval
of any particular contestant ?

Never. Not to me.

Were they aware that you were supplying
the contestants with the answers ?

No, sir.

They had no knowledge whatsoever.

Herb Stempel. Herbie, how 'bout
a picture, you and Van Doren together ?

- No. Not now.

Christ, look at the guy.

- Come on, the both of you.

You know what the problem
with you bums is ?

You never leave a guy alone
unless you're leaving him alone.

- Who do you blame, Charlie ?

- Professor, one more shot.

Did you feel the committee
treated you fairly ?

How'd the pressure up there
compare to Twenty-One ?

So you freely admit that
you helped rig these shows ?

- [Enright] What else could we do ?

- Congratulations.

- For what ?

- Van Doren.

I thought we were gonna
get television.

The truth is...

television is gonna get us.

[Congressman] And you obviously
don't think you did anything wrong.

[Enright] Yes, we did one thing
wrong. We were too successful.

[Congressman] You were
too successful.

[Enright] Those advertising dollars came from somewhere. Why do you think the newspapers and magazines are making such a big thing about this ?

[Chairman] Mr. Enright, you make it sound like you are the victim here.

[Enright] The sponsor makes out, the network makes out, the contestants see money they would never see in a lifetime and the public is entertained. So who gets hurt ?

[Chairman] Mr. Freedman, you freely admit that you helped rig these shows ?

- [Freedman] Yes, sir.

- Yes, sir ? That's it ?

[Freedman] Well, sir, I don't know what else to say.

Give the public what they want.

[Chuckles] It's like your business.

[Chairman] Do you see a need for government regulation in this area ?

You know, it's not like the quiz shows are a public utility, sir.

It's entertainment.

We're not exactly hardened criminals here.

[Chuckles] We're, we're in show business.

See the shark with

Teeth like razors

You can read his

Open face

And Macheath

He's got a knife, but

Not in such

An obvious place

On a beautiful

Blue Sunday

See the corpse

Stretched in the Strand

See a man dodge
Round the corner
Mackie's friends will
Understand
Mr. Meier
Reported missing
Like so many
Wealthy men
Mack the Knife
Acquired his cash box
God alone knows
How or when
Jenny Towler
She turned up lately
With a knife stuck
Through her breast
While Macheath
He walks the Embankment
Nonchalantly
Unimpressed
And the ghastly
Fire in Soho
Seven children
At a go
In the crowd stands
Mack the Knife, but
He isn't asked
He doesn't know
And the child-bride
In her nightgown
Whose assailant's
Still at large
Violated
In her slumbers
Mackie, how much
Did you charge
Yes, the child-bride
In her nightgown
Her assailant's
Still at large
Violated
In her slumbers
Mackie, how much
Did you charge

Mackie, how much did you charge

How much did you charge

How much did you charge

How much did you charge

How much did you charge