



Scripts.com

# Shock and Awe

By Joey Hartstone

1

(CLEARS THROAT)

Continuing today's  
hearing on future VA funding...  
the Senate Committee on  
Veterans' Affairs...  
is called back to order.

**CHAIRMAN:**

next witness.

Will you please stand  
and raise your right hand?

My apologies.

Please raise your right hand.

Do you swear that the testimony  
you're about to give...

this committee will be the  
truth, the whole truth...

and nothing but the  
truth, so help you God?

I do.

Please state your name.

Private First Class Adam Green,  
United States Army, retired.

Mr. Green, I understand you've  
prepared a statement?

I have, sir.

You may enter it into the record  
at this time.

Mr. Chairman, members of the  
Committee...

I want to thank you  
for the opportunity...  
to speak with you today.

I served in the military f...

I'm sorry, if I could just...

Sure, go ahead.

Thank you, sir.

I've always liked numbers.

Whenever I have a hard time  
wrapping my head around...

something, I find that numbers  
make things clearer for me.

They help me understand

decisions that are made...  
and the impacts of those  
decisions.  
So, if it's all right...  
I'd like to start with the  
number 1.4 million.  
That's the number of men  
and women...  
who are currently serving  
in our military.  
555...  
that's how many days passed  
before we invaded one country...  
after having been attacked  
by another.  
19... is how old I was when  
I enlisted.  
Three is the number of hours  
that passed from the time...  
I arrived in Iraq to the time  
our transport...  
was destroyed by an I.E.D.  
And then there's six.  
That's the number of inches the  
piece of shrapnel was...  
that severed my spinal cord.  
The only problems with numbers  
is they can be impersonal.  
A decision you made had a  
life-changing impact on me...  
and a lot of soldiers like me.  
Now, I'm not a military expert.  
I don't know a whole lot  
about geopolitical affairs.  
I'm just an ordinary American.  
And I understand that you've  
asked me here...  
because you all have  
some questions for me,  
but if it's all right, I'd like  
to ask all of you a question.  
How the hell did this happen?

**BUSH:**

at this hour...  
American and coalition forces  
are in the early stages...  
of military operations  
to disarm Iraq, to free...  
its people and to defend  
the world from grave danger.

**BLITZER:**

campaign called Shock and Awe.

**BROKAW:**

**- RATHER:**

**- MAN:**

**REPORTER #1:**

are going off in Baghdad...

**REPORTER #2:**

military operation...  
to topple Saddam Hussein  
is now in effect.

**REPORTER #3:**

Firing 600 Cruise missiles...  
and every type of war plane  
in the American arsenal.

**BROKAW:**

of American military might.

**REPORTER #4:**

The scale of this attack...  
is considerably higher than  
anything we've seen before.

**REPORTER #5:**

whole buildings...  
with these Cruise missiles.

**RATHER:**

U.S. war planes unleashed...

to promise massive bombardment  
of Baghdad.

**BLITZER:**

Cruise missiles...  
satellite-guided precision  
bombs, laser-guided bombs.

**REPORTER #6:**

citizens of Baghdad know...  
exactly what the Pentagon  
means by Shock and Awe.

**REPORTER #7:**

Kuwait-Iraq border...  
we watched as columns of troops  
moved into the country.

**RATHER:**

way to Baghdad.  
They have met resistance.

**WOMAN:**

television...  
every tank, every helicopter...  
is that my son?

**REPORTER #8:**

within striking distance...  
just a few short miles away...  
as U.S. troops make their final  
push forward.  
We want to slaughter  
them all...  
those invaders, their tombs  
will be here in Iraq.

**REPORTER #9:**

is alive, he is quote...  
"Not in control of his military  
and of his government."

**BUSH:**

of what will be a broad...

and concerted campaign.  
Could be longer and more  
difficult than some predict.  
And helping Iraqis achieve  
a united, stable...  
and free country will require  
our sustained commitment.  
And you can know that our  
forces will be coming home...  
as soon as their work is done.  
Keep moving! Keep moving!  
Let's go!

- Where are they taking us?  
- Shut up. Head down.

Keep your mouth shut or I'll  
blow your fucking head off.

- All right, all right.  
- Are you a soldier?  
- Journalist.  
- Who do you work for?  
- Knight Ridder.  
- Never heard of it.

You should read more.

What is your name?

Jonathan Landay.

Goodbye, Jonathan Landay.

(TRIGGER CLICKS)

Exercise complete.

What you have just engaged in is  
called The Gray Man Exercise.

And what you have just  
witnessed...

is a colossal failure  
of that exercise.

- If a journalist is captured...

- (PHONE RINGING)

terrorists may keep you alive...  
in hopes of getting information  
or exchanging you for a ransom.

But if you give them a reason  
to kill you, they will.

The purpose of this exercise  
is to teach you...

how to avoid drawing the

attention of your captors.  
Hence the name, Gray Man.  
Can you untie me?  
This could save your life one  
day, you understand?  
I do, I've been in 11 war zones,  
I've been shot at...  
I've been held captive, I take  
this very seriously.  
But if you don't untie me right  
now, I may lose my job.  
And I'm fairly certain that  
none of this training...  
is going to be very useful...  
when I'm mopping the floor  
at Staples.

**REPORTER:**

Both of the twin towers...  
the World Trade Center in New  
York's lower Manhattan...  
have been struck by planes this  
morning within 20 minutes.  
First, it was the North Tower  
that was struck...  
with a gaping hole left in two  
sides of that building.  
Good God.  
20 minutes later, the second  
building...  
the second tower in that World  
Trade Center complex...  
I think we should keep Elizabeth  
in school.  
Yeah, no, I think that's  
a good idea.  
Why freak her out, huh?  
And I'll call Ali and Jennifer  
as soon as the phones open up.  
- I love you.  
- I love you.  
Okay.

**REPORTER:**

We should tell you that...  
we have gotten calls from  
people...  
who live and work around the  
Pentagon who have told us...  
that they have seen  
something...  
that they have described  
as an explosion.  
This is information we have not  
been able to confirm.  
Get up.  
Sorry, Dad.  
Monday Night Football went long.  
Let's clean this place up.

**COMMENTATOR:**

here in New York...  
have been hit by airplanes.  
In Washington, there is a large  
fire at the Pentagon.  
The Pentagon has been  
evacuated.  
And there is, you can see,  
perhaps, the second tower...  
the front tower, the top  
portion of which is collapsing.  
Good Lord.  
Lot of people going to need  
a drink tonight.  
Soldiers drink free.

**REPORTER:**

There are no words.  
All federal office buildings  
now...  
all federal office buildings  
in Washington, D.C.  
are being evacuated as we speak  
to you now.  
We are in the middle of an  
extraordinary catastrophe.  
The most important things to  
tell you if you just joined...

in is that what has all the makings of an extraordinarily.. well-planned terrorist attack on both Washington and New York has taken place this morning. The Trade Centers here in New York... the two World Trade Center towers have collapsed... after being hit by planes. Yeah, this is John Walcott from Knight Ridder. Is he there? Yeah, okay, well, tell him I'll try him back later. Thank you. I just spoke with my wife. She and the kids are afraid to leave the house. What are they doing over there? They're watching the White House. To see if it gets hit? Yes. Oh, Jesus. All right, go home to your family. And tell your colleagues that maybe they want to stay away... from the windows, okay? - Thanks, John. - Yeah. Okay. All right. Okay. Their working thesis is that this is overseas terrorism... not domestic. Attention will quickly turn to the bin Laden group... because it has long tentacles. There are very few others that could have pulled this off. Are we sending somebody to New York? Ken Moore at Suvu was already up

there covering Wall Street.  
What's going on over at State?  
Powell's in Peru.  
They're working on getting  
him home as soon as possible.  
All right, what we need to do  
is track the President.  
Track his top people  
and find out...  
who's responsible for all this.  
We need as many sources  
at as many agencies...  
to go on the record and tell us  
all what we know has to be true.  
Al Qaeda! Al Qaeda!  
It's Al Qaeda.  
It's definitely Al Qaeda.  
What the hell are you wearing?  
Well, the wifey wanted  
to evacuate...  
but she locked the car  
and the keys in the car.  
So, I biked in.  
We need to know how  
they pulled this off.  
Anybody needs to go home  
to their family...  
feel free to do so.  
Just came from the family.  
Let's get to work.  
It's Walcott.  
Today, our fellow citizens,  
our way of life...  
our very freedom, came under  
attack in a series...  
of deliberate and deadly  
terrorist acts.  
Adam, hand me the  
Jameson, please.  
Yes, sir. Here you go.  
Thank you, son.  
It's on the house, gentlemen.  
Thanks.  
Dad's saying we're staying open

as late as they want.

**MRS. GREEN:**

They must be scared.

**- ADAM:**

- They're boys.

Our military is powerful and  
it's prepared.

The search is underway  
for those...

who are behind these evil acts.

I've directed the full  
resources of our intelligence..

and law enforcement communities  
to find those responsible...

and to bring them to justice.

**JENNINGS:**

since the terrible...

and unprecedented attack

on the United States.

There is, as we've said, an

enormous search and rescue...

operation, and enormous and  
intense criminal investigation.

And we're just beginning

to understand...

the extents of the catastrophe.

**OFFICIAL:**

slept in a month.

It's going to be a bunch

of zombies running this town.

What do you know about

the preliminary plans...

to go after bin Laden?

I don't have anything to give  
you on that yet.

Ok, well, how long before we're

on the ground in Afghanistan...

and how long do they project

we'll be there?

Look, I'm trying to get answers

to the same questions you are.  
What I can say is, most of the  
talk this morning...  
hasn't been about Afghanistan.  
Well, what's it been about?  
Iraq?  
I got it from a source at State  
who got it from the Pentagon.  
In connection with the attacks?  
Crackpot theories from people  
who don't know...  
what the hell they're talking  
about.  
It was Rumsfeld.  
Really?  
Yeah, apparently, there's a lot  
of people over at Defense...  
that think this had to be  
State-sponsored.  
I mean, not just Rumsfeld,  
there's also that smug...  
son of a bitch at the Defense  
Policy Board...  
the Prince of Darkness?  
- Richard Perle.  
- Right. Perle.  
And that neo-con over at the  
Project...  
for the New American  
whatever the fuck...  
New American Century,  
Bill Kristol.  
That giant butthole,  
Bill Kristol.  
And he's got to be creaming his  
little jammies over this.  
Yeah, these think-tank boys...  
have been trying to push out  
Saddam Hussein since '97.  
They have this crazy theory that  
if they can just stick...  
a Western-style of democracy in  
the Middle East...  
it's going to magically

proliferate...  
and wind up protecting Israel.  
You got to give them credit  
for creative thinking.  
It's Ivory Tower crap.  
I mean, in what world do they  
think that Osama bin Laden...  
and Saddam Hussein hatched  
this thing up together?  
Let's find out if these  
dickweeds...  
are serious about Iraq, okay?  
Look, I'm not saying there's  
a link to Iraq...  
and neither is my boss.  
This is just something  
we're hearing.  
From whom?  
Who told me or where is it  
coming from?  
Take your pick.  
Someone at the Pentagon.  
In the Vice President's office?  
It's just theories.  
Are there any Senators talking  
to anyone...  
saying anything different?  
I know Powell's objected...  
to going into anywhere other  
than Afghanistan.  
(DRAMATIC MUSIC PLAYING)  
Go away.  
One question and I'm gone.  
I'm not talking to you  
on the record.  
Anonymous source, intelligence  
community.  
You can't use my name.  
Never have, never will.  
Or my agency.  
Pinky swear.  
One question.  
Are you looking into an Iraqi  
connection?

Who's the you in that question?  
Are we in the United States?  
There are some people.  
Are we in my agency?  
Not that I'm aware of.  
Am I, personally?  
No way.  
Okay, the second part  
to the question.  
No.  
Thank you.  
So, no one you work with at the  
Library of Congress has ever...  
found a link between Saddam  
Hussein and Al Qaeda?  
No one I work with  
would expect to find a link.  
So, as far as you know...  
there's nothing substantial to  
tie Iraq to bin Laden?  
There's nothing even  
circumstantial.  
To lump together a secular  
leader like Saddam...  
with an Islamic extremist  
like bin Laden is simply...  
to have no understanding  
of the Muslim world.  
It's a bit timid.  
No one's actually come out and  
said anything publicly yet.  
Maybe it's just backroom  
speculation.  
Pretty dangerous speculation.  
Can't we hit it harder than  
this?  
The attacks were just 10 days  
ago.  
Everyone's trying to play  
catch-up.  
Got to press our reliables.  
I'll reach out to The Italian  
Lady.  
You think you can get Loose

Nukes to go on the record?

I'm lucky to get her on deep background.

Well, double down on the Charm Offensive.

Buongiorno, this is Warren Strobel.

I was looking to get your advice on a critical scheduling matter. If you could contact me at your earliest possible convenience... I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

**LOOSE NUKES:**

Yeah, hi, it's Jonathan.

**LOOSE NUKES:**

anything for you.

No, I know, I know, but I'm doing a story...

on the administration's seeming interest in Iraq.

**LOOSE NUKES:**

not going to talk about this.

No, I know, I know I'm not talking about this...

because it's off the record, but can you give me some indication?

**LOOSE NUKES:**

What'd she say?

She sends her love.

**ANNOUNCER:**

Across the nation...

flags have been flying off the shelves.

A wave of patriotism has been spreading across America.

At times like this,

it's what we do in America.

We the People pull together.

They had a discussion in school  
today...  
about why America is so great,  
right?  
Yeah, and what'd you say?  
It's a free country.  
That's a great answer.  
That's Mama's boy.  
May I be done now?  
Not until I get a big hug.  
Okay, after your mom gets a hug.  
Oh, whoa!  
Proud of you, munchie.  
Love you.  
They're really pushing this  
nationalism thing at school.  
What do you expect?  
Of course, there's  
going to be patriotism now.  
Oh, you want to call it  
patriotism?  
Fine.  
It smells a lot like  
nationalism to me.  
That's how it started in  
Yugoslavia before the war.  
Tore my country apart.  
You want some help?  
No, I'm okay, thank you.  
Okay, have a good night.  
Good night.  
How real is the Iraqi  
conversation?  
There's an argument  
taking place.  
Yeah? Who's winning it?  
I couldn't say.  
Look, my boss is gonna send me  
to Afghanistan, and all I want..  
to know is should he be buying  
a roundtrip ticket...  
or is Afghanistan just a  
layover on the way to Baghdad?  
I can't tell you anything.

**MYLROIE:**

of terrorism...

against the U.S. are  
state-sponsored.

So, we asked ourselves,

"Who could have been behind...

the most massive terrorist  
assault in human history...

"which state?"

I think Iraq is the state that  
most immediately comes to mind.

- This is an idea which in...

- (PHONE RINGING)

is gaining increased  
credibility.

Knight Ridder, it's Strobel.

THE ITALIAN LADY: Jim Woolsey

is going to Europe...

to try to find a link

between Saddam...

and the 1993 World Trade Center  
bombing.

Is he freelancing?

THE ITALIAN LADY: He was sent  
on an official government jet.

Jesus, who sent him?

THE ITALIAN LADY:

The deputy defense secretary.

Can you meet for coffee?

THE ITALIAN LADY:

I'll be in touch.

Hi, this is Warren

Strobel with Knight Ridder.

I'm working on a story...

about former CIA director James

Woolsey traveling to Europe.

Do you know anything about that?

**DIPLOMAT:**

anything to do with that.

But you're aware that such

a trip has taken place?

**DIPLOMAT:**

source on this.

All right, stay in touch.

Hey, John.

Woolsey was sent to Europe

to look for evidence...

linking Saddam to the World

Trade Center bombing in '93.

Wouldn't be a fool's errand if

they didn't send a fool.

This came from The Italian Lady?

And a diplomat who can

confirm...

the trip was arranged by

Wolfowitz.

What the hell is going on

over at Defense?

Question is, are they trying to

figure out...

if there's any truth to their

theory...

or are they already convinced

their theory is true?

You're sure about

this Woolsey trip?

- Positive.

- You have a third source?

- Yeah.

- Who?

Jim Woolsey.

Hey, it's Walcott,

you up for a field trip?

I figured you'd be calling...

I just didn't think

it would be this soon.

How real is the chatter

about Iraq?

Very.

And it's diverting our attention  
from the people who attacked us.

How soon before Iraq becomes  
the focus?

We need to blow something up.

Not enough targets in

Afghanistan.

What about bin Laden?

You take out bin Laden...

interest in the war goes right  
down the shitter.

**REPORTER:**

its sixth day in Tora Bora...

bin Laden's suspected  
hideout...

but still no signs of the  
world's most wanted man.

U.S. B-52s pounding Al Qaeda  
positions from the air...

while anti-Taliban tanks...

and troops meet strong  
resistance...

cave to cave,

from Al Qaeda fighters.

With yet more conflicting  
reports...

on bin Laden's whereabouts.

What you got there...

is that your State of the  
Union piece for tomorrow?

- Yup.

- You got a lunch today?

Not with you.

I got a one-on-one with Looney

Tunes over at State.

There's a dry hole.

Yeah, well, I figured if I just  
let him ramble on...

he'll accidentally stumble  
into something newsworthy.

Yeah, well, give my best.

I will. Hot off the presses,  
Beryl.

Did you use punctuation  
this time?

I even threw in a few semicolons  
just for you.

I bet you're the pride of the  
University of Missouri.

Terrorists who once occupied  
Afghanistan...  
now occupy cells  
at Guantanamo Bay.  
And terrorist leaders who urged  
followers to sacrifice...  
their lives are running'  
for their own.  
Now, the administration's top  
priority apart from our own...  
security is to ensure  
freedom for other countries...  
looking to embrace democracy  
as a way of life.  
Now, we... excuse me... we  
understand that we can't...  
be the policemen to the world...  
but we feel we  
have a responsibility to...  
Yeah, John Walcott.

**DIXIE:**

Dixie?

**DIXIE:**

Yeah, yeah, I can hear you.  
I got a call from one of  
our boys downrange today...  
asking me what the fuck's  
going on.  
Are you still in Afghanistan?  
Yeah, I'm in Afghanistan...  
but nobody knows what the  
mission is anymore.  
How do you bomb a country back  
into the Stone Age...  
that's already in the middle  
of the goddamn Stone Age?  
Our second goal is to prevent  
regimes that sponsor terror...  
from threatening America,  
or our friends and allies...  
with weapons of mass  
destruction.

We believe that Afghanistan is ripe for freedom. Now, this is a country that has been struggling to free... itself from the repressive grip of the Taliban for years. We've got bin Laden on the run and they're diverting my assets. We may never get him in our crosshairs again. Whoa, whoa, wait, they're diverting your assets to where? Some of these regimes have been pretty quiet since... September the 11th, but we know their true nature. You know, it's a country in desperate need of the kind... of stability that comes with the rule of law. North Korea, Iran, Iraq... states like these... and their terrorist allies constitute an axis of evil... arming to threaten the peace of the world. You'll have to excuse me... Warren, but I have to prepare a briefing for Secretary Powell. Sure. Anything else you need from me? No, no, thank you. I think you've given me more than enough to chew on. Excellent. And you feel confident that Afghanistan... will accept a Western-style democracy? Oh, absolutely. Just as confident as we are about Iraq. Sounds like the debate on Iraq is getting serious.

Oh, no, no, no, that debate  
is over.

Saddam's got to go,  
the only question is how.  
Good talking to you, Warren.  
Yeah, you, too, sir.  
The president  
is going to invade Iraq.

**WALCOTT:**

You got this from Looney Tunes?  
Yeah, and confirmed by a  
diplomat who says he met...  
with Bush, and a foreign leader  
recently who came away with...  
"The feeling that a decision has  
been made to strike Iraq."  
Do you think we can get enough  
to run the story?  
Unfortunately, I do.  
So much for the ceasefire.  
Yeah, well, really nice of us...  
to temporarily stop shooting  
at them, though.  
I've been bound up  
and wound up  
Could barely get a sound up  
Been cheated mistreated  
Don't even want to  
think of it  
What are you up to, Smucker?  
You know, I tried to chat  
with your translator today.  
Yeah, how'd that go?  
Well, for a guy who gets paid  
to talk for a living...  
he was unusually quiet.  
He only talks to me.  
Really? And what'd he tell you?  
Dollar, I'll let you read  
all about it.  
Let me see it.  
bin Laden's gone, isn't he?  
They missed him, didn't they?

He was here and they fucking missed him!

**REPORTER:**

military official...  
tells NBC News "Despite the crushing defeat...  
"of Al Qaeda forces at Tora Bora...  
"it's believed now that Osama bin Laden has slipped...  
"across the border into Pakistan, seeking refuge...  
"in a lawless no man's land...  
"ruled by renegade tribal warlords."

Oh, it's official...  
this is the saddest event I've ever attended.  
I'm going back to my apartment, drink a bottle of wine...  
and put my head in the oven.  
Okay, but before you do that...  
I really want you to meet the guy I was telling you about.  
Oh! He just walked in!  
Forget the wine, I'll kill myself now.  
No, not him... him.  
I'll introduce you.  
Pam, please don't.  
- Warren! Hey!  
- Oh, hi.  
Glad you could make it, come on over.  
Warren, this is a good friend of mine, Lisa Mayr.  
Lisa, this is Warren Strobel, he's a journalist...  
and I'm gonna get another drink.  
Hi, uh, Lisa?  
- Yeah.  
- Yeah, nice to meet you.  
- Hi.

- Uh...

Did you ever make it  
into your apartment?

Uh, oh, yeah, yeah, yeah,  
no, no, no, I'm sorry.

- Yeah, I made it in okay.

- Good. Good.

So, you're a journalist?

Yeah, yeah, for Knight Ridder.

Oh, is that a magazine  
or a newspaper?

It's actually a consortium  
of 31 newspapers, actually.

Well, my stories go out to all  
of our newspapers...

and each one has the option  
to publish or not.

Oh, okay. I've always wondered  
how that worked.

Yeah.

Hey, I got married when  
I was 22.

And we're only recently  
separated, so...

This is a little awkward for me.

It's okay.

I'm a little out of practice.

Why don't you start  
by asking me a question?

Sure, yeah.

Are you a Republican  
or a Democrat?

Try again.

Yeah, of course, she wants you  
to call her.

She gave you her card.

No, maybe she's just trying  
to gin up business.

At a singles mixer  
on Valentine's Day?

What? So, call her? I should  
call her?

What? No, no, no,

actually, let her dangle.

There's nothing a woman in her  
30s likes more...  
than a guy who takes his time.  
I'm fine, Arthur, I'm fine.  
It's just that I'm getting a  
little tired...  
of picking up your paper  
every morning...  
and seeing that you're not  
running our stories.  
I mean, last time I looked...  
The Philadelphia Inquirer was  
a Knight Ridder paper, right?  
The point is, there's no point  
in being a Knight Ridder paper..  
if you're not going to run  
Knight Ridder stories.  
John, we've been through  
this already.  
Your stories don't fit...  
in with what we're doing  
over here right now.  
Don't fit? Don't fit with what?  
The truth?  
What's the matter, Arthur...  
the truth doesn't sell  
papers anymore?

**BROKAW:**

first time...  
the administration provided...  
details for what it has always  
insisted was a connection...  
between Saddam Hussein  
and Al Qaeda.  
How strong is that case?

**REPORTER:**

Saddam Hussein says...  
he does not have any illegal  
weapons of mass destruction...  
and accused the United States  
of using weapons...  
as a pretext to start a war.

Mr. Galloway, how closely did the movie conform to your book? The movie was about 80% accurate and 20% bullshit...

which I guess by Hollywood standards is an accomplishment.

What inspired you to write the book?

Being shot at by the North Vietnamese army.

What was the biggest difference between experiencing...

the Battle of Ia Drang in person versus watching it in a theater?

The popcorn in Ia Drang was saltier.

Last question.

Can you draw any comparisons between Vietnam...

and what's happening today in Afghanistan?

It's very different, but I think it is appropriate...

that before we start dropping bombs, we think long and hard...

about the greatest lesson we got from Vietnam.

Which is?

When the government fucks up, the soldiers pay the price.

To what do I owe this unexpected visit?

Well, I was hoping I'd get an autograph...

from the world's most famous war correspondent.

I hate this part. Reporters are not supposed to be the story.

Reporters are not supposed to be awarded the Bronze Star, either.

How do you like the job at State?

I love working for General Powell...

and I hate working  
for Uncle Sam.  
You miss reporting?  
After 42 years, I thought...  
I should take some time  
away from it.  
So, I went to work at the State  
Department on September 10th...  
and the next day the biggest  
story of my life broke.  
I'd say there's a little bit  
of a tug.  
We're working on something  
important, that's why I'm here.  
To make me envious?  
To make you an offer.

**HANNITY:**

of mass destruction, Jerry.  
What does that mean  
for the world?  
What does that mean  
for the Middle East?  
- Can you turn it down?  
- I'm trying to watch the news.  
Stop calling it that.  
Hey, son.  
Adam, what's the matter?  
I met with a recruiter.

**HANNITY:**

are gonna die, Jerry.  
You know once you sign up...  
there's no changing your mind,  
right?  
I know.  
What do you know?  
You're just a kid.  
Whose country was attacked.  
Adam, I know you want to do what  
you think is right...  
but war is not a video game.  
You have no idea what  
you're getting into.

I know exactly what  
I'm getting into.  
Here.  
Show me where Afghanistan  
is on this map.  
Show me.  
They're gonna send you halfway  
around the world to fight...  
people you didn't even know  
existed a year ago.  
If you know what you're  
getting into...  
show me where Afghanistan  
is on this map.  
Did anyone ever shove a map  
in Dad's face...  
and ask him to find Vietnam?

**CHENEY:**

Saddam has resumed...  
his efforts to acquire  
nuclear weapons.  
Among other sources, we've  
gotten this from firsthand...  
testimony from defectors.  
Many of us are convinced  
that Saddam Hussein...  
will acquire nuclear weapons  
fairly soon.  
Simply stated, there is no  
doubt that Saddam Hussein...  
now has weapons of mass  
destruction.  
They're dialing up  
the rhetoric on Iraq.  
Let's see if we can nail  
them down, okay?  
Twenty bucks, whoever gets  
the best quote.  
No, no, no, you're such a child.  
You're such a pussy.  
I'm not taking your money.  
You get all bent out of shape  
when you lose.

I don't care. I'm just the same  
when I win or lose.  
I'm not... it's not a bet,  
all right, fine.  
Warren Strobel for Senator  
Biden, please.  
Son of a bitch.  
Biden told Bush, "There's a  
reason your father didn't go...  
"to Baghdad. He knew he would  
have to stay...  
"for at least five years."  
I got Michael O'Hanlon  
at Brookings saying...  
"You definitely cannot  
count on it being a cakewalk."  
We gotta hit it harder  
than that.  
All right, well, hang on. I got  
an official at the U.N...  
that says, "There's widespread  
concern...  
"that this will destabilize  
the whole Middle East."  
Let me see what you have.  
Well, wait, I got... I got...  
Just give it to me,  
give, give, give.  
Okay.  
All right.  
Let's see here... all right.  
You guys are smart.  
You know what's unfolding here.  
Our readers need to know what  
we've learned.  
"In the best case scenario, U.S.  
troops could be stuck in Iraq...  
"for years trying to teach the  
inner workings of democracy...  
"to a nation that has never  
known it. In the worst case...  
"scenario, an invasion could  
cause Iraq's fractious ethnic...  
"groups to break off into their

own mini-states...  
"trapping American combat forces  
in the middle...  
"of a bloody civil war  
for decades."  
Boss man's got balls.  
Yeah.  
Shit.  
Were those for me?  
No. Yes.  
But I thought it might be  
a little, I don't know...  
a little too soon to be giving  
each other gifts.  
It would've been all right.  
Okay.  
Well, I think they landed  
on my car...  
so if you want to grab them  
on the way to dinner...  
maybe we can do that?  
- Great.  
- Great.  
Okay, so what was the most  
embarrassing thing...  
you did to prepare for tonight?  
All right.  
I will admit, that to prepare  
for tonight...  
I did kind of a cram session  
on Iraq...  
and the history of the Muslim  
world.  
Really?  
Yes.  
Now I know that 1400 years ago,  
after the death of Muhammad...  
Muslims fought over who was to  
be his rightful heir...  
and that caused a split  
into two factions...  
the Sunnis and the Shiites.  
And they've been at war  
ever since.

Then, at the end of World War I,  
the British and the French...  
arbitrarily divided the Arab  
world into countries...  
putting the Sunni majority  
in charge.  
But the country that became Iraq  
is made up of only 20% Sunni.  
So, Saddam Hussein, a Sunni,  
with an iron fist rules...  
the majority Shiite  
population...  
and the 20% Kurdish population  
in northern Iraq.  
But if Saddam Hussein were  
removed, it could possibly...  
reignite that 1400-year-old  
sectarian war.  
Now, after reading your  
stories...  
I know that Iran is the top  
sponsor of terror, not Iraq.  
That a man named Ahmed Chalabi  
seems to be a con artist...  
who wants to replace  
Saddam Hussein.  
That the neo-cons in the Bush  
Administration...  
are pushing for an invasion.  
And you are quickly becoming  
my favorite writer.  
Wow.  
Um... I guess it's my turn.  
Give it to me.  
Okay, I will admit that...  
This is a little embarrassing.  
I asked my ex-wife to watch  
my two sons tonight.  
Why is that embarrassing?  
Because a babysitter would  
expect me home...  
at the end of the evening and...  
Should we get the check?  
Tell your boss we're gonna run

it whether he comments or not!

Actually yes, it is a matter  
of life and death!

We're talking about going  
to fucking war!

Hello?

I'm guessing that was  
a no comment?

What are you grinning  
about?

What? I'm not grinning.

- You're grinning.

- I'm not grinning.

- I'm not...

- What have you got over there?

Relax! Don't worry about it.

Oh my God, she could  
do my taxes.

- All right, relax.

- (PHONE RINGING)

- Strobels, Knight Ridder.

- Of course.

Okay.

All right, I'll be right there.

Let's go, this could be  
something.

So, how does this work?

Do you ask me questions or do

I just start talking?

Why don't you just begin...

and we'll ask the questions  
when we have them.

If it's off the record,  
I have to say so, right?

Do you want it to be  
off the record?

I want people to know what  
I know, but not who I am.

It'll be background.

You'll be referred to  
as a U.S. official.

So, whatever you feel  
comfortable telling us.

I believe your prediction about

what could and will happen...  
if we go to war is spot on.  
And we're a lot closer  
than you think.  
How close?  
A secret war planning group  
with a parallel intelligence...  
operation has been set up  
to bypass...  
the rest of the  
intelligence community.  
How do you know this?  
They meet in the building  
where I work.  
And which building is that?  
The one with the five sides.  
But you're not a part  
of that unit?  
No.  
So, how do you know about this?  
My desk is across the hall.  
What office do you work for?  
Near East South Asia division,  
but you can't disclose that.  
You're an analyst?  
Yes... but you can't disclose  
that, either.  
I'm speaking to you because  
I'm an American citizen...  
and I don't like what these  
people are doing.  
Half a dozen men, most of whom  
have never served...  
in the military are making  
decisions...  
based on shoddy intelligence,  
and those decisions...  
will impact our men  
and women in uniform.  
And as someone who has worn that  
uniform, I can't remain silent.  
You said shoddy intelligence.  
What do you mean by that?  
They've designed a process

that doesn't conform...  
to any basic tenet  
of intelligence gathering.  
In what way?  
A decision is made,  
then the intelligence...  
is sought to support  
that decision.  
How do you know this?  
They have no interest  
in Arabic speakers.  
Israelis come in without  
passes...  
without even being entered  
into a security log.  
And for years the government has  
been funding a group...  
of exiled dissidents called the  
Iraqi National Congress.  
Led by Ahmad Chalabi, we know.  
Who they want to install  
as the new leader of Iraq.  
Yeah, we've been trying to get  
a meeting with him.  
Do you know who set up  
this operation?  
Donald Rumsfeld.  
Is there any evidence to  
indicate that Iraq...  
has attempted to or is willing  
to supply terrorists...  
with weapons of mass  
destruction?  
The reports that say that  
something hasn't happened...  
are always interesting to me  
because as we know...  
there are known knowns, there  
are things we know we know.  
We also know there are known  
unknowns.  
That is to say, we know there  
are some things we do not know.  
But there are also unknown

unknowns.

The one's we don't know

we don't know.

We're working on a theory that

the administration...

has already decided to go

to war...

and is now focused on how

to justify it.

It's not a theory.

We've also been told by a number

of individuals that...

Rumsfeld's the one spearheading

this intelligence gathering.

I wouldn't exactly

call it intelligence gathering.

It's more like

intelligence cherry picking.

And if they don't find

any cherries...

they just grab a piece

of shit...

and they paint it red, and they

stick it in a Shirley Temple.

You seem irritated.

I'm out there looking for

weapons that might not exist...

to justify a war that might

not be wise.

And have you found any evidence

of WMD?

No, sir.

But Saddam is looking to acquire

nukes, right?

Yeah, and I'm trying to fuck

Jennifer Lopez, but I have...

a sinking feeling that neither  
of those things is gonna happen.

So, we won't use your identity,

but can we get a quote?

Sure.

Have you found anything to

support the administration's...

theory that Saddam is close to

or has acquired nuclear weapons?  
We've searched every cave...  
and looked up every camel's ass  
in Iraq.  
So, here's your quote,  
"no fucking way."  
Might have to clean  
that up a bit.  
Quite colorful, though.

**LANDAY:**

Uh, honey, I think someone...  
is stealing our New York Times.

**VLATKA:**

Why would you do that?  
It's propaganda.  
I need that for my work.  
It's packaging press releases  
from the White House...  
the State Department, and the  
Pentagon.  
Sorry, that's not a real  
newspaper.  
How was your day?  
Warren and I met with some  
gentleman...  
from the intelligence community  
who confirmed that...  
there's no real evidence  
to support...  
the administration's  
claim on WMD.  
What have I been telling you?  
Well, unfortunately, I can't use  
your gut as a reliable source.  
You know, this is what they do.  
They lie.  
Yeah, and we try to hold  
them accountable.  
I hope I'm wrong. I really,  
really do.  
But the Bush Administration,  
they don't care about the truth.

They don't even respond to your articles.

If they want a war, they're gonna get one.

And there's nothing that you or the first amendment...

is gonna do to stop them.

Extra, extra, read all about it.

"Over the past 14 months, Iraq has tried to buy thousands...

"of specially design aluminum tubes, which American...

"officials believe were intended as components...

"of centrifuges to enrich uranium."

Well, one thing's for sure.

What's that?

We can't both be right.

Who're you calling?

Loose Nukes.

If she wouldn't talk to you about going into Iraq...

what makes you think she's gonna go on the record on WMD?

Charm Offensive. Watch and learn, son.

Landay.

- It's Joe Galloway.

- Wow.

Man even walks like he has a Bronze Star.

LOOSE NUKES (OVER PHONE):

Hello.

Oh, hi, yeah, it's Landay.

Hello, Jonathan.

Hi. Crazy weather we're having, huh?

You're calling me to chat about the weather?

No, no, yeah. Actually, I wanted to ask you about WMD.

It'll be deep, deep background.

Goodbye, Jonathan.

No wait, don't hang up.  
That Charm Offensive...  
that's formidable.  
Listen, we need you here.  
You've developed sources over  
the years that have access...  
that Landay and Strobel  
just can't get.  
I'll make it easy on you.  
I'll give you a column...  
and your name doesn't have to  
appear on anything else.  
Whatever else you want to write  
on the side, you can...  
and of course, there won't be  
any glory, but...  
Glory's for young men.  
Let me percolate on it.  
Let me turn to the issue  
of Iraq.  
You have said that it poses...  
a mortal threat to the  
United States.  
How? Define "mortal threat."  
Well, this'll take some time,  
but it's important for us...  
as I mentioned earlier...  
to remember that the world  
has changed, that prior to...  
I'd forgotten the world  
had changed.  
So did I. I'm so happy he  
mentioned that.  
What, specifically, has he  
obtained that you believe...  
would enhance his nuclear  
development program?  
Well, in the nuclear weapons  
arena...  
you've got specifically  
aluminum tubes.  
There's a story in The New York  
Times this morning...  
this is and I want to attribute

to The Times.  
I don't want to talk about,  
obviously...  
specific intelligence sources,  
but it's now public that...  
in fact he has been seeking to  
acquire, and we have been...  
able to intercept and prevent  
him from acquiring...  
through this particular  
channel...  
the kinds of tubes that are  
necessary...  
to build a centrifuge.  
And the centrifuge is required  
to take low-grade uranium...  
and enhance it into highly  
enriched uranium...  
which is what you have to have  
in order to build a bomb.  
Lucky for him, someone leaked  
that to The Times.  
Avoids the pesky nuisance  
of being arrested...  
for revealing classified  
information.  
One can only wonder how Judy  
Miller and Michael Gordon...  
got that information.  
Does it bother you, bug you...  
that you have not captured  
Osama bin Laden in over a year?  
I'd like to see him on  
television in handcuffs...  
if I can put it  
into those terms.  
I think all of us would.  
But I don't lay awake at night  
concerned about that.  
There's one school of thought  
that says he's already dead.  
We haven't heard anything  
of him in many months.

**RUSSERT:**

I don't know, I really  
don't know.

I can argue it round or flat.  
I didn't know we were still  
debating the shape of the earth.  
I've got sources on both sides.  
But the U.S. military would be  
enormously effective...  
in this circumstance.

And I don't think it would be  
that tough a fight.  
That is, I don't think there's  
any question...

that we would prevail and we  
would achieve our objective.  
Landay.

Yeah?

We are right, aren't we?

Everybody, listen up.

We're not NBC.

We're not ABC. We're not CBS.

We're not FOX. We're not CNN.

We're not The New York Times.

We're not The Washington Post.

We are Knight Ridder.

We have readers who live in  
towns with military bases.

Fort Benning, Fort Bragg,

Fort Jackson...

and over 40 other military bases  
throughout this country.

If every other news organization  
wants to be stenographers...

for the Bush administration,  
let them.

We don't write for people who  
send other people's kids to war.

We write for people  
whose kids get sent to war.

So, when the government  
says something...

you only have one question  
to ask.

Is it true?  
I'm through percolating.  
Let's get to work.  
Administration officials spanned  
out on the Sunday talk shows...  
to make the case for an invasion  
of Iraq.  
Who else is involved in  
The Office of Special Planning?  
Wolfowitz, Feith, couple others.  
Instead of listening to people  
who have spent their careers...  
evaluating threats, they're  
streaming questionable intel...  
from unreliable sources and  
taking it...  
directly to the White House.  
George Tenet, Director  
of Central Intelligence...  
told Senators, he could not  
rule out cooperation...  
between Osama bin Laden  
and Al Qaeda.  
I've seen the specs on those  
aluminum tubes.  
They're too small to be used  
for enriching uranium.  
What does that mean?  
They can't be used  
for a nuclear bomb.

**REPORTER:**

of the United States...  
said we're not going to permit  
nations to develop...  
weapons of mass destruction...  
as they're gonna supply those  
weapons to a network...  
of terrorism that could attack  
the United States.  
Cheney is trying to shut  
out Powell.  
Where'd you get this stuff?  
Old friend.

**REPORTER:**

see a consensus from within...  
the administration for the  
removal of Saddam Hussein.

**COMMENTATOR:**

administration has pointed...  
to a secret meeting in Prague  
between Iraqi intelligence...  
and 9/11 hijacker,  
Mohamed Atta.  
Bush administration is pressing  
the United Nations...  
Security Council for  
a resolution...  
to put pressure on Iraq.  
President Bush will address  
the United Nations today...  
in hopes of putting together  
a multi-national coalition...  
to disarm Saddam Hussein.  
The White House is lobbying  
Congress to authorize...  
the use of force in Iraq.  
The minute these guys get  
their hands on anything...  
remotely resembling evidence...  
they leak it to  
The New York Times.  
Now, I understand the position  
you're in...  
but please don't hang up on me.

**LOOSE NUKES:**

Okay, the vice president  
of the United States...  
went to the V.F.W. and said that  
Saddam Hussein...  
is on the threshold of  
developing a nuclear weapon.  
Then he goes on national  
television...  
and says the same thing.

Your question?

Ask the question.

What I want to know is,  
is Dick Cheney ignoring...  
good intelligence that  
contradicts his assumptions...  
or is he just getting bad  
intelligence?

The vice president is lying.

Thank you, thank you so much.

What? What, what, what?

What'd she say?

He's lying.

- He's lying.

- Cheney is lying.

- Cheney's lying!

- Cheney's lying!

- He's lying! John!

- He's lying!

John!

Where the hell is he?

Here we go. Here we go.

- He's lying.

- He's lying.

Cheney's lying.

Where did this come from?

Loose Nukes.

Okay.

Now, we know what's being talk  
about, we got to get inside...  
those meetings and find out if  
there's a dissenting opinion.

I may have a guy.

Anybody we know?

The Usual Suspect.

You didn't want to do  
this in a parking garage?

If there was one that served  
Pad Thai, I would.

How's civilian life?

My retirement lasted about  
four hours.

You're with Knight Ridder?

I don't even have a desk yet.

How the hell do you know that?  
I have my ways.  
You been following what we're  
doing over there?  
Yes, I have.  
And?  
You two may be singlehandedly  
saving...  
the Fourth Estate from  
extinction.  
Mainstream media hasn't picked  
up a thing we been running.  
Should be all the confirmation  
you need...  
that you're onto something.  
What can I do for you?  
We need some help with the  
higher ups.  
How high?  
High as you can get us.  
You've been around a long time,  
Joe.  
I doubt there's anything there  
that'll surprise you.  
I was married one time  
to a woman who thought...  
New Hampshire was the capital  
of Massachusetts.  
There's always something you  
don't see coming.  
What do you want to know?  
Everything the administration  
doesn't want us to know.  
You and I are going to be eating  
a lot of Pad Thai.  
What kind of time frame  
are we looking at?  
Next month, Congress  
is scheduled to vote...  
on whether or not to give  
the president...  
the authorization to go to war.  
Are the votes there?  
The administration thinks so.

Mr. President, 38 years ago,  
I, Robert C. Byrd...  
voted on the Tonkin Gulf  
Resolution.  
The resolution that authorized  
the president to use military...  
force to repel armed attacks...  
and to prevent further communist  
aggression in Southeast Asia.  
A joint resolution to authorize  
the use of United States...  
armed forces against Iraq should  
be brought to a close.  
The clerk will call the roll.

**CLERK:**

Mrs. Clinton, aye.  
It was this resolution that  
provided the basis...  
for American involvement  
in the war in Vietnam.  
Mr. Kerry, aye.  
Mr. Lieberman, aye.  
Mr. Lott, aye.  
It was this resolution...  
that lead to the deaths  
of 58,000 Americans.  
Mr. McCain, aye.  
Mr. McConnell, aye.  
After all that carnage, we began  
to learn that in voting...  
for the Tonkin Gulf  
resolution...  
we were basing our votes  
on bad information.  
And history is repeating itself.  
Mr. Santorum, aye.  
I urge senators to go down  
on the Capital Mall...  
and look at the Vietnam  
Memorial.  
Nearly every day, you will find  
someone at that wall...  
weeping for a loved one.

Mr. Sessions, aye.  
I will always remember the words  
of Senator Wayne Morse.  
Mr. Specter, aye.  
He stated, "The resolution will  
pass and senators...  
"who vote for it will live  
to regret it."  
We got K-10, we got Dixie,  
we don't need another source.  
You know we got this.  
Look, when you're accusing the  
secretary of defense...  
of running a shadow  
intelligence unit...  
out of the Pentagon, it's nice  
to have a little insurance.  
That's all I'm saying.  
All right, let's share it  
with the rest of the class.  
You want to tell them?  
Earlier today, I was summoned  
to the Pentagon.  
By whom?  
Rumsfeld, Ol' Limp Dick  
sent a message saying...  
"All your sources are retired  
generals."  
And I said, "All due respect,  
sir...  
"80% of my sources are  
active military."  
"Some of them are working  
in this building...  
"and some of them are actually  
working on your staff."  
"And hell, one or two of them  
might even be in this room."  
Did you actually have sources  
in the room?  
No, but it was fun watching him  
sweat like whores in church.  
How close are we to getting  
something we can run with

on the Office of Special Plans?

Well, we already got...

No, we're just gonna check  
with a couple more sources.

What's wrong with the sources  
you have?

Well, we just want to be  
certain.

You know, you sit on a story  
like this, the dam bursts.

Let's just move on this,  
okay, boys?

When are you gonna be finished?

Just a few more minutes, baby.

I can't sleep with the computer  
light on.

Actually, I'm done.

So, what are you working on?

Rumsfeld has a secret Intel  
group that's going...

around the CIA to manufacture  
a case for war.

What the fuck, Jonathan?

What?

Have you been talking about this  
on the phone?

Yeah, of course.

So, what?

- They will hear you.

- Vlatka.

You're writing about infighting  
between spy agencies.

So?

They're spy agencies, Jonathan.

They listen to your calls,  
they read your emails.

They probably bugged this house.

You're being paranoid.

You're being naive.

This isn't Yugoslavia,  
this is America.

America has changed.

War is big business for them.

You get in their way,

they're gonna kill you.  
Honey, you are being ridiculous.  
All right? Come on.  
Don't you get it?  
You know what these people  
are capable of?  
You have a family!  
Vlatka. Vlatka!  
Oh, somebody's struggling.  
What's the matter?  
Oh, Vlatka kept me up all night.  
All right!  
No, not that like that. It was  
conspiracy theories.  
About what?  
Oh... she thinks the government  
is monitoring us.  
I mean, it's ridiculous.  
Check your email.  
John, you got to see this.  
Oh, hold on a second.  
Arthur, I really don't want to  
have this conversation again.  
He hung up. What is it?  
What do we do?  
- You're such a wuss.  
- You're a wuss.  
You're a much bigger wuss.  
Shut up, will you stop it,  
you're being a child.  
- You're being a...  
- Shut up!

**REPORTER:**

Council resolution...  
can be boiled down to four  
words, the clock is ticking.  
Iraq's only alternative to full  
compliance, President Bush...  
made clear today, is  
of military confrontation.

**BUSH:**

weapons of mass destruction...

by Iraq will occur.  
The only question for the Iraqi  
regime is to decide how.  
Son of a bitch.  
They beat us.  
But they missed the whole point  
of why the unit was set up.  
It doesn't matter, they got  
the scoop.  
With what?  
There's nothing about  
cherry picking intelligence.  
There's nothing about bypassing  
other agencies.  
We can still run ours.  
John, no one's gonna pay  
attention...  
to a second story explaining  
all that.  
We had it.  
Goddamn it, Walcott's gonna be  
pissed.  
Maybe he hadn't seen it yet.  
How is it possible he hasn't  
talked to us all day?  
He's giving us the silent  
treatment.  
Oh, shit, here he comes.  
Oh, Jesus.  
You had the story.  
Don't ever forget how  
it feels to get beat.  
The only information Congress  
is getting...  
is coming directly from the  
administration.  
Iraq is a huge country about  
the size of France...  
if they want to hide their  
weapons of mass destruction...  
they're going to be able  
to do so.  
They're not going to rethink  
their positions...

unless they are provided  
with independent intel.

No one who's supported the  
authorization for war...  
in Congress, in Iraq, not the  
president...

I am sure would go to war just  
because he wants to go to war.  
Rumsfeld's been trying to sell  
this idea that an Iraqi...  
intelligence officer offered  
bin Laden safe haven in '99.  
Yeah.

Well, if that offer actually  
had happened...  
bin Laden would have told Saddam  
to go fuck himself.

What do you make of the  
statement made...

by the Iraqi government that  
Iraq has no weapons...  
of mass destruction  
and is not developing?

They're lying.

Next.

Your daughter is lovely.

Well, I wish I could take  
credit.

She gets it from her mother.

Dad, can I get you  
anything?

- Oh, no, thanks, sweetie.

- Mr. Strobel?

- I'm fine.

- All right.

Just real casual.

Tom and I were just talking  
about your latest article.

Oh, yeah?

Seems like you don't trust  
politicians.

Well, that's a pretty solid  
rule of journalism.

Even when they're talking

about war?  
Especially when they're talking  
about war.  
You really believe there's  
no WMD?  
Our names are on the article.  
They don't say that  
there's no WMD.  
They just said that the  
administration...  
hasn't offered any proof of WMD.  
And you don't think  
they'll find any?  
No, I don't.  
You don't know that.  
No, we don't.  
But before we send our kids  
to their possible deaths...  
don't you think the  
administration...  
has an obligation to provide  
proof of their rationale?  
What if that proof comes in the  
form of a mushroom cloud?  
Okay, you've been watching  
Fox News again?  
Rice, Cheney, and President Bush  
have all said the same thing.  
Oh, well, then it must be true.  
You kids are too young  
to remember...  
how close we came to nuclear war  
in '62.  
Hell, Warren, you were born  
the very day...  
President Kennedy ordered the  
blockade against Cuba.  
The most powerful enemy we knew  
was gonna put nuclear weapons...  
90 miles off our coast.  
The president had to demonstrate  
strength.  
And the next day, Kennedy sent  
Adlai Stevenson to the U.N...

to offer proof that the missiles existed.

It's not just Fox News.

It's the Washington Post.

It's The New York Times.

Hell, proof is coming from every major media outlet...

in the country, except yours.

Okay.

Uh, I think I forgot the hamburger buns, excuse me.

I'm going to grab a beer.

Jesus, Dad.

Are you okay, bro?

Yeah.

Are we good reporters?

What?

I mean, are we doing anything... other than practicing good journalism?

No, we're doing exactly what we're supposed to...

Then, why the fuck are we the only ones...

running these fucking stories?!

He just wanted you to see all sides to him...

before you take it to the next level.

Almost three months ago, the United Nations...

Security Council gave Saddam Hussein...

his final chance to disarm.

Our intelligence officials estimate...

that Saddam Hussein had the materials to produce...

What's the point of having U.N. weapons inspections...

if Bush and Cheney are just going to ignore the results?

Well, when you're creating your own reality...

it's pretty easy to ignore  
the facts.  
And so what? Due diligence is  
too inconvenient...  
for the mainstream media  
at this point?  
When news is a profit center...  
Access becomes currency.  
Exactly.  
I'm proud of you, John.  
Why?  
For not wavering.  
It's got to be tough.  
It's not that tough.  
I know who their sources are and  
I know who our sources are.  
"Iraqi Dissidents Reassured  
in a Talk with Bush...  
"About the Post-Hussein Era."  
By Judith Miller.  
She'd quote a carnival  
fortune teller...  
if he was willing to say  
Iraq had WMD.  
We gotta dig into the  
declassified...  
national intelligence  
estimate...  
and find out if there are any  
gems in there.  
Yeah, I'd love to see...  
what they redacted from the  
classified version.

**WALCOTT:**

on with Chalabi?  
We're on it.  
I'm gonna keep an eye  
on my old boss.  
- I got a feeling.  
- Yeah...  
Colin may be the last person  
standing between peace and war.  
Yeah.

Goddamn it!

Fuck!

**ARTHUR:**

set a date...

for the fundraiser yet?

Hey, Arthur, I was totally wrong.

Your head isn't literally up your ass.

It's always a pleasure to see you, John...

but would you please wait outside?

You know, it's bad enough you're ignoring all our work...

but the fact that you're running these bullshit...

Judy Miller pieces is unconscionable.

Not in here, John.

Okay, please?

Let's take it in my office.

Excuse me.

Jesus.

Look, as painful as this might seem...

I don't answer to you, John.

Yes, as evidenced by the fact that you still have a job.

You know what, my responsibility is to my readers.

They're citizens who are patriots...

they're citizens who support our troops.

And how do you do that, Arthur?

By going down on

The New York Times?

I don't have time for this.

No, you don't have time.

You don't have time.

You know, one day,

The New York Times...

is going to apologize  
to its readers.  
And when that day comes, are you  
gonna write your own apology?  
Or are you just going to run  
theirs?  
Have a nice day, John.  
It is beginning to look more  
and more as though...  
war with Iraq is inevitable.  
The Showdown with Iraq and the  
countdown to a speech...  
by Secretary of State  
Colin Powell...  
that could move the world  
closer to war.  
There's not much left for the  
soldiers to do but wait...  
for orders to attack, Ryan  
Chillcoat reports...  
That's so frustrating.  
I don't know that I could  
do what you do.  
You know, I once got it  
in my head...  
that I should hike the  
Appalachian Trail.  
Thought that it would just be a  
good challenge for myself.  
Then I look at it on a map  
and it's like 2200 miles.  
I realized...  
That it would take a lifetime?  
Yeah.  
Or we could walk it together.  
I'm gonna hold you to that.

**REPORTER:**

is mounting...  
against America's military  
intervention into Iraq.  
From US cities to Europe and  
the Middle East...  
demonstrators have taken to the

streets in opposition...  
to the United States'  
threat to invade Iraq.  
Mr. Strobel, Mr. Landay,  
how do you do?  
- Hello.  
- I'm Entifadh Qanbar.  
- Hi.  
- Now, please, follow me.  
Who's this dude?  
Guy who used to deliver pizzas.  
I'm not kidding.  
Minister Chalabi,  
Mr. Jonathan Landay...  
and Warren Strobel from Knight  
Ridder News.  
Gentlemen, welcome.  
Hey. Thank you for finally  
agreeing to meet with us.  
I've been very busy.  
Talking to our competitors.  
I speak with whomever wishes  
to speak with me.  
After all, I have nothing  
to hide...  
which is more than I can say  
for Saddam.  
Okay, well, since you brought  
him up...  
I thought we might talk  
about what...  
you know about his weapons  
and how he might be hiding them.  
He has WMD and he's hiding them,  
that I know.  
Right, and you know that how?  
I know everything that's  
happening in my country.  
Even though Iraq hasn't been  
your country for over a decade?  
I may be an exile, but I'm still  
an Iraqi.  
Well, I think the point my  
colleague is trying to make...

is how would you, an enemy  
of Saddam, in exile...  
have access to such valuable  
information?  
I maintain close  
relationships...  
with dissident intelligence  
sources.  
Is there a way we can  
verify that?  
No.  
See, that's kind of a problem  
for us...  
because we can't write a story...  
I want what America wants,  
a free and democratic Iraq.  
With you as its leader?  
If the people of Iraq wish  
for me to return, yes.  
I want the opportunity to help  
rebuild my country...  
the way Mandela did  
in South Africa.  
But Mandela didn't ask the U.S.  
to invade his country.  
He wasn't fighting terrorists.  
With all due respect, that's  
where the red flags...  
start to go up for us.  
Are you implying that I've  
created a false narrative...  
for my own pursuits?  
Is there another reason why  
you'd create a false narrative?  
I don't lie!  
Saddam Hussein has mobile  
chemical...  
and biological weapons labs.  
He has a nuclear program.  
He has ties to terrorists.  
And if you don't believe me,  
just ask the many other...  
defectors and hear  
what they say.

They will all tell  
you the same thing.  
Don't they all get their  
information from you?  
If you were wondering why  
it took so long for me...  
to meet with you, it's this  
smug attitude.  
You have no intention of  
reporting anything I've said.  
Do you want us to just be your  
cheerleaders?  
All right, I think we  
should go.  
Thank you for your time.  
Now I see why no one reads  
anything you write.  
I am an advocate for the removal  
of a vicious dictator...  
for a free Iraq, an Iraq that  
will one day be a close ally...  
to your country, to Israel, and  
to all of the Western world.  
And exactly how will this happen  
after Saddam Hussein is gone?  
All right, come on, Landay.  
No, no, no, he says the world  
will be better off...  
but he doesn't say how.  
How would the removal  
of Saddam Hussein...  
not plunge Iraq into a bloody  
civil war?  
Tell us something that makes  
sense...  
anything that makes sense, and  
we'll write that story today.  
You can't!  
Because you have no  
idea what happens next.  
- And neither does anyone else.  
- John. John!  
I would rather go back and write  
for my high school paper...

than to be used by you...  
to sell the American public  
your bullshit.  
All right.  
By the way, it's Knight Ridder.  
Secretary of State Colin Powell  
will make the case...  
against Iraq in a nationally  
televised address...  
to the UN Security Council.  
Looks like they're bringing  
in the closer.

**REPORTER:**

are you confident...  
you will make your case, sir?  
You'll see.  
What the hell game have we've  
been playing?  
All we did is piss into the  
wind.  
We did our jobs.  
I should never have become  
a reporter.  
Damn that Woodward and  
Bernstein.  
They took down a president  
whose biggest crime...  
was trying to cover up some  
dirty political tricks.  
This president's about to do the  
worst thing any president...  
could do and he'll probably  
get re-elected.  
To the democratic experiment.

**POWELL:**

Thank you, Mr. President.  
My colleagues, every statement  
I make today...  
is backed up by sources,  
solid sources.  
The gravity of this moment is  
matched by the gravity...

of the threat that Iraq's  
weapons of mass destruction...  
pose to the world.  
It was a set up, the whole damn  
thing was a set up.  
Tenet sent Powell a stack  
of files this high...  
that supported the invasion.  
Saddam Hussein is determined...  
to get his hands  
on a nuclear bomb.  
Cheney sent Scooter Libby...  
to push three main arguments  
in those files.

**One:**

abuses...  
which everybody knew about.

**Two:**

which Powell...  
of course, threw right  
in the trash.  
And the third focused  
on Iraq's WMD.  
Leaving Saddam Hussein in  
possession of weapons...  
of mass destruction for a few  
more months or years...  
is not an option, not in a  
post-September 11th world.  
Over a four-day period, Powell  
made every single CIA officer...  
defend every so-called piece  
of evidence in those files.  
He threw out 80% of them.  
At the end of the four days...  
Powell looked Tenet right  
in the eye and said...  
"George, can we stand  
by every word of this?"  
And Tenet said, "Everything in  
there is gold, I promise you."  
To which Powell replied, "Well,

that's good, George.  
"I'm glad you feel that way,  
'cause you're going to be...  
"sitting right behind me when  
I present this to the world."  
We must not fail in our duty  
and our responsibility...  
to the citizens of the  
countries...  
that are represented  
by this body.  
Colin took one for the team.  
Always the good soldier.

**BUSH:**

Has the Iraqi regime fully...  
and unconditionally disarmed?  
The only acceptable outcome is  
the one already defined...  
by a unanimous vote of the  
Security Council.  
Total disarmament.  
Great Britain, Spain and the  
United States have introduced..  
a new resolution stating that  
Iraq has failed to meet...  
the requirements  
of Resolution 1441.  
This is a fact, it cannot  
be denied.

**REPORTER:**

would it do to give...  
Saddam a final ultimatum?  
A two or three day deadline  
to disarm or face force?  
September the 11th changed  
the strategic thinking...  
at least as far as I was  
concerned...  
for how to protect our country.  
My job is to protect the  
American people.  
Used to be that we could think

that you could contain...  
a person like Saddam Hussein...  
that oceans would protect us  
from his type of terror.

(PHONE RINGS)

September the 11th should say  
to the American people...

Hello?

You need to pack your bags.

Right.

In the hands of a terrorist  
organization...  
could be deployed here at home.  
King, John King. This is a  
scripted...

Thank you, Mr. President.

Sir, how would you answer your  
critics who say that they...

They think this is somehow  
personal?

As Senator Kennedy put it  
tonight...

he said your fixation  
with Saddam Hussein...  
is making the world a more  
dangerous place.

And as you prepare the American  
people for the possibility...  
of military conflict, could you  
share with us...

any of the scenarios your  
advisors have shared...  
with you about worst-case  
scenarios?

You make sure the... this country  
knows what's going on out there.

- Yeah?

- I will.

I swore to protect and defend  
the Constitution.

He has weapons of mass  
destruction...  
and he has used weapons  
of mass destruction.

He has trained and financed...  
al Qaeda-type organizations  
before.

I take the threat seriously,  
and I'll deal with the threat.

I hope it can be done  
peacefully.

They hate what we stand for.

We love freedom, and we're  
not changing.

**REPORTER:**

millions of Americans can...  
recall a time when leaders from  
both parties set this country..  
on a mission of regime change  
in Vietnam.

50,000 Americans died.

The regime is still there in  
Hanoi and it hasn't harmed...  
or threatened a single American  
in 30 years...

since the war ended.

What can you say tonight, sir,  
to the sons and daughters...

of the Americans who served in  
Vietnam to assure them that...

you will not lead this country  
down a similar path in Iraq?

**BUSH:**

No doubt, there's risks with  
any military operation.

I know that.

It's a good thing he can draw  
on all that experience he got...

while not serving in the  
National Guard.

But it's very clear what we  
intend to do.

And our mission won't change.

It could last, you know, six  
days, six weeks...

I doubt six months.

There's a lot of money to pay  
for this...  
that doesn't have to be  
U.S. taxpayer money.  
We're dealing with a country  
that can really finance...  
its own reconstruction,  
and relatively soon.  
There will always be some  
uncertainty...  
about how quickly he can  
acquire nuclear weapons...  
but we don't want the smoking  
gun to be a mushroom cloud.

**RUSSERT:**

America people...  
are prepared for a long,  
costly, and bloody battle...  
with significant American  
casualties?  
I don't think it's likely  
to unfold that way, Tim...  
because I really do believe we  
will be greeted as liberators.

**BLITZER:**

war had begun, the President...  
is set to deliver a very  
carefully worded speech...  
on a carrier in the Pacific.

**BUSH:**

major combat operations...  
in Iraq have ended.  
In the battle of Iraq,  
the United States...  
and our allies have prevailed.  
(LOUD EXPLOSION)  
(SOMBER MUSIC PLAYING)  
I want to go down there.  
They were the first to die.  
Were you there?  
Thank you.

Thank you, son.

(SOMBER MUSIC CONTINUES)

Jonathan, how did it feel,  
therefore...

to be the lone holdouts in this  
pursuit of truth and fact?

It was very lonely and what  
made it actually one...

of the ironies is...

that every time we would write  
something...

the White House would say  
nothing, because we realized...

after a while that that would  
have been the best...

advertising for our stories we  
could have possibly asked for.

There's a problem with  
journalism...

in Washington, which is access.

And The New York Times and  
others had access to the top...

officials who were spinning  
this line.

We talked to those people,  
as well...

but most of our reporting,  
Christiane...

was with intelligence,  
military...

and diplomatic mid-level...

- Lower level?

- Lower level.

The types journalists don't  
normally talk to or go after.

Can I just give a little  
credit, also, to the man...

who was our boss at the time,  
John Walcott.

Higher levels of  
civilization...

must depend even more  
heavily...

on a conscientious respect for

the importance of honesty...  
and clarity in reporting the  
facts and out of stubborn...  
concern for accuracy in  
determining what the facts are.  
We need to find some way  
to cover the world so that...  
we know what's happening  
out there...  
that we know the truth  
about it...  
so we can avoid mistakes...  
mistakes like Iraq.  
The intelligence was  
what it was.  
You know, people like me  
couldn't make it up.

**STEWART:**

wasn't what it was...  
and not everybody got it wrong.  
Almost everybody did,  
except for Knight Ridder.  
(SOFT MUSIC PLAYING)