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# Game Change

By Danny Strong

For you, picking Sarah Palin  
was about winning an election,  
not necessarily about who's gonna  
be best as vice president.

My job is to give  
political advice.

We needed to do  
something bold  
to try to win the race.

If you had it  
to do over again,  
would you have her  
on the ticket?

( Whistles )

( Cell phone rings )

- Hello.

**- Man:**

Who's that, sir?

Limbaugh, Hannity,  
Coulter.

They're dancing on my grave  
like it's fucking Mardi Gras.

That may be true,  
but there's an upside  
to being in last place.

You can say  
what you truly feel.

- You think I've been holding back?

**- Steve:**

The surge is working,  
but no one else  
is brave enough to say it.

Romney, giuliani,  
huckabee--

all your opponents  
are hedging.

Even you hesitated  
at the last debate.

A great man once told me,

"I would rather  
lose the election  
than see the country

lose this war."  
And I meant it, Steve.  
Then say it, sir.  
John McCain doesn't say  
what's popular,  
he says what's right.  
My advice would be  
to get some old  
pow buddies together  
and travel the country  
in a small caravan.  
Stay in shitty hotels,  
do American legion halls,  
v.F.W. Posts,  
have a few beers  
and enjoy yourself.  
You're right,  
God damn it.  
( Groans )  
I don't know what the hell's  
wrong with me.  
You get so caught up  
in winning,  
- you start to lose yourself.  
- It's gonna be easy because  
there's only one message  
you need to get across.  
Yeah? What's that?  
John McCain  
puts country first.  
Would you consider  
joining us?  
Even just for  
a few weeks?  
Senator, there is no one  
in this race  
I admire more than you,  
but I promised my wife  
that I would  
sit this cycle out.  
I know that, Steve,  
but will you just  
think about it?  
Just do that-- just think

about it, will you?

Of course, Senator.

- You promise?

- I will, I promise.

Great, I'll call you  
tomorrow.

- Okay.

- Thanks, Stevie boy.

Fuck.

Senator McCain today

re-shuffling

his most senior

campaign staff.

John McCain wins

the New Hampshire primary,

a huge comeback for

the Senator from Arizona.

You hear them chanting

behind me--

"Mac is back,

Mac is back."

**Reporter:**

McCain in South Carolina,  
a win that he will relish.

The question on

the campaign trail was

can a souffle rise twice?

John McCain wins the republican  
presidential nomination.

What a historic night.

And they said

we were dead.

**Next stop:**

The white house.

( Crowd cheering )

( Crowd chanting )

Obama! Obama!

( Chanting continues )

( Crowd cheering )

**Barack:**

People of Berlin

and people of the world,  
the scale of our challenge  
is great.

The road ahead  
will be long.

But I come before you  
to say that we are heirs  
to a struggle for freedom.

We are a people  
of improbable hope  
with an eye  
towards the future,  
with resolve in our heart.

Let us remember  
this history  
and answer our destiny  
and remake the world  
once again.

Thank you, Berlin.

God bless you.

- ( Crowd cheering )

- Thank you.

If he heals a sick baby,  
we're really fucked.

We're down by 15.

If his convention speech  
is as good as that--  
it'll be better.

**Rick:**

trailing by 20

going into St. Paul.

It's an uphill battle,

John.

Well, as chairman mao  
was fond of saying,

"it's always darkest before  
it's completely black."

Senator, it always concerns me  
when you quote chairman mao.

This guy is raising money  
like he's some sort  
of a human ATM Machine.

John, if there

ever was a time  
to run a reverend Wright ad,  
this is that time.

- Absolutely not.

- I agree.

There's footage of his own reverend  
saying "God damn America."

It's the single  
best weapon we've got.

I want to run a fucking campaign  
that my kids can be proud of,  
and that precludes  
attacking a black reverend.

I think we're going  
about this all wrong.

This man is on the cover  
of every news magazine.

He's on the cover of every  
entertainment magazine.

He's got 200,000 people  
screaming for him in Berlin.

And what has he done?

A man of no accomplishment  
has become the biggest  
celebrity in the world,  
and we keep trying to reach up  
and pull him down.

What we need to do  
is ask the American people  
a very simple question:  
Do you want a statesman  
to be your next president...

Or do you want  
a celebrity?

Try it.

( Music playing )

**Woman:**

celebrity in the world.

( Crowd chanting )

Obama! Obama!

**Woman:**

But is he ready to lead?

With gas prices soaring,  
Barack Obama says no  
to offshore drilling  
and says he'll raise taxes  
on electricity?  
Higher taxes,  
more foreign oil--  
that's the real Obama.  
Great job, Fred.  
I thought we were  
the grown-ups in this race.  
- ( Music playing )  
- John, it's his girlfriend.

**Man:**

tale, John.  
It's what I'm  
talking about.  
( Both laugh )  
Yeah, right.  
Yeah, let's--  
- let's watch it again.  
- No, I can't, I can't! Please.  
See, that's what  
I'm talking about.

**Rick:**

believe these guys?  
He wants lieberman  
on the ticket.  
- Of course he does.  
- Disaster.  
Or historic.  
- Or historic disaster.  
- John loves him.  
It would be a strong move  
towards bi-partisanship.  
Guys, the base  
is already concerned  
that John is not  
a true conservative.  
Now, I don't think picking  
a pro-choice Jewish democrat  
who just happened to be

Al Gore's running mate  
is going to alleviate  
that concern.  
Maybe we have McCain  
make a one-term pledge.  
He announces in some huge  
speech that he and a democrat  
are joining together  
for one term  
so that the parties  
can come together  
and solve this country's  
greatest problems.  
Maybe, with  
a one-term pledge.  
Nothing says country first  
like picking Joe lieberman.  
Well, if it's gonna work,  
it has to remain  
absolutely secret,  
right up until  
the convention.  
If it gets leaked,  
the right will kill it.

**Reporter:**

to put Joe lieberman  
front and center  
at his convention  
has the unique distinction  
of unsettling  
both democrats  
and Republicans.  
I think the idea of him  
being the republican  
vice presidential nominee  
would split the convention.  
In the cabinet, fine.  
Not as v.P.  
Bad choice.  
Conservatives will bolt.  
Comedy team of McCain  
and lieberman.  
Maybe they'll play



Atlantic city this summer.  
Thank you.  
So what the fuck  
happened?  
Lindsey Graham was trying to  
build support for the idea  
- and it leaked.  
- God damn it, Lindsey.  
Well, if it's  
any consolation,  
my numbers show that  
if you pick lieberman  
or any pro-choice  
candidate,  
core supporters  
will be less likely  
to support you.  
And you gain  
very few independents.  
Overall,  
it's a wide-net negative.  
We've made a lot of calls.  
Some people don't even think  
lieberman can make it  
through the convention.  
Others say,  
yeah, he can,  
but he's gonna rip  
the party in half.  
But Joe is perfect.  
We're both mavericks  
that are hated by the  
assholes in our own parties.  
It could have a tremendous  
healing effect on the country.  
We can't win  
without our base.  
Lieberman is  
the right thing to do,  
but the wrong way to win.  
- Who all have we vetted?  
- Romney, crist, pawlenty.  
- We're trying to vet bloomberg.  
- Who can we win with?

- None of them.

- None of them?

John, Obama just changed  
the entire dynamic.

**Steve:**

It is a change year, sir.

We desperately need  
a game-changing pick,  
and none of these middle-aged  
white guys are game-changers.  
So... what?

I just fuck off and die?

Well, the data shows we have  
four things we have to do.

We have to win back  
the independents,  
we have to  
excite the base,  
we have to distance ourselves  
from the bush administration,  
and we have to close  
the gender gap.

How bad is the gap?

It's fatal.

You've got a 20% advantage  
with men, which is great,  
but a 20% deficit  
with women.

You've got to pick up  
Because if you're trailing  
by more than five with them,  
you lose.

So find me a woman.

All right, ladies.

Who's it gonna be?

Meg Whitman supports  
abortion rights.

Pro-choice, pro-choice.

- Who are you?

- These solar arrays combined  
will allow us to produce  
( Keyboard clicking )

To make sure

that risk management  
is the best that  
we can do to secure...  
( Keyboard clicking )  
But as you know, the turnpike  
ends here in Augusta.  
At that point...  
What was her name?

**Woman:**

Once Alaska is allowed  
to very responsibly and  
safely develop our resources,  
we'll lower costs of energy  
across the United States,  
and then we'd be able  
to secure the nation  
with a clean, domestic  
supply of energy.  
And I say that, Charlie,  
even personally.  
My one and only son,  
my 18-year-old,  
he just signed up  
for the United States army.  
He's at boot camp  
right now.  
And I'm thinkin',  
you know,  
this kid is doing all  
that he can within his power  
to help secure and defend  
the United States.  
Every elected official had  
better be asking themselves,  
are you doing as much also?  
Are you doing  
all that you can?  
She's a star.  
She's so passionately  
pro-life that at age 44,  
she decided  
to keep a child  
that she knew mid-term

had down's syndrome.

And there's a lot more  
that the base will love.

She has an 80% approval  
rating in Alaska.

- The highest of any governor in the country--

- 80%?

And she got it

by taking on the oil lobby  
and the republican  
establishment.

She's the one who killed  
the bridge to nowhere.

( Laughs ) I fought Ted

Stevens for months

on that stupid

fucking bridge.

**Rick:**

a devout Christian.

She's got a son about

to deploy to Iraq,

attractive mother of five.

- She likes to moose hunt.

- Moose hunt?

This is a woman

with a gun, John.

I mean, come on, the base is

gonna be doing back flips.

What does salter think?

Uh, he's worried that

she's a creationist.

Yeah, and that's exactly

why the base will love her.

Women will love her.

Plus, she gives you

distance from bush.

Furthermore,

she's so outside the box

that she helps you

recapture the Maverick label,

which will win back

independents.

She's everything we need.

You don't think she might be too outside the box?  
Huh. Well, that's what makes her such a Maverick choice. So is picking lieberman. That'd be pretty goddamn mavericky. Sir, we live in the age of YouTube and the 24-hour news cycle. How else do you think a man who has absolutely no major life accomplishments is beating an American hero by double digits? He's simply sailing on his charisma and star power. We need to create a dynamic moment in this campaign or we're dead. You think she's that good? She could be. And we can vet her in five days? We can. The vet has to be as thorough for her as it was for all the other candidates. Culvahouse says he can do it, so... The clock is ticking, sir. If you are going to seriously consider the governor of Alaska, you have to call her now. ( Crowd noise )

**Woman:**

these gas prices  
- are killing us.  
- Oh, my goodness, don't I know it.

They're killing  
me and Todd, too.  
Hey, how are ya?  
But once Alaska  
is allowed to very safely  
and responsibly  
develop our resources,  
we'll lower cost of energy  
across the entire nation.  
You keep giving  
'em hell, Governor.  
Aw, thanks.  
Nice talking to ya.  
Mom, can we go on  
the roller coaster now?  
Yeah.  
No, of course, honey.  
- Hey, Bristol?  
- Yeah?  
Can you hold Trig?  
I'm gonna take Piper on the roller coaster.  
- Sure.  
- There you go.  
- There you go, buddy.  
- ( Cell phone ringing )  
- Mom.  
- Just one second, hon.  
This is Sarah.  
Thank you for coming on  
such short notice, Governor.  
Should this go  
according to plan,  
we will take you to meet  
Senator McCain at his compound  
first thing in the morning.  
Now, if he chooses you  
to be his running mate,  
you will instantly become  
one of the most famous  
people on the planet.  
Your life will be  
investigated,  
manipulated, distorted,  
and you will lose

any semblance of privacy.

Knowing this,

are you 100% committed

to going forward

with this project?

Absolutely.

I have a servant's heart.

And if you really think

I can help this ticket,

if you really think

I can help this country,

then absolutely--

I'll do this with ya.

Your private life

will be subjected

to harsh,

often unfair attacks.

Nothing can

prepare you for...

How ugly this can be.

Not--

I do understand that.

Here's the deal.

I went through

a tough primary in Alaska,

and I know how ugly

it can get.

Well, Governor,

things can get

quite a bit rougher

on the national stage.

I don't know,

Alaska's pretty rough.

**Steve:**

Senator McCain

have a difference of opinion

on several issues.

He is pro-life, but he's

in favor of exceptions

in the case of rape, incest or

a mother's life being at risk.

- You are not.

- That is correct.

I am unapologetically  
pro-life.

Senator McCain supports  
stem cell research.

- You do not.

- That's true, I do not.

John McCain would never ask you  
to contradict your beliefs,  
but we expect you  
to support his positions.

And we may ask you  
to appear in ads  
advocating those positions.

Do you have  
a problem with that?

No, I don't.

Not at all.

Senator McCain can count  
on my full support.

I would be so proud to be  
a member of his team.

Do you reject  
the theory of evolution?

I'm the daughter  
of a science teacher.

My dad showed me  
fossils growing up.

I know about evolution.

I accept evolution.

But I will never deny  
that I see the hand of God  
in this beautiful creation  
that is earth.

I'm really glad  
that you're asking me  
these types  
of questions.

Why is that?

It's important that you know  
exactly what you're getting.

**A.B.:**

John, let me be very clear.  
Every other vet we did was over



a four-to-eight-week period.

This vet has been compiled  
in absolute secrecy  
in less than five days.

I understand.

Well, in doing  
a vet this fast,  
there's certainly  
the possibility  
that we may have  
missed something.

Yeah, I got it.

What do you think, a.B.?

I like many of her answers  
in the questionnaire.

And in the interview, she hit some  
of my questions out of the park.

Now...

There are more potential  
land mines with Palin  
than with  
the other choices.

She told us she has  
a teen daughter who's pregnant.

That should not prevent this  
from moving forward,

but we don't know  
what else could pop up.

But are you impressed  
with her personally?

I am.

She has a great  
life story  
and she's extremely  
poised and confident  
for someone  
in her situation.

But you have a candidate  
who's only been governor  
for 18 months.

Before that, she was the  
mayor of a small town  
with 10,000 people.

She undercuts your

best attack on Obama  
that he's too inexperienced.  
Well, that's played out.  
We lose by five if we stick  
with experience.  
You think she's ready  
to be president?  
I don't think she's gonna  
be ready on January 20th,  
but I think she has the smarts  
to get there eventually.  
Give me  
the bottom line, a.B.  
High risk...  
High reward.  
You shouldn't have  
told me that.  
Why not?  
I've been a risk-taker  
all my life.  
- Hi.  
- Hi. How are ya?  
Great.  
Thanks so much for coming.  
Thank you for having me  
at your beautiful house.  
Well, come on in.  
Please.  
( Indistinct chatter )

**John:**

I'm most proud of, Sarah,  
is my independence.  
And I'm very impressed  
with how you've bucked  
the republican  
establishment in Alaska.  
Well, I am wired to be kind  
of independent there also.  
And I thought if I'm gonna  
truly run the state  
on behalf of the people,  
I'm gonna have to do it  
without that

good ole boy network.  
I love the way you squashed  
Stevens' bridge to nowhere.  
Yeah. I am pro-growth  
and pro-infrastructure  
for Alaska,  
but not at the expense  
of the American taxpayer.  
I told congress  
if we wanted a bridge,  
we'd build it ourselves.  
You remind me of myself.  
We're both reformers  
who are not afraid  
to thumb our nose  
at our own party.  
Senator, you're  
an American hero.  
I'm just Sarah  
from Alaska.  
What do you guys think?  
I know a guy  
like Tim pawlenty  
isn't exactly  
the game-changing pick  
you all seem  
to think we need,  
but he's young,  
he's energetic.  
He has solid  
conservative credentials.  
With pawlenty,  
we make the base happy.  
And we know what the hell  
we're getting.  
Pawlenty's ready  
to be president.  
Steve?  
Well, there are  
unknowns with Palin,  
and certainly  
it could go bad.  
But if it were me, I'd  
rather lose by 10 points

going for the win  
than lose by one point  
and look back  
and say, "God damn,"  
we should have gone  
for the win."

**Salter:**

"country first."  
Lieberman and pawlenty  
are country-first choices.  
Sarah Palin  
will be perceived  
as a self-serving  
political maneuver.  
You may not only lose  
the election, John.  
You just might lose your  
reputation right along with it.  
I'm not running  
for my reputation.  
I'm running  
to be president.  
Yes, sir.  
( Bell dings )  
It is absolutely crucial  
that not a single person  
know you're the pick.  
Surprise of your announcement  
will stop any momentum  
Obama might get from  
his convention speech.  
That's smart.  
You seem totally unfazed  
by all this.  
It's God's plan.  
This election has  
never been about me.  
It's about you.  
( Crowd cheering )  
You understand  
that in this election  
the greatest risk  
we can take

is to try  
the same old politics  
with the same old players  
and expect a different result.

**Barack:**

Change happens.  
Change happens because the  
American people demand it...  
Because they rise up and insist  
on new ideas and new leadership  
and new politics  
for a new time.  
You're about  
to meet our nominee.  
You are the seventh and eighth  
person to know about this.

- ( Knocks )
- It's Steve.
- Come in.
- ( Door opens )

**Barack:**

Because I've seen it...  
Hi. Come on in.  
I'm just watching Obama's  
big, fancy speech again.  
Governor, this is  
Matthew Scully.  
- He'll be your main speechwriter.  
- Nice to meet you.

**Steve:**

nicolle Wallace,  
- former white house communications director.  
- Hi. How are you?

**Steve:**

Governor Sarah Palin  
from Alaska.  
Yes, of course.  
Congratulations, Governor.  
It's a real honor  
to meet you.

Great to have you  
on board.

Hey, come here.

Lookit. Look at this.

- ( Crowd cheering on TV )

- I didn't know we were running against a Greek God.

**Sarah:**

They sure do love him.

- They're gonna love you more.

**- Barack:**

( Distant crowd cheering )

Governor,

you are the nominee

for the vice president

of the United States.

You will no longer

be carrying your own bags.

Yes, sir.

And never

call me "sir."

You can call me

Steve, schmidty,

Kojak, potsie, shithead--

anything you want.

I will call you

governor or ma'am.

Well, I don't curse, so I'm

gonna have to call you potsie.

Very good, ma'am.

These gentlemen are

secret service agents.

They will take you

into the arena.

And if everything goes

according to plan,

they will be with you

the rest of your life.

Everything's gonna change

the moment you

walk out that door.

Are you ready, Governor?

I'm ready.

Breathe.

Welcome, Governor.

( Distant crowd cheering )

( Crowd cheering )

Thank you.

Thank you for

that wonderful welcome.

I'm very happy today to  
spend my birthday with you  
and to make a historic  
announcement in Dayton...

( Crowd cheering )

...a city built on hard,  
honest work of good people.

( Crowd cheering )

The person I'm about  
to introduce to you  
was a stand-out  
High School point guard,  
a concerned citizen who became  
a member of the p.T.A.,  
then a city  
council member...

- Say a prayer.

- **John:**

- and now a governor.

- Say a prayer.

- Say a prayer.

- Say a prayer.

**John:**

of women's suffrage,  
a devoted wife  
and a mother of five.

**John:**

and fellow Americans,  
I am very pleased  
to introduce to you  
the next vice president  
of the United States,  
Governor Sarah Palin  
of the great state of Alaska!

( Music playing )  
Just have fun.  
This is a fantastic  
rollout, Steve.  
I can't believe you were  
able to keep it a secret.  
I had to confiscate  
her kids' cell phones.  
No hurry.

- **Sarah:**

- **Woman:**

And I thank you,  
Senator McCain,  
for the confidence  
you have placed in me.  
Senator, I am honored to be  
chosen as your running mate.  
It was rightly noted  
in Denver this week  
that Hillary left  
in the highest, hardest  
glass ceiling in America.  
( Crowd cheers )  
But it turns out  
the women of America  
aren't finished yet  
and we can shatter that glass  
ceiling once and for all.  
We gotta get her ready  
for her convention speech.  
She'll need a vocal coach,  
a foreign policy expert,  
hair and make-up consultants  
and a stylist.  
No doubt.

( Music playing )  
And if I was  
a movie star  
I'd sip honey  
from a pickle jar  
in the back  
of my limousine



and they'd call me  
an icon  
and I'd be looking  
back at you  
from the cover  
of a "people" magazine...  
Not-- not too tight.  
I guess it's all  
for the taking...  
I love these Johnny choos.  
My sister says  
i've got to see it  
and believe it,  
and I believe it...

**Woman:**

Oh, my gosh.  
I believe it  
- What do you think, Todd?  
- It's cool.  
( All laugh )  
- Nice, dad.  
- Mom, you look beautiful.  
Aw, hey, look at you.  
Look at your fancy shoes.  
- You look so awesome, mom.

**- Girl:**

- You look great, willow.  
- Thanks.  
- So do you.  
- So good.  
Look at Trig's  
little shirt.

**Woman:**

all come with me,  
it's time for  
your campaign photos.

**- Girls:**

**- Todd:**

- See you in a bit, hon.

- Yeah.

Governor, this is  
your new staff--

Tucker eskew,  
senior media advisor.

- It's a pleasure.

- Nice to meet you.

Chris Edwards,  
your deputy chief of staff.

- Hi.

- Hi.

And my husband,  
mark Wallace,  
former ambassador  
to the united nations.

He'll be  
a senior advisor.

We're all honored to be  
on your team, Governor.

- The honor is all mine.

- Shall we sit?

Well, our first order  
of business, Governor,  
is we need  
to find out  
if there are any  
unexpected surprises.

The press are gonna be  
digging deep into your past,  
so we need to prepare answers  
about your background.

Oh, gosh.

I can't think of anything  
I haven't already disclosed.

( Reporters clamoring )

The wasilla librarian  
claims that as mayor  
she tried to ban books.

Is that true?

What about the allegations that  
Trig is not really her child?

Did she attend a pentecostal  
church where they speak

- in tongues?

- ( Reporters clamoring )  
This source we talked to intimately  
involved in Palin's vetting  
admitted that aside  
from those they talked to  
involved in  
so-called troopergate,  
they didn't talk to any  
character witnesses in Alaska--  
why was the vet so bad?  
Listen, granted,  
he only had a few days,  
but culvahouse  
did clear her.

- Oh, with what? Wikipedia?  
- There's no way this vet was thorough.  
What? What did he miss?  
He had troopergate.  
He had bridge to nowhere.  
No one went to Alaska to interview  
her colleagues, her enemies.  
There was no political  
vet whatsoever.  
These charges  
are such bullshit.  
I mean,  
Trig isn't her baby?  
What, speaking in tongues?  
- She does.

**- Rick:**

Is the first amendment  
no longer law here?  
Is she not entitled  
to her religious beliefs?  
You're missing  
the point, Rick.  
John is getting slammed for  
making an irresponsible choice.  
- We picked her.  
- No, you two picked her,  
then slapped her on the butt  
and shoved her out there  
under a banner

saying "country first!"  
You're a real prick, mark.

**- Salter:**

- Fuck you!  
All right, all right!  
Let's just get through this.  
Come on.  
Troopergate. What--?

**Tucker:**

safety commissioner  
is claiming that he was fired  
because he wouldn't fire  
Palin's brother-in-law,  
trooper Mike Wooten.  
And what were the charges  
against trooper Wooten?  
Besides the fact that he was  
divorcing Palin's sister?  
Yes. Do we have any  
information that shows  
trooper Wooten  
should have been fired?  
Yeah, Wooten  
was accused of drinking  
from an open container  
from his police car,  
tasering his  
and illegally shooting  
a moose without a permit.

**Steve:**

Jesus Christ.  
Okay, coordinate all responses  
with their Alaskan council.  
Let's try to keep it  
a local matter.  
Bridge to nowhere.  
I thought we were good on this.  
She had the project squashed  
after she was elected,  
but ran on a platform  
to build the bridge.

It's a huge flip-flop.  
God damn it.  
How could she  
not tell us that?  
What the fuck is the Alaska  
independence party  
and was she ever  
a member of it?  
The a.I.P. Is a political  
party whose sole platform  
is the secession  
of Alaska from the union.  
Well, ain't that a hoot?  
Now, was she ever  
a member of it?

**Steve:**

Well?  
We know Todd Palin  
was a member for many years.  
We can't confirm  
if she was ever a member.  
Okay. Call our people  
in Alaska right now  
and find out if she was.

**It's 3:**

In Alaska right now.  
Thphphones don't  
work there at night?!  
We're under attack  
here, people!  
You're gonna have  
to raise your game.  
I can assure you  
that Obama's people  
are all over this shit.  
In the last 24 hours,  
I have been asked questions  
by the national media that are  
outrageous and disgusting.  
I have been asked  
when her amniotic fluid  
started to leak with regard

to her last birth.  
It's shameful.  
So when did it  
start leaking?  
She's fought  
the oil companies.  
She's taken on corrupt  
special interests.  
These accusations  
are totally sexist.  
Never in my life  
have I seen a candidate  
more attacked by  
the liberal media.  
Smear after smear  
after smear.  
Are you sure  
we have to do this?  
Bristol couldn't stop crying  
when I told her.  
Are you it's going to  
we have come out tomorrow  
with or without  
our statement, Governor.  
A positive from this  
is that given the timing  
of Bristol's pregnancy,  
it makes it physically impossible  
for Trig to be her baby.  
So we can put that  
absurd rumor to rest.  
"We're proud of Bristol's  
decision to have her baby  
and even prouder  
to become grandparents."  
We're not proud  
that our teenage daughter  
is pregnant, Maria.  
And I don't want to send  
a message that teen pregnancy  
is something to be proud of.  
I want that line out.  
Of course, Governor.  
I'll change it right away.

**Reporter:**

17-year-old daughter Bristol  
has been seen holding her baby  
brother Trig at campaign events.  
What the American people  
didn't know until today  
is that Bristol  
is five months pregnant.  
Her parents issued

**this statement:**

"We're proud of Bristol's  
decision to have her baby."  
I specifically wanted  
that line taken out,  
and you ran it  
without changing a word.

**Rick:**

You're absolutely right.  
The campaign takes full  
responsibility on this.  
Maria's gonna personally  
apologize to you.  
How the flip  
did this happen?  
Senator McCain is somewhat  
a fly-by-the-seat-  
of-his-pants type of guy,  
and it does occasionally create  
a little chaos in the campaign.  
Well, I want Maria gone.  
Governor, this was a mistake.  
Maria feels terrible.  
She's an excellent  
press secretary.  
My 17-year-old daughter  
is being made fun of  
by every talk show host  
in the country.  
I want Maria gone, period.  
Of course, Governor.  
She's gone.

Done.

Who makes that call?

- That'd be you.

- ( Sighs )

The idea that if something

happened to John McCain

who is 72 years old and who has

had two bouts with melanoma,

- and she could step into the presidency--

- ( Knock at door )

- It's just ridiculous.

- ( Channel changes )

**Man:**

The real sequence, Rachel,

is she said "please"

and "thank you,"

and then "thanks,

but no thanks,"

only when the congress

had de-authorized the bridge...

Hi, Governor.

I just wanted to check in,

make sure

you're doing okay.

Should John McCain consider

replacing Sarah Palin

on the gop ticket?

I want to talk

to the press.

I want to set the record

straight on this stuff.

I'll just go put

trig's p.J.S on.

Hey, there.

- There you go, baby.

- Just gonna put your PJ's on.

Now, we don't want you

to talk to anyone

until after

the convention

because no one knows

anything about you.

If you answer these



ridiculous allegations,  
you'll be defining yourself  
in a defensive posture.  
But isn't the press  
defining me right now?  
No news story lasts  
more than 48 hours any more.  
News is no longer  
meant to be remembered.  
It's just entertainment.  
So if you hit your convention  
speech out of the park,  
the next news cycle will be  
the comeback of Sarah Palin.  
Yeah. I can do that.  
Now, everyone's heard a lot  
of crazy stories about you.  
Now it's time for you to tell  
the world who you really are.  
You tell Senator McCain  
I won't let him down.  
And good evening from the g.O.  
P. Convention in St. Paul.  
All eyes will be  
on Senator McCain's  
V.P. Choice,  
Governor Sarah Palin,  
when she takes the stage  
at the r.N.C.  
She's likely  
never seen a night  
fraught with  
so much anticipation,  
expectation and pressure.  
The food's terrible, but I hear  
it's gonna be worse in Iraq.  
- My boy's so brave.  
- Come on, mom.  
Thank you for inviting me,  
Mrs. Palin.  
Thank you for cutting  
your mullet, levi.  
I really appreciate it.  
I didn't really

want to at first,  
but I think it looks  
way better now.  
I think it does, too.  
Sorry to interrupt,  
but the palins need  
to go to their seats.

- Bye, mom.

- Okay.

I don't know.

I don't know.

Hey, she's gonna  
be fine.

- Really?

- Absolutely.

Is she gonna be okay?

I'm more concerned  
about one on ones.

How bad?

I'm not sure how much she  
knows about foreign policy.

She didn't know why North and South  
Korea were different countries.

( Sighs )

Okay, let's keep  
the press away from her.

We have five days  
to bring her up to speed.

She'll be fine.

Shshe's on in five minutes.

I've gotta get up there.

Good luck.

**Man:**

Governor Sarah Palin  
as his running mate,  
John McCain has chosen

- for the future.

- ( Crowd cheers )

Governor Palin represents  
a new generation.

She's already one of the  
most successful governors  
in America

and the most popular.  
Let's get John McCain  
and Sarah Palin elected,  
and let's shake up  
Washington  
and move this country  
forward!  
( Loud applause )  
You're gonna do great.

**Woman:**

Ladies and gentlemen,  
the Governor of Alaska  
and the next vice president  
of the United States,  
Sarah Palin!  
( Music playing )

**Sarah:**

Thank you.  
Mr. chairman, delegates,  
and fellow citizens,  
I will be honored to  
accept your nomination  
for vice president  
of the United States.  
Thank you.  
Our nominee is a man  
who wore the uniform  
of his country for 22 years  
and refused to break faith  
with those troops in Iraq  
who now have brought  
victory within sight.  
Good, good.  
She's really good.  
We were so blessed  
in April.  
Todd and I welcomed  
our littlest one  
into the world--  
a perfectly beautiful  
baby boy named Trig.  
( Crowd cheering )

**Sarah:**

Children with special needs  
inspire a very,  
very special love.  
She's amazing.  
To the families of  
special needs children  
all across this country,  
I have a message for you.  
I pledge to you  
that if we are elected,  
you will have a friend and  
advocate in the white house.  
She's incredible!  
Before I became governor  
of the great state  
of Alaska...  
I was mayor of my hometown.  
I guess a small-town mayor  
- is sort of like a community organizer.  
- ( Crowd laughs )  
Except that you have  
actual responsibilities.  
Now I know why they  
call her "Sarah barracuda."  
( Laughter )  
( Chuckles )  
I love those hockey moms.  
You know they say  
the difference  
between a hockey mom  
and a pit bull?  
Lipstick.  
Yeah!  
She just came up  
with that.  
Join our cause  
and help America  
elect a great man  
as the next president  
of the United States.  
Thank you.  
And God bless America.

- Great job! You did a great job!
- Couldn't have gone better.
- Congratulaonons.
- My God!

She did it without  
a teleprompter.

It broke halfway  
through her speech.

- You're kidding.
- No.

If that happens to me  
tomorrow night, I'm fucked.

( Crowd cheering )

We can win this!

Oh, oh, oh, ohh

and up, up, up

can only

go up from here

up, up

up where the cloud's

gonna clear

up, up, there's no way

but up from here...

Thank you for calling.

Yes, we do take credit cards.

- I'd be happy to...

- I've got \$500.

We're grateful for  
every dollar we get.

Yes, Sarah Palin will be giving  
a speech in Florida this week.

Thanks.

Hey. Here we go.

- Thanks for coming.

- I love you.

( Chuckles )

Hi. Hey. Hi.

- God, this is crazy.

- I know, they really love her.

**Sarah:**

How are ya? Hey.

- Hey, what's your name?

- I'm Sarah.

- ( Gasps ) Sarah?

- Yeah.

That's my name, too.

That's amazing!

- I know.

- Oh!

Hey, thanks for coming out.

Thank you.

We never felt welcome to go anywhere  
before we saw you  
give that speech.

Oh, thank you.

Thanks so much.

Look at you.

I want to look at how handsome  
my son Trig's gonna be  
when he's all grown up.

She understands that you can't  
solve problems with government,  
that government  
is the problem.

When she talks about her faith,  
you can tell it's for real.

When she talks about guns,  
you can tell it's for real.

I've got five kids, too,  
and there's

something about her--  
she's talking to me.

And nobody talks to me.

CNN has us even  
with Obama.

- Are you kidding me?

- Hey, Gallup has us up by five.

She's given us  
exactly what we needed.

We've made more money  
in the last few days  
than we did  
all last month.

I've never seen crowds  
like this in my life.

- They love her.

- She's a bigger star than Obama.

We can really  
win this thing.  
I really understand  
your frustr--  
I'm sorry, pool.  
It's not gonna happen today.  
- ( Reporters clamoring )  
- Sorry.  
- Five minutes!  
- Views matter.  
Did you know that  
Todd Palin is an Eskimo?  
Oh, yeah, Steve?  
That's really interesting.  
Seriously,  
he's a Yupik Eskimo.  
We're gonna take some serious  
blowback from the press  
if we don't let them  
speak to her soon.  
- They're really getting pissed.  
- I know, yeah.  
Well, I don't know  
how ready she is.  
Nicolle,  
you worry too much.  
We always knew she'd  
be weak on foreign policy.  
We'll get her up to speed.  
Steve, I don't think foreign  
policy is her only weakness.  
Sorry to bother you,  
governor. Okay to talk?  
Sure, I'm just reading the e-mails  
from the prayer warriors.  
These guys are awesome.  
I just want to take  
a moment to inform you  
of how thrilled  
Senator McCain is.  
You're exceeding  
his wildest expectation  
for what a running mate  
could achieve.

I am so happy to hear that.  
These are the largest crowds  
I've ever seen  
in my entire  
political career, ever.  
Really? Yeah, I just--  
I just love talking  
to people on the rope lines,  
getting to hear  
their problems.  
It's-- it's really  
moving to me.  
Well, you know,  
that comes across.  
You're a transformative  
figure, Governor.  
You-- you could be the  
party's next Ronald Reagan.  
Holy jeez, I--  
yeah, he's--  
he's my hero, so...  
Mine, too.  
So, uh...  
The next step is just-- we're gonna  
start doing some interviews.  
Great. I've been dying  
to talk to the press.  
Also, I feel like I could  
really help you there.  
I've always been very, very  
open with the press in Alaska.  
The reasoning behind  
holding you back  
is the entire press corps  
is in the tank for Obama,  
so all they want in life  
is to trip you up  
with obscure questions.  
- Gotcha questions.  
- Gotcha questions.  
So we just want to make sure  
you're fully prepped  
before we unleash them.  
What about the local



Alaska papers?

There are no  
local papers any more.

Anything you say goes national  
the instant you say it.

Yeah, got it.

Okay, so I think  
the best way to prep  
would just be to go through  
some sample questions.

Sure, let's do it.

Um, let's start with  
something simple.

Uh... how do you  
plan on maintaining  
our alliance with  
greabrbr Britain on Iraq,  
even though support  
for the war there  
is at an all-time low?

I think the United States  
has always maintained  
a great relationship  
with the queen.

And John McCain  
will continue to have  
an open dialogue with her.

Uh, Governor,  
the queen is not the head  
of government in England.  
She's the head of state.

Well, then, who's  
the head of government?

The prime minister.

( Indistinct chatter )

You rang?

- The cavalry has arrived.
- ( Chuckles )
- Thank you, gentlemen. Come on in.
- You bet.

Yeah.

Well, I, uh--

I think we should start  
by prepping the governor

with Russian  
economic policy  
as it relates to  
post-cold war tensions  
during the pre-putin era.  
I was thinking something  
a little bit simpler.  
How much simpler?  
This is Germany.  
They were  
the primary antagonists  
during world war I  
and world war ii.

**Biegun:**

, they were aligned with  
Japan and Italy to form  
what was known as the axis.

**Randy:**

we're in the middle okay.  
Of what I like to call  
the three wars.  
That's Afghanistan, Iraq,  
and the global war on terror.  
Governor, would you-- would  
you like to take a break?  
No way.  
This is flippin' awesome.  
Now, with Afghanistan,  
after 9/11...

**Reporter:**

Already put a protective wall up  
around the family,  
especially the key players.  
Look at Bristol, Sarah Palin's  
daughter, who is pregnant.  
We've seen her, we've seen her boyfriend  
levi, the father of her child,  
but we haven't really  
gotten to talk to them  
about whose idea  
it was to get married

and why, for example,  
levi on his MySpace page  
- says he doesn't want kids--

- **Woman:**

**Bristol:**

just leave me alone?  
I'm so tired of it.  
( Sobbing )  
Any grownup who makes fun  
of a teenage girl  
is a terrible person.  
And we'll forget what  
she said, honey, okay?  
Okay?  
My e-mails were hacked.  
I know, governor, and we're on it.  
I promise you.  
Did you know that  
my daughter's cell phone  
is online and she's getting  
crank calls?  
Did you know that my family  
is being threatened?  
Governor, you have every right  
to be upset, and I am sorry.  
I've already contacted  
secret service  
and they're gonna  
increase security.  
( Stammers ) Can you-- can you  
protect my e-mails, Steve?  
Can you--  
can this campaign  
at least do that?

**Nicolle:**

Charlie Gibson is good,  
so I'm sure the questions  
will have some depth.  
Don't be afraid to elaborate  
if it's a subject  
you feel comfortable with,

like energy.  
Are you okay, Governor?  
Why aren't there any McCain-Palin  
lawn signs in Alaska?  
Well, Mr. Obama  
has five times  
the money we have.  
Five times, and...  
Alaska is only three electoral  
votes, and it's solid red.  
I'm concerned about  
my standing back home.  
Todd and  
are hearing things,  
and I can't talk  
to the Alaskan press.  
What are you hearing?  
Things.  
None of it's good.  
Can you at least do a poll to  
check my approval rating there?  
Governor, that would cost  
the campaign \$60,000.  
I'd feel a heck  
of a lot better  
if I knew where I was at.  
Absolutely.  
We will do the poll  
for your peace of mind,  
just this once.

**Sarah:**

Great. Thank you.  
So, can we get back to  
prepping Charlie Gibson?  
Sure, I'm ready.  
Let's do it.  
- You ready?  
- Yes.  
Do you think the fed  
did the right thing  
in their dealing with  
the bear stearns collapse?  
Our economy is hurting,

and the federal government  
has not provided  
the sound oversight  
that we need  
and that we deserve.  
I think we need  
a little bit of reality  
from wasilla  
main street there  
brought to Washington, D.C.,  
so that the people there  
can understand how the  
average working-class family  
is viewing bureaucracy  
in the federal government.

( Clears throat )

Governor...

Do you know

what the fed is?

In what respect, Charlie?

No, no.

This is me, Steve,  
asking do you know  
what the fed is?

Um...

( Clears throat )

Stands for the federal  
reserve system.

No, please.

Don't write, just listen.

The fed is responsible  
for all monetary policy  
in the United States.

On any fed or  
bear stearns question,  
just say the fed took  
the appropriate action  
that was needed  
at the time.

Okay?

Got it.

Your oldest son is proudly  
heading off to Iraq next week.  
Who do you see as the primary

enemy at this point?  
Radical islamist extremists.  
Can you be more specific?  
The terrorists  
who are hell-bent  
on destroying our nation.  
Governor, do you know  
why we're in Iraq?  
Because Saddam Hussein  
attacked us on 9/11.  
No. No, uh,  
Al qaeda attacked us  
on 9/11.  
Not Saddam Hussein.  
No, it was Al qaeda.  
And that's why  
we're in Afghanistan.  
Do you know  
the primary differences  
between the war in Afghanistan  
and the war in Iraq?

**Steve:**

us for a moment.  
Can I get some more information  
about Afghanistan?  
Of course, Governor.  
- Should we cancel?  
- We can't.  
Even fox is pounding us  
for hiding her.  
- We'd get murdered.  
- When you interviewed her,  
didn't you ask her  
about national security?  
Foreign policy,  
domeicic policy?  
I thought culvahouse  
would cover that.  
So what did you ask her?  
I just-- we talked  
about if she would  
back John's positions  
when they conflicted with hers

or if she was prepared  
for her life to change.  
There were no  
policy questions.  
You guys didn't grill her  
because you wanted it to work.  
I wasn't in charge  
of the vet, nicolle.  
She's a great actress, right?  
Oh, the best.  
Why don't we just  
give her some lines?  
( Bell dings )  
I've come up with  
a list of questions  
that I think Charlie's  
most likely to ask.  
If you memorize  
these answers,  
I'm sure y'r're going  
to nail this interview.  
How do you know  
he'll ask these?  
I was the white house  
communications director.  
It's my job to figure out  
the questions.  
"Shushkashvili."  
Saakashvili,  
the president of Georgia.  
Shashkashvili.  
Saakashvith--  
- saakashvili.  
- Saakash-vili.  
Let me ask you  
about some specific  
- national security situations.  
- Sure.  
Let's start with Russia  
and Georgia.  
Do you believe  
the United States  
should try to restore  
Georgian sovereignty

over South ossetia  
and abkhazia?  
First off,  
we're gonna continue  
good relations  
with saakashvili there.  
I was able to speak  
with him the other day,  
and we've gotta  
keep an eye on Russia.  
For Russia to have  
exerted such pressure  
in terms of invading a smaller  
Democratic country unprovoked  
- is unacceptable, and we have--  
- You believe unprovoked?  
- Yes.  
- I do, I do believe unprovoked.  
And we have to  
keep our eye...  
She's a red-light  
performer.

**Sarah:**

the leadership there.  
What insight  
into Russian actions,  
particularly in  
the last couple of weeks,  
does the proximity  
of this state give you?  
They're our  
next-door neighbors.  
And you can actually see Russia  
from land here in Alaska.

**Charlie:**

a nuclear Iran...  
- Damn it.  
- ...To be an existential threat to Israel?  
And I can see Russia  
from my house.  
( Audience laughs )



**Amy poehler:**

warming is caused by man.  
And I believe it's just  
God hugging us closer.  
( Audience laughs )

**Poehler:**

the bush doctrine.

**Tina fey:**

know what that is.  
( Audience laughs,  
applauds )

**Man:**

not understand this,  
and I think that people can  
make what they want of it,  
but was I, or anyone, confident that  
Sarah Palin now has the wherewithal  
to be president of the United States?  
I don't think so.

A conservative friend called me  
up and said "I just can't do it.  
I don't know if I'm voting for  
Obama, but I can't have her--  
"she shouldn't be in Washington,  
let alone the white house."

( TV turns off )

Governor.

Governor Palin.

We really should prep for  
your Katie Couric interview.

Fine.

I wrote a brief synopsis  
on the collapse  
of lehman brothers  
and the financial crisis.

If you internalize  
this document,  
you should be able to field basic  
questions about the bail-out.

( Phone chimes )

Governor...

The dow just dropped  
Lehman is collapsing.  
The world economy is on the  
I am pretty sure the bail-out  
is going to come up--  
( touch tones beeping )  
Okay. Um...  
( Phone chimes )  
Whodon't we come back to it  
after we've warmed up a bit?  
I've put together a list  
of the questions...  
- ( Phone chimes )  
- That Katie's most likely to ask.  
I used to work with Katie, and I  
know she'll ask about abortion.  
Did Steve do  
the Alaska poll yet?  
- I think it's being done as we speak.  
- Bet he didn't even do it.  
Can we try and get through  
just a few questions?  
I know you're upset,  
Governor.  
So why don't you get  
a good night's sleep,  
and I will come back  
first thing in the morning  
to prep you when  
you're feeling better?  
( Phone chirps )  
I'm gonna leave this  
for you to...  
- Look over.  
- ( Phone chimes )  
It's the worst financial crisis  
facing the American people  
since the great depression  
of the 1920s and '30s.  
The president's massive  
financial rescue plan  
under fire from  
the left and right.

**Biegun:**

from the Ford center  
at the university  
of Mississippi at Oxford.  
We're here for the first  
of three debates  
between Senator  
Barack Obama--  
Steve, Steve, let's not  
worry about that crap.  
It's all bullshit.  
I'm here at the podium.  
- Let's do the fucking debate.  
- ( Door opens )  
Hey, John.  
Sorry to interrupt.  
I just spoke to our guy  
at treasury.  
The bill does not have  
enough republican votes.  
God damn it.  
Paulson thinks  
the entire world economy  
is on the brink of falling  
off the cliff, so...  
We're checkmated.  
If the bail-out doesn't pass,  
we're screwed because  
bush, and thus you,  
will be blamed for it.  
- If you pass the bail-out--  
- The Republicans will despise me  
- for supporting a bail-out.

**- Rick:**

This is it, guys.  
I mean, this is  
the whole fucking election.  
Now, we think you should  
suspend the campaign,  
postpone the debates,  
go to Washington,  
and try to negotiate  
a bi-partisan compromise.

You need to make  
a bold move, John.  
This is a big risk.  
I mean,  
that's a big gamble.  
We gotta do something.  
I mean nothing can fuck me  
more than this.

**Nicolle:**

you had a chance  
to go over the briefing  
materials on the bail-out?  
I really think we need  
to try and nail down  
a simple two-sentence response  
to the economic crisis.  
- It's gotta be supportive of the concept...  
- That's enough powder.  
...Of the bail-out, but also  
disappointed that we're at this point,  
making it clear that changes  
need to be made to the bill.  
Oh, you need it  
a little higher?  
I can do that.  
I can do that for you.  
That jacket looks fantastic  
on you, by the way.  
It's too open.  
- Don't you think so  
- Yeah, it looks wonderful.  
Really great,  
really nice.  
It's a great color.  
Do you want me to read  
the paper to you?  
"Senator John McCain has requested of  
his opponent, Senator Barack Obama,"  
a postponement  
of the upcoming debate  
so that both Senators  
may return to Capitol Hill  
to address the needs of the

country in this crucial time.  
"Senator Obama has said--"  
I hate this make-up.  
I hate it.  
I don't like my hair this way.  
I like my hair up.  
Governor,  
you look amazing.  
I look fat.  
I'm sick of looking fat.  
- You don't look fat--  
- Can I get some more tape?  
- ( Phone ring))  
- Yeah.  
I don't know  
if we should do Couric.  
She's having  
a mini-meltdown.  
Well, we can't have McCain  
cancel the debate  
and Palin cancel Katie Couric  
in the same week.  
I know,  
but I'm really worried  
about her.  
She won't respond  
to anything I say.  
Maybe we should bring McCain  
in and see what he thinks.  
He doesn't want  
to deal with her.  
I haven't even told him  
that she doesn't know anything.  
You haven't told him?  
Look, he doesn't  
want to know.  
The world economy  
is on the brink of collapse.  
Can you just... prep her  
in the car ride over?  
Uh, I can try.  
Okay, good.  
Try. Thanks.  
Knowing Katie, I'm sure

she's going to ask  
about your stance  
on feminism.

- Did you get the numbers?

- The what?

My approval rating  
in Alaska.

They're not in yet.

I am trying

to trust you people,  
but you're making it  
really hard for me.

I'm sorry, Governor.

I'll call Steve  
right away about it.

Yeah, like that'll  
do anything.

**Nicolle:**

working on, Governor?

It's a questionnaire from the "mat-su  
valley frontiersman" in wasilla.

You know,

an Alaska paper.

Don't you think

we should prepare

for your national

Couric interview first?

No, nicolle, I don't.

This is my priority.

I am not going to ignore

the people of Alaska any more.

You've cited Alaska's

proximity to Russia

as part of your foreign

policy experience.

What did you mean by that?

That Alaska has a very

narrow maritime border

between a foreign country,

Russia, and on our other side,

the land boundary

that we have with Canada.

It's funny that

a comment like that  
was kind of made to--  
( Stammering )  
I don't know.  
You know, reporters.

**- Couric:**

**- Sarah:**

I guess that's  
the word, yeah.  
Well, explain to me  
why that enhances  
your foreign policy  
credentials.  
Well, it certainly  
does because our--  
our next-door neighbors  
are foreign countries.  
They're in the state  
that I am the executive of.  
Have you ever been involved  
with any negotiations,  
for example,  
with the Russians?  
We have trade missions  
back and forth.  
We do.  
It's very important  
when you consider even national  
security issues with Russia,  
as putin rears his head  
and comes into the airspace  
of the United States  
of America,  
where do they go?  
It's Alaska. It's just  
right over the border.

**Katie:**

establishing your world-view,  
I was curious-- what  
newspapers and magazines  
did you regularly read before

you were tapped for this  
to stay informed  
and to understand--

**Sarah:**

again with a great appreciation  
for the press,  
for the media.

What ones specifically?

I'm curious.

Name one fucking paper.

All of 'Em.

Any of 'Em

that have been in front of me  
over all these years.

Oh, my God.

What have we done?

If John McCain wins,

this woman will be

one 72-year-old's

heartbeat away

from president

of the United States.

And if that doesn't scare

the hell out of you, it should.

In fairness,

probably most people

can't name

a supreme court case.

But most people

are not campaigning

- to be vice president.

- Right, right.

It's not that she doesn't

know the right answer.

It's that she clearly does not

understand the question.

This is way beyond

anything we have ever seen

from a national candidate.

Why'd you make me

do Katie Couric?

Did you see the coverage?

Did you?



Are you there?  
Are you listening to me?  
Yes, Governor.  
I'm here.  
Katie was a logical choice.  
She's been very fair to us  
this entire campaign.  
You call that interview fair?  
Yes, Governor, I do.  
I certainly don't.  
She was out to get me from the get-go.  
No, she wasn't.  
The interview sucked  
because you didn't try.  
What do you mean,  
I didn't try?  
You didn't fight back  
like you did  
in the Charlie Gibson  
interview.  
When you didn't  
know the answers,  
you clawed your way back  
and it went fine.  
You just gave up.  
Nicolle, it wasn't my fault.  
I wasn't properly prepped.  
You weren't properly prepped  
because you wouldn't listen to us.  
You never listen  
to your advisors.  
Because you're  
overwhelming me  
with too much information.  
I don't want to do  
these interviews.  
I want to do  
what I want to do.  
We're just trying to help you  
get through this, Governor.  
All we want is  
for you to succeed.  
Yeah, well,  
you're not helping.

You're just screwing me up.  
You're telling me what to say,  
what to wear, how to talk.  
I am not your puppet!  
Now I understand  
what Hillary meant  
when she said she had  
to find her own voice.  
Yeah, 'cause you're  
just like Hillary.  
( Scoffs )  
You have ruined me.  
You have ruined  
my reputation.  
I am ruined in Alaska!  
( Beeping )  
This is Steve schmidt.  
Leave a message.  
Steve, it's nicolle.  
I will gladly resign if you  
want to blame me for Couric.  
But if you want me to stay, then  
I'm back on McCain's bus tomorrow  
as I never want to deal  
with that woman ever again.

**Poehler:**

you learned from Iraq  
and how specifically would  
you spread democracy abroad?  
Specifically, we would make  
every effort possible  
to spread democracy abroad  
to those who want it.  
( Audience laughs )

**Poehler:**

, what would you do?  
We're gonna promote freedom,  
Usher in Democratic  
values and ideals,  
and fight terror-loving  
terrorists.

**Poehler:**

to belabor the point,  
one specific thing.

( Audience laughs )

Katie, I'd like to use  
one of my lifelines.

( Audience laughs )

- **Poehler:**

- **Fey:**

**Woman:**

should proceed.

- ( Sighs )

- **Barack:**

...and presidents are going  
to have to deal with  
more than one thing  
at a time.

**Woman:**

opinion research poll

- show Obama surging in key battleground states...

- Son of a bitch.

...Like Pennsylvania where he  
is now up by nine points.

Governor, I just

want you to know

I got your Alaskan

poll numbers in,

and you'll be

pleased to know

- that you're in the low 70s.

- **Sarah:**

( Sighs )

- Why are they fucking me like this?

- Who?

The press!

They used to love me.

Now all they want to do

in life is fuck me over.

I can't believe  
Katie did that to me.  
And did you hear what Olbermann  
said about me last night?  
Sir, you've got to stop  
watching Keith Olbermann,  
or Fox, for that matter.  
It's all just bullshit.  
Now, sir,  
you should have a beer  
and watch ESPN, okay?  
And while  
you're watching it,  
think about what  
the people who watch ESPN  
really need in their lives  
right now.  
I thought Katie liked me.  
She does.  
And the questions were fair.  
It was Governor Palin  
who gave a terrible interview.  
That poor girl.  
She wasn't ready for this.  
Yeah, I'm afraid  
you're right, sir.  
And YouTube is making it  
exponentially worse.  
People are watching  
Katie Couric and Tina Fey  
over and over again.  
It's playing like  
an infinite loop on the web.  
No presidential campaign has ever  
had to deal with this before.  
But she's gonna do a good job  
in the debate, right?  
Yes, sir.  
She'll be great.  
'Cause if it goes like Couric,  
I don't think we can recover.  
I agree, and I promise  
she'll be great.  
I hope you're right.

I hope you're right, Steve.

It's gonna be fine.

( Sighs )

Okay, this one came up  
in the '96 debate.

Is there a magic bullet  
to solve the problem  
of public education?

If not, what is  
the best solution?

Uh, Governor?

Governor, would you like  
something to eat?

Yeah, I think you should  
eat something, Governor.

How about

a diet Dr. pepper?

Would you like--

could you?

Governor?

I miss my baby.

I miss sleeping with my baby.

She constantly slips  
into these catatonic stupors.

And then when we do  
finally get her to work,  
she writes all the  
information down on notecards,  
but she can't  
remember any of it.

( Sighs )

Steve, did you do an  
approval poll in Alaska?

- She keeps bringing it up.

- What the fuck?

I did that stupid fucking  
poll a week ago.

I told her

she's in the 70s.

Yeah, well, I don't think  
she believes you.

She says you made  
those numbers up.

Okay.

- She is becoming completely irrational.

- Becoming?

I don't even like  
to say this,  
but has it occurred  
to you guys  
that she might be  
mentally unstable?

Mark, look, the debate  
is in five days.

What do you think?

I think this debate will  
be a debacle of historic  
and epic proportions.

Well, that's encouraging.

( Elevator dings )

What would you say  
best qualifies you  
to be John McCain's  
running mate?

John McCain has that streak  
of independence in him  
that I think is very, very  
important in our leadership today.

I have that  
within me also.

And that's why  
John McCain tapped me,  
to be a team of mavericks,  
of independence  
as a team member  
on this, um--  
in this new team.

Um, I'm gonna do  
that one over again.

- **Mark:**

- **Sarah:**

Governor,  
important to remember  
that you don't need  
to say anything specific.  
Okay? If you don't know

the answer to the question,  
just bring it back to the general  
theme of reforming America  
or pivot to one of your  
stronger suits, like energy.  
Yeah, 'cause that's where  
I'm most comfortable.  
That's pretty clear.  
Let's try  
another question.

**Biegun:**

Global warming--  
Governor Palin,  
do you believe  
that global warming  
is man-made?  
Um... ahem.  
I think all this talk  
and gibber-gabber  
about where global warming  
comes from defeats--  
defeats, you know, the point  
that it's getting hotter  
and that we all need to be  
very concerned about heat.  
And, um...  
That, um...  
I-- I--  
forgot it and  
it's not in this--  
mark, all the cards are  
supposed to be in this pile.  
- Okay.

**- Sarah:**

I think we need  
to take a break.  
Can you all leave us  
alone for a minute?  
( Door closes )

**Steve:**

is in four days,

and this isn't working,  
Governor.

I know.

I think you should get off  
this no-carb diet immediately.

This goofy diet  
is bad for you,  
and I'm alarmed  
by your weight loss.

Governor, the Katie Couric  
interview didn't go well.

And it wasn't  
nicolle Wallace's fault.

It wasn't

Katie Couric's fault.

It wasn't the liberal  
media's fault.

It was your fault,  
because you didn't prepare.

And there can never  
be another instance  
of something not going well  
because you didn't prepare.

Hey.

Hey, hey, hey.

Look, you had  
a bad interview.

It's okay, it happens.

You know what Ronald Reagan  
said caused pollution?

Trees.

- Reagan said that?

- He did.

He said trees  
cause pollution.

And he not only  
won the election,  
he went on to be  
a great president.

I just-- I don't want  
to let John down.

( Phone buzzing )

Stevie boy.

We have a problem, sir.



What-- what's going on?

It's Palin.

She could be on the verge of a complete nervous breakdown.

I don't know what to do.

We threw her into the deep end without a life preserver.

Yeah, and we're drowning with her, sir.

We need to get her back with her family.

She needs to be surrounded by--

by people who love her.

Hey, let's get 'Em

all out to sedona,

out in the open air.

My neighbor's a doctor,

and Cindy can invite him over

for a barbeque or something,

and he can observe her

and see

if it's truly serious.

But let's just

get 'Em to sedona.

It'll do wonders for her,

I know it.

Yes, sir.

Absolutely.

- ( Music playing )

- There'll be

greener pastures

cross that border line

we'll see new horizons

my darling

far beyond

the great divide

Oh, hey!

I missed you guys so much.

- Hi! Mommy, mommy!

- Oh, my goodness!

( Chattering )

Got someone

who wants to say hi.

- Hi!

- ( Bristol laughs )

- **Steve:**

- Hey, how you doing?

That depends.

How's she look?

For a woman who's

just had a baby,

has a pregnant teen daughter

and a son in Iraq,

I'd say not half bad.

You, however,

look like shit.

They keep piling

all this stuff on me,

and I just can't

remember everything.

- Are you getting some of it?

- Yeah.

Some, but I have to talk

for like

Do you remember

when you debated halcro?

He had no notes,

no papers,

and he could spout off

all these facts and figures?

You were so intimidated...

Until you looked out

at the audience.

What'd you realize?

That none of what

he said mattered,

because no one knew

what he was talking about.

It's the same thing here, baby.

It's just more people.

You're getting

yourself in trouble,

because they're

trying to turn you

into something

that you're not.

You gotta do what you do.  
Just talk to people  
the way you talk to them.  
And they'll love you.  
They always have.  
I love you, first dude.  
I love you, too...  
Mrs. vice president.  
- Mm-hmm.  
- ( Laughs )  
( Faucet running )  
( Knocking at door )  
( Knocking )  
Steve, what's up?  
How many questions does Sarah Palin  
have to answer in the debate?  
And how long  
is each answer?  
Two minutes with pivots.  
So if all we have to do  
is get the best actress  
in American politics  
to memorize 45 minutes'  
worth of answers,  
then why did  
we waste five days  
trying to get her to understand  
what any of this shit means?  
Governor, I didn't know  
you were going for a jog.  
- I have a different strategy.  
- I need to clear my head for a bit.  
Well, we really  
need to prepare--  
I really need  
to go running, Steve,  
'cause it's gonna  
make me feel better.  
Can you understand that?  
Of course, Governor.  
I think we need to get rid  
of these notecards.  
- They're not helping.  
- Okay.

I hate those  
flippin' cards anyway.  
Now, what we  
need you to do  
is to memorize 25 answers  
and four attack lines.  
Do you think  
you can do that?  
Yeah, I can do that.  
And you're gonna be great.  
( Murmuring )

**Sarah:**

shining city on a hill,  
as president Reagan  
so beautifully said,  
and that we are  
a beacon of hope  
and that we are  
unapologetic here.

**Mark:**

Governor Palin,  
nuclear Iran is one  
of our gravest threats.  
What would a McCain  
administration do to stop it?  
On the subject  
of "nuclear" Iran,  
senator o'biden and I  
are most likely in agreement.  
They cannot be allowed  
to acquire "nuclear"  
weapons, period.  
Course,  
when dealing  
with ahmadinejad  
as a leader of Iran.  
It was Ronald Reagan  
who said that freedom  
is always just one generation  
away from extinction.  
We don't pass it to our  
children in the bloodstream,

we have to fight for it  
and protect it,  
and then hand it to them  
so that they  
shall do the same.  
We will fight for it.  
And there is only  
one man in this race  
who has really ever  
fought for you,  
and that's Senator  
John McCain.  
- ( Cheering, applause )

- **Mark:**

Yeah, she's back!  
Sarah Palin is back,  
ladies and gentlemen.  
Whoo!

- Great job, Governor.  
- It was pretty good, huh?

Pretty good?

It was amazing.

There's just one slight  
adjustment I want to give you.

You need to call him  
senator biden,

- not Senator O'Biden.

- That's what I called him, senator O'Biden.

- You just said it again.

- Said what?

- O'Biden.

- Right. Senator Biden.

- That's it.

- Oh. Biden.

- No, no, there's no "o."

- No, I meant "oh," as in "oh, I get it,"  
not "o" as in o'Biden.

Oh.

Okay, well,

let's practice it.

Governor, do you agree  
with senator biden's  
position on the bail-out?

- Senator o'Biden--

**- Others:**

Doggone it!

( Cell phone rings )

- This is Sarah.

**- Track:**

Hey, honey.

How are ya?

I'm good. I'm--

- i'm good, mom.

- Where are you?

Um, I'm not really  
allowed to say.

Okay, sweetie,  
but you're safe?

Yeah, no,

i'm fine, I'm fine.

I just wanted to wish you  
a good debate.

Thank you.

- Did you study?

- I did.

A lot.

I'll be praying for you.

Please, I'll need it.

Come on, mom,

you're gonna do great.

- I love you.

- ( Helicopter hovering )

I love you so much, track.

**- Man:**

- I gotta go, mom.

No, no, no. Just--

just another minute.

No, I'm really sorry,

but I really gotta go.

You're gonna do

great tonight, okay?

Thank you, thank you, but,

sweetie-- sweetie, you be safe.

- ( Helicopter hovering )

- I will.

Bye.

You okay?

My son is safe.

My son is safe.

Well, what we are

going to see

is probably

the most anticipated

vice presidential debate

that I have covered ever.

A lot, a lot of pressure

on Sarah Palin.

As for Joe Biden,

it's sort of a,

first of all,

do-no-harm night for him.

No one has questioned

that he is qualified

to be vice president.

He needs to--

both of them,

need to talk about the top

of their tickets.

- ( Mouths words )

- After all, this isn't a race to be vice president

so much as it is

to be number two

to the top people

on the ticket.

On the Joe Biden side,

you will see

an effort to say,

"look, Sarah Palin..."

Hurry.

Pray with me.

What should we pray for?

Just pray that

we win the debate.

Mom, that would be cheating.

Okay.

We want to welcome

our viewers

in the United States

and around the world.  
I'm wolf blitzer,  
together with the best...  
We've been waiting for this  
night for a long time...  
I did this same walk for  
Geraldine ferraro in 1984.  
Holy jeez, that's cool.  
This is your toe mark.  
Okay.  
Two, pull back wide  
on her entrance, please.  
Ready, two.  
And take two.  
( Music playing )

**Woman:**

Washington university  
in St. Louis, Missouri.  
I'm Gwen ifill  
of the "news hour"  
and "Washington week"  
on pbs.  
Welcome to the first  
and the only 2008  
vice presidential debate  
between the republican  
nominee,  
Governor Sarah Palin  
of Alaska,  
and the Democratic nominee,  
Joe Biden of Delaware.  
Tonight's discussion will cover  
a wide range of topics,  
including domestic  
and foreign policy matters.  
Each candidate  
will have 90 seconds  
to respond  
to a direct question  
and then an additional  
two minutes  
for rebuttal  
and follow-up.



The specific subjects and questions were chosen by me and have not been shared or cleared with anyone on the campaigns or on the commission. The audience here in the hall has promised to remain very polite-- no cheers, applause, no untoward outbursts... - Biden. Biden. Biden. - ...Except right at this minute as we welcome Governor Palin and senator biden. ( Audience cheering ) Nice to meet you. Hey, can I call you Joe? You can call me Joe. - Why-- why is the mic on? - No, no, no, it's cool. They're gonna think it's some kind of Machiavellian Jedi power-play. - ( All laugh ) - From your lips, Steve.

**Gwen:**

Welcome to you both. The House of representatives this week passed a bill, a big bail-out bill-- or didn't pass it, I should say. The senate decided to pass it and the house is wrestling with it still tonight. Was this the worst of Washington or the best of Washington that we saw play out? Thank you, Gwen, and I thank

the commission also.  
I appreciate this privilege  
of being able to be here  
and speak with Americans.  
Please, God, be kind.  
You know, I think  
a good barometer here  
when we're trying to figure out  
has this been a good time  
or a bad time  
in America's economy is...  
Go to a kids' soccer game  
on Saturday  
and turn to any parent there  
on the sideline and ask them,  
"how are you feeling  
about the economy?"  
And I'll betcha  
you're gonna hear  
some fear in  
that parent's voice...  
She's doing great.  
We've got 88 more minutes.

**Sarah:**

hit with those investments?  
There is something to be said  
also for man's activities,  
but also for the cyclical  
temperature changes on our planet.

**Gwen:**

what is false about the causes?  
If you don't understand  
what the cause is,  
it's virtually impossible  
to come up with a solution.  
The chant is  
"drill, baby, drill."  
And that's what we hear  
all across this country  
in our rallies,  
because people are so hungry  
for those domestic

sources of energy  
to be tapped into.  
We will end this war.  
For John McCain,  
there is no end in sight  
to end this war.  
We will end this war.

**Gwen:**

Governor...  
Um... your plan  
is a white flag  
of surrender  
- in Iraq.

**- Man:**

( Applause )

**Gwen:**

did you want to respond  
to Senator McCain's  
comments about healthcare?  
Pivot. Pivot!  
I'd like to respond about  
the tax increases and...

**- Man:**

- ( Cheering, clapping )  
Darn right,  
we need tax relief  
for Americans so that jobs  
can be created here.  
Barack Obama  
and senator o'biden,  
you said no  
to everything...  
She just said o'Biden.

**Biegun:**

only ones that heard it.  
It was Ronald Reagan  
who said  
that freedom is always  
just one generation away

from extinction.  
We don't pass it to our  
children in the bloodstream.  
We have to fight for it  
and protect it,  
and then hand it to them  
so that they  
will do the same.  
We will fight for it.  
And there is only  
one man in this race  
who has really ever  
fought for you,  
and that's Senator  
John McCain.  
( All cheering )

**Mark:**

Okay, here we go.  
CBS instant poll  
says undecideds  
give the debate  
to Biden, 46%; Palin, 21.  
Fuck CBS and fuck  
their instant poll.  
This is the greatest  
debate victory  
in the history  
of the Republic.

**Rick:**

You see? You just  
had to be you.

**Todd:**

I'm gonna grab a beer.  
- Want one?  
- No.  
Senator McCain wanted me  
to congratulate you  
on a fantastic debate.  
- You really did a great job.  
- Thanks.  
Tell John I want to bring up

bill ayers and reverend Wright.

I think it's time

to go for the jugular.

Uh, you'll have to discuss

that with your running mate.

He made it very clear that he

doesn't want to touch Wright.

I'll talk to him about it.

We have to win this thing.

I so don't want to go

back to Alaska.

Hmm.

Stevie.

You know, I think the worst  
of this thing might be over.

All she's got left

are speeches.

There's no more debates,

no major interviews.

Yeah. We're doing great.

This was an unbelievable win  
for Sarah Palin.

In fact, I think that

it unveiled a level of skill

in communication that

I really have not seen

since Ronald Reagan.

She is a superstar.

- Her ability to by--

- ( Remote clicks )

And she sure is

a breath of fresh air.

I mean, I think people want

someone from

outside of Washington.

She sounded like the future.

Oh, come on, honey.

Why don't you

get some sleep?

- One sec, okay?

- ( Remote clicks )

**Man:**

I think she has done it

in the sense that of the  
four debaters we've seen,  
she was the most interesting,  
attractive of them all.

- She is personable...

- I can still win this thing.

...She's got  
a sense of humor.

She looked straight  
into the camera  
while Joe's  
talking to Gwen...

This map is now lopsided  
in favor of Barack Obama.

John McCain pulling  
out of Michigan.

The first domino  
in an economic debate  
that if John McCain  
does not turn around soon,  
many see more blue  
on this map  
and more trouble  
for John McCain.

**Man:**

announced that the campaign  
is going to leave Michigan  
to Obama to win.

- What's going on there?

- I read that this morning also,

and I fired off

a quick e-mail

and I said, "oh, come on!

Do we have to?"

Do we have to

call it there?"

I want to go back to Michigan,

and I want to try.

**Steve:**

What the fuck?

McCain had hoped to

just score a pick-up.

We made the decision to pull  
the ads out of Michigan  
because we can't win there.  
We need the money  
in Pennsylvania  
- and Ohio.  
- You're making a big mistake.  
You know, I know I'm not  
an expert like yourself,  
but seeing as we're  
seven points out,  
I don't see why  
the vice presidential campaign  
can't make  
a quick stop there  
in the middle  
of the night.  
And who are you  
gonna meet with?  
Your press corps  
doesn't want  
to hear you speak

**at 3:**

And there's no such thing as  
a vice presidential campaign.  
This is  
John McCain's campaign,  
and this is the decision  
that John McCain has made.  
You must stick  
to the script, Governor.  
And what script  
is that, Steve?  
'Cause I haven't seen  
anything resembling  
a script this entire  
flippin' campaign.  
When you publicly  
contradict John McCain,  
you hurt John McCain.  
I know what I know  
what I know.  
( Button clicks )

And there you have it.  
Afternoon, governor.  
This is a pro-stem cell ad?  
Yes, Governor.  
That's the Senator's position.  
Yeah, it's not my position.  
I'm not saying it.  
I thought that--  
you guys should have shown  
me the script ahead of time.  
This is a waste of my time.  
Why wasn't I informed  
that Jeb Bradley  
is appearing with me  
at the rally?  
I don't think we foresaw  
that being a problem.  
I just googled him.  
He's pro-choice.  
There's no way I'm going onstage  
with anyone who's pro-choice.  
Bradley's gone  
or I'm gone, period.  
Yes, Governor.

**Man on TV:**

a stunning \$150,000  
on clothes for Governor  
Sarah Palin and her family  
according to the federal  
election commission reports.  
The revelation  
that so much money  
was spent at fancy  
clothing stores  
like Neiman Marcus  
and Saks Fifth Avenue  
could be a huge blow  
to the governor's image  
as an everyday,  
average American.  
Several republican donors  
have publicly  
expressed outrage...



- You watching this?

- **Man #2:**

Un-fucking-believable.

Why didn't

you people tell me

these clothes

cost this much?

It wasn't just

your clothes, Governor.

It was also for the kids,

Todd and your parents.

**Sarah:**

I want 'Em gone.

Get 'Em out of here.

You know, I buy my clothes

at consignment shops.

I never wanted this fancy crap

in the first place.

- ( Crowd cheering )

- Hey, thanks for coming out.

Hey. Hi, nice to meet you.

- How are you? Hey, hi.

- **Man:**

what's your response

to the findings

that the Alaska state

legislature's report

on your involvement

in the troopergate scandal?

I was thrilled to be

cleared of all wrongdoing.

You know you're not

supposed to be here.

Go back to the press risers,

please. Thank you.

You can't say you were

cleared of all wrongdoing.

- Why not?

- Because you weren't.

The report stated that

you abused your power.

That is the opposite of being cleared of all wrongdoing.

- Then why was I told otherwise?

- You weren't told otherwise.

And why haven't you released a statement saying that Todd was never a member of the Alaska independence party?

Because that would be untrue.

He was a member.

He checked the wrong box.

He registered by accident, and rectified the error immediately.

He was a member for seven years!

I'm sorry,

Governor, but...

There is only a few weeks left in this campaign.

You have got to stop saying things to the press that are blatantly untrue.

That is not the kind of campaign that we are running here.

"Campaign"-- is that what you're calling this now?

Governor, I admit that this is a dysfunctional campaign, but that is what I inherited, and I am doing my level best to help us win this election.

And that's what

I'm trying to do, too, and all you're doing is screwing me up.

That's all you've done this entire time, is get in my way.

- ( Crowd cheering )

- **Sarah:**

And I am raising millions of

dollars for this campaign.  
Hundreds of thousands  
of people are coming  
to see me speak, not John  
McCain, God bless him.  
They are coming to see me.  
So if I am single-handedly  
carrying this campaign,  
I'm gonna do what I want.  
( Crowd cheering )

**Crowd:**

Sarah! Sarah! Sarah!

**Man:**

tell CNN they're annoyed  
by what one aide called  
"Palin going rogue."  
God damn it.  
I hate it when there's  
leaking and backstabbing  
after a campaign, let alone  
before it's fucking over.  
I need you to step in  
and talk to her.  
I don't know, Stevie boy.  
I don't know.  
Sir...  
I can't control her any more.  
I don't know if she's  
getting on a campaign plane  
in the morning or what  
she's gonna say at night.  
We need to finish  
this campaign  
with as much dignity  
as possible,  
and the only way  
that can happen  
is if you get her in line.  
That's not gonna  
do it, Steve.  
She might start  
turning on me.

Most of these polls  
have us trailing  
five to eight points.

- So what now?

- John...

I mean, these numbers  
do show it.

We've got to make this  
about Obama.

We've got to get tough  
and we've got  
to get negative.

If we go this way,  
reverend Wright is still  
the best play we have.

Any of you  
ever been accused  
of having a negro child  
out of wedlock  
because your adopted daughter  
was born in Bangladesh?

And then when she was 16  
and googled her name,  
I had to explain to her  
why president bush's henchmen  
called her a bastard  
when she was 10 years old.

Yeah, listen, South Carolina--  
that was an ugly primary,  
but this isn't  
the same thing.

I mean, reverend Wright  
really did say those things.

That may be true.

But there is a dark side  
to American populism.

Some people win elections  
by tapping into it.

I'm not one of those people.

**Rick:**

So what about bill ayers?  
Obama began his career  
in the living room

of a domestic terrorist.  
Domestic terrorist.  
Nothing to do with race.  
Yeah, okay.  
Ayers is fair.  
Okay. Who ouould do this?  
And Barack held  
one of the first meetings  
of his political career  
in bill ayers' living room.  
( Crowd protesting )  
Pallin' around  
with terrorists.  
( Crowd grumblng )

**Woman:**

He n not a Christian!  
And I am just so fearful  
that this is not a man  
who sees America  
- the way that you and I see America--

**- Man:**

As the greatest source  
for good in this world.  
U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

**Crowd:**

U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

**John:**

Obama plan for America?  
- ( Crowd shouting )

**- Woman:**

In short, who is  
the real Barack Obama?

**Man:**

A terrorist!  
We believe that  
the best of America  
is not all in Washington, D.  
C. we believe--

we believe that  
the best of America  
is in these small towns  
that we get to visit  
and in these wonderful  
little pockets  
of what I call  
the real America.

- Yes!

- Yeah!

**Crowd:**

Sarah! Sarah!  
For a man who's  
written two memoirs,  
he's no open book.

- ( Crowd laughs )

**- Woman:**

What does Barack Obama  
see for America?

He's a Muslim!

He's a socialist!

- He doesn't represent us!

**- Man:**

**Man #2:**

who hate our country.

**- Woman:**

**- Man #3:**

**Woman #2:**

Send him back to Africa!

**Wolf:**

Let me read to you, Tara,  
what congressman John Lewis,  
the civil rights icon,  
said on Saturday  
in a statement.

He said, "as one who was

a victim of violence"  
and hate during the height  
of the civil rights movement,  
I am deeply disturbed  
by the negative tone  
of the McCain-Palin  
campaign.

Senator McCain  
and governor Palin"...

We gotta tone  
the rhetoric down.  
It's gotten out of control.

We can't even mention  
Obama's name any more.  
The crowd gets too hot.  
This isn't the campaign  
I wanted to run.

I can't trust Obama.  
I've read about him,  
and he's not a--  
he's a-- he's a arab.

He's not an amer--  
no, ma'am.

No, ma'am.

He's a decent  
family-man citizen  
who I just happen to have  
disagreements with  
on certain  
fundamental issues.

And that's what this  
campaign is all about.

- ( Applause )

- He's not. Thank you.

**Woman:**

the bull tonight,  
on the Eve  
of the election,  
the campaigns are relying  
on their lucky charms.

- Vodka rocks, lime.

- **Bartender:**

How's he doing?  
He's the most depressed I've  
seen him the entire campaign.  
I can't get him  
to stop watching msnbc,  
which only makes him  
more miserable.  
I'm amazed that someone  
who has been in politics  
this long takes  
all the petty stuff  
so personally.  
And that's why they are  
who they are.  
Reagan, bush, Clinton--  
all they want  
is to be loved.  
The ones that don't  
pathologically need to be loved,  
they don't get  
the nomination.  
They don't get  
to be president.  
If you'd understood  
that fact,  
you might have been able to better  
handle our Alaskan moose hunter.  
God, it was  
a tough campaign.  
It wasn't a campaign,  
it was a bad reality show.  
She didn't cost us  
the election.  
That was bush.  
That was the economy.  
That was just  
the cold hand of fate.  
We didn't have a chance.  
And if we did win,  
would you feel comfortable  
with president Palin?  
Why not?  
Then we would have won.  
Come on, guys, listen.



I, too, wish that  
the American people  
would choose the future  
Abraham Lincoln  
or Thomas Jefferson,  
but unfortunately,  
that's not the way  
it works any more.  
Now it takes  
movie star charisma  
to get elected president.  
And Obama and Palin, that's  
what they are-- they're stars.  
Primary difference being  
Sarah Palin can't name  
a supreme court decision,  
whereas Barack Obama  
was a constitutional  
law Professor.  
Fuck you.  
You know what  
dick Cheney said  
- when he found out we picked her?  
- What?  
He said we made  
a reckless choice.  
When you lose the moral  
high ground to dick Cheney,  
it's time to re-think  
your entire life.  
Enough Cheney cracks, okay?  
I mean, he's very  
misunderstood.  
How does he eat  
when he's wearing  
darth vader's  
helmet, anyway?  
There we go.  
Gentlemen, let's wish  
each other good luck.  
Who knows,  
we could have another  
Dewey-Truman  
situation here.

Always room for an upset.  
Yeah, maybe I'll wake up  
with a full head of hair.  
You know, if we had just  
asked for policy questions  
in the briefing,  
then we would have known.  
I thought Culvahouse was gonna  
grill her during the vet.  
Culvahouse thought  
we were gonna grill her.  
It haunts me.

**Woman:**

After a hard-fought battle,  
the nation's longest-running  
presidential race  
comes down to this day--  
election day.

**Man:**

in all the lower 48 states  
as we approach the end  
of this historic election.

**Man #2:**

across the country  
by the millions today.

**Woman #2:**

the highest in decades.  
John McCain will carry Kentucky  
once again, as expected.  
Eight electoral votes,  
not a huge surprise.  
We are not able  
to make a projection  
- in the four other states...  
- ( Phone vibrating )  
That are closing  
all their polls  
at this hour right now.  
And some of them  
are battleground states--

Georgia, Indiana,  
South Carolina and Virginia.  
It doesn't necessarily mean that  
it's gonna be close or not...  
- ( Elevator dings )  
- Where's Virginia?

**Man:**

And Ohio's gone.  
- Got it.  
- I'll keep you posted.  
Call you in 10.  
What's going on?  
We're gonna lose  
Pennsylvania.  
And Ohio.  
Steve...  
There's something  
I have to tell you.  
What's wrong?  
I didn't vote.  
I couldn't do it.  
I didn't vote.  
I couldn't do it.  
It's okay.

**- Wolf:**

**- Woman:**

we'll take you right to  
the voter analysis...  
How we doing,  
Stevie boy?  
We lost Pennsylvania  
and Ohio, sir.  
( Sighs )  
When my grandfather  
found out that the Japanese  
had surrendered,  
he was lost.  
He didn't know  
what to do with himself.  
He came home,  
dropped dead

the very next day.  
Fought his war,  
then he died.  
And my dad,  
when he retired  
from the Navy,  
he fell into  
a sense of despair  
for the rest of his life.  
I'm never gonna quit, Steve.  
I can't.  
I don't know how  
to just fade away.  
Senator, I--  
I just want to say--  
( sighs )  
What?  
I'm s-- I'm s--  
I'm so sorry that I...  
Suggested her.  
Don't be.  
Fuck 'Em.  
What were  
we supposed to do?  
- ( Music playing )  
- A truly historic night here in the United States.  
Barack Obama will become  
the 44th president  
of the United States.

**Piper:**

Sorry, mom.  
Oh, thanks, kiddo.  
I'm really sorry, mom.  
Sweetheart.  
You did great.  
You know that, right?  
- Yeah.  
- Okay?  
Come here, baby.  
- It's all right. We're okay. Yeah.

**- Todd:**

I'll take the stress

very literally here.

- Just one quick-- you think?

- ( Knocking )

And on this next part, would you make sure you bold that?

Oh, Chris, I need you to load this in the teleprompter for me.

Steve schmidt told me

you weren't making a speech.

No. I am making a speech.

Scully cleared it

with Rick Davis.

So just go ahead

and load it, okay?

Okay.

Okay, so, on the stress

on this one, I'll take it.

- Jesus!

- Hey, sorry.

Steve, I'm getting a bunch of mixed messages here.

Is the governor giving

a concession speech or not--

I've already sd d this five times already.

She is not giving a speech.

Well, she seems

to think otherwise.

Well, she's not.

What do you want me

to tell her?

Tell her she's not

fucking speaking!

Okay, well, you both

seem pretty certain--

well, let my certainty

supersede her certainty.

God damn it!

( Indistinct chatter )

Steve.

You want to see me?

Yes. This way.

**Steve:**

Excuse us a moment.

I understand you've prepared a speech.

Is that correct?

Yes, I have.

I want to salute John  
for everything he's done  
for this country.

It's not going to happen.  
You're not giving a speech.  
And why is that, Steve?

You're not giving a speech  
because the vice  
presidential candidate  
has never given a concession  
speech on election night.

It's not about you.

It's about the country.

Yeah, well, there's a lot of  
things never been done before.

Governor...

This country  
has just elected  
the first African-  
American president  
in the history  
of its existence.

And it is  
the concession speech  
that will legitimize  
his succession  
as commander in chief.

It is a serious  
and solemn occasion,  
and John McCain,  
and only John McCain,  
will be giving  
this sacred speech.

This is how  
it has been done  
in every  
presidential election  
since the dawn  
of the Republic,  
and you, Sarah Palin,

will not change  
the importance  
of this proud  
American tradition.  
"We fought-- we fought  
as hard as we could."  
And though we feel short,  
"the fail--  
the failure is mine."  
- ( Laughter )  
- Oh, jeez, no--

**John:**

that short, mark.  
- ( Door opens )  
- "Fell short," boss.  
- Yeah, thanks.  
- "Fell short." It's a typo.  
- John.  
- Hi, Sarah.  
Well, we fought  
the good fight.  
Mm-hmm, we did.  
Now I'm just gonna get out  
there and thank America.  
I can't wait to get  
out there and thank you.  
I have a speech written  
that is a real tribute to ya.  
No, I think these guys  
have that covered.  
Right, Steve?  
Yes, sir.  
We have it covered.  
I just wanted people to know  
what a great man you are.  
I appreciate that,  
but these guys got it  
all worked out.  
Yeah, you know, we probably  
should get going now, sir, so...  
All right. Good.  
- Okay. We'll see you afterwards.  
- I'll see you out there.

You're one of the leaders  
of the party now, Sarah.  
Don't get co-opted by limbaugh  
and the other extremists.  
They'll destroy the party  
if you let them.

Remember,  
you're a hockey mom.  
You just wanted  
to make a difference,  
and you did.  
A big, huge difference.  
I'll always be grateful.  
Thank you.

- We should go, sir.  
- Thank you, John.

My friends, we have--  
we have come to the end  
of a long journey.

( Crowd moaning )

The American people  
have spoken,  
and they have  
spoken clearly.

A little while ago,  
I had the honor  
of calling  
Senator Barack Obama...

- ( Crowd booing )

- ...To congrat--  
please.

To congratulate him  
on being elected  
the next president  
of the country we both love.

( Crowd groaning )

**John:**

Whatever our differences,  
we are fellow Americans.

- ( Crowd cheers )

**- Man:**



**John:**

grateful to all of you  
for the great honor  
of your support  
and all you have  
done for me.

I am also, of course,  
very thankful to  
Governor Sarah Palin,  
one of the best campaigners  
I have ever seen.

( Crowd cheering )

Still think  
she's fit for office?

Eh, who cares?

In 48 hours, no one will  
even remember who she is.

**John:**

with great interest  
to her future service  
to Alaska,  
the republican party  
and our country.

( Applause, cheering )

**Crowd:**

Sarah! Sarah! Sarah!

( Stopwatch ticking )

There were numerous instances  
of her saying things  
that were not accurate  
that opened the door  
to criticism  
that she was being  
untruthful and inaccurate.

And I think that is something  
that continues to this day.

And you think  
that's fair criticism?

I think that's  
fair criticism.

Early on, though,  
you apparently said

she doesn't know anything.  
In the immediate aftermath  
of her selection,  
it was clear to us  
that we...

Had a lot of work to do.  
For you, picking Sarah Palin  
was about winning an election,  
not necessarily about who's gonna  
be best as vice president.

My job is to give  
political advice.  
We needed to do  
something bold  
to try to win the race.

If you had it  
to do over again,  
would you have her  
on the ticket?

You don't get to go  
back in time, Anderson,  
and-- and have  
do-overs in life.

( Music playing )

God bless America  
again

you see all the trouble  
that she's in  
wash her pretty face  
dry her eyes and then

God bless America again

God bless America again

you see all the trouble  
that she's in

wash her pretty face

dry her eyes and then

God bless America again

wash her pretty face

dry her eyes and then

God bless America again.