

Don't

Run

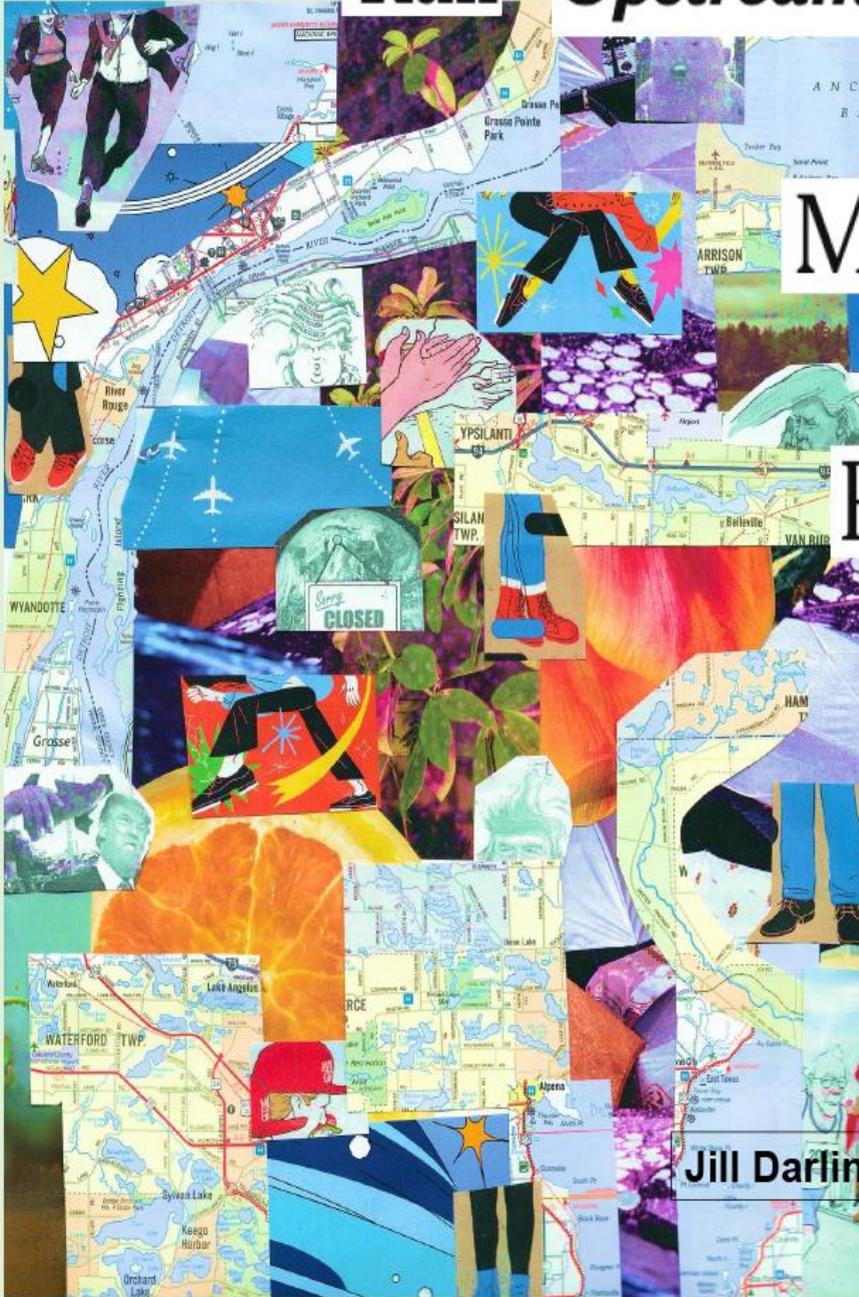
Upstream

Make

Pain

Fly

Jill Darling



**Don't Run Upstream**

**Make Pain Fly**

by Jill Darling

Frog Island Press  
Ypsilanti, MI

*Don't Run Upstream*  
*Make Pain Fly*  
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**Don't Run Upstream**

**Make Pain Fly**

“creating the space to do things which were recently unthinkable.”

-- Ed Luce



Confuse, confound, demoralize,  
embarrass, thwart, unsettle,  
check mate

Gain advantage, outshine, outclass,  
outdo, outperform, overtake,  
upstage, eclipse, surpass,  
beat, top, clinch, a cut  
above, triumph,  
trump card

I.

## Cheap Trucks, Strong Tires

I think I've been treated very rough. Extremely unfairly in a sense, in a true sense. I wouldn't only complain. I would say The Times was about the roughest of all. You could make the case The Post was bad, but every once in a while I'd actually get a good article.

It's been very tough. It's been 18 months of brutality in a true sense, but we won it. We won it pretty big. The final numbers are coming out. Or I guess they're coming out.

We heard that day that Hillary was hearing that they're going to lose Michigan, which hasn't been lost in 38 years. Or something. But 38 years.

And they didn't want to lose Michigan. So they went out along with Obama and Michelle, Bill and Hillary, they went to Michigan late that, sort of late afternoon and I said, 'Let's go to Michigan.'

So I finished up in New Hampshire and at 10 o'clock I went to Michigan. We got there at 12 o'clock. We started speaking around 12:45, actually, and we had 31,000 people and I said, really, I mean, there are things happening.

And I thought we were going to win it. And we won it, we won it, you know, relatively easily, we won it by a number of points. Florida we won by 180,000 —

was that the number, 180?

PRIEBUS: [inaudible]

So we won that by a lot of votes and, you know,  
we had a great victory.

But I think the popular vote would have been easier  
in a true sense because you'd go to a few places. I think  
that's the genius of the Electoral College.

I was never a fan of the Electoral College until now.

Until now.

[laughter]

Until now.

I guess now I like it for two reasons. What it does do is it gets you out to see states that you'll never see otherwise.

It's very interesting.

Like Maine.

I went to Maine four times.

I went to Maine 2 for one, because everybody was saying you can get to 269 but there is no path to 270.

We learned that was false because we ended up with what, three-something.

The campaign was vicious. They say it was the most vicious primary and the most vicious campaign. I guess, added together, it was definitely the most vicious; probably, I assume you sold a lot of newspapers.

[laughter]

There are a lot of things I feel strongly about.

I'm not looking to look back and go through this.

This was a very painful period.

This was a very painful election with all of the email things  
and all of the foundation things and  
all of the everything that they went through  
and the whole country went through.

This was a very painful period of time.

I read recently where it was, it was, they're saying, they used to say  
it was Lincoln against whoever and  
none of us were there to see it.

And there aren't a lot of recordings of that, right?

[laughter]

I do have an open mind. And we've had storms always.

Not like this.

You know the hottest day ever was in 1890-something, 98.

You know, you can make lots of cases for different views.

I have a totally open mind.

My uncle was for 35 years a professor at M.I.T.  
He was a great engineer, scientist.  
He was a great guy. And he was, a long time ago, he had feelings —  
this was a long time ago —  
he had feelings on this subject.

It's a very complex subject.

I'm not sure anybody is ever going to really know.

I know we have, they say they have science  
on one side but then they also have those horrible emails  
that were sent between the scientists. Where was that,  
in Geneva  
or wherever  
five years ago?

Terrible.

Where they got caught, you know, so you see that and you say,  
what's this all about.

As far as the, you know, potential conflict of interests, though, I mean I know that from the standpoint, the law is totally on my side, meaning, the president can't have a conflict of interest.

That's been reported very widely.

Despite that, I don't want there to be a conflict of interest anyway.

And the laws, the president can't.

And I understand why the president can't have a conflict of interest now because everything a president does in some ways is like a conflict of interest, but I have, I've built a very great company and it's a big company and it's all over the world.

I'd say this, and I mean this and I said it on "60 Minutes"  
the other night: My company is so unimportant to me  
relative to what I'm doing, 'cause I don't need  
money, I don't need anything, and by the way,  
I'm very under-leveraged, I have a very small  
percentage of my money in debt, very very  
small percentage of my money  
in debt, in fact, banks  
have said 'We'd like  
to loan you money,  
we'd like to give you  
any amount  
of money.'

I've been there before,  
I've had it both ways,  
I've been over-levered,  
I've been under-levered

and,  
especially as you get  
older, under-levered  
is much better.

I don't care about my company.  
It doesn't matter.  
My kids run it.

They'll say I have a conflict because we just  
opened a beautiful hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue,  
so every time somebody stays at that hotel,  
if they stay because I'm president,

I guess you could say

it's a conflict of interest

It's a conflict of interest, but again,  
I'm not going to have anything to do  
with the hotel, and they may very well.

I mean it could be that occupancy at that hotel  
will be because, psychologically, occupancy  
at that hotel will be probably a more  
valuable asset now than it was before, O.K.?

The brand is certainly a hotter brand  
than it was before. I can't help that,  
but I don't care.

I mean, the wind is a very deceiving thing.

First of all, we don't make the windmills in the United States.

They're made in Germany and Japan.  
They're made out of massive amounts of steel,  
which goes into the atmosphere,  
whether it's in our country or not,  
it goes into the atmosphere.

The windmills kill birds and the windmills need massive  
subsidies. In other words, we're subsidizing wind  
mills all over this country.

I mean, for the most part they don't work.  
I don't think they work at all without subsidy,  
and that bothers me, and  
they kill all the birds.

You go to a windmill, you know in California  
they have the, what is it?  
The golden eagle?

And they're like, if you shoot a golden eagle,  
they go to jail for five years and yet they kill  
them by, they actually have to get permits  
that they're only allowed to kill 30  
or something  
in one year.

The windmills are devastating to the bird population, O.K.

Some environmentalists agree with me very much  
because of all of the things I just said,  
including the birds, and  
some don't.

But it's hard to explain.

I don't care about anything having to do with anything  
having to do with anything  
other than the country.

In other words, in theory, I can be president of the United States and run my business 100 percent, sign checks on my business, which I am phasing out of very rapidly, you know, I sign checks, I'm the old-fashioned type.

I like to sign checks so I know what is going on as opposed to pressing a computer button, boom, and thousands of checks are automatically sent.

It keeps, it tells me what's going on a little bit and it tells contractors that I'm watching.

But in theory I could run my business perfectly,  
and then run the country perfectly.

And there's never been a case like this where somebody's had, like, if you look at other people of wealth, they didn't have this kind of asset and this kind of wealth, frankly.

So in theory I don't have to do anything. But I would like to do something. I would like to try and formalize something, because I don't care about my business.

So I don't have to do anything, but I want to do something if I can.

If there is something.

[cross talk]

...if he said something to me that, in terms of his views, or that I thought were inappropriate or bad, number one I wouldn't do anything, and number two, he would have to be gone.

Breitbart's different.  
Breitbart cover things, I mean like  
The New York Times covers things. I mean,  
I could say that Arthur is alt-right  
because they covered an alt-right story.

[laughing]

*But you are aware, sir, with all due respect, that African-Americans and Jews and many folks who disagree with the coverage of Breitbart and the slant that Breitbart brings to the news view him that way, aren't you?*

[cross talk]

[laughter]

[laughter]

[cross talk]

Paul Ryan right now loves me,  
Mitch McConnell loves me,  
it's amazing how winning  
can change things.

If you go through it, you look back 20 years, they didn't used to call it the Rust Belt.

You pass factory after factory after factory that's empty and rusting.

Rust is the good part, 'cause they're worse than rusting, they're falling down.

To me more important is taking care of the people that really have proven to be, to love Donald Trump, as opposed to the political people.

And frankly if the political people don't take care of these people, they're not going to win and you're going to end up with maybe a total different kind of government than what you're looking at right now.

And I'll tell you, I believe, and you'll hear  
announcements over the next couple of months, but  
I believe I've talked numerous comp —  
in four-minute conversations  
with top people — numerous companies  
that have, leaving, or potentially leaving  
our country  
with thousands  
of jobs.

*Are you worried, though, that those companies  
will keep their factories here, but  
the jobs will be replaced  
by robots?*

They will, and  
we'll make the robots too.

[laughter]

So it's very important.  
So there are a lot of things.  
But infrastructure, Arthur,  
is going to be a part of it.

*It's part of jobs, isn't it?*

I don't even think it's a big part of it.  
It's going to be a big number  
but I think I am doing things that are more important  
than infrastructure, but infrastructure  
is still a part of it, and we're talking  
about a very large-scale infrastructure  
bill. And that's not a very Republican thing —  
I didn't even know that,  
frankly.

*It worked for Franklin Roosevelt.*

I have a friend,  
he's a big trucker,  
one of the biggest. And  
he orders these incredible trucks,  
the best, I won't mention the name  
but it's a certain truck company  
that makes — they call them the Rolls-Royce  
of trucks. You know, the most expensive  
trucks. And he calls me up  
about two months ago and he goes,  
'Man, I'm going to buy the cheapest trucks I can buy.' And  
I said, 'Why?' and —  
you know, and this is the biggest guy —  
he goes, 'My trucks are coming back,  
they're going from New York to California and  
they're all busted up. The highways  
are in such bad shape,  
they're hitting potholes,  
they're hitting everything.'

He said, 'I'm not buying these trucks  
anymore, I'm going to buy the cheapest stuff and  
the strongest tires I can get.'

That's the exact expression he used,  
'the cheapest trucks  
and the strongest tires.'

I had a great meeting with President Obama.  
I never met him before.  
I really liked him a lot.

And it was a great chemistry.  
I think if he said overwhelmed,  
I don't think he meant that in a bad way.

I'm not overwhelmed by it.  
You can do things and fix it, I  
think he meant it that way.

— I didn't know if I'd like him.  
I probably thought that maybe I wouldn't,  
but I did, I did like him.  
I really enjoyed him a lot.

[cross talk, laughter]

He told me what he thought his,  
what the biggest problems  
of the country were,  
which I don't think I should reveal, I

I was actually surprised a little bit.  
But he told me the problems,

he did tell me what he thought were the biggest problems,

in particular one problem  
that he thought was a big problem  
for the country, which I'd rather  
have you ask him.

I'm a little bit surprised I'm telling you that I really liked him a lot.

I spoke to Putin, as you know, he called me, essentially

*How do you see that relationship?*

Essentially everybody called me,  
all of the major leaders, and  
most of them I've spoken to.

It is a great thing that we can get along with not only Russia  
but that we get along with other countries.

I don't want to have people saying 'conflict.'  
Even though the president of the United States —  
I hope whoever is writing this story, it's written fairly —  
the president of the United States is allowed to have  
whatever conflicts he wants —  
he or she wants.

I would love to be able to be the one that made peace with Israel and the Palestinians. I would love that, that would be such a great achievement.

Because nobody's been able to do it.

I would love to be — and you can put that down in a list of many things that I'd like to be able to do.

Now a lot of people tell me, really great people tell me, that it's impossible, you can't do it. I've had a lot of, actually, great Israeli businesspeople tell me, you can't do that, it's impossible. I disagree, I think you can make peace.

I think people are tired now of being shot, killed.

I think we can do that. I have reason to believe I can do that.

General Mattis is a strong,  
highly dignified man.  
I met with him at length and I asked him that question.

I said, what do you think of waterboarding?  
He said — I was surprised — he said,  
'I've never found it to be useful.'

He said, 'I've always found, give me a pack of cigarettes  
and a couple of beers  
and I do better with that  
than I do with torture.'

And I was very impressed by that answer.  
I was surprised, because he's known  
as being like the toughest guy. And  
when he said that,

I'm not saying it changed my mind.

Look, we have people that are chopping off  
heads and drowning people in steel  
cages and we're not allowed  
to waterboard.

If it's so important to the American people,  
I would go for it.  
I would be guided by that.

But General Mattis found it to be very less important,  
much less important than I thought he would say.  
I thought he would say — you know  
he's known as Mad Dog Mattis,  
right?

Mad Dog for a reason.  
I thought he'd say 'It's phenomenal,  
don't lose it.' He actually said, 'No,

give me some cigarettes and some drinks,  
and we'll do better.'

II.

Contract: The Tramp (fill in the blank) Scam

I rub your back you get a tax break some loser will pick up the tab  
oh rub my back too oh that's good how do you feel about 18 cents  
fair great terrific don't worry they'll never know what hit'em the  
other 82 cents loser will foot the bill

You want, roads? Bridges? Human organs? Charge a toll, I don't  
care, make money. Take out the organs and sell them back for a  
good price. Subsidize profit margins. Cut off the limbs. Let it  
crumble. Charge more. Flailing falling fool will pay.

Jewelry adornment little penis family jewels grass snake dragon  
moron let's have dinner you'll pay for it look at me I'm the biggest  
ever but you're the one who's screwed

Wrong wrong wrong I want giant I want mega I want the best I  
want you to be happy no regulations build it big giant shiny new  
best terrific tell everyone everyone will be so happy not wrong not  
small don't fix it build something giant expensive someone will  
pay everyone Mexico Nafta tolls fees price for living go huge not  
tiny hands not about needs zero empathy politically not correct no  
future no vision no

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Screwed, Sign Here

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date

Trickle down tragedy  
*After Robert Reich*

blame them ("other") foreign separate and away. then make excuses to cut change scapegoat. where do fires come from, you ask? make up any answer. raking, sweeping, velocity of air through my dreams. i have to say, the earth is changing and california is at the forefront. well them and alaska and florida and the rest of us. getting rid of regulations will not help that. pollute water air gut protections for people kids workers. we know the birds are dying, targeted by turbines, and so, let them eat asbestos! watch profits fly. grab hold of melting ice. we need more choice of goods. more spending power. more product support. we like debt, it keeps us on our toes, reminds us we are educated (bought and paid for! with interest! still accumulating interest!) chemicals help green, ripen, keep away flies, it's my own fault if i breathe it in, get the cancer, don't take care of my own health. the chemicals the pain the change the melting the heating the catastrophe floods down but that's ok because capitalism. could have been the ceo of that company if i'd wanted, worked harder. i say let them profit. it's just business. regulations are for communists. let banks grow earn exponentially, never mind if only the losses trickle down, no one will notice.

(a kind of tightening how everything is 'historic' why not just have some progress instead: pictures of children in Syria videos without sound victim blaming what about state politics saturated with certifiable anti-intellectual non-democracy has it been five minutes going on absurd nothing fits so instead I just keep saying *Octavia Butler* no other words to express the social experiment she saw and foresaw apocalypse is not some immediate thing that happens, like everything's fine and then it's Mad Max the point is the gradual slipping and sliding toward life in the barren desert with no electricity no water people cannibalizing anything that is left or *The Road* the book and movie you have to pay attention to the background how many years leading up to the beginning of the story the sense of time economic environmental slow burn)

(the end of civilization coincides with environmental catastrophe but these are interconnected breakdown in government in the economic system inability to provide shutting down the electrical grid loss of sustaining natural manufactured or other resources in the movie instead of sunlight there is only grey haze and something like ash always falling to the ground characters can only eat if they find a stash of canned food and eventually that will all run out there's no way of growing anything only memories of scraps cannibals will eat each other until no one is left and one wonders about the sense of hope the conclusion of the book movie reality)

## The 4 Hazardous Signs of Acquiescence on Account of Decider Despotism *After Robert Reich*

1. **Normalizing.** Believe in the now. It's not so bad, could be worse, that guy was worse, history shows us worse, they all just say shit, just another blowhard, how far we've come, checks and balances, we protect our own, don't worry I'm worried but not too worried, resilience, only four years or two years or maybe less, anything can still happen I mean look at everything that's already happened, someone will intervene or not but we'll survive, I'll survive, hate big government, money in the bank maybe we'll get a tax cut how bad or what's worse or anyway football silly cats let's go shopping
2. **Outrage Numbness.** Scroll scroll scroll scroll scroll oh cats scroll scroll scroll scroll oh shit winter storm scroll scroll scroll cabinet picks oh that's bad crap don't look protect yourself go back to bed get some rest catch up on sleep build strength ran out of tissues a long time ago stopped trying to make sense no sense out of sense if I just close my eyes put my head down
3. **Cynical.** You suck. They suck. Liars. Fake shit. Broken fucked up shit. Rigged shit. What the fuck let it burn let it die. Start from scratch. You'll get what's coming. Good for you. I'll say I told you so. Stupid ass. Tough shit. The hell with it.
4. **Helpless.** Can't breathe.

## Memo to the Press: Don't Let Drumpf Cover You Up *After Robert Reich*

1. Tweets are tweets are tweets: regurgitated, intestinal, reactive spew; treat them as such.
2. Lies are lies are bating, goading, gaslighting, backlashing, vitriol; call it out.
3. Don't fall for it: performative pandemonium, spectacular unleashing, theatrics of absurd depiction.
4. "Churlish, thin-skinned, vindictive, narcissistic rants divert attention": just turn away, turn away.
5. Focus. Don't take your eye off the prize. That is to say, what's really happening here: skimming, skinning, dismantling, hating, dictating, antagonizing, lining pockets, greasing catastrophe.  
\*btw: collusion and make a list of illegal activity.
6. Faux news is a propaganda machine. Fabricate, misconstrue, stretch, twist, tangle, criss, cross, turn inside, out, around. Hyperbole. Distortion.
7. The devil is in the details, and in the staff. Devil leaders make evil policy. Infect civil rights. Children dead at the border. The only schools left are for the wealthy. As the earth burns.
8. This is a battle between democracy and demagoguery. Act like it's not just on TV.
9. Just do it, even if it costs (Kaepernick). Slow and steady wins (but there's no time for slow, just steady, unrattled, clear-eyed) don't believe the hype, don't get mad get glad, think different, never forget to ask where's the beef?

100 days  
(in a way, *after Robert Reich*)

Resist repealing  
Resist cutting  
Resist deporting  
Resist enabling  
Resist supporting  
Resist acquiescing  
Resist ignoring  
Resist becoming numb  
Resist boundaries  
Resist divisions  
Resist hate  
Resist propaganda  
Resist spin  
Resist nepotism  
Resist orange  
Resist losing everything  
Resist pussy grabbing  
Resist harassment  
Resist gaslighting  
Resist alternative facts  
Resist outright lies  
Resist making excuses  
Resist voter suppression  
Resist subterfuge  
Resist giving in  
Resist giving up  
Resist walking away  
Make visible  
Make it plain  
Make it loud  
Make zines  
Make tension  
Make noise  
Make friends  
Make petitions  
Make postcards  
Make clamor  
Make progress  
Make coalitions  
Make all kinds of stickers  
Make votes  
Make communities  
Make art  
Make stories

Make poems  
Make it OK to speak up  
Make movements  
Make America green  
Make America care  
Make American rainbows  
Make America quilted  
Make American pie  
Make America educated  
Make American jobs  
Make America accessible  
Make American empathy  
Make America more like Canada  
Invest in people  
Invest in action  
Invest in accountability  
Invest in change  
Invest in hope  
Invest in phone calls  
Invest in yard signs  
Invest in neon lights  
Invest in teachers  
Invest in wind  
Invest in solar  
Invest in water  
Invest in lead-free-living  
Invest in seniors  
Invest in job training  
Invest in tolerance  
Invest in equity  
Invest in kids  
Invest in health care  
Invest in building confidence  
Invest in per-student-funding  
Invest in classrooms  
Invest in compassion  
Invest in community gardens  
Invest in vegetables for all  
Invest in not backing down  
Invest in continual pressure  
Invest in tangible resistance labor  
Invest in automatic voter registration  
Invest in fairly-drawn voting districts  
Invest in constitutional rights for everyone  
Invest in the freedom to speak and act kindly  
Invest in the idea of democracy we've been fed  
Invest in uncovering the truth about the democracy now lost  
Invest in encouraging others to get up join in take hold make change

Survival of the best told story

*After Robert Reich*

criminal co-conspirator  
collusion with the Russians      longstanding  
business fraud      obstruction of justice  
offenses      pressure on      overwhelming evidence of  
packing.      to convict      send  
optimistic. No      history has been convicted  
certainly remain in control  
the integrity of lizards      right-wing sleaze  
media      distort and cover up      convincing 35 to 40 percent of America  
lie and claim a conspiracy  
crook and liar  
engineering scams      above the law      conman  
entertainer-demagogue      confusion  
hate      paranoia      outrages  
loathsome      Helsinki Charlottesville      coverups      slurs  
corruption  
2020.      concedes  
without being      carried out      stirrings of civil  
insurgency  
Bottom line:  
fight of our lives

### III.

T and B Resurrect “Someone Made Fun of Me Once as a Kid so I’m Creating Chaos to Take Control of the World While No One’s Looking and Fashioning a Narrative About How I’m Helping Everyone Which is a Total Fake Out”

*After Robert Reich*

T [redacted] elevating his [redacted] B demoting Intelligence and [redacted] B will join the [redacted] principals [redacted] the top [redacted] advising the P

Meanwhile, [redacted] Intelligence [redacted] will now attend [redacted] only when [redacted] pertaining to [redacted] have never before [redacted] Security [redacted] because [redacted] factual [redacted] facts. [redacted] analysis. [redacted] Trump [redacted].

In case you forgot, [redacted] B [redacted] platform [redacted] right [redacted] conspiracy [redacted] white [redacted] truly [redacted] Former [redacted] “stone cold crazy” Former [redacted] “big mistake” [redacted] “I am worried [redacted] radical [redacted] Security [redacted] indispensable [redacted] view.” [redacted] big worry [redacted] unhinged [redacted] ignorant [redacted] nuts [redacted] malicious [redacted] supervised [redacted] decisions [redacted] the world [redacted] zero-sum game. [redacted] we lose [redacted] only [redacted] First”

[redacted] John F. Kennedy [redacted] any friend [redacted] any foe [redacted] friend and foe [redacted] As [redacted] observes [redacted] all other [redacted] are out to [redacted] surpass [redacted] Not incidentally, “ [redacted] ” was the [redacted] pro-Nazi [redacted] Charles Lindbergh [redacted] Churchill [redacted] Hitler [redacted] “ [redacted] ” is no less dangerous [redacted] alienating [redacted] destroying [redacted] risking [redacted] Unsupervised [redacted] holocaust.

## Miscalculate

an unwieldy misappropriation of scarcity management one might say quote woody allen  
or nostalgia 70s humor the mist of corporate oligarchic operational efficiency  
standard(ize) or cut out the description that best applies to the rational use of resources  
swerve from human(ity)(ities) to recreate in one's own (business) image wipe the  
(liberal)(arts) plate clean to re-market a fabricated under-development of lackluster  
creative expression violently misunderstood one might say neoliberal say trump is a real  
candidate say too late already signed away lacking vision (can't afford the inflated price of  
glasses) the lottery (shirley jackson) was right all along new world value of death  
entertainment (hunger games) culture put your hands up so we can shoot you watch your  
blood leak out value a grab for any illusion of holding on to something

take 5 min to breathe language before a too bright morning fog like oxygen contained or  
not by an impulse dedication who am I to do your dirty work who are you to spill vitriol  
virulence as if there is a word strong enough searching for words to represent as they say  
depth or what the problem is and how to capture unhinged or in the most basic way  
dangerous you see we have words too use words the problem of course is trying to at all  
comprehend actions that then require definitively powerful words articulate the travesty  
it's not funny not something to take into consideration it's what do you call it how does  
one say it's about calling out our own behavior we are complicit not part of the solution  
education destroyed journalism failing profit at any cost tax evasion unpaid labor  
(celebrate the purposeful not paying for the labor) blame immigrants blame women blame  
socialism perpetuate incite revel in catastrophic disdain

dreaming torture ash falling eat human skin grill bones suck marrow there were trees now

there are books to burn on the fire stay warm hold it together walking the deserted highway

dreaming purple haze scattered light shrill calling out fading we missed it, the moment

before, and then this dwindling, a thread, hold on or let go crumbling through my fingers

catch all or nothing parading around like something used to exist here

can you tolerate the extent of this republic of foreshadowed abomination, or abominable  
like a monster a cartoon burlesque in this month approaching winter not yet frozen I need  
to make a fence not a wall across the yard a contained space for recreation and canine  
theatrics please excuse the verbal eloquences I've been reading Lolita a dance of prose  
linguistic stylistics the domineering Humbert obsessed narcissist the rape and pillage of a  
life how she Lolita was turned into a character in culture victim blamed a Lolita is a tramp  
or a tease she is the vixen an entire misreading for the profit of another damaging cultural  
narrative about women if only women mattered for more than their pussies money  
grubbing grabbing pussies the warnings now made plain

it's like when you go through a breakup and every song on the radio speaks directly to your pain, your struggle to find hope, to look ahead while constantly being pulled back into despair cbc radio sat morning stabbing me in the gut songs like "this ain't bringing me down" "gonna be a lovely day lovely day lovely day" something heart wrenching by Adele a song about not recognizing the world I live in now, the one about loving life in the city but missing the small town

cubulation confabulation reincarnation discombobulation fortification initiation

instigation will of the nation expropriation solicitation mass appropriation disinclination

resignation masturbation infiltration acclimatization regeneration regurgitation say it

with your face on a hint of the lesion manifestation gropification affiliation gentrification

misinformation amelioration well of suspicion tabulation tribulation pelioration

jubilation turbid vacation incendiary gamification compilation aggregation smaltzy

putrefaction slick decomposition an abbreviated abdication absorbed absolution chill of

the sanctification emanation Revolution emancipation

it's not to say one needs high marks nor harvard transcripts but can you read this  
sentence? sound it out. three words. what is happening. keep reading consider the relevant  
or any fact or the children think of the children. pants on fire liar liar play fast and loose  
from the hip straight talking son of a gun son of a holy places lost in space can you hear  
me now a misarticulation static on the line of logical fallacies minus the logic clinging to  
vice not virtue selling knock offs on the corner

IV.

## Beckett Does Stein

We are very close. It's a tough — you know, health care.

The one thing I'll say about myself, so, Obama was in there for eight years and got Obamacare. Hillary Clinton was in there eight years and they never got Hillarycare, whatever they called it at the time.

*Where does it go from here, do you think?*

Well, I say, let's not vote on repeal.

Let's just vote on this.

So first, they vote on the vote.

And that happens sometime Friday?

*Next week.*

Or Monday? Monday.

And then they'll vote on this, and we'll see.

We have some meetings scheduled today.

I think we have six people who are really sort of O.K.

They are all good people.

We don't have bad people.

I know the bad people.

Believe me, do I know bad people.

And then, went to France the following week, because  
it was the 100th year.

[inaudible]

The Paris Accord — I wasn't going to get along with France  
for a little while, because people forget,  
because it is a very unfair agreement to us.

I want to do the same thing as everyone else.  
We can't do that?  
We can't do that?  
That's O.K.  
Let me get out.  
Frankly, the people that like me, love that I got out.

He [President Macron] called me and said, “I’d love to have you there and honor you in France,” having to do with Bastille Day.

Plus, it’s the 100th year of the First World War.

That’s big.

And I said yes.

I mean, I have a great relationship with him.

He’s a great guy.

*He was very deferential to you. Very.*

He's a great guy. Smart. Strong. Loves holding my hand.

*I've noticed.*

People don't realize he loves holding my hand.  
And that's good, as far as that goes.

I mean, really. He's a very good person. And a tough guy,  
but look, he has to be. I think he is going to be a terrific  
president of France.

But he does love holding my hand.

[crosstalk]

I was standing there with him, with probably hundreds of  
thousands of people.

It was a very crowded [garbled]

And it was one of the most beautiful parades I have ever seen.

And in fact, we should do one one day down Pennsylvania  
Ave.

*I wondered if you were going to say that.*

I've always thought of that.

I've always thought of that.  
I've thought of it long before.

But the Bastille Day parade was — now that was a super-duper — O.K. I mean, that was very much more than normal.

They must have had 200 planes over our heads. Normally you have the planes and that's it, like the Super Bowl parade. And everyone goes crazy, and that's it.

That happened for — and you know what else that was nice? It was limited.

You know, it was two hours, and the parade ended.

It didn't go a whole day.

They didn't go crazy.

You don't want to leave, but you have to.

Or you want to leave, really.

These things are going on all day.

It was a two-hour parade.

They had so many different zones.

Maybe 100,000 different uniforms, different divisions, different bands. Then we had the retired, the older, the ones who were badly injured.

The whole thing, it was an incredible thing.

It was beautiful.

[garbled]

It's been a long time.

Nothing changes.

Wait till you see what we're going to do.

*Sounds like it's going to be very interesting.*

Much more interesting than anybody would understand.

O.K.

He said, "They love you in France."

I said, "O.K.,

I just don't want to hurt you."

We had dinner at the Eiffel Tower, and the bottom  
of the Eiffel Tower looked like they could have never  
had a bigger celebration ever

in the history  
of the Eiffel Tower.

We toured the museum, we went to Napoleon's tomb

Napoleon finished a little bit bad.  
But I asked that.

So I asked, so what about Napoleon?  
He said: "No, no, no.  
What he did was incredible.  
He designed Paris."

The street grid, the way they work, you know, the spokes.  
He did so many things even beyond.

And his one problem is he didn't go to Russia  
that night because he had extracurricular activities,  
and they froze to death.

How many times has Russia been saved by the weather?

Same thing happened to Hitler.  
Not for that reason, though.

Hitler wanted to consolidate.  
He was all set to walk in.  
But he wanted to consolidate,

and it went and dropped to 35 degrees below zero,  
and that was the end of that army.

But the Russians have great fighters in the cold.  
They use the cold to their advantage.

I mean, they've won five wars where the armies  
that went against them froze to death.

That dinner was a very long time planned dinner.

And what it was was an evening at the opera.

It was a final night goodbye.

It was, you know, everybody knew about it.

It was well-known.

So when we got there, it was with spouses,  
and when we got there, there were a thousand media.

Were you guys there?

So, it was tremendous media.

And we took a picture of everybody, the wives and the leaders,  
and then the leaders, and, you know, numerous pictures  
outside on the river. Then everybody walked in  
to see the opera.

Then the opera ended.  
Then we walked into a big room

where they had dinner for not only the leaders —  
Lagarde was there, who I think is terrific,  
and various others. You had the E.U. people  
there, people other than just the leaders,  
but quite a few people.

I would say you have 20 times two,  
so you had 40,

and then you probably had another 10 or 15  
people, you had Christine Lagarde,  
you had some others also.

So, I was seated next to the wife  
of Prime Minister Abe,

who I think is a terrific guy,  
and she's a terrific woman,  
but doesn't speak English.

You had an opera,  
and then you had a cocktail party  
for the people at the opera,

and then you had the leaders with the spouses,  
and other leaders in Europe and  
maybe other places. We sat at this really long table,

which held, has to be at least 60, 65 people  
with room. O.K., it's a very big table, big room.

But there was nothing secretive about it.

It was like, that's where we're going.  
It's going to be the opera,  
it's going to be cocktails,  
it's going to be dinner.

I think the crowd thinned out  
for the dinner — you know,  
it was the leaders, primarily.  
But the leaders and Lagarde.

O.K., so we're sitting at this massive table.  
And the wives are separated  
from their husbands, which sometimes they do,  
sometimes they don't.  
But they did.

It's always easier when they don't do it,  
because you always have somebody to talk to,  
right?

And now Melania was sitting on the other side  
of the table, way down on the other end,  
very far away.

She was sitting next to Putin  
and somebody else,

I don't know.  
She was sitting next to Putin.

She was sitting next to Putin

and somebody else,  
and that's the way it is.

So the meal was going,  
and toward dessert I went down  
just to say hello to Melania,  
and while I was there I said hello  
to Putin. Really, pleasantries  
more than anything else.

It was not a long conversation,  
but it was, you know,  
could be 15 minutes.  
Just talked about —  
things.

Actually, it was very  
interesting, we talked about  
adoption.

*Russian adoption.*  
Yeah.

I always found that  
interesting. Because,  
you know, he ended that  
years ago. And I actually  
talked about Russian adoption  
with him, which is  
interesting because

it was a part of the conversation  
that Don had in that meeting.

As I've said —  
most other people, you know,  
when they call up and say,  
“By the way, we have information  
on your opponent,” I think most politicians —

I was just with a lot of people,  
they said, “Who wouldn't have taken a meeting  
like that?” They just said——

*The senators?*

A lot of them.  
They said, “Who wouldn't have taken a meeting  
like that?”

*You asked them about it?*

Nah, a couple of them.  
They — now, that was before Russia  
was hot, don't forget.

You know, Russia wasn't hot then.

That was almost a year and a half  
ago. It wasn't like it is,  
like it is radioactive,

then. Russia was Russia.

You know, we have a big problem with North Korea. Big. Big, big. You look at all of the things, you look at the line in the sand. The red line in the sand in Syria. He didn't do the shot.

I did the shot.

Had he done that shot, he wouldn't have had — had he done something dramatic, because if you remember, they had a tremendous gas attack after he made that statement.

Much bigger than the one they had with me.

Sarin. And, and tremendous  
numbers of people were  
killed, young people, children.

That was a famous weekend  
where they were all asking him to  
do it, do it, do it.

All I know is this: When somebody  
calls up and they say, “We have infor—”  
Look what they did to me with  
Russia, and it was totally phony  
stuff.

*Which, which one?*

The dossier.

*The dossier.*

The dossier. Oh, yes.

Now, that was totally made-up stuff, and in fact, that guy's being sued by somebody. And he's dying with the lawsuit. I know a lot about those guys, they're phony guys.

They make up whatever they want. Just not my thing —

In retrospect.  
In retrospect.

You know, when he wrote me  
the letter, he said,  
“You have every right to fire me,”  
blah blah blah.

Right?

He said,  
“You have every right to fire me.”

I said, that’s a very strange —

you know, over the years, I’ve hired  
a lot of people, I’ve fired  
a lot of people. Nobody has ever  
written me a letter back that you have

every right to fire me.

Comey wrote a letter.

*Which letter?*

To you? To the F.B.I. staff or to you?

I thought it was to me, right?

I think he wrote it to the staff---

It might have been---

That "the president has every right to fire me."

It might have been. It was just a very strange letter to say that.

Do you understand what I mean?  
Why would somebody say,  
“He has every right to fire me,”

bah bah bah.

Why wouldn't you just say,  
“Hey, I've retired ...”

But the headache it's caused, you know?

It's okay.

I have headaches,  
that's what I have,  
I have headaches.

But you know what, I think I did a great thing  
for the American people.

So Jeff Sessions  
takes the job,  
gets into the job,  
recuses himself. I then have  
— which, frankly,  
I think is very unfair  
to the president.

How do you take a job  
and then recuse yourself?

If he would have recused himself  
before the job, I would have said,  
“Thanks, Jeff, but I can’t,  
you know, I’m not going to take you.”

It’s extremely unfair, and that’s  
a mild word,  
to the president.

So he recuses himself.  
I then end up with a second man,  
who’s a deputy.

*Rosenstein.*

Who is he?  
And Jeff hardly knew.  
He’s from Baltimore.

And he gives me a letter,  
O.K.,  
he gives me a letter about Comey.  
And by the way,  
that was a tough letter,  
O.K.  
Now, perhaps I would have fired  
Comey anyway,  
and it certainly didn't hurt  
to have the letter,  
O.K.  
But he gives me a very strong letter,  
and now he's involved in the case.  
Well, that's a conflict of interest.

Do you know how many  
conflicts of interests  
there are?

But then, then Comey also says  
that he did something in order  
to get the special prose—  
special counsel. He leaked.

The reason he leaked.  
So, he illegally leaked.

So think of this.

He illegally leaks,  
and everyone thinks  
it is illegal, and  
by the way, it looks  
like it's classified  
and all that stuff.  
So he got —  
not a smart guy —  
he got tricked into  
that, because  
they didn't even  
ask him that question.  
They asked him another  
question,  
O.K.?

He said I said “hope” —  
“I hope you can treat Flynn good”  
or something like that.  
I didn’t say anything.

But even if he did —  
like I said at the news  
conference on the,  
you know,  
Rose Garden —  
even if I did, that’s not —  
other people go  
a step further.

I could have ended  
that whole thing just  
by saying —  
they say it can’t be  
obstruction because  
you can say:

It’s ended.  
It’s over.  
Period.”

*Did you actually have a one-on-one with Comey then?*

Not much. Not even that I remember. He was sitting, and I don't remember even talking to him about any of this stuff.

His testimony is loaded up with lies, O.K.?

But people didn't — we had a couple people that said —

Hi baby, how are you?

Hi, Grandpa.

My granddaughter Arabella, who speaks — say hello to them in Chinese.

Ni hao.

She's great. She speaks fluent Chinese. She's amazing.

*That's very impressive.*

She spoke with President Xi. Honey? Can you say a few words in Chinese? Say, like, "I love you, Grandpa" —

Wo ai ni, Grandpa.

That's great.

She's unbelievable, huh?

Good, smart genes.

[laughter]

V.

someone fell fled stumbled here  
detoured her means: she can't see around corners  
beyond reach, unseen from any side  
under represented gap  
between, and flowing. if we listen we might witness  
a suffocating passage of air, through lungs like water  
her language settling like snow  
flakes against the palm of a hand, survive  
across geologic layers, indiscriminate molecules

toward history settling, slivers  
shifting a magenta  
dream a push and land  
splits ocean spreads  
ages salted and stately  
unsettled

between moments spinning awry punctuated  
what has been left behind, turned to stone  
preserve over time, progress  
side step evolution of fossilized records  
stand still break the broken, say I told you so  
gas-lit determinations, surrender  
faith is single-minded, sings  
takes one step  
forward right into  
sand, sinking  
drown in it

My working relationship became even more strained when [REDACTED] began to use work situations to discuss sex. On these occasions, he would call me into his office for reports on education issues and projects, or he might suggest that, because of the time pressures of his schedule, we go to lunch to a government cafeteria. After a brief discussion of work, he would turn the conversation to a discussion of sexual matters.

His conversations were very vivid. He spoke about acts that he had seen in pornographic films involving such matters as women having sex with animals and films showing group sex or rape scenes. He talked about pornographic materials depicting individuals with large penises or large breasts involved in various sex acts. On several occasions [REDACTED] told me graphically of his own sexual prowess.

Because I was extremely uncomfortable talking about sex with him at all, and particularly in such a graphic way, I told him that I did not want to talk about these subjects. I would also try to change the subject to education matters or to nonsexual personal matters such as his background or his beliefs. My efforts to change the -- the subject were rarely successful.

In January [REDACTED] I began looking for another job. I was handicapped because I feared that, if he found out, he might make it difficult for me to find other employment and I might be dismissed from the job I had. Another factor that made my search more difficult was that ... this was during a period of a hiring freeze in the government. In February [REDACTED] I was hospitalized for five days on an emergency basis ... for acute stomach pain, which I attributed to stress on the job.

It would have been more comfortable to remain silent ... I took no initiative to inform anyone. But when I was asked by a representative of this committee to report my experience, I felt that I had to tell the truth.

I could not keep silent.

Imagine, your brothers, fathers, sons the damage the pain the suffering. No [white] privileged man should have to go through that. Be put in a position to not simply just be handed the keys to everything. No one of that persuasion should have to work for it, be expected to be a good person, make fair decisions. Who are we to put demands on people like him and others like him, who we have already agreed over centuries to give everything, to allow him and others like him access to everything we will never have, that we should never imagine having. How dare we question or pretend to hold him and others like him accountable – accountable to what? – to our misplaced emotions that have more to do with hating ourselves than setting limits to power and prestige? Who are we to keep him and others like him from the highest positions afforded by their legacy-earned [inherited] status? How could we let in truth-telling voices of accusers who say he and others like him are not fit to rule over us all? Who do we think we are? Demanding to be ruled like people instead of low-paid mules shuffling around goods and services while he and others like him in their privilege frack the land to death, destroy clean water, burn up the air, wreak irreversible damage – we are just trying to survive here – killing off the poorest of us in every shade of skin tone sending kids and families away to be lost disappeared jailed the only crime wanting to live. How dare we second-class or less women, trans, bi, queer, others imagine we should be allowed to speak truth speak at all become human.

I went up a narrow set of stairs leading from the living room to a second floor to use the bathroom. When I got to the top of the stairs I was pushed from behind into a bedroom. I couldn't see who pushed me. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came into the bedroom and locked the door behind them. There was music already playing in the bedroom. It was turned up louder by either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] once we were in the room. I was pushed onto the bed and [REDACTED] got on top of me. He began running his hands over my body and grinding his hips into me. I yelled hoping someone downstairs might hear me and tried to get away from him but his weight was heavy. [REDACTED] groped me and tried to take off my clothes. He had a hard time because he was so drunk and because I was wearing a one-piece bathing suit under my clothes. I believed he was going to rape me. I tried to yell for help. When I did [REDACTED] put his hand over my mouth to stop me from screaming. This was what terrified me the most and has had the most lasting impact on my life. It was hard for me to breathe and I thought that [REDACTED] was accidentally going to kill me. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were drunkenly laughing during the attack. They both seemed to be having a good time. [REDACTED] was urging [REDACTED] on although at times he told [REDACTED] to stop. A couple of times I made eye contact with [REDACTED] and thought he might try to help me but he did not. During this assault [REDACTED] came over and jumped on the bed twice while [REDACTED] was on top of me. The last time he did this we toppled over and [REDACTED] was no longer on top of me. I was able to get up and run out of the room. Directly across from the bedroom was a small bathroom. I ran inside the bathroom and locked the door.

For a very long time, I was too afraid and ashamed to tell anyone the details. I did not want to tell my parents that I, at age 15, was in a house without any parents present, drinking beer with boys.

...@FoxNews Great, now I can go after Horseface and her 3rd rate lawyer in the Great State of Texas. She will confirm the letter she signed! She knows nothing about me, a total con!

to pretend to claim  
or deny, this isn't reality  
reality is reality  
if you want to reflect on that  
pull a page out and take a  
memo, dear future  
if you can hear me  
white people did this  
colonize consume capitalize  
islands of trash a literal  
figuration  
like a confederate  
flag  
a swastika  
we made this together

The new president of Brazil thinks  
raping women is OK, apparently,  
if they are attractive enough.

He could care less about the new climate  
report that says we are fucked. Not like  
as in rape, but sort of.

We've fucked ourselves.  
Industry, viral capitalism, white men, others  
who want to be white men, exploitation  
of labor, resources—

plundered civil society.

As Stephen Colbert said to Ta-Nehisi Coates  
about dire predictions for the future, or  
being unable to be hopeful – though  
they were talking about race relations, racial  
equity, in light of history and the continuing  
present:

“I hope you're wrong.”  
I think Coates agreed.

Wouldn't we all like to try hope,  
just a little, see how it feels.

VI.

## Princess

*From spats over white privilege to her failure to speak out against Trump, the singer's position as peerless pop princess has been seriously damaged in recent years. Will this be the week she wins back her detractors?*

status and power  
seemed surprising. vengeful tone  
for melody, replacing hostile stripped away gift  
feuds with Kardashian West Perry media  
anyone who has ever criticised  
the blog  
claimed antagonistic lyrics "reinforced white anger and white supremacy"  
alt-right fanbase  
blond athleticism Aryan values.  
bad faith that dogs Swift  
threatened to sue  
American Civil Liberties Union stepped in  
"Criticism is never pleasant  
use her muscle to intimidate a blogger  
famously controlling musician losing grip of the narrative  
fear of being  
average  
shift in the cultural paradigm. Michael Jackson's  
MTV black star transcend  
Spears's PG transgressions moral codes Swift  
solipsism  
teenage trivia of MySpace  
digital native.

Twitter a crucible of debate on privilege

West and Swift's moment

for the furnace.

*... It's one of those pop-cultural incidents that contains everything. A man harassing a woman. A white woman responding to an African American man as if he had victimized her. One celebrity shouting at another. And in the background is Beyoncé, an African American woman who is universally embraced as the standard-bearer for both popular music, and doing politics and pop. We start there, and it never really changes after that.*

Swift's predominantly white

squad, and employment of black dancers' bodies

ignored calls to

silence

voters who cast their ballot

social justice.

synonymous

righteousness

denounce

53% of white women

outweigh

rarely

principles

beyond her specific experience as an insanely wealthy white woman."

country music's conflict-aversion.

misogynist

political views

criticised for her silence

male artists

seldom

give

neuroses that mostly have to do with gender,”  
the hatred all  
around them.”

the unified feminine archetypes  
fractured aesthetic  
authentic persona,  
feminism      fallout  
decentred in pop culture.  
concealing her darker impulses.  
myopic

relinquish control  
mirroring the mainstreaming of  
identity and privilege.  
whiteness

Gone are  
a  
rejects the idea of an

## You Made Me

you made me play  
like a fool  
not like you  
gun in hand  
who's left standing  
mine, a shot  
smarter, harder

slip the keys to the  
kingdom  
trick of the hand  
or wide  
open  
what belongs  
to karma  
take what's mine  
I'll be in your dreams  
look

## Kingdom Keys

Taylor pisses off white people who thought she was  
their nazi princess got thousands of people to register  
to vote maybe vote against the anti-woman woman  
republican the atmosphere of the drumpf made her  
do it, look, haters hating all over the social  
media we don't pay for cds to get  
lectured about politics it's possible anyhow  
more people registered to vote for the hating  
conservative trump camp or country music backlash  
how dare you have ideas  
about not southern white religious right remember  
what we did to the dixie chicks and they were never  
ambivalent but T. you were so young and only just  
now starting to get it, something not just about players  
or fans rolled up in your back pocket not  
about new hair style identity from week to week  
a bit of a shock to find out there might be some substance  
music for a possible future a politics or at least  
consideration of women regular people country music  
until the backlash that is maybe haters gonna hate  
but you're used to their love princess  
what will they make you do next

## Truth to Power

Kamala Harris keeps asking me for money. Not for her but for other women running for offices, local, national, all over the country. Record numbers. Especially women of color. There are some good white women who get it, like Elizabeth Warren, except she just fucked up talking about having some bit of Native American heritage. Rightly upset Native Americans. Didn't know how to talk about it constructively, positively reinforce the importance of Native voices and representation, of which she maybe isn't really a great example not really growing up with much Native culture, not a strong spokesperson. One article said Harvard or wherever ivy league believed her to be white, didn't give affirmative action status, OK, but what's wrong with having Native Americans at Harvard or wherever? What's the point of proving your DNA if you don't really represent? Why did she engage at all with the trap, the trump trap, hooked her and pulled her in only to hurt herself do nothing to promote Native power.

\*

Kamala tells me the three simple facts:

Despite some of the highest rates of voter turnout of any group in the country, Black women continue to be underrepresented in elected office.

Black women have been putting in the work during this election, making calls, going door to door, and organizing even when the cameras are focused elsewhere.

A record number of Black women are running for Congress in districts that have never before been represented by a woman of color.

\*

52% of white women and 62% of white men voted for trump 94% of black women and 55% of 18-29s voted for Clinton 60% of 18-29s voted for Obama in 2012 voter registration get out the vote transcend voter suppression beat the odds of gerrymandering hope the machines in your precinct don't ruin the ballots only 40% or less of eligible voters ever even do it during midterms this year we might make history next year and eventually maybe more women of all colors will get to run the show that's exactly what they're afraid of the 52% the 62% terrified white people upholding the colonial patriarchy.

OK

as in coup  
d'eta  
can you say it?

not in the sense of  
serendipitous

it's a coup or we should  
have a coup or we  
have been couped (duped)

a menace of nuclear proportions  
indeed

VII.

Who's the Nuclear Menace now?

And by the way, I didn't deal with Russia.  
I won because I was a better candidate by a lot.

I won because I campaigned properly and she didn't.  
She campaigned for the popular vote.  
I campaigned for the Electoral College.

You know the Electoral College, it's like a track star.

If you're going to run the 100-yard dash, you work out differently than if you're going to run the 1,000 meters or the mile.

And it's different.  
It's in golf.

If you have a tournament and you have match play or stroke play, you prepare differently, believe it or not.

It's different.

Match play is very different than stroke play.  
And you prepare.

So I went to Maine five times, I went to [inaudible], the genius of the Electoral College is that you go to places you might not go to.

And that's exactly what [inaudible].

Otherwise, I would have gone to New York, California, Texas and Florida.

I can only tell you that there is absolutely no collusion.  
Everybody knows it.

And you know who knows it better than anybody?  
The Democrats.  
They walk around blinking at each other.

But there is tremendous collusion with the Russians and  
with the Democratic Party.

Including all of the stuff with the — and then whatever happened  
to the Pakistani guy, that had the two, you know, whatever happened  
to this Pakistani guy who worked with the D.N.C.?

Whatever happened to them?

With the two servers that they broke up into a million pieces?

Whatever happened to him?

That was a big story.  
Now all of sudden [inaudible].

So I know The New York Times is going to — because those are real stories.

Whatever happened to the Hillary Clinton deleted 33,000 emails after she  
got [inaudible] — which you guys wrote, but then you dropped —  
was that you?

So for the purposes of what's going on with this phony Russian deal, which, by the way, you've heard me say it, is only an excuse for losing an election that they should have won, because it's very hard for a Republican to win the Electoral College.

O.K.?

You start off with New York, California and Illinois against you.

That means you have to run the East Coast, which I did, and everything else.

Which I did and then won Wisconsin and Michigan.

[Inaudible.]

So the Democrats.

[Inaudible.]

They thought there was no way for a Republican, not me, a Republican, to win the Electoral College.

Well, they're [inaudible].

They made the Russian story up as a hoax, as a ruse, as an excuse for losing an election that in theory Democrats should always win with the Electoral College.

The Electoral College is so much better suited to the Democrats [inaudible].

But it didn't work out that way.

I'm the one that saved coal.  
I'm the one that created jobs.

You know West Virginia is doing fantastically now.

It's the biggest turnaround.

West Virginia, their average, their G.D.P.  
is the biggest turnaround  
after Texas.

Texas [inaudible].

The second percentage gain in G.D.P.

[Inaudible.]

And I won that state by 43 points against crooked Hillary Clinton.

And I'll tell you, I think Joe, ah.  
I think there's a lot of talk.  
A lot of talk.

I think we have four or five senators that [inaudible].  
Just so you understand, Alabama.  
I was for Strange, and I brought Strange up 20 points.

Just so you understand.  
When I endorsed him, he was in fifth place.  
He went way up.  
Almost 20 points.  
But he fell a little short.  
But I knew what I was doing.  
Because I thought that.

If you look at my rhetoric, I said the problem with Roy Moore  
is that he will lose the election.

I called it.

But as the head of the party, I have a choice:

Do I endorse him or not?

I don't know.

If you look at my statements, you've seen them, I said, "Look, I'm for Luther Strange because I like him, but I'm also for Luther Strange because he's going to win the election."

There wouldn't have been an election.  
He would have won by 25 points.

The problem with Roy Moore, and I said this,  
is that he's going to lose  
the election.

I hope you can straighten that out.

Luther Strange was brought way up after my endorsement and  
he almost won.

Almost won.  
He lost by 7 points, 7 or 8 points.  
And he was way behind.  
Because of two things, you know, what happened.

[Inaudible.]

But I never thought Roy was going to win the election, but I felt.  
I never thought he was going to win the election, but I felt.

And I said that very clearly.

And I wish you would cover that, because frankly, I said, if Luther doesn't win, Roy is going to lose the election.

I always felt Roy was going to lose the election.

But I endorsed him because I feel it's my obligation as the head of the Republican Party to endorse him.

You know the individual mandate, Michael, means you take money and you give it to the government for the privilege of not having to pay more money to have health insurance you don't want.

There are people who had very good health insurance that now are paying not to have health insurance.

That's what the individual mandate.

They're not going to have to pay anymore.

So when people think that will be unpopular.

It's going to be very popular.

It's going to be very popular.

I want to do a trillion-dollar infrastructure bill, at least.

We want to fix our roads, our highways, our bridges, which are in bad shape.

And you know some of them are actually, they're x-ed out, they have, you know, possibilities of collapse under bad circumstances.

And in 10 years they will collapse.

So, I want a trillion-dollar infrastructure plan.

I think it can be bipartisan.

I believe we can do health care in a bipartisan way, because now we've essentially gutted and ended Obamacare.

[Cross talk.]

[Cross talk.]

So now I have associations, I have private insurance companies coming and will sell private health care plans to people through associations.

That's gonna be millions and millions of people.

People have no idea how big that is.

And by the way, and for that, we've ended across state lines.

So we have competition.

You know for that I'm allowed to [inaudible] state lines. So that's all done.

Now I've ended the individual mandate.

And the other thing I wish you'd tell people.

So when I do this, and we've got health care, you know, McCain did his vote.

But what we have.

I had a hundred congressmen that said no and I was able to talk them into it.

They're great people.

People don't even talk about expensing, what's the word "expensing."

[Inaudible.]

One year expensing.

Watch the money coming back into the country, it'll be more money than people anticipate.

But Michael, I know the details of taxes better than anybody.

Better than the greatest C.P.A.

I know the details of health care better than most, better than most.

And if I didn't, I couldn't have talked all these people into doing ultimately only to be rejected.

Now here's the good news.

We've created associations, millions of people are joining associations.

Millions.

That were formerly in Obamacare or didn't have insurance.

Or didn't have health care.

Millions of people.

That's gonna be a big bill, you watch.

It could be as high as 50 percent of the people.

You watch.

So that's a big thing.

And the individual mandate.

So now you have associations, and people don't even talk about the associations.

That could be half the people are going to be joining up.

With private [inaudible].

So now you have associations and the individual mandate.

I believe that because of the individual mandate and the associations, the Democrats will and certainly should come to me and see if they can do a really great health care plan for the remaining people.

[Inaudible.]

But now, Obamacare is essentially  
You know, you saw this  
It's basically dead  
over a period of time.

Yeah.

Yeah, China. ... China's been. ... I like very much President Xi.

He treated me better than anybody's ever been treated  
in the history of China.

One of the great two days of anybody's life and memory  
having to do with China.

He's a friend of mine, he likes me, I like him, we have a great chemistry  
together.

He's [inaudible] of the United States.

[Inaudible.]

China's hurting us very badly on trade, but I have been soft on China  
because the only thing more important to me than trade is war.

O.K.?

[Cross talk]

In fact, I hate to say, it was reported this morning, and it was reported on Fox. Oil is going into North Korea.

*Mr. President, was that a picture from recent or was that months ago?*

Oil is going into North Korea, I know.  
Oil is going into North Korea.  
So I'm not happy about it.

*So what are you going to do?*

We'll see.  
That I can't tell you, Michael.  
But we'll see.

I can tell you one thing: This is a problem that should have been handled for the last 25 years.

This is a problem, North Korea.  
That should have been handled for 25, 30 years, not by me.

This should have been handled long before me.  
Long before this guy has whatever he has.

And, by the way, it's not a tweet.

It's social media, and it gets out in the world, and the reason I do well is that I can be treated unfairly and very dishonestly by CNN, and, you know, I have — what do I have now, John, 158 million, including Facebook, including Twitter, including Instagram, including every form, I have a 158 million people.

Reporting just this morning, they said 158 million.

So if they do a story that's false, I can do something — otherwise, Andy, otherwise you just sort of walk around saying what can I do?

What, am I going to have a press conference every time somebody, every time Michael writes something wrong?

So, China on trade has ripped off this country more than any other element of the world in history has ripped off anything.

But I can be different if they're helping us with North Korea.

If they don't help us with North Korea, then I do what I've always said I want to do.

China can help us much more, and they have to help us much more. And they have to help us much more.

We have a nuclear menace out there,  
which is no good for China,  
and it's not good for Russia.

It's no good for anybody.

Does that make sense?

China can solve the North Korea problem, and they're helping us, and they're even helping us a lot, but they're not helping us enough.

We're going to win another four years for a lot of reasons, most importantly because our country is starting to do well again and we're being respected again. But another reason that I'm going to win another four years is because newspapers, television, all forms of media will tank if I'm not there because without me, their ratings are going down the tubes. Without me, The New York Times will indeed be not the failing New York Times, but the failed New York Times. So they basically have to let me win. And eventually, probably six months before the election, they'll be loving me because they're saying, "Please, please, don't lose Donald Trump."

O.K.

## Notes

A number of the pieces included in this book are informed by, responses to, re-writes of, or include quotes from the source texts below:

“I listen because I think we are making a mistake by dismissing him, by pretending the words of the most powerful man in the world are meaningless. They do have consequences. They are many, and they are worrisome. In what he says to the world, the President is, as Ed Luce wrote in the *Financial Times* this week, “creating the space to do things which were recently unthinkable.”

“It’s not a reality show; it’s real.” Susan B. Glasser, “I Listened to All Six Trump Rallies in October. You Should, Too.” *The New Yorker*, Oct. 12, 2018

“Cheap Trucks, Strong Tires” is a revision of *Donald Trump’s New York Times Interview: Full Transcript*, by *The New York Times*, Nov. 23, 2016

Pieces titled *after Robert Reich* are informed by or re-writes of posts found on <http://robertreich.org/>

“Beckett Does Stein” is a revision of *Excerpts From The Times’s Interview With Trump*, by *The New York Times*, July 19, 2017

[My working relationship] comes from Anita Hill’s *Opening Statement to the Senate Judiciary Committee*, delivered 11 October 1991, Washington, D.C.

[I went up a narrow set of stairs ] comes from the *Written Testimony of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford*, United States Senate Judiciary Committee, September 26, 2018

[...@FoxNews] @realDonaldTrump Tweet Oct., 16, 2018

“Princess” comes from, “Taylor Swift’s reputation: will her new album silence her critics?” by Laura Snapes, *The Guardian*, Nov. 9, 2017

[Kamala Harris keeps asking me] includes a quote from an email I received from Kamala during the 2018 midterm election campaign. I did, in fact, donate a small amount of money that was divided among the candidates on whose campaigns’ behalf she was asking: Jahana Hayes, Lucy McBath, Ayanna Pressley, and Lauren Underwood. They all won.

“Who’s the Nuclear Menace now?” is a revision of *Excerpts From Trump’s Interview With The Times*, by *The New York Times*, Dec. 28, 2017