

Side 1 (Carol-reader will be provided for John)

CAROL: I did what you told me. I did, I did everything that, I read your *book*, you told me to buy your book and read it. Everything you *say* I... (*She gestures to her notebook.*) (*The phone rings.*) I do. ...Ev...

JOHN: ...look:

CAROL: ...everything I'm told...

JOHN: Look. Look. I'm not your *father*. (*Pause*)

CAROL: What?

JOHN: I'm.

CAROL: Did I say you were my father?

JOHN: ...no...

CAROL: Why did you say that...?

JOHN: I...

CAROL: ...why...?

JOHN: ...in class I... (*He picks up the phone.*) (*Into phone:*) Hello. I can't talk now. Jerry? Yes? I underst ... I can't talk now. I know ... I

know ... Jerry. I can't *talk* now. Yes, I. Call me back in ... Thank you. (*He hangs up.*) (*To CAROL:*) What do you want me to do? We are two people, all right? Both of whom have subscribed to...

CAROL: No, no...

JOHN: ...certain arbitrary...

CAROL: No. You have to help me.

JOHN: Certain institutional ... you tell me what you want me to do ... You tell me what you want me to...

CAROL: How can I go back and tell them the *grades* that I...

JOHN: ...what can I do...?

CAROL: *Teach* me. *Teach* me.

JOHN: ...I'm trying to teach you.

CAROL: I read your book. I read it. I don't under...

JOHN: ...you don't understand it.

CAROL: No.

JOHN: Well, perhaps it's not well *written*...

CAROL (*simultaneously with "written"*): No. No. No. I want to *understand* it.

JOHN: What don't you understand? (*Pause*)

CAROL: *Any* of it. What you're trying to say. When you talk about...

JOHN: ...yes...? (*She consults her notes.*)

CAROL: "Virtual warehousing of the young"...

JOHN: "Virtual warehousing of the young." If we artificially prolong adolescence...

CAROL: ...and about "The Curse of Modern Education."

JOHN: ...well...

CAROL: I don't...

JOHN: Look. It's just a *course*, it's just a *book*, it's just a...

CAROL: No. No. There are *people* out there. People who came *here*. To know something they didn't *know*. Who *came* here. To be *helped*. To be *helped*. So someone would *help* them. To *do* something. To *know* something. To get, what do they say? "To get on in the world." How can I do that if I don't, if I fail? But I don't *understand*. I don't *understand*. I don't understand what anything means ... and I walk around. From morning 'til night: with this one thought in my head. I'm *stupid*.

Side 2 (John-reader will be provided for Carol)

CAROL: People said that you were stupid...?

JOHN: Yes.

CAROL: When?

JOHN: I'll tell you when. Through my life. In my childhood; and, perhaps, they stopped. But I heard them continue.

CAROL: And what did they say?

JOHN: They said I was incompetent. Do you see? And when I'm tested the, the, the *feelings* of my youth about the *very subject of learning* come up. And I ... I become, I feel "unworthy," and "unprepared." ...

CAROL: ...yes.

JOHN: ...eh?

CAROL: ...yes.

JOHN: And I feel that I must fail. (*Pause*)

CAROL: ...but then you *do* fail. (*Pause*) You have to. (*Pause*) Don't you?

JOHN: A *pilot*. Flying a plane. The pilot is flying the plane. He thinks: Oh, my *God*, my mind's been drifting! Oh, my God! What kind of a cursed imbecile am I, that I, with this so precious cargo of *Life* in my charge, would allow my attention to wander. Why was I born? How deluded are those who put their trust in me, ... et cetera, so on, and he crashes the plane.

CAROL: (*Pause*) He could just...

JOHN: That's right.

CAROL: He could say:

JOHN: My attention *wandered* for a moment...

CAROL: ...uh huh...

JOHN: I had a *thought* I did not like ... but now:

CAROL: ...but now it's...

JOHN: That's what I'm telling you. It's time to put my attention ... see: it is not: this is what I learned. It is Not Magic. Yes. Yes. *You*. You are going to be frightened. When faced with what may or may not be but which you are going to perceive as a test. You will become frightened. And you will say: "I am incapable of..." and everything *in* you will think these two things. "I must. But I can't." And you will think: Why was I born to be the laughingstock of a world in which everyone is better than I? In which I am entitled to nothing. Where I can not learn.

(*Pause*)

CAROL: Is that... (*Pause*) Is that what I have...?

JOHN: Well. I don't know if I'd put it that way. Listen: I'm talking to you as I'd talk to my son. Because that's what I'd like him to have that I never had. I'm talking to you the way I wish that someone had talked to me. I don't know how to do it, other than to be *personal*, ...but...

CAROL: Why would you want to be personal with me?

JOHN: Well, you see? That's what I'm saying. We can only interpret the behavior of others through the screen we... (*The phone rings.*) Through... (*To phone:*) Hello...? (*To CAROL:*) Through the screen we create. (*To phone:*) Hello. (*To CAROL:*) Excuse me a moment. (*To phone:*) Hello? No, I can't talk nnn ... I know I did. In a few ... I'm ... is he coming to the ... yes. I talked to him. We'll meet you at the No, because I'm with a *student*. It's going to be fff... This is important, too. I'm with a *student*, Jerry's going to... Listen: the sooner I get off, the sooner I'll be down, all right. I love you. Listen, listen, I said "I love you," it's going to work *out* with the, because I feel that it is,

I'll be right down. All right? Well, then it's going to take as long as it takes. (*He hangs up.*) (*To CAROL:*) I'm sorry.

Side 3 (Carol & John)

CAROL: I want to know about my grade. (*Long pause*)

JOHN: Of course you do.

CAROL: Is that bad?

JOHN: No.

CAROL: Is it bad that I asked you that?

JOHN: No.

CAROL: Did I upset you?

JOHN: No. And I apologize. Of *course* you want to know about your grade. And, of course, you can't concentrate on anyth... (*The telephone starts to ring.*) Wait a moment.

CAROL: I should go.

JOHN: I'll make you a deal.

CAROL: No, you have to...

JOHN: Let it ring. I'll make you a deal. You stay here. We'll start the whole course over. I'm going to say it was not you, it was I who was not paying attention. We'll start the whole course over. Your grade is an "A." Your final grade is an "A." (*The phone stops ringing.*)

CAROL: But the class is only half over...

JOHN (*simultaneously with "over"*): Your grade for the whole term is an "A." If you will come back and meet with me. A few more times. Your grade's an "A." Forget about the paper. You didn't like it, you didn't like writing it. It's not important. What's

important is that I awake your interest, if I can, and that I answer your questions. Let's start over.

(Pause)

CAROL: Over. With what?

JOHN: Say this is the beginning.

CAROL: The beginning.

JOHN: Yes.

CAROL: Of what?

JOHN: Of the class.

CAROL: But we can't start over.

JOHN: I say we can. *(Pause)* I say we can.

CAROL: But I don't believe it.

JOHN: Yes, I know that. But it's true. What is The Class but you and me?

(Pause)

CAROL: There are rules.

JOHN: Well. We'll break them.

CAROL: How can we?

JOHN: We won't tell anybody.

CAROL: Is that all right?

JOHN: I say that it's fine.

CAROL: Why would you do this for me?

JOHN: I like you. Is that so difficult for you to...

CAROL: Um...

JOHN: There's no one here but you and me. (*Pause*)

CAROL: All right. I did not understand. When you referred...

JOHN: All right, yes?

CAROL: When you referred to hazing.

JOHN: Hazing.

CAROL: You wrote, in your book. About the comparative ... in the comparative ... (*She checks her notes.*)

JOHN: Are you checking your notes...?

CAROL: Yes.

JOHN: Tell me in your own...

CAROL: I want to make sure that I have it right.

JOHN: No. Of course. You want to be exact.

CAROL: I want to know everything that went on.

JOHN: ...that's good.

CAROL: ...so I...

JOHN: That's very good. But I was suggesting, many times, that that which we wish to retain is retained oftentimes, I think, *better* with less expenditure of effort.

CAROL: (*Of notes*) Here it is: you wrote of *hazing*.

JOHN: ...that's correct. Now: I said "hazing." It means ritualized annoyance. We shove this book at you, we say read it. Now, you say you've read it? I think that you're *lying*. I'll *grill* you, and when I find you've lied, you'll be disgraced, and your life will be ruined. It's a sick game. Why do we do it? Does it educate? In no sense. Well, then, what is higher education? It is something-other-than-useful.

Side 4 (Carol & John)

JOHN: "He told me he had problems with his wife; and that he wanted to take off the artificial stricture of Teacher and Student. He put his arm around me..."

CAROL: Do you deny it? Can you deny it...? Do you see? (*Pause*) Don't you see? You don't see, do you?

JOHN: I don't see...

CAROL: You think, you think you can deny that these things happened; or, if they *did*, if they *did*, that they meant what you *said* they meant. Don't you see? You drag me in here, you drag us, to listen to you "go on"; and "go on" about this, or that, or we don't "express" ourselves very well. We don't say what we mean. Don't we? Don't we? We *do* say what we mean. And you say that "I don't understand you...": Then *you*... (*Points.*)

JOHN: "Consult the Report"?

CAROL: ...that's right.

JOHN: You see. You see. Can't you ... You see what I'm saying? Can't you tell me in your own words?

CAROL: Those are my own words. (*Pause*)

JOHN: (*He reads.*) "He told me that if I would stay alone with him in his office, he would change my grade to an A." (*To CAROL:*) What have I done to you? Oh. My God, are you so hurt?

CAROL: What I "feel" is irrelevant. (*Pause*)

JOHN: Do you know that I tried to help you?

CAROL: What I know I have reported.

JOHN: I would like to help you now. I would. Before this escalates.

CAROL (*simultaneously with "escalates"*): You see. I don't think that I need your help. I don't think I need anything you have.

JOHN: I feel...

CAROL: I don't *care* what you feel. Do you see? DO YOU SEE? You can't *do* that anymore. You. Do. Not. Have. The. Power. Did you misuse it? *Someone* did. Are you part of that group? *Yes. Yes. You Are. You've done* these things. And to say, and to say, "Oh. Let me help you with your problem..."

JOHN: Yes. I understand. I understand. You're *hurt*. You're *angry*. Yes. I think your *anger* is *betraying* you. Down a path which helps no one.

CAROL: I don't *care* what you think.

JOHN: You don't? (*Pause*) But you talk of *rights*. Don't you see? *I* have rights too. Do you see? I have a *house* ... part of the *real* world; and The Tenure Committee, Good Men and True...

CAROL: ...Professor...

JOHN: ...Please: *Also* part of that world: you understand? This is my *life*. I'm not a *bogeyman*. I don't "stand" for something, I...

CAROL: ...Professor...

JOHN: ...I...

CAROL: Professor. I came here as a *favor*. At your personal request. Perhaps I should not have done so. But I did. On my behalf, and on behalf of my group. And you speak of the tenure committee, one of whose members is a woman, as you know. And though you might call it Good Fun, or An Historical Phrase, or An Oversight, or, All of the Above, to refer to the committee as Good Men and True, it is a demeaning remark. It is a sexist remark, and to overlook it is to countenance continuation of that method of thought. It's a remark...

JOHN: OH COME ON. Come on... Sufficient to deprive a family of...

CAROL: Sufficient? Sufficient? Sufficient? Yes. It is a *fact*...

Side 5 (John- a reader will be provided for Carol)

JOHN: I don't want you to leave. I asked you to come...

CAROL: I didn't have to come here.

JOHN: No. (*Pause*) Thank you.

CAROL: All right. (*Pause*) (*She sits down.*)

JOHN: Although I feel that it *profits*, it would *profit* you something, to...

CAROL: ...what I...

JOHN: If you would hear me out, if you would hear me out.

CAROL: I came here to, the court officers told me not to come.

JOHN: ...the "court" officers...?

CAROL: I was shocked that you asked.

JOHN: ...wait...

CAROL: Yes. But I did *not* come here to hear what it "profits" me.

JOHN: The "court" officers...

CAROL: ...no, no, perhaps I should leave... (*She gets up.*)

JOHN: Wait.

CAROL: No. I shouldn't have...

JOHN: ...wait. Wait. Wait a moment.

CAROL: Yes? What is it you want? (*Pause*) What is it you want?

JOHN: I'd like you to stay.

CAROL: You want me to stay.

JOHN: Yes.

CAROL: You do.

JOHN: Yes. (*Pause*) Yes. I would like to have you hear me out. If you would. (*Pause*)
Would you please? If you would do that I would be in your debt. (*Pause*) (*She sits.*)
Thank You. (*Pause*)

CAROL: What is it you wish to tell me?

JOHN: All right. I cannot... (*Pause*) I cannot help but feel you are owed an apology.
(*Pause*) (*Of papers in his hands*) I have read. (*Pause*) And reread these accusations.

CAROL: What "accusations"?

JOHN: The, the tenure comm. ... what other accusations...?

CAROL: The tenure committee...?

JOHN: Yes.

CAROL: Excuse me, but those are not accusations. They have been *proved*. They are facts.

JOHN: ...I...

CAROL: No. Those are not "accusations."

JOHN: ...those?

CAROL: ...the committee (*The phone starts to ring.*) the committee has...

JOHN: ...All right...

CAROL: ...those are not accusations. The Tenure Committee.

JOHN: ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT. (*He picks up the phone.*) Hello. Yes. No. I'm here. Tell Mister ... No, I can't talk to him now ... I'm sure he has, but I'm fff ... I know ... No, I have no time t ... tell Mister ... tell Mist ... tell Jerry that I'm *fine* and that I'll call him right aw ... (*Pause*) My wife ... Yes. I'm sure she has. Yes, thank you. Yes, I'll call her too. I cannot talk to you now. (*He hangs up.*) (*Pause*) All right. It was good of you to come. Thank you. I have studied. I have spent some time studying the indictment.

Side 6 (Carol- a reader will be provided for John)

JOHN: I believe in freedom of thought.

CAROL: Isn't that fine. *Do you?*

JOHN: Yes. I do.

CAROL: Then why do you question, for one moment, the committee's decision refusing your tenure? Why do you question your suspension? You believe in what *you call* freedom of thought. Then, fine. *You* believe in freedom-of-thought *and* a home, and, *and* prerogatives for your kid, *and* tenure. And I'm going to tell you. You believe *not* in "freedom of thought," but in an elitist, in, in a protected hierarchy which rewards you. And for whom you are the clown. And you mock and exploit the system which pays your rent. You're wrong. I'm not wrong. You're wrong. You think that I'm full of hatred. I know what you think I am.

JOHN: Do you?

CAROL: You think I'm a, of course I do. You think I am a frightened, repressed, confused, I don't know, abandoned young thing of some doubtful sexuality, who wants, power and revenge. *(Pause) Don't you?*

(Pause)

JOHN: Yes. I do. *(Pause)*

CAROL: Isn't that better? And I feel that that is the first moment which you've treated me with respect. For you told me the truth. *(Pause)* I did not come here, as you are assured, to gloat. Why would I want to gloat? I've profited nothing from your, your, as you say, your "misfortune." I came here, as you did me the honor to *ask* me here, I came here to *tell* you something.

(Pause) That I think ... that I think you've been wrong. That I think you've been terribly wrong. Do you hate me now? *(Pause)*

JOHN: Yes.

CAROL: Why do you hate me? Because you think me wrong? No.

Because I have, you think, *power* over you. Listen to me. Listen to me, Professor. (*Pause*) It is the power that you hate. So deeply that, that any atmosphere of free discussion is impossible. It's not "unlikely." It's *impossible*. Isn't it?

JOHN: Yes.

CAROL: *Isn't* it...?

JOHN: Yes. I suppose.