

The Eighteenth Brumaire of Donald John Trump

[Three persons viewing an unseen TV from which indistinct voices are heard]

[Scene 1]

FLORINDA: (*wincing*) Why does he say such stupid things?

CHARLIE: Because the numskull hasn't learned that facts can be checked.

'HAROLD': Attention! (*brief pause*) There! He just denied saying what he just said!

CHARLIE: He has yet to learn the meaning of *recorded*.

FLORINDA: A marvelous expertise at doubling down on his innate vacuousness.

'HAROLD': But consider this...any uttered word is a statement and will contain grounds for the person who made it to deny another person's interpretation of it.

FLORINDA: Yeah, now if only this guy knew how to make statements with Wittgensteinian care.

CHARLIE: Right...as soon as he's done with being a babbling idiot.

'HAROLD': But with presidential authority. He says one thing that's a lie. Then either denies it or contradicts it with an additional comment...

FLORINDA:.....while staring down the world with his bloated face.

'HAROLD': Consider the consequences!

CHARLIE: The *Madness of King Donald*. They will need a sanatorium to treat bedazzled world leaders.

FLORINDA: (*laughing*) Yeah, Charlie: *The International Asylum for the Treatment of all those Stricken with American Presidential DT's*. Observe their faces at those international gatherings: Shock, then disbelief, and finally...*How do I interact with this powerful asshole in a friendly manner?* Adds new meaning to *The Donald*.

CHARLIE: But Rome had its Caligulas and Neros who in turn had their centurions.

'HAROLD': Ah, but here his centurions...the real deal, not the Secret Service...are decidedly unreliable. We can use that when they...

CHARLIE:...Hold it, 'Harold'!...It's over...

'HAROLD': Stop with this fucking 'Harold' business! It's just my...

CHARLIE:... We have to make it a habit. It's either you evoking the kindness of a nice little rabbi, or the nastiness of a predatory landlord.

FLORINDA: Besides, he's taken it up....Fix your smiles!

(President Trump enters)

TRUMP: Those sons-of-a-bitches tried to box me in, but I broke through with a slick maneuver and sealed my point before they could have the last word.

'HAROLD': Yes, Mr. President, but...

TRUMP:...For crissakes, Harry, what's with 'Mr. President' when you are my fucking...

'HAROLD':...I know, but we must learn to use more formal, professional, terms because of our public exposure.

FLORINDA: Yes, sir...you know...all the blood relatives that are...

TRUMP:...Okay, Okay, I understand. *(To 'Harold')* You were about to say...

'HAROLD':...You are doing a great job fighting what amounts to a rearguard retreat, but eventually they will eat you alive. You have no choice but to go on the offensive...

TRUMP:...Yeah, Yeah...We've been through all that. I'm *not* going radical...but god, I'd love to destroy those bastards.

CHARLIE: Sir, it's populism, not radicalism. Is Macron a radical; or the new leadership in Italy?

FLORINDA: They are more of the right than the left. They got in because they were outside of the despised mainstream politics. You as a businessman and public personality in the private arena are in an even stronger position.

CHARLIE: You played no part in giving the FBI, and other instruments of authority, almost unlimited power.

'HAROLD': And yet once elected, you were...

TRUMP:...I know! I know! Every damn person I brought in pretended to see things my way, yet all I got from them was a stab in the back.

'HAROLD': Yes...fortunately your rapid corrective measures have at least disoriented some of your foes.

CHARLIE: But unfortunately not those in a strong position to dispatch you into political oblivion.

FLORINDA: Have we ever done you wrong, Mr. President?

CHARLIE: Have we ever tried to insert a private agenda into your program?

TRUMP: No, Charlie, you Florrie and Harry are my only loyal braintrust.

'HAROLD': Then let's the four of us develop an agenda that you will take to heart, and use with relish to politically destroy your enemies.

TRUMP: (*looking at a new text message*) Okay. Look I've got to go out and issue another Executive Order, Decree or whatever the hell they call it'; just when I feel like dinner. There are thousands of people in government yet it seems I'm the only one in position to get things done. I wonder how this stuff got into the Constitution...Later...Tonight...Let's hash out this thing thoroughly.

(*Trump begins to depart*)

'HAROLD': Yes, sir, tonight. We'll reverse the tide.

(*Trump leaves*)

FLORINDA: (*To 'Harold'*) You never should have said *relish*.

'HAROLD': Yeah, now we'll have to get some of his favorites for later.

CHARLIE: That will at least put him in a good mood.

FLORINDA: Just what we need when we tell him that things like his *right* to issue dictatorial decrees is *not* in the Constitution.

'HAROLD': The sort of state usurpation of power that people hate and fear.

FLORINDA: And get him to believe that he is also a target.

(*pause as the three reflect on what's before them*)

'HAROLD': Okay, gang, let's prepare the grand plan.

FLORINDA: Make it nice and tasty.

CHARLIE: With plenty of sauce.

(*the three depart*)

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[Scene 2]

['Harold' and Florinda are discussing the upcoming meeting when Charlie enters.]

'HAROLD': *(to Charlie after seeing that he brought Trump's favorite burger)* Now remember, we can't let him have it right away.

FLORINDA: It's the carrot on a stick for our pet donkey.

CHARLIE: I'll keep it in the warmer and every now and then, if he hesitates to see things our way, I'll uncover it so he can get a whiff.

(at this point he uncovers the burger)

'HAROLD': Yum! Mouth-watering....We'll entice the shit out of him.

FLORINDA: *(also looking)* Yeah...but where's the ham?

(they all carefully examine the burger)

'HAROLD': A crisis of state!...There definitely is no ham.

FLORINDA: *(to Charlie)* Maybe you ordered an Eastern instead of a Western.

CHARLIE: Jesus, Florrie, this is not an egg sandwich, it's a Jackson fucking Hole East Sider burger. It's ingredients have been enrolled *(looking up toward heaven)* in the sacred scriptures of burger believers.

FLORINDA: That means we, and he, should be captivated by a vision of bacon, American cheese, mushrooms, fried onions, tomatoes, and HAM.

'HAROLD': And I'm not sure that's an authentic brioche, either. *(to Charlie)* Do they know you in that place?

CHARLIE: Sure, I've been there a few times.

'HAROLD': Then some Trump-hater probably did it on purpose.

FLORINDA: The bastard!...Even if on our side.

CHARLIE: Okay, I'll get another one and cue in our ally that it must be immaculate.

'HAROLD': No. We only have a few minutes. We'll have to deal with the endless griping.

(brief pause)

CHARLIE: No we won't. We have our little kitchen. I'll find a substitute. He'll never know the difference.

FLORINDA: When it comes to really important stuff, like food, what's left of his brain kicks in.

CHARLIE: Oh, come now! What chance do we have with our grand scheme if we can't pull off this tiny bit of nonsense? Don't worry! I will now go into our magic kitchen and... *voila*.

(Charlie goes into the kitchen while Florinda and 'Harold' arrange papers in readiness)

'HAROLD': We've got to convince him that this Tweeting shit has accomplished nothing.

FLORINDA: Don't think in terms of *convince*. A guy who can make a U-turn within a short sentence is not one who has the capacity to grasp a thought and keep it. We have to lead him into a *state* that suits our plans.

CHARLIE: *(from kitchen)* Florrie, you're loading up the pressure on me getting this ersatz ham shaped up into the genuine article.

'HAROLD': Shoulder to the wheel, Charlie, as ridiculous as it seems, all may rest on your culinary fabrication.

('Harold' receives a text)

'HAROLD': He's on his way.

CHARLIE: *(still in kitchen)* Oh, now this *is* looking good.

(Seconds later Trump enters)

TRUMP: I've successfully issued another road map for the world to follow.

'HAROLD': You may be using up their attention span.

TRUMP: I'm about done with mine...*(abruptly turns toward the kitchen)* What's that lovely aroma?

(Charlie, coming out of the kitchen)

CHARLIE: I bought you an East Sider, sir, just put it in the warmer.

TRUMP: Then take it out, pronto.

FLORINDA: Mr. President...please, we must focus...for the moment.

'HAROLD': Sir, we need to deal with a few critical issues immediately. If you give your okay we'll quickly work out the details.

CHARLIE: Besides, the burger will be even better with all the juices and flavor melding.

(Trump hungrily eyes the burger, but accepts the circumstances. Charlie quickly deposits the burger in the kitchen and returns.)

TRUMP: Okay. Let's hear it, and make it brief.

'HAROLD': Everything is inexorably moving toward your impeachment. The one, huge, point in your favor is that the case is being developed by an FBI front man.

TRUMP: Yeah, where is that liberal concern about the gestapo threat and a police state?

'HAROLD': Their love fest with your nemesis is to your advantage.

FLORINDA: And our studies show that is why your approval rating jumped up another three points to 45%.

'HAROLD': Yes, and the key is that they have been exposed as working against you prior to the election.

CHARLIE: They are the *real* nefarious force undermining a free electoral process.

FLORINDA: Like Hoover digging up enough dirt to give him free rein for 49 years.

'HAROLD': That's why you'd probably get a 20 point jump if you...

TRUMP: I've already told you...I can't do that.

'HAROLD': What did they have before?

FLORINDA: It only came into its current incarnation in 1935.

(Charlie quietly makes his way to the kitchen)

TRUMP: Abolish something that's been treated as an heroic organization on TV and in films...

FLORINDA: A kind of fake news as entertainment.

'HAROLD': We'll blow away that smokescreen and expose the truth.

CHARLIE: *(coming from the kitchen and holding the burger in the small box that it came in)* You know, I have a remote connection to the FBI. It was created in its earliest form by Teddy Roosevelt's Attorney General Charles Bonaparte, a very distant relative, after a hostile Congress had taken summer break. Now this other Charlie was the great nephew of the Napoleon who overthrew the first French republic...

TRUMP: Interesting...I'll just relieve you of...*(attempts to grab the burger to no avail)*

CHARLIE:...and cousin of Louis Napoleon who overthrew the 1848 republic...

FLORINDA:...Charlie, the President has no time for your French history lesson.

CHARLIE:...But it's important: those earlier Bonapartes overthrew a republic; this Bonaparte-created institution is subverting our republic for its own power-mad end. The FBI is not loved by the American people...it is feared.

(brief pause)

'HAROLD': Consider this, Mr. President, your Tweets asserting your power to fire Mueller made it seem like you were running scared.

TRUMP: Why wouldn't abolishing the bureau support the same lie?

'HAROLD': Because the Tweet had nothing to back it up, you just felt personally aggrieved. There is a whole library of reputable research cataloging the crimes of the FBI...

FLORINDA:....and also Congressional investigations.

CHARLIE: The thousands of black bag jobs during Cointelpro that subverted the American people's Constitutional right to dissent if they so choose.

FLORINDA: And the many murders organized by its racist boss either directly or by manipulating other groups.

CHARLIE: Think of the political damage done to your liberal enemies when they come to the FBI's defense....They will shut their mouths pretty quick when their most reliable voters turn their backs on them.

'HAROLD': And don't worry about a replacement, an ideal one already exists. It came with the founding of our nation and is truly popular because it represents truth, justice, and the American way.

(brief pause)

TRUMP: I hope you aren't quizzing me on this.

'HAROLD': The Federal Marshal Service.

CHARLIE: No Bonapartism there!

TRUMP: *(pause for what passes as deep thought while eyeing the burger)* Marshal Dillon!

(brief pause as the three give each other questioning looks)

FLORINDA: We have a detailed plan worked out. All major police forces...

TRUMP: Later. I love it! *(grabs the burger)* I'll announce it to the nation when you can come up with a convincing presentation.

(Trump rises and bites into the burger as he leaves)

TRUMP: Delicious! Your plan and this burger. *(takes another bite)* Clearly, it's the flavor of Virginia ham...and the dignified justice of a Federal Marshal. Get to work, my friends.

(Trump leaves. Charlie gets up and starts toward the kitchen. Florinda to Charlie.)

FLORINDA: Yes, Virginia, there is a ham.

(Harold' to Charlie)

'HAROLD': You'll have to try to duplicate the same flavor.

FLORINDA: Why bother? He buys the stuff himself. Future East Siders will have its ordained Virginia Ham.

(Charlie returns from the kitchen holding a can of Spam)

'HAROLD' and FLORINDA: SPAM!!

CHARLIE: But it won't taste like this United Nations of god knows what.

FLORINDA: At least it's readily available.

CHARLIE: I doubt that even a notoriously stable product like Spam made today will taste much like something from the Clinton era.

FLORINDA: You're kidding!

CHARLIE: It has a 1998 sell-by date.

'HAROLD': But what if he notices? What if he's turned off by an authentic East Sider now that he's had our concoction? You saw how he bought our plan along with the burger.

FLORINDA: A burger-marshall wrap...What a ridiculous connection.

'HAROLD': The plan, this burger, real Virginia ham...

CHARLIE:...Spam, and Marshal Dillon.

(After they all eye each other, Charlie begins to turn toward kitchen)

FLORINDA: What'll we do?

CHARLIE: Well I'm going to make maybe a half dozen 1998 Spam-patties and freeze them.

'HAROLD': To think that the fate of the world may rest upon a can of luncheon meat worthy of being a collectors' item. Florrie, maybe you should...

FLORINDA: ...I'm already on it...searching Ebay.

CHARLIE: Remember: 1998; nothing before or after. In this we're dealing with a connoisseur.

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[Scene 3]

[Charlie, Florinda and 'Harold' are in the White House *bunker* preparing to view Trump's prime-time speech to the nation.]

CHARLIE: So he refuses to just read it off the screen.

'HAROLD': Says he will improvise in places....something more natural and friendly because it's such a big deal.

FLORINDA: He's got to avoid factual claims or anything specific.

CHARLIE: As a proof of intelligence he's already crossed his supporters' threshold on the downside.

'HAROLD': Stand clear of politics and business, or what we used to call the Establishment.

CHARLIE: Which we have now clarified into the Ruling Class.

'HAROLD': To ourselves...Okay? (*looking at a screen*) He's just completed the preliminaries.

(*They all now view the screen*)

TRUMP: (*speaking, not seen*) Look...I'm a billionaire, but if every American billionaire voted for me I'd maybe get a hundred votes. I received support primarily from the working and lower middle classes, many of whom are retired persons. Why should those from a low income sector of the American population vote for someone with my standing?.....

(*meaningful pause*)

'HAROLD': For such a rhetorical question a pause longer than a single beat is risky.

FLORINDA: At least he kept out *elite*.

TRUMP: (*continuing*) We both dislike omnipresent controlling government. Now many think I'm unalterably joined to my social class....Sure, I cut taxes, I removed regulations, I gave them plenty....

(*pause*)

'HAROLD': He reminds them!

FLORINDA: Honesty is his new policy.

TRUMP:...but now I've learned something....

(brief pause)

'HAROLD': Here it comes!

TRUMP:....My beef with government was its interference with the American way of doing business. It was a serious nuisance for us but not a personal threat for those of my stature....

(pause)

CHARLIE: Say it, Donnie Johnnie!

TRUMP:....I was wrong. I should have kept more in tune with the feelings of my electorate, and most Americans. They have a deep seated and well-founded fear of their government. The *Deep State* is real, but I only learned the depth of its machinations when it came after me; when it decided that I was deviating from what it had unilaterally dictated was right for America. Just where does this most serious threat to American freedoms emanate?...

(a rather long pause)

FLORINDA: This is *some* pause...a pregnant pause...a late term pregnant pause...

TRUMP: It does not come from Russia....It does not come from China. Yes, it can be likened to a terrorist threat, but it is not foreign based. No, that threat comes from our own governmental institutions naively created by past administrations and given free rein because they were duped into believing national security required it.

(pause)

FLORINDA: Well Done!...Now, *Marshal Dillon* your thoughts.

TRUMP: Back In 1908 the Attorney General created an office to assist in the breaking up of trusts. In the following years there were several name changes, and much more importantly, purpose changes. J. Edgar Hoover became its chief in 1923. It was the *Red Scare* days and Hoover had proved his goonish worth in the Palmer Raids. And so he went on as if his German counterpart and correspondent, Heinrich Himmler, were his mentor.

(brief pause)

Thousands of felonious invasions during the Cointelpro era; the systematic fabrication of evidence by its crime lab to favor federal and state prosecutions; the spying and frame-up of dissidents; and most serious, the systematic murder of Black Americans because they were deemed too militant, or simply to send a message to an entire race: *submit or die*. Those crimes were perpetrated, both directly and via manipulated third parties, as ordered by its racist founder. Presently the Hoover tradition continues in modernized form.

(brief pause)

But regardless of method the FBI has always been a rampaging gang of untouchables. Those days are over. The organization created by Charles Bonaparte, whose uncle and cousin replaced free states with dictatorships, no longer will have an opportunity to conspire against the peoples' elected representatives in order to execute their plot to create a police state here in America.

(brief pause)

Many will no doubt be shocked to learn that the most dangerous terrorist organizations are buried deep within their country's own security apparatus. As I speak federal marshals are seizing FBI headquarters and all of its offices. They will be sealed off to secure documented evidence for future nationally aired trials.

(brief pause)

I have further ordered an expansion of the Federal Marshal Service sufficient to place marshals in all police forces that receive federal funding . They along with the assistance of local police will take over the law enforcement duties formerly performed by special agents. To counter the fabrication of fake evidence in criminal trials, I have ordered that a national program of honest scientific analysis of evidence be created and managed by the renowned *American Academy of Forensic Sciences*.

(long pause)

CHARLIE: Shouldn't he here be saying something about god, country and the American way?

FLORINDA: And then, *goodbye*.

TRUMP: Some of you may have forgotten about our Federal Marshal Service, or thought they had been disbanded.

(brief pause)

'HAROLD': Oh, here he goes....from peak to trough.

TRUMP: Unlike the FBI which dates from 1935, Federal Marshals have been with us since the birth of our nation. They carry with them the down home American way of keeping the peace, and they will be exemplars of appropriate policing to all the police in the cities and towns where they serve.

(brief pause)

No longer will it be heroic to shoot someone showing a phone, a pencil, a candy bar, a wallet, or because you *think* they might be armed; let alone shoot them in the back while handcuffed and lying face down.

(brief pause)

To counteract such cowardly murders I will order all police serving with the marshals to view the early half hour Gunsmoke episodes which include a shooting sequence.

(pause)

FLORINDA: Is this hilarious or ridiculous?

'HAROLD': This is what happens when you have an old geezer as president who was enthralled with this stuff as a kid.

TRUMP: Every police station will have a large prominently displayed sign containing The Marshal Dillon Rule: *I have no right to shoot anyone unless they are actively trying to shoot me or an unarmed person.*

(pause)

CHARLIE: I guess that means we at least have the right to shoot ourselves.

TRUMP: And I particularly want the episode *The Executioner* an object of close study.

(pause)

CHARLIE: Oh, now that *is* a good one. It may have been written by Peckinpah.

FLORINDA: *(to Charlie)* Why you old cowpoke!

CHARLIE: I just love the 50's.

TRUMP: *(with much feeling)* At his critical juncture in the history of our beloved country I will need the support of all truly patriotic Americans. Your approval, or rejection, will determine my fate. Good night my fellow Americans, and may God look over us in these troubled times.

(Trump walks off)

FLORINDA: And a good night to you, Gracie.

'HAROLD': Well, at least it is done.

CHARLIE: Actually, the last bit has a comforting quality.

'HAROLD': I'll feel better when I know that the *nasties* have been decommissioned. Let's go see the boss.

###

[Scene 4]

[Several days later. Trump present along with the three.]

TRUMP: Admittedly I got a good push cutting off the FBI, but I don't want to throw over the whole damn government. I told you: I'm *not* a radical.

'HAROLD': But, sir, you are whether you want to admit it or not.

CHARLIE: Mr. President, the two parties have shoved you aside, you are officially outside of their political milieu.

FLORINDA: You are therefore a *radical*, meaning apart or in a very distant relationship to them.

TRUMP: Yeah, that's true, but the CIA....Where does it end?

FLORINDA: It's like in business: eliminating redundant operations to increase efficiency. What makes more sense than having the State Department absorb operations for which it was created to perform?

TRUMP: The State Department is the visible representative of America in foreign eyes. I don't want those eyes to also see that CIA dirty stuff.

'HAROLD': State has always had an intelligence gathering section. It's also been without reproach unless the CIA forced itself upon it.

TRUMP: That's unfortunate.

FLORINDA: Yes, a disaster. State can do everything our country requires via diplomacy. CIA terrorism is counterproductive.

CHARLIE: Sir, you got rid of one goon squad. It will be all to your benefit to get rid of this other one.

(Pause as Trump mulls things over while displaying a very doubtful expression. Charlie detects the problem.)

CHARLIE: Mr. President, we know these are monumental issues that require much consideration. How about a break? I bought you another East Sider.

TRUMP: Nah...I had one the other day. It was blah...nothing like the one you gave me. I'll have to check out other burger joints.

CHARLIE: I knew it! Like I told Florrie and Harry, I have a way with these things.

TRUMP: What, with the warmer? It just keeps stuff warm.

CHARLIE: Not the way I modulate it...change the temperature...sometimes with the bun cover off. *(Starts toward the kitchen)* You'll see.

(brief pause)

'HAROLD': *(doubling down on the crux of the issue)* Sir, you must realize you have little choice in the matter.

TRUMP: Oh, come now, Harry!

'HAROLD': Consider this: Mueller, twelve years chief of the FBI and now outside of the bureau, uses stuff criminally gathered by active agents to subvert your election prospects, and then when that failed to eject you from the White House.

FLORINDA: You scotched their takeover plan. It's the American people who decide the outcome of elections, not the secret police.

'HAROLD': Yes...and then we have Allen Dulles, the longest serving head of the CIA. Kennedy was presumptuous enough to remove him in 1961.

(Unseen by Trump, Charlie quietly steps from the kitchen holding the uncovered burger in its container. Then quickly returns)

Dulles disapproves of Kennedy's foreign relations policies. As we have now recently learned, he then joins the assassination plot along with those active in the agency.

FLORINDA: And then makes sure he is a prominent member of the panel selected to investigate it.

(pause while Trump ponders, and then turns toward the kitchen)

'HAROLD': Sir, you do grasp the critical issue here?

(causing Trump to rapidly turn from kitchen to 'Harold')

TRUMP: Yes, of course, they are the same...

(at which point Charlie walks in with the burger)

'HAROLD': Please, Charlie, wait a few minutes while the President gives the issue his full attention.

CHARLIE: Oh, certainly.

(and as Charlie turns toward the kitchen)

TRUMP: *(turning toward Charlie)* That's it, Charlie, the same aroma I was looking forward to when I bought the burger.

CHARLIE: That's great, sir, it will be even better when you are ready to take a bite.

(as Charlie returns to the kitchen and Trump turns toward 'Harold' and Florinda)

FLORINDA: So you do understand, sir, they are the same. If you punish the FBI but not the CIA then you have shown the world that it was not done on principle; to protect the rights and freedom of Americans...

'HAROLD': You bring back the Tweet mistake, that it was personal, to save yourself. Just political maneuvering.

(Trump tense...seems ready to burst)

TRUMP: Damn it! I'm not going to allow a government agency to murder an American president....Even if he is a Democrat! Florrie, write this up for me. And now...*(as Charlie walks in with the burger)*...Finally!

CHARLIE: Bon appetite, sir.

TRUMP: *(as he savors a bite of the burger and gets up to leave)* This is just what I was hoping for.

(brief pause)

'HAROLD': We have a few pardons we wish you to consider. All are tied to the dissolving of the FBI.

FLORINDA: There is Leonard Peltier, a Native American imprisoned for more than forty years for involvement in the death of two agents even though the bureau admits to having no evidence whatsoever connecting him to the crime.

CHARLIE: He was railroaded because of his connection to the American Indian Movement.

TRUMP: An outrage. Justice for our native people.

'HAROLD': And there is Mumia Abu-Jamal. He has also been in prison for more than forty years having been convicted in the death of the Philadelphia police officer based on absolutely no evidence of his complicity.

CHARLIE: Yes, here the FBI knows that it was a contract killing arranged by Philly cops because they suspected the victim would report their crimes to federal investigators. Its only because Mumia was a Black Panther that he is in prison.

TRUMP: Of course. Freeing a Black Panther is about as anti-racist as a person can be.

FLORINDA: And finally there is Dr. Jeffrey MacDonald jailed since 1970 for the murder of his family based on FBI fabricated evidence...a strand of fabric from his pajamas wrapped around a few hairs of his wife.

CHARLIE: Even though all evidence points to copycat killings inspired by the recent Manson murders.

TRUMP: *(as he is about to depart)* Then let's see what we can do to set things right. Just get the details to me. We'll implement everything within a day or two.

(The moment Trump leaves Charlie brings in the slice of Virginia ham removed from the burger. The door quickly opens and Trump sticks his head in. Charlie turns and gobbles the ham.)

TRUMP: Say, wasn't MacDonald in the military when he was charged?

'HAROLD': Yes, sir, he was a Captain in the Special Forces medical service.

TRUMP: A loyal, patriotic American serving his country thrown into jail because the FBI wants to show who is boss. Let's feature him in the pardons.

'HAROLD': Right, sir.

(Trump departs and there is a pause to see if he will make another return. Then 'Harold' and Florinda turn and glare at Charlie.)

CHARLIE: I *was* going to share it.

FLORINDA: Well, *now* I'm *hungry*.

CHARLIE: Would you like some Spam?

'HAROLD': We can't spare it. Let's get something and discuss where we are. Charlie's paying.

(as they leave)

CHARLIE: For one slice of ham?

FLORINDA: It was *Presidential* ham.

###

[Scene 5]

[Trump and the three are gathered for another brainstorming session]

FLORINDA: Sir, look at the results...You are on the verge of taking your enemies by storm.

TRUMP: So it seems to you, but to me I see the most unspiritual guy in the world being set up for crucifixion. What happened to my approval rating after the CIA wipeout? Nothing.

'HAROLD': Mr. President, you are looking at the wrong data. You have the entire political establishment against you. Your early appointees cast you in a bad light which was then enhanced by the media.

CHARLIE: Yes, forget about what people think about you personally. Look closely at their reaction to your two bold moves.

FLORINDA: Pew, the most objective polling outfit, found that more than 70% strongly approved of those actions.

'HAROLD': You have been impeached but that almost certainly will not be approved by the Senate. In any case you are forever barred from conventional political activity. But our plans will raise you into an even stronger position.

TRUMP: Outside of politics?...That makes no sense.

'HAROLD': *Conventional* politics.

FLORINDA: You will be leader of a broad, powerful, *movement*, not some petty, despised, political party.

CHARLIE: Note the last word in your political slogan: Make America Great **Again**. That means it currently is not at all great.

FLORINDA: In fact it's the Shithole that you called it and for which you were ripped up side and down.

TRUMP: No, I wasn't referring to America, I was...

'HAROLD':.....Referring to **America**.

(and the three of them stare at Trump until he gets it)

TRUMP: Okay...I see. At the next opportunity I'll announce a league of shitholes of the world and invite my filthy friends to join with America.

FLORINDA: And by then those with doubts about your *new leaf* will have been convinced.

(brief pause)

'HAROLD': So, Mr. President, do we still have jobs?

TRUMP: With raises. You guys are my last hope. I'm totally with you on the new set of changes...the NED, FED, and #MeTooWillSue. I was almost going to drop the CIA thing until you told how it's also a push back against the Bush clique.

(brief pause as they ponder his meaning)

'HAROLD': Oh, you mean the CIA sponsored 1976 bombing of a Cuban plane that killed 73 people while old man Bush was its Director. You can also use that against the Rubio clique.

CHARLIE: Yeah, the Florida gusanos were the recruiting base.

TRUMP: Gusanos?

(brief pause as 'Harold' and Florinda aim an angry stare at Charlie for using a term inappropriate for right wing politics)

CHARLIE: Oh...ah...That's what Rubio supporters call themselves. You see his middle name is Ah-GUS-toh. The affectionate Cuban diminutive is Gusano.

FLORINDA: To avoid confusion, use should be restricted to Rubio fans.

TRUMP: If they like to be called such a stupid sounding thing, I'll be sure to use it on every relevant occasion. But what was the end of the story? We were in such a rush that you only told me about Bush setting up the anti-Castro bombers led by this fellow in the Venezuela military-intelligence unit. Was anybody ever punished for the crime?

'HAROLD': Posadas fled to safety in the US and only died this May at the age of 90. Venezuela tried and convicted two of his hirelings. Posadas was also convicted but either escaped or was let go. Very likely the latter.

TRUMP: Freed or escaped?...Dammit! We should know all about it if it was ultimately our job.

FLORINDA: Yes, sir, we will probably learn the whole story now that we have full access to CIA records, but since the agency planted false documents to create confusion should a dangerous genuine be exposed, we may never have absolute certainty. What we do know is that Posadas was a CIA agent operating through CIA friends within Venezuelan military intelligence. They were vehemently opposed to any jailing of a top level operative for performing his assigned duty. The civilian government, fearful of a return to military dictatorship, but also wanting to save face, went through the pretense of letting him escape.

'HAROLD': Bush was serving in the remnant of the Nixon term, so he had a pretty free hand. Americans had been banned from travel to Cuba, but many visitors from Canada and Europe told of conditions for the poor in Cuba being much better than they were for the poor in richer Latin American nations. Americans were clamoring to see for themselves. Hence, the terror bombing of a civilian plane.

FLORINDA: The code name for the operation was said to be: *See Cuba and Die*. Posadas arrived in the US after his 'flight' with no problem. Ten years later Venezuela tried to have him extradited, no doubt knowing it would never be approved. As a cover our government charged him with a minor offense. The trial stretched out a couple of years and ended with an unsurprising acquittal. The legal facade is important...it provides the illusion that justice is being served while the CIA has approved its repulsive code of honor: No action done under its authority, including the murder of 73 innocent people, will be punished. That way they are assured of having access to the best cold blooded killers for future hire.

CHARLIE: And let's not forget the FBI involvement. Orlando Bosch was also part of the plot but was arrested in Costa Rica on an FBI international warrant. When notified the FBI said it couldn't be bothered with picking him up. But thanks to Costa Rica, Bosch never got there in time.

TRUMP: Shouldn't we send a belated thank you note to Costa Rica; something like the one I sent to Scottish cognitive scientists? To think I almost sent out a crackpot warning to all Americans: stay out of Cuba because its government exposes American tourists to sonic brain attacks.

CHARLIE: As soon as we dig out the whole story from FBI records.

(brief pause as they think about other issues up for discussion)

TRUMP: I think our next offensive should begin with #MeTooWillSue movement. Go after the 322 divvying up \$500 million of Michigan money. Make the moral claims look like greed.

'HAROLD': That would be unwise, sir. An action against the NED will make obvious the triviality of what Russia may have done. That directly demolishes the Russia issue.

TRUMP: But haven't we done enough now that the FBI is no more?

'HAROLD': You have weakened the enemy but Congress has not given up the fight.

TRUMP: Yeah, those bastards even hired Mueller to lead their investigation.

FLORINDA: Which we will counter with cases of congressional funded subversion of elections in which their foreign agents were arrested and tried on very sound evidence.

CHARLIE: Comparing that with the alleged Russian minor actions at a distance and we make your accusers look ridiculous.

'HAROLD': So we tell them: Since you are so disturbed about foreign nations interfering with a nation's electoral process, then let's demonstrate our sincerity by abolishing the NED for being set up to do just that, and at the same time save the taxpayer millions.

TRUMP: Sounds good but I can't do anything by executive decree.

'HAROLD': That's right, but you do have considerable leverage because it was a presidential initiative that got some of the CIA dirty work shifted to Congress.

FLORINDA: That fake 'evidence' provided by the University of Pennsylvania to scare Americans away from Cuba was paid for by NED. It cost a lot to bribe our cognitive scientists into using a 40% baseline to determine impairment rather than the internationally accepted standard of 5%.

TRUMP: Geez...I would have looked like some dumb fuck sanctioning as evidence something that would declare practically everyone in the world as cognitively impaired.

CHARLIE: A good example of the grandiose *fascistic* nature of the NED.

TRUMP: *Fascistic?!...Really?...and they call me a right-winger!*

CHARLIE: Mussolini was the first to set up a fascist corporate entity. That means that private institutions are made to operate within a state structure. Fascism as a term defined by its initial appearance, is a particular form of corporate state. The state oversees the operations of private capitalism. It's much like the way the US and British WW2 war economies were run.

TRUMP: Clearly a good reason for small government supporters to love seeing the National Endowment for Democracy abolished or at least cut off from any government support.

CHARLIE: Yes, we inform the public that it's a pseudo private organization of repackaged and renamed private non governmental groups: The Democratic and Republican parties, the Business Council and the AFL-CIO. But it's funded by the government, \$180 million most recently, and implements government approved policies. The NED is a mini incarnation of the Mussolini model.

FLORINDA: As a state sanctioned criminal organization using the promotion of democracy as a cover it subverts free electoral processes abroad. Its demise will also prevent any possibility of its use for the same purpose at home.

'HAROLD': And be hugely popular, though not to the same extent as disbanding the Federal Reserve Bank. Another private entity operating under federal sanction.

FLORINDA: It is an assembly of the select leadership of America's big banks whose only purpose is to safeguard their private financial system with public money during times of crisis.

CHARLIE: And that adds a vast sum to the public debt. So to appease our creditors a drive for budgetary cut backs is announced. That means efforts to gut social services, which is the only good and popular thing the government provides.

'HAROLD': Easy to see how disbanding this outfit and creating a national bank with a dozen branches will please everyone but the financiers.

TRUMP: So there won't be any more bailing out.

'HAROLD': And that's the beauty of it. It will please not only the masses but the free market small government types on the right. When a financial company fails it will be dissolved, not propped up and carried along like festering dead meat for the benefit of management and shareholders.

CHARLIE: A lot of the garbage from the last slump was forcefully integrated with stable banking systems. Carrying excess dead weight weakened their capacity to lift the economy out of its stagnant state. Our program has the national bank holding all the assets and liabilities of collapsed financial institutions until they are liquidated.

TRUMP: I was dissuaded from hiring Taylor as head of the Fed. He had some similar ideas. He might be a good choice for the new bank. Okay, now let's deal with something more exciting (*pause as he looks toward Florinda*) Florrie?

FLORINDA: Well the best way is also the least seamiest. Given the class structure of our society it's hardly surprising that many in power will take full advantage of all its possibilities. There is no question that there is much truth behind many charges of sexual harassment and worse. A lot of women during the course of their careers will have occasions when they must fend off unwanted advances.

TRUMP: And men also. Look at that Ronnell-Reitman case at NYU. What's the world coming to when a gay man has to worry about being groped by a lesbian in a powerful position? I'd like to know what the devil she was looking for.

'HAROLD': People tend to groove on the salacious stuff and that makes them lose sight of a more serious aspect of the issue...the wrecking of one of a free society's most vital right: the statute of limitation. It makes perfect sense to have no statute of limitations for murder...the victim can't rise from the dead within 5 years to prefer charges...but not for any other crime.

CHARLIE: A host of crimes are currently classified as Class A felonies with no statute of limitations. They include the entire range of sex offenses from rape to allegations of abuse. Even the sale of a controlled substance can bring a charge decades after it is said to have occurred.

FLORINDA: Meanwhile, killing someone unlawfully but short of first degree murder must be charged within 5 years. The most serious offense of the 10 Commandments is *Bearing False Witness...Perjury*. But according to the law that sin is forgiven after only 5 years.

CHARLIE: New York City cop Scarcella got at least 13 people sent up on murder charges by sworn lies and fake evidence. They were freed after serving a total of 245 years but the cop will not serve a day because the city and state were careful to drag out an investigation until after the statute expired.

TRUMP: So, okay, we make a proposal, perhaps one of my decrees at the federal level, that the statute of limitations be made reasonable. How does that become something popular?

'HAROLD': Consider this...Someone is accused of sexual abuse decades after the alleged event occurred. How can the person charged possibly get a fair trial?

TRUMP: Playing devil's advocate...there still could be evidence, like someone that could corroborate the charge.

'HAROLD': Not even necessary. In the 1970's when sex abuse witchhunts began most state court systems made corroboration unnecessary.

TRUMP: But what about Reitman in the Ronnell case...Some of his sex charges were thrown out because of lack of corroboration by other persons.

'HAROLD': That was an NYU ruling, not something in court. He's suing NYU partly because of that. Conviction is simply based on taking the word of the accuser.

FLORINDA: That is powerfully supplemented by the testimony of psychologists accepted as being qualified to determine whether the accuser is telling the truth. Freud was able to brain massage 18 women who charged family members with sex offenses into convincing them it was all in their minds...they were really suffering from hysteria. It's not only easy for professional mind manipulators to create and impose something out of nothing but the secondary effect is that it erases and supplants memory of what really occurred.

TRUMP: But whatever we do it can't seem like we are trying to let guilty people off.

CHARLIE: No problem there. We will have a 1 to 3 year statute of limitations based on types of sex offenses. All hospitals of significant size must maintain a medical team dedicated to treating the physical effects of sex crimes. The more limited, non brain draining, cognitive sciences will be preferred for psychological help. Further, a national hotline to report sex related offenses will be established and maintained by a dedicated independent organization which will not only refer those of a criminal nature to police departments but will insure that they are investigated.

TRUMP: I'm surprised that there hasn't been a demand for that.

'HAROLD': You will be even more surprised at the low number of calls received, even though it will be heavily promoted and the accuser not identified.

TRUMP: Money?...Revenge?

FLORINDA: Those and many other reasons, but it's vital that all our emphasis is on personal rights. Your defense of a person's most basic right of not having their reputations and lives ruined by ancient baseless charges will bring a tidal wave of support from both men and women. Polls have shown that most women are repelled by the pathetic, *cringing waif like*, defenselessness of the outpouring of accusations, most of which are

from the well-to-do who, of course, have been assisted in going public and casting blame through the wonders of psychotherapy.

TRUMP: Yes, a *Women With Guns* group asked to meet with me to show their support. I was for it but the Secret Service talked me out of it.

CHARLIE: And finally, as an adjunct of our defense of personal rights, the defacto violation of the constitutional right with respect to double jeopardy will be forbidden. When society arrests, charges and convicts individuals, that person cannot be subjected to a secondary trial and possible punishment by any private institution...such as an employer.

(pause as these proposals are digested)

'HAROLD': Well, shall we implement this triple attack against hypocrisy, greed and the abrogation of the most fundamental of personal rights?

CHARLIE: Your enemies, currently reduced to babbling, will be struck dumb.

TRUMP: Go to it...and, Charlie, I've had a hard time restraining myself, but I detect....

CHARLIE: Coming right up, sir.

###

[Scene 6]

[All parties are again present]

TRUMP: What's all this talk about popularity? Sure it's all good about the restructuring...

'HAROLD':...Raves!

FLORINDA: Stunned Raves!

CHARLIE: Euphoria!

TRUMP: Whatever! But what about some credit for leadership? I've sensed a slight loss of conservative support.

CHARLIE: You've captured all the progressives except for the party people who are out in the wilderness fucking themselves.

'HAROLD': And that little slippage among conservative sectors resides in the numerically most significant; the sort with strong belief in the right to bear arms. We have developed a program that can't fail to bring them back.

FLORINDA: That's right, sir, the pro-gun people based their right to ownership on a weak and fundamentally incorrect interpretation of the Second Amendment; that it's

purpose is personal protection. The more they argue incorrectly, the more they undermine the right they wish to defend.

TRUMP: But how do you concretize a right that is such a, strictly in confidence, vague mishmash?

CHARLIE: By an historical analysis of the event that made those ten amendments part of the Constitution. That event, of course, is our war of liberation.

FLORINDA: Yes, and the argument is further strengthened by its historical frequency: When the powerful need to raise an army they make all kinds of promises that they never intend to keep except in dribs and drabs, if at all. And nothing riles veterans more than being screwed by those who you sacrificed your life for.

'HAROLD': All the states experienced popular uprisings demanding payment for military service and the cessation of heavy taxation for debts incurred for financing a war that now seemed to be mainly for the benefit of the rich and powerful.

CHARLIE: Some of the leadership were at first confused as to how to respond, but not shrewd Alexander Hamilton, the Federalist leader who advocated a form of rule that we today would call a police state.

TRUMP: Nothing pisses me off more than the liberals appropriating one of my heroes.

CHARLIE: And he was masterful. He hated the weak Articles of Confederation. When rebellions occurred he actually undermined attempts at peaceful settlements. He wanted to force a situation where the rest of the elite will join him in creating a state apparatus strong enough to suppress any outbursts from the lower classes.

FLORINDA: Hamilton got the Constitution he wanted written and passed by the Convention but he wasn't going to get it approved by enough states because those lower classes were pretty shrewd themselves. They saw that it created a strong state mainly for the purpose of keeping *them* in order.

TRUMP: Thus the addition of the Bill of Rights.

'HAROLD': Right, sir, but note that all those are guarantees of **personal** rights: protections against the state undermining or abrogating those rights.

TRUMP: Which makes it absurd to say, 'Hey, you can keep your personal firearms just so we can draft armed people to save our bacon against people like you.'

'HAROLD': Exactly. The Second Amendment is there to protect all the other basic rights. That is its fundamental reason for existence; not to defend one's person or home.

TRUMP: But why the confused wording?

FLORINDA: It's advocates proposed many clear statements of what they wanted. But the elite knew they had to muddle the statement enough so that its powerful court system can, when concern slackened, twist and neuter its wording to suit the elite.

CHARLIE: Note, sir, that Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution provided for the creation of an army, a navy, and for the arming of a militia. It already had **its** militia armed. That is just what the lower order feared.

TRUMP: Okay *(reading)* *A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.*
This *well regulated militia* business seems totally out of place.

CHARLIE: Precisely, sir, the state already had its militia. The common folks assumed it referred to a peoples' militia. In their minds they read it as, *An armed people, being necessary to the security of a free state...* meaning to secure and assure that the state is a free state, one that accepts and protects the rights of all Americans and not just those licensed to the elite.

'HAROLD:' And that's where our blockbuster proposal comes into play. The federal state has an army, navy and air force. The states have national guard systems which are largely paid for and armed by the federal government and can be federalized with the stroke of a pen. We order all states to dissolve their national guards and open their facilities to a popular ground-up formation of militia.

TRUMP: Can I do that?

'HAROLD': Possibly not, but whether it's an order, or an encouragement to do so coupled with an announcement that all federal assistance will end, the peoples' militia will be formed.

FLORINDA: Keep in mind, sir, that in keeping with the spirit of our founders, it will be strictly a small arms militia, no tanks or warplanes. And it's charter will clearly state that its objective is limited to the protection of the personal rights, privileges and freedom of the American people.

TRUMP: But who decides what?

CHARLIE: It will be governed by a democratically elected national congress. It may not even....

(at this point Trump's phone rings)

TRUMP: *(to the phone)* Just as expected....yeah, he's here along with Florrie La Cava and Charlie Beslay *(pronounced Beh-lay)*.... We'll work on something as soon as we see their statement. *(ends call and continues)*

TRUMP: The impeachment vote failed as we knew it would, but a bipartisan group of bastards from both houses issued a statement containing a long list of evils committed by yours truly, either directly or by my staff and friends, and urging my immediate

resignation in order to spare our nation the disgrace I brought to it, especially in the eyes of the world.

(Charlie quietly moves toward the kitchen)

'HAROLD': HA!, they want you out because you have cut off many of the lines of power that had previously been in the hands of the big bosses. Now begins their all-out offensive to reverse those losses.

FLORINDA: And that will mean not only an attack on you, but just those freedoms the people's militia will be in place to protect.

TRUMP: Okay, now we will still have police for ordinary crime...*(at this point Charlie returns and hands him a burger which he nibbles as he speaks)*...and armed forces to protect us from any foreign enemies...

FLORINDA:...of course...

TRUMP:...and when those bipartisan congressional bastards hand me their list of Russia - Trump crimes, I'll say, why you dumb fucks, do you think a hundred million armed Americans in the People's Militia, sworn to protect the rights of all Americans, have secretly declared their allegiance to Putin and Russia?

'HAROLD': Imagine those shame-faced shitbags!

(now eating the sandwich with gusto)

TRUMP: The American people exercised their Constitutional right and elected me President of the United States...and then I'll dare them...Okay you crooks, just try to stage your coup and let's see where the People's Militia stands!

'HAROLD': May I say, sir, that you will have most definitely *Trumped-them!*

TRUMP: You may, and...*(finishing the burger)*...I will say that Charlie has done the same with the Jackson Hole product. *(to Charlie)* What's your secret?

CHARLIE: Oh, sir, it's undoubtedly my French heritage. No culture knows better how to massage the taste buds into a blended symphony of delectation.

TRUMP: Well, my staff trio has done something similar with the political arrangement of America. *(As he begins to depart)* Let's proceed with high resolve until we have surrounded and engulfed all enemies.

(waves his departure)

FLORINDA: *A blended symphony of delectation....*What bullshit!

'HAROLD': I don't know, Florrie, Charlie may really have something. French vintners once made wine using battery acid and ox blood that was rated tops by wine critics.

CHARLIE: It's an honor to be part of such an accomplishment. Let's depart for a business meal....you two will pay while I make a skilled selection for all of us.

'HAROLD': Yeah, let's go, Charlie deserves it.

(as they depart)

FLORINDA: I'm just having ice cream.

CHARLIE: Have you ever had my wonderful ice cream made with no cream?

FLORINDA: No, and that's something that should be reserved for the boss.

###

[Scene 7]

[Charlie, Florinda and 'Harold']

'HAROLD': So we stick with the business model, right?

FLORINDA: It fits him like a sensible shoe.

CHARLIE: I think we've got the perfect set up for the next big thing.

FLORINDA: *(to Charlie)* How about burgers?

CHARLIE: I've got one in the warmer. Something different since you failed us on the Spam.

FLORINDA: Nobody is going to leave that shit in there for years. Collectors siphon it out through a pinhole opening.

CHARLIE: Phony collectors.

FLORINDA: What's the alternative?

'HAROLD': Imagine a collector who has visitors and wants to show it to them...

CHARLIE: Collectors are notoriously protective about things they choose to collect. It would be, *look but don't touch*.

FLORINDA: Or they could inject some inert material that matches the weight of a can of Spam.

'HAROLD': What if a visitor says something like...'at least you are well-stocked with calories in an emergency.'

(brief pause)

FLORINDA: Honesty is a bitch!

CHARLIE: What's so difficult about telling the truth?

'HAROLD': What about our relationship with the boss?

CHARLIE: *(sarcasm)* You mean we should tell him that every bit of intelligence has been extracted from his brain?

(generates nothing more than smiles)

FLORINDA: Listen...Every program we persuaded him to support is something we truly believed in. It's just that we really didn't think of him...

CHARLIE: Oh, who cares about that?...All is fair in love, war, and revolution...

FLORINDA:...which may make even him in theory likable...we didn't fill his brain with inert blank thoughts.

'HAROLD': *(looking at his phone)* Our made-to-order homunculus approaches...Gear up.

(Trump enters...in a cheerful, self-satisfied mood)

TRUMP: Greetings, my friends.

'HAROLD': *(detecting Trump's state)* Well, sir, despite all the work we've thrust upon you, you seem to be energized for more.

TRUMP: You know, Harry, being able to go on the offensive, to advance what is best for America, and then to experience the overwhelming appreciation of Americans, well, I just cannot have too much of that. My only regret is that I've had only one term to continue our program.

FLORINDA: You're not thinking of retirement, Mr. President?

TRUMP: I'm in my 70's, Florrie, I guess it's just as well that I won't have another hectic four years.

'HAROLD': But as head of a movement only a spiritual energy need be applied.

CHARLIE: That's right, sir, all your accomplishments are brought forward just by your presence.

TRUMP: I've thought it over, Charlie, and I can't see any use in calling for a constitutional convention when those that would have to approve such a thing are unalterably opposed to it.

'HAROLD': Consider this, sir, we hammer away at all the unconstitutional executive decrees that started wars and swept away personal rights.

FLORINDA: Think of the waves of support by the American people because you had the audacious courage to raise, and then to call for, the elimination of such undemocratic anti-American powers.

TRUMP: But, still...

CHARLIE: With such massive support you then call for the creation of a shadow constitutional convention.

TRUMP: I'm all for change, but I'm no subversive.

'HAROLD': The constitutional convention that we envision would be for demonstration purposes only.

CHARLIE: We'd have everything done out in the open...draw in every sector of the population and every part of the nation to participate in the electoral process.

FLORINDA: School kids could do the counting, and once assembled, they would openly discuss all the complexities of establishing a truly democratic parliamentary democracy.

TRUMP: But, still...

'HAROLD':...the established order will not budge; or will they?

FLORINDA: Imagine their reaction when they see a popular upsurge of discontent because of the way the country is run.

CHARLIE: They will at least try to fix up, that is make less obvious, their usurpation of a peoples' democracy.

'HAROLD':...which will make them all the more weaker because their meaningless reforms will prove our point.

(Trump now puts his hand to chin and displays his version of deep thought. Charlie makes his way to the kitchen.)

TRUMP: Hmmm....my concern is that there cannot be a popular massive mobilization without prospects for an immediate return....or even anything we can give a time stamp to.

'HAROLD': Normally that would be a valid concern if not for your reorganization of government structure not seen since the birth of the nation. Think of the popular wrath when future governments try to revert to the past.

CHARLIE: *(returns from kitchen with burger)* You've proved that you can do big things, sir.

FLORINDA: And the next big thing would be more popular than all that you have accomplished....the removal of the despised, corrupt, two party system...

'HAROLD':...which half of the electorate rejects altogether...

CHARLIE:....while the other half holds its nose and votes on the basis of a despicability index.

(at this point Trump turns towards Charlie)

TRUMP: At the moment my nose is holding on to a delightful scent.

CHARLIE: Well, sir, I have another...*(Charlie is interrupted as he attempts to show Trump the burger)*

'HAROLD': Charlie, why must you always interrupt the President when he's in the midst of making a critical decision?

CHARLIE: Oh, I'm sorry, sir, I just thought....

TRUMP: For godsakes, Charlie, don't apologize and just bring it over. And as for the plan; you have convinced me. You three have never failed me...we should go all out on this historical blockbuster. *(Trump then turns toward Charlie)* Is that another East Sider?

CHARLIE: No sir. The word among burger mavens is that the East Sider is in a slump and is now surpassed by the Greek.

TRUMP: Really? I've never cared for it, but I do detect a most tantalizing aroma coming from that container.

(At this point Trump rises to leave and Charlie hands him the burger. He takes a good-sized bite and smiles)

TRUMP: Simply magnificent! What a difference...*(and he takes off the top)*...Oh, they've forgotten the yogurt. I must insure their forgetful next time I order it. *(Trump then takes in his three advisers as he departs)* My friends, I'll be busy closing up shop, so our meetings for awhile must be brief, but once free, we'll get a running start on our new endeavor.

'HAROLD': Yes, sir, we'll have detailed plans worked out.

(as soon as Trump leaves both Harry and Florrie run over and embrace Charlie)

FLORINDA: How on earth did you manage it a second time?

(Charlie displaying a full measure of pride)

CHARLIE: I just made a point of purchasing the Greek burger from the person who sold the East Sider without the ham.

(Florrie and Harry are slightly taken aback)

'HAROLD': Wait a second...does that mean he would have liked the East Sider even with the ham missing?

FLORINDA: Hold on, Harry, he liked the East Sider before Charlie, even more after Charlie, and did not like it without Charlie, but not the Greek before Charlie...Give Charlie credit!

CHARLIE: Thanks Florrie, especially for including my name five times.

'HAROLD': Likewise, Charlie, and I guess that means we don't have to go and thank our friend the burger seller.

CHARLIE: Yes we do because of the Greek. Of course, I have to admit he may only have not liked the East Sider after my improvement because of my improvement.

(as they take in the silly complexity, laugh, and depart)

'HAROLD': And some fools doubt that politics is a science!

[End]

#####

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