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The Chips are Down

A play in one-act

By Don Zolidis

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Cast of Characters

RACHEL, a senior, top in her class

MOLLY, a senior, a bit of a screw-up

DOT, a senior, Rachel's best friend

JACQUELYN, a senior, stuck-up

Rachel's Family:

LIVY, 15, Rachel's younger sister

IRA, Rachel's father, manager of the cafeteria

TASHA, Rachel's mother

The Administration:

HORACE BROWN, the dean of students

MARY TRUNBULL, dean of faculty

ANDREW LAWSON, teacher of history

TILLY LAWSON, his wife

CHORUS, consisting of other students at the school, who play various roles

Setting:

Leighton Preparatory Academy. Exeter, New Hampshire. 1952.

(RACHEL, TASHA, IRA, and LIVY are in their home, watching television, transfixed.)

VOICE

This is not a period of peace. This is a time of the Cold War. This is a time when all the world is split into two vast, increasingly hostile armed camps -- a time of a great armaments race...

Today we are engaged in a final, all-out battle between communistic atheism and Christianity. The modern champions of communism have selected this as the time. And, ladies and gentlemen, the chips are down -- they are truly down.

(RACHEL steps out, addresses the audience as IRA messes with the rabbit ears of the television.)

RACHEL *(to the audience)*

My Dad brought home our first television in the fall of 1951. We were only the second people on our block with a set – other kids used to peer in through the windows to watch. My Dad threw potatoes at them. By the next year, half the people on the block had one and we ate a lot more potatoes.

I was in my senior year at Leighton Prep – one of the eight private schools in New England that claimed to be in the top five. Everyone in my class was rich. Except me. Dad ran the cafeteria – he only took the job on the condition that his daughters could attend the school. So we did. And life was perfect.

And it was October when my perfect life fell apart.

(Schoolbell rings.)

(SCHOOLGIRLS quickly set up the classroom. DOT, MOLLY, and JACQUELINE sit near RACHEL.)

(MR. LAWSON is teaching.)

MR. LAWSON

Well, what is America? What is the idea of America? The idea has evolved and it continues to evolve as our understanding of humanity has evolved. Think about this: not only were white men the only people allowed the privilege of voting, but only landed white men. Only men who owned property. Why? Why establish a Democracy, if you're only going to allow the rich to vote?

(MOLLY raises her hand.)

MOLLY

Are you asking us?

MR. LAWSON

What did I tell you about gum in class?

MOLLY

I can't remember.

(MR. LAWSON takes up a garbage can and sets it in front of MOLLY.)

MR. LAWSON

Does that jog your memory?

MOLLY

Still nothing.

(She spits it out.)

MR. LAWSON

Now you can answer the question.

MOLLY

What was the question?

(JACQUELINE raises her hand.)

JACQUELINE

Why were only rich white men allowed to vote?

MR. LAWSON

Thank you, Jackie.

DOT

Maybe rich people were the only smart people?

RACHEL

Maybe they only trusted rich white men?

MR. LAWSON

To do what?

RACHEL

To make the decisions?

MR. LAWSON

To make what decisions?

RACHEL

I don't – I don't know.

MR. LAWSON

What is the goal of a nation?

DOT

Freedom?

MR. LAWSON

Is it? That's what people like me tell you their goal was.

JACQUELINE
But isn't that in the Constitution? Isn't that the goal?

MR. LAWSON
We the people, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility – what does tranquility mean?

MOLLY
Peace?

MR. LAWSON
Are you sure?

MOLLY
A state of peace?

MR. LAWSON
Now why would a group of wealthy white men want to create a country at peace? And why would those same men dictate that they were the only ones authorized to determine the course of the country? No one else. No women. No poor men. No black men. Why would they do that?

RACHEL
Because they wanted to stay wealthy?
(The bell rings.)
(RACHEL steps forward.)
For the first time, in my four years at Leighton Prep, I got called into the Dean's office.
(Lights change to the Dean's office. MRS. TURNBULL ushers RACHEL in to MR. BROWN's office. He sits behind a desk.)

MR. BROWN
Have a seat, have a seat.

RACHEL
Did I do something wrong? I know that I wasn't supposed to pass notes to Molly, but she has a way of convincing you to do things you know are wrong.

MRS. TURNBULL
You haven't done anything wrong, dear. We just wanted to talk to you.

RACHEL
Oh.

MRS. TURNBULL
No need to be nervous.

MR. BROWN

And what do you have to be nervous about, anyway? The valedictorian of the class?

RACHEL

I'm not sure I am. I know Cathy Darling is still ahead of me –

MR. BROWN

Close enough.

MRS. TURNBULL

You are close with Mr. Lawson, are you not? The new history teacher?

RACHEL

Uh… yes. Me and a couple of the other girls do a study group at his apartment.

MR. BROWN

Would you say you're one of his favorite students?

RACHEL

I guess so. What's this about?

MRS. TURNBULL

Your school needs you. Leighton Prep needs you.

MR. BROWN

You want to help us, don't you?

RACHEL

Help you with what?

MRS. TURNBULL

I've heard a few distressing things about his lessons. Talking poorly about America.

RACHEL

Oh. Well he's just asking us to think –

MRS. TURNBULL

I know. And we love thinking. But… there's a fine line between thinking and questioning for no reason.

MR. BROWN

Mrs. Turnbull, if you'll allow me… I want you to keep your eyes and ears open. Okay?

RACHEL

Okay.

MR. BROWN
There's a struggle going on in the world right now –

RACHEL
What does that have to do with history class?

MRS. TURNBULL
We have reason to believe that Mr. Lawson might not be who he appears to be.

RACHEL
What?

MR. BROWN
And we need you to help us find out who, exactly, he is.

RACHEL
Who do you think he is?

MR. BROWN
We think he's a communist.

(Lights switch to the living room.)
(The television is on.)
(DOT, MOLLY, JACQUELINE are gathered around it watching.)

TELEVISION VOICE
This is the story, the fantastically true story of Herbert A. Philbrick, who, for nine frightening years, lead three lives: average citizen, high-level member of the communist party, and counterspy for the federal bureau of investigation. For obvious reasons, the names, dates, and places have been changed, but the story is based on fact. Communist espionage activities never cease. In just a moment you'll see a spy ring operating inside the United States, and stretching halfway around the world.

(Elsewhere on the stage, HERB and GUY enter.)

GUY
At least while you're here the commies aren't on your tail.

HERB
Yeah.

GUY
Your family won't be back, will they?

HERB
No they're out for the afternoon.

GUY

We just received word from behind the iron curtain, Herb. There's a commie spy ring operating in this area.

HERB

This area?

GUY

Top-secret blueprints for new weapons have been showing up in Moscow We don't know who's sending the information or how they're sending it, but we know one thing: If we don't stop it, it's curtains for America.

(RACHEL steps out to talk to the audience)

RACHEL *(to the audience)*

There were four of us that met with Mr. Lawson. Usually we met in the library, but sometimes we would go to his faculty apartment. He lived in one of the dorms with his wife. But the more I thought about it: was this how they indoctrinated you? Was this his plan all along?

(MR. LAWSON walks to his apartment, talking the whole way.)

MR. LAWSON

I fully believe you have the chance to go to college. Any college you want. You're bright, you're dedicated – if we work together there's nothing you can't do. You want to be a scientist? You want to be a scholar?

JACQUELINE

I just want to get married before I'm twenty-one.

(The girls laugh)

MOLLY

I've never getting married!

DOT

I thought you had a boyfriend.

MOLLY

Yeah, so? Believe me, he's temporary.

(The girls laugh)

MR. LAWSON

Marriage can be a good thing.

(TILLY calls out from the other room.)

TILLY

Can be?

MR. LAWSON

I mean it is definitely a good thing.

(TILLY sweeps in.)

TILLY

Hello dear. Bringing your work home?

MR. LAWSON

Just trying to change the world.

TILLY

Don't try too hard. I'll get out of your hair – only listen to half of what he says, girls. The other half is hot air.

(TILLY exits)

MR. LAWSON

You love my hot air.

TILLY *(off-stage)*

Half the time!

MR. LAWSON

Sorry. Where was I?

MOLLY

You were explaining why marriage was a terrible idea.

MR. LAWSON

It's not a terrible idea. I just see too many girls go through here and race into marriage with the first boy they see. And they haven't even figured out who they are and what they want yet. They haven't spent any time thinking about it, and they're looking for a life that doesn't require them to think about it.

JACQUELINE

I think that's what my father wants.

MR. LAWSON

Think for yourself. And think about yourself. What do you want? Where do you want to go? What about you, Rachel?

RACHEL

What about me?

MR. LAWSON

Do you want to go college?

RACHEL

Nobody in my family's ever gone to college.

Skipping Forward

JACQUELINE

You can't just ask him -

MR. BROWN

Girls. I have to remind you – what we're talking about here is confidential. And I must insist on absolute secrecy. Nothing we say goes outside of this room.

RACHEL

I don't think I believe it either.

MOLLY

See?

MR. BROWN

I don't believe in witch hunts. I don't believe in trials without evidence. I believe that a man is innocent until proven guilty. Mr. Lawson is a good teacher –

MRS. TURNBULL

I'm not certain I agree with –

MR. BROWN

Mrs. Turnbull. I have heard a lot of positive things about him. So… But – as you know, we cannot have a Communist on the faculty at Leighton. Teaching history. Infecting your minds. Indoctrinating children.

RACHEL

I don't think we're being indoctrinated –

MR. BROWN

People who are being indoctrinated never think they're being indoctrinated.

MOLLY

I don't even know what indoctrinated means, but I'm pretty sure it's not happening.

MRS. TURNBULL

Brainwashed.

DOT

Nobody's being brainwashed!

MR. BROWN

I'm sure you don't think of it that way. But consider his lessons. Is he being anti-American? What are you being asked to question?

MRS. TURNBULL

A poisonous teacher can corrupt a lot of minds. He can upset the whole order of things.

RACHEL

Well maybe the order of things needs to be upset!

MR. BROWN

It's that kind of thinking that concerns me.

RACHEL

I didn't mean it like that. I meant –

MR. BROWN

I know what you meant.

JACQUELINE

What do you want from us?

MRS. TURNBULL

Your help.

MR. BROWN

We require proof. I want you to get that proof.

MOLLY

You want us to rat him out?

MR. BROWN

I want you to investigate. If there's nothing there, there's nothing there.

MRS. TURNBULL

But if he is a Communist –

MR. BROWN

We need to know.

MRS. TURNBULL

And you need to tell us.

MOLLY

This is ridiculous –

RACHEL

I'm not doing it.

JACQUELINE

You want us to be spies!

MR. BROWN

I want you to find out the truth.

RACHEL

There's no way that –

MR. BROWN

Miss Goldstein, you applied to Radcliffe, did you not?

RACHEL

Yes.

MR. BROWN

I know the director of admissions there. We're good friends. A word from me – either positive or negative –

DOT

She's the valedictorian of the –

MR. BROWN

And that won't matter one bit if I give the word. Do you get my meaning? You could have a scholarship or you could be rejected. The same goes for all of you. We are enlisting your help. We're not asking. And Miss Goldstein, if you have any reservations, perhaps you should ask your father.

(Schoolbell rings.)

(Lights change to RACHEL's house.)
(LIVY, Rachel's younger sister, is studying at the kitchen table while TASHA cleans.)
(IRA, her father, is listening to baseball on the radio.)

LIVY

I don't get it. This is stupid. Mom –

TASHA

I can't help you, honey.

LIVY

You can't help me because it's stupid.

TASHA

Your sister can help you when she gets home.

IRA

Could you keep it down? I can't hear the game.

TASHA

There's a game on every night.

IRA

And I can't hear it most nights cause there's too much noise.

TASHA

Go in the bedroom then.

IRA

Why do you even say that? You know the reception in the bedroom is the pits.

LIVY

I don't understand why I have to do algebra anyway.

IRA

You gotta do algebra because they tell you to do algebra. Period. Get over it. Now shut up about it and do it so I can listen to the game.

LIVY

You don't do algebra.

IRA

I got five cooks that work under me that can't do algebra neither. You want their jobs?

LIVY

I'm not getting a job anyway.

IRA

You can get a job if you want.

LIVY

I don't want to if I have to use algebra. I'll have a husband that can do algebra. He'll do it for me.

(RACHEL enters)

RACHEL

If you do your own algebra you won't need a husband.

TASHA

Would you stop with that?

LIVY

Can you do this for me?

RACHEL

If I did it for you, then you wouldn't learn it.

LIVY

I know, that's what I want.

IRA

All right shut up both of you – THE GAME IS ON.
(the radio goes in and out)
C'mon you stupid thing. I can't get no reception in the kitchen.

TASHA

You said it was the only place –

IRA

I WAS WRONG. You happy? I was wrong. I'm goin' out on the porch.
(He takes his radio and gets up from his chair.)

TASHA

Wash up for dinner, hon.

RACHEL

We're not eating in the dining hall tonight?

TASHA

I'm cooking tonight.

LIVY

Great.

TASHA

Was that sarcasm?

RACHEL

Hold on.

TASHA

Don't tell me to hold on – wash up.

RACHEL

Hold on.
(she heads out after IRA)

TASHA

Honestly.
(Lights change to outside – IRA is huddled around his radio.)

RACHEL

Dad – can I talk to you for a second?

IRA

I come out here to get some peace and you want to talk. Fine. I can't listen to it anyway. I don't know why they start Hanson. He's a bum.

(He turns off the radio)

You're a bum!

RACHEL

He can't hear you through the radio.

IRA

He hears me. He gets it through mental waves.

RACHEL

There's no such thing as mental waves.

IRA

Yeah there is. I'm sending `em out right now – you stink. You're a bum. I hope you drown in the harbor.

RACHEL

Dad –

IRA

Next thing I know he'll throw a perfect game and I'll eat my words. All right what is it?

RACHEL

I'm worried about the future.

IRA

What are you worried about? You're the smartest person I know. I don't know where you came from.

RACHEL

Yeah, but –

IRA

You're gonna do great in college. Didn't that teacher say they were gonna try to get you a scholarship?

RACHEL

They're going to try.

IRA

Skipping Forward

I know. I just don't think he's one of them.

JACQUELINE
He's probably receiving instructions from the Soviet Union.

RACHEL
Why? Why would the Soviet Union care what happens at a private school in New Hampshire?

JACQUELINE
Training us.

RACHEL
For what?!

JACQUELINE
We could be spies. Double agents.

MOLLY
I'd do it.

DOT
Molly!

MOLLY
Wear a trenchcoat. Smoke really long cigarettes. It would be fantastic. Seduce other spies.

DOT
You are the worst!

MOLLY
Come vith me to Mother Russia. Ve have vays of making you talk.

DOT
You're the Communist!

MOLLY
I could be persuaded.

DOT
My brother is in –

MOLLY
In Korea. Yes we heard you. And I'm not seducing your brother. He looks like a porcupine.

DOT
He does not!

JACQUELINE

Girls. What do you say, Rachel?

RACHEL

What do you think I should do?

(Lights change to MR. LAWSON's apartment.)

(He is setting her up with a typewriter.)

MR. LAWSON

Here you go.

RACHEL

Ours broke last week and we don't have the money to fix it –

MR. LAWSON

I completely understand. Not to worry.

RACHEL

Thank you so much.

MR. LAWSON

I just finished your recommendation letter by the way. I can show it to you.

RACHEL

I'm sure it's embarrassing.

MR. LAWSON

Not at all.

(he finds the letter)

Rachel Goldstein is not your typical Leighton student. Certainly she exemplifies the best qualities of a Leighton girl – bright, curious, independent, but she doesn't have the good fortune to come from a privileged background, and it has forged in her –

RACHEL

Mr. Lawson?

MR. LAWSON

Yes?

RACHEL

I don't want to hear it.

MR. LAWSON

Of course. It goes on like that for a while. And it's all true.

RACHEL

Thank you.

MR. LAWSON

I'll get out of your way – let me know if you need anything. I've got some papers to grade, so –

RACHEL

Sure. Um… I was thinking about taking some time off after school actually.

MR. LAWSON

Really?

RACHEL

To help people.

MR. LAWSON

Oh.

RACHEL

You went to Kansas, right? In the Depression?

MR. LAWSON

I did. But that was after I got my degree.

RACHEL

Did you go by yourself or were you – told to go there?

MR. LAWSON

Told to go there?

RACHEL

Yes.

(He comes back and has a seat.)

MR. LAWSON

What do you mean?

RACHEL

I mean – if there was an organization that sent you – I was thinking that maybe I could join that organization.

MR. LAWSON

I got a grant from a Farm program – they used to send people around to teach in rural communities.

RACHEL

Right. Oh. Sorry.

MR. LAWSON

It's okay. You do your paper.

RACHEL

But were you ever a part of organizations that helped people?

MR. LAWSON

I did a lot of things.

(Lights shift as the girls come in.)

JACQUELINE

He's not going to come out and say it.

DOT

Say you want to join the Communists!

RACHEL

It was a government grant. That's why he was there.

JACQUELINE

It wasn't a government grant, don't be naïve.

RACHEL

There's no way to prove that -

MOLLY

His wife said he kept a diary.

DOT

So?

MOLLY

So the proof'll be in the there.

RACHEL

Dear Diary – today I became a Communist.

DOT

Nobody would write that down!

JACQUELINE

In the thirties they might. He probably didn't think it was a big deal.

MOLLY

We just have to find that book and see what's in it!

RACHEL

I'm sure he doesn't still have his diary.

JACQUELINE

It's when he met his wife. He's still got it. I'm sure of it.

RACHEL

What would it even look like?

MOLLY

It'll say Diary on it. Big letters.

JACQUELINE

Molly – are you trying to be stupid? It won't have any writing on it. There will probably be a bunch of them next to each other. All you need is a little while to search his apartment.

RACHEL

Me?

JACQUELINE

He lets you in there to write your paper. Say you're working through dinner.

MOLLY

He'll come to formal dinner Wednesday night. You can look for the diary then.

DOT

I'm excited!

RACHEL

All right. But if there's no evidence in there – we go to the administration and tell them.

JACQUELINE

Fine.

(Schoolbell rings.)

RACHEL *(to the audience)*

The night of the formal dinner I told my father I wasn't feeling well. At the same time I told Mr. Lawson I needed to keep working on my essay. It was easy enough to lie. He trusted me.

(RACHEL starts going through the books.)

And I trusted him. There was no way this man was a part of a conspiracy. It had to be a lie.

(she pulls out a book)

Then I found it. A diary.

(She opens it up and starts flipping through pages.)

December 2nd, 1932. Washburn, Kansas. I'm more convinced than ever that the work I'm doing is vital and I made the right choice to…

(she skips forward)

January 27th.

The conditions for revolution are not as ripe as I might like – even though these people are dirt poor they are blind to the systems that keep them in poverty –

(she skips forward)

March 19th, 1933.

When I joined the Worker's Party I never thought that…

(she skips forward)

April 29th –

The rural poor of America can never be convinced that capitalism itself is the root of their problems –

(she skips forward)

Tilly is unlike any girl I've ever met. She's brilliant, she's beautiful, she's…

(she skips forward)

Communism is the only solution for America.

(she closes the book.)

(Lights down on her.)

IRA

They got the bomb now. The Soviets. You know how they got it? Spies. In America. They stole the idea. You think they woulda figured it out four years after us? You know how long it took us to come up with the bomb? A lot longer than that, I can tell you that much. We discover something, and then the next day they got it too. Why is that?

(lights change.)

(Lights up on RACHEL in another part of the stage.)

RACHEL

I took the diary. I didn't know what else to do – here was the proof. Enough to destroy his life. Enough to get him fired.

VOICE

Are you now, or have you ever been, a member of the Communist party?

(RACHEL's house.)

(A party.)

(She walks in. IRA, TASHA, LIVY and DOT are there.)

TASHA

Congratulations!

RACHEL

What's going on?

TASHA

The letter came today!

(She shows the letter to RACHEL)

Radcliffe. You got in! That's practically Harvard.

RACHEL

It is Harvard.

LIVY

It's Harvard for girls. It's not the same.

IRA

I don't care if it's Harvard for dogs, it's incredible!

DOT

Congratulations Rachel. This is brilliant!

RACHEL

Did you get in?

DOT

I'm third generation, of course they'll let me in.

TASHA

It's great. You were great.

IRA

The first person in our family to go to college.

TASHA

And Harvard!

LIVY

For girls.

IRA

It's close enough! Hey c'mere. Gimme a hug.

(He hugs RACHEL)

I'm proud of you. All right? Bursting.

RACHEL

Thanks.

IRA

You all right? This is great!

RACHEL

I know.

TASHA

She's overwhelmed Ira, leave her alone.

IRA

You could be a professor or something. Think about that. Woman professor.

TASHA

Or she could marry a professor.

IRA

Anything. The sky's the limit.

TASHA

Make sure you get married though. If you get too smart the boys won't like you.

IRA

Hey. Hey. None of that. If you get too smart, stupid boys won't like you. And I'm okay with that.

RACHEL

Me too.

LIVY

I hope I'm not getting too smart.

DOT

Don't worry about it.

RACHEL

Can I talk to Dot for a second?

(RACHEL takes DOT to the side.)

DOT

Did you find it?

(Lights change.)

(Lights up on MR. LAWSON's office. He's grading essays.)
(RACHEL steps in.)

MR. LAWSON

I didn't expect to see you today. If you need to use the typewriter tonight I can -

RACHEL

Skipping Forward

(she takes out the diary)
Then I found this. And I see what you wrote –

MR. LAWSON
Why did you take that?

RACHEL
`Communism is the only answer for America.' You wrote that.

MR. LAWSON
When I was twenty-four.

RACHEL
Do you still believe that?

MR. LAWSON
Let me ask you a question – from what you know – did I have the right to believe that?

RACHEL
If they find out you wrote –

MR. LAWSON
Did I have the right to believe that?

RACHEL
It makes you a traitor.

MR. LAWSON
People want you to believe that. There are people in the government who want you to believe that. Do you believe that? Is that what this country is? There's only one way to think? If you think I deserve to be fired for thinking differently, then go ahead and give them the diary.
(lights down on her.)

(The office.)

(MR. BROWN and MRS. TURNBULL are there.)
(JACQUELINE and MOLLY are at the table.)

MRS. TURNBULL
I thought you said Rachel had something for us.

JACQUELINE
She does.

MR. BROWN
So far the investigation has turned up very little.

MOLLY

Maybe you people are the Communists.

MRS. TURNBULL

Miss Johnson – that is not amusing.

(RACHEL and DOT enter.)

MR. BROWN

Miss Goldstein, Miss Walker.

DOT

Sorry!

MR. BROWN

Tardiness is getting to be a habit with you.

RACHEL

There's a lot going on.

MRS. TURNBULL

I'm sure we all have things to get to, and I'd rather not listen to Miss Johnson any longer than I have to – could you please sit up – it's been a month and I assume you have information for us?

RACHEL

Yes.

MRS. TURNBULL

And? What did you discover?

MR. BROWN

Miss Goldstein?

DOT

Tell them Rachel.

RACHEL

I didn't – I didn't find anything.

(MOLLY and JACQUELINE burst out)

MOLLY

Did you find his diary?

RACHEL

No.

MRS. TURNBULL

What's this about a diary?

JACQUELINE

Rachel was going to take one. Steal one.

MRS. TURNBULL

And did you?

RACHEL

Yes.

MR. BROWN

And?

RACHEL

And there was nothing in it about Communism. He's not – he's not a Communist.

MOLLY

Well I guess that's that. I gotta go.

MRS. TURNBULL

Sit down.
(MOLLY sits)
Like a lady please.
(MOLLY adjusts herself.)

MR. BROWN

Nothing in the diary?

RACHEL

No.

MR. BROWN

Can I see this diary?

RACHEL

I don't have it anymore.

MR. BROWN

You put it back?
(RACHEL nods.)
So if I asked Mr. Lawson to turn over his diaries I would find nothing about Communism?

RACHEL

No, sir.

MRS. TURNBULL

Speak up.

RACHEL

No, ma'am.

MR. BROWN

And what about you, Miss Walker? You're very quiet.

DOT

I didn't see anything.

MR. BROWN

You were accepted to Radcliffe, were you not?

DOT

Yes, sir.

MR. BROWN

Do you know who permitted that to happen?

(DOT looks down)

If I may remind you – you are with us, or you are against us. You are with the United States, or you are with the Soviet Union. And I'll ask you again – is Rachel telling the truth?

(DOT looks down)

Did she say something to you?

MRS. TURNBULL

Sometimes a charismatic teacher can make someone lie for them. Is that what's going on? You can tell us, Dorothy.

MR. BROWN

If you know about a crime and don't say anything, you are just as guilty as the criminal.

MRS. TURNBULL

You do want to go to Radcliffe, don't you?

MR. BROWN

I'll say one more thing. We know the truth about Mr. Lawson. We've known it for some time now. We're just asking you to confirm what we already know. Are you going to be truthful with us or not?

DOT

…She found something in the diary.

RACHEL

Dot!

MRS. TURNBULL

Quiet!

RACHEL

Dot don't tell them!

MRS. TURBULL

That is enough Miss Goldstein!

DOT

…she said he was a Communist. She said he wrote it down.

RACHEL

That's a lie!

DOT

Why are you defending him?! You told me that's what it said!

RACHEL

It's not a crime, Dot!

DOT

He's a Communist! You said it!

MR. BROWN

I'm going to need that diary.

RACHEL

I don't have it!

MRS. TURNBULL

Miss Goldstein, in front of witnesses, you have told us that you have stolen a teacher's property. That's a violation of our honor code and cause for immediate expulsion from the school.

RACHEL

You told me to!

End of Excerpt.
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