

" MARGARET COBBINS "

9 CONTINUED:

A beat.

CATHERINE

(humbly; truthfully)

I'm doing it because I'm old, honey. And I'm bored. My friends are all dead. It's not like I can go skiing, or mountain-climbing. I can't even get a hit on Facebook. Nobody wants you when you're old.

SCENE 2

Silence.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Honestly, assuming I were qualified to be your assistant, would you employ somebody my age?

SACK

Probably not.

CATHERINE

I didn't think so
(pulls out a small recorder)

I got that on tape, dear. Now I can sue you for age discrimination. Best you keep me on, avoid the controversy.

SACK

(quietly)

Get out, Catherine.

A beat. Catherine exits.

CUT TO:

10 INT. JUDGE REESE'S COURTROOM - DAY

10

Katie questions Margaret. JUDGE WILLARD REESE presides. Vivian Stewart is represented by ATTORNEY ROGER WALTERS.

MARGARET

START

And now... I can't get into any college.

KATIE

Well, Margaret... you did cheat.

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(CONTINUED)

M

10 CONTINUED:

10

MARGARET

I didn't cheat. I took medicine to help my brain function at its highest level.

KATIE

You didn't have a prescription for the medication.

MARGARET

A dozen faculty members at Cambridge University admit to taking unprescribed Adderall themselves to improve their own academic performance, but nobody's expelling them.

KATIE

(re: Walters and Vivian)

They're claiming it shows poor moral character.

MARGARET

And I reject that. Stock traders and helicopter pilots take prescription stimulants to stay alert, ~~musicians pop beta-blockers to ease stage fright,~~ medical interns take drugs for narcolepsy so they can work all night -- should we indict all of them as well? All they've done is use a pharmacological tool to help them do their work more effectively.

TIME CUT TO:

11 INT. JUDGE REESE'S COURTROOM - LATER

11

Walters is now up.

WALTERS

Hallucinogenic drugs can make writers more creative-- do you advocate that kind of illegal drug use?

MARGARET

No.

WALTERS

But your kind of illegal drug use is fine.

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(CONTINUED)

M

11 CONTINUED:

11

MARGARET

That's an unfair comparison.

WALTERS

Certainly you're aware Harvard has extremely high standards.

MARGARET

Of course.

WALTERS

John F. Kennedy was a graduate.

MARGARET

As was the Unabomber.

WALTERS

FDR, --

MARGARET

--Hitler's foreign press secretary,--

WALTERS

(louder)

--numerous literary figures, Emerson, Thoreau--

MARGARET

--along with a slew of insider traders now in prison and the Cardinal Archbishop who shielded child molesters from prosecution.

WALTERS

(irked)

Ms. Coggins, do you want to go to Harvard or not?

MARGARET

I do, desperately. My point is that Harvard's not perfect, and neither am I. But at every opportunity, I endeavor to be the best possible version of myself-- and that's all I was doing by taking Ritalin.

OFF this, we:

END

CUT TO:

7/7

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