

12. THE ROAD TO OZ

- There's that thing. We all want it.
- The power?
- I'm not talking about that. It's more like the heart of the matter.
- Some people think that it's an illusion.
- It's not. It's what's kept me going all these years. When you reach that point, you know it's real.
- We have a long way to go before any of this becomes real.
- It already is real. I know it, and you know it. That's why we're doing this.
- You all have the proper ID to come in here.**
- Quit trying to ruin it for the rest of us.
- Ruin what? It's not as if he represents the people. He's slick. He's got his own agenda.
- And everyone's getting taken in by it.
- We've had eight years of tyranny.
- And that's when it started?
- We are too far along. You can't stop us.
- Don't get to know the people. It will make it hard to do the job.*
- Anyone here have a story.*
- I want to talk about how much they pay us at this factory.*
- Your company hasn't attained profitability. What do you expect? No one hates the captains of industry when they take home a big paycheck. They are doing an important job.*
- You are going to have to take a loyalty oath if you want this job.
- I'm already pretty loyal.
- Repeat after me. I, Bury Me in the Ground, do swear solemnly.
- We're getting the oath wrong.
- Do we have the name right?
- I have to check the birth certificate.
- What if I told you that I have some dirty on your man.*
- It's not going to make any difference. You can't do anything about it. We are too far along! We are the ones who make history. We pick the candidates. We decide on the Olympics bids. We allot government projects. What do you want.*
- Everyone is talking about this guy. What is he all about?**
- He's the big guy. He can give us anything that we need. Because he can get anything that he wants. A really big man.**
- Big!**
- You know what I am talking about.**
- How much money have you raised?
- We have raised loads.
- You're looking at me weird.*
- Was it very good?*
- I'm not that sympathetic a guy. If you wanted a psychiatrist, you'd should go find one.*
- You are a dick.*

–*The big dick.*

–*You've gone down.*

–*I'm looking at a way to keep it up permanently.*

–*Sounds like politics to me.*

–**This will look great on you. It will enhance your natural beauty.**

Jordan had a great smile on her face.

Nancy made a nasty face.

–**It won't look great on me!**

The only way that you will be elected is if you find a way to cut wages across the board.

It's the only way to boost profits and add to the payouts to the stockholders.

–*I'm good at that sort of thing.*

–*You know that you will win. Just keep on the road if you know what I mean.*

–*I want to see myself on the TV monitors.*

–*You are looking great.*

–*I know it. I worked hard to get to this place.*

–*You are the transfigured image of a man.*

–*No substitute.*

–*You are a god!*

He takes a bite out his bratwurst.

–*Do you see this? What does it look like?*

–*Put a little more mustard on this.*

–*This is going to be huge.*

–*Take another bite. Now stroke it. What does it look like?*

–*How will I ever get enough money?*

–*We've raised quite a bit already.*

–*Go back and get some more. This is a long road. We don't want to give out along the way.*

–*Where am I going to get it?*

–*From your parents.*

–*I don't have a rich father.*

–*We've got our eyes on you!*

–*I'll never be able to raise that much.*

–*You'll raise it up. You just need to find something to sell.*

–*Like what?*

–*Your soul.*

–*What?*

–*You've already sold them out. It won't be hard to sell yourself out. You are almost there. You can feel the power. Take hold of it. And just push a little harder.*

–*It's this big.*

–*You have to get it as big as a room if they're going to take you seriously.*

–*I lose it when the cameras start to roll.*

–*You need to raise much more!*

–*I'm mortgaged to the hilt.*

- You need a pyramid scheme.
- Pyramids are mystical. I'll do anything to get my three wishes.
- I want to be President. I want a big dick. I want to be able to use it.*
- The world is waiting for you!*
- I want to win!*
- I want to make all this craziness go away.
- It will go away when you have the power.
- I'm learning all the spells.
- It takes a hearty instrument.
- There's that thing. We all want it.
- The power?
- I'm not talking about that. It's more like the heart of the matter.
- Some people think that it's an illusion.
- It's not. It's what's kept me going all these years. When you reach that point, you know it's real.
- We have a long way to go before any of this becomes real.
- It already is real. I know it, and you know it. That's why we're doing this.
- We are not going to take your money any more!**
- Do you have what it takes.**
- I've got some gold.**
- Turn it into money, and give us our share.**
- Do you want to win?**
- I want to learn how to play.**
- We have our doubts. We're going to send you to see someone. He's going to ask you questions. He wants to make sure that you're OK.
- I'm OK
- This is all part of the process. If you pass with flying colors, we are going to give you a lot more money. Enough to get what you want.
- What kind of questions?
- Loyalty questions.
- Can you kill for the government?**
- Can I kill the government.**
- No! Can you take instructions from the government and do a complete job.**
- I am a complete job.**
- Can you finish it by yourself?**
- If I have some nice picture. What do you have available?**
- Pictures of a family. Of a nice home. Where do you want to live?**
- In a big white house!**
- We have got you on the run. Put this in your lapel.**
- What is it?**
- It's a bug. So we can make sure that you indeed are one of us.**
- I'm slipping back. I'm going to melt if I don't get some help.**
- Turn up the air conditioning. And keep stroking.**

–**You are such a rat!**

–**And you’re such a sexy thing.**

–**I’m trying to keep the juices flowing.**

–**Don’t get it too slippery.**

–**Don’t blame me!**

–*How did he do?*

–*He passed, but he is a bit of a freak.*

–*What do you make of that?*

–*Everybody is getting a little freaky! Jump on in!*

–The campaign is getting to crunch time. He’s going to need a real speech to consolidate the momentum.

–The big MO!

You can’t stop the procession of history!

–This is supposed to be my moment of celebration. I was sure that I was going to be transported to another state of being. There I would meet an ascendent spirit.

–This is a killing field!

–But there are spirits here with their own story.

–No one can raise them from the dead. This is a place without redemption.

–And who is responsible?

–This was all done under your orders.

–I haven’t even assumed the reins of power.

–It was still following your policy recommendations. You were already part of a legislative committee which set up the parameters for this operation.

–Why can we take this as the opportunity to start again?

–What have you done in terms of restitution?

–I have given the people a chance to believe.

–That they can succeed if they act just like you.

–Why are you being so hard on me?

–You’re not going to get off with a slap on the wrist.

–I’m pretty good at public confession.

–You want to spill some more blood.

–That isn’t what I said.

–You want to bring this up in *public*. For you that’s just another way to shift the blame to someone else.

–I don’t claim to be a prophet.

–There’s always a lonely person who looking for someone to believe.

–We could go back to the drawing board and try to come up with a remedy.

–I didn’t know that you could work miracles.

–I’ve been called a miracle worker.

–It’s a pretty grave error to try to fool the public twice.

–I’m still betting on double or nothing.

–I guess that’s the premise of religious belief.

–What are you trying to tell me?

- That unlike you, I can’t read minds.
- You can observe bodies.
- Yeah, and they’re all buried here in unrecognizable parts.
- We can do DNA testing?
- You’ve got to do the digging first. And what are you matching the results to? This is the only record of their past.
- I’m sorry!
- We don’t have any further information to make sense of our digging.
- The ghosts can’t talk?
- Dead men tell no tales.
- We could give them stories.
- Are you willing to do that if you are the villain in every one.
- If they are dead, they must have done something wrong along the way.
- Infallibility through revision.
- It’s the only political option.
- So what is your political background?
- I was president of my class, and I won an award for dry-humping.
- Pretty exciting stuff. Although it may not help in this contest.
- I’ve got big dreams to match my humble beginnings.
- You’re going to need more than dreams.
- I’ve worked locally and thought nationally.
- No false moves.
- I was thinking about my future.
- What kind of experience do you really have?
- I’m good at reading a copy of the *WSJ*!
- The Lord doesn’t help those who don’t help themselves.
- I learned at a really young age how to get what I needed from strangers.
- I didn’t mean to cast aspersions about your character.
- I’m not the type of guy who’s tapping the bottle in the afternoon.
- You’re a regular good Samaritan.
- As long as it’s just regular.
- I’m looking for a girl who can manage me a favor or two.
- Another aid.
- Not for my own good. Just for the accompanying ideas.
- Can you lead us in a prayer?
- Something nice and bleached.
- You are going to have to fuck her*
- I feel as if I’m going to be sleeping with my own mother*
- You have to do what you get to advance your career.*
- This is too disgusting to imagine.*
- You’re opening another chapter without having filled in the last.
- I’ve done quite a good job.
- Love like this doesn’t come free.

- I’ve got a line of fans waiting to meet me off the bat.
- Mostly women.
- A little tang here and there.
- You’re not dipping are you?
- I’m a healer, not a dealer. I just want them to believe.
- So you are hoping that she’s going to give you a little action.
- I’ve put up with quite a lot of shit. And I’ve denied myself in the process.
- Do you always shw that much love to the world?*
- I’ve got a lot more where that comes from.*
- I’m learning about this thing that’s called negative pleasure.*
- What is that?*
- The less that you touch, the more you feel.*
- A girl’s got to protect herself.*
- Isn’t that where your skill comes from?*
- Explain!*
- It’s all in the mind!*
- I know that this is not a matter of simple imagination. I have not touched her. But I know what her touch is like.*
- Give me a little smooch for the road.*
- It was your idea to stay on the sidelines. Now you want to get a little sweaty. Did you bring a towel to dry off.*
- I’m always equipped for the moment.*
- I’m trying to get as graphic as possible without frightening away the mainstream audience.*
- You haven’t told me what you want?*
- I want to look the part.*
- You’ve got a nice body.*
- I’ve got a lot more where that came from.*
- It looks right. But I’m not sure that it’s going to feel right.*
- Is this a moral question?*
- It is a question!*
- A physical question. Do you have what it takes if it’s going to take me where it’s got to go?*
- It is going to go all the way.*
- And then some?*
- I’ve got the dirty mind to go along with the fun-loving body.*
- So it is a political thing after all.*
- Everybody has to feel it just as good as I feel it.*
- Like a law or a principle.*
- Something like that.*
- You’re still going to have to get involved.*
- By touching.*
- I can touch myself.*

- The campaign play book is supposed to be like a stroke book.
- What are you saying?
- You need to keep the public interested at every stage.
- How do I do that?
- Give them something tangible to think about. Something that they can wrap their hands around. And let them do the rest.
- Like loading up a hot dog.
- You are going to have some rivals for the public trust. You have to learn to leave them in the dust.
- Her sleek legs galloped in the rain.*
- When you make a deal, you need to get something in return.
- Are we talking about concessions?
- She ends up giving you her soul for her troubles. It all works out quite the same.*
- I wouldn't mind out starting with the confession.
- I'm not really in a giving mood.
- Just look good for me.
- It's too much work to play the part of the starlet every time that you come home for work.
- Learn to be a little more creative with the makeup.
- Anything else.
- You have to come ready to play.
- I was born ready. But I might not be ready for you.
- Someone need to pull the alarm.
- What are you telling me?
- That you're a real scorcher. I could grab those hips of yours and hold on until the end of time.
- Quite a tall order.
- I can probably take it to the ends of the earth.
- You are going to have to do something that radical.
- Have you worked your way through the good book?*
- I'm still stuck on page one.*
- You're not supposed to stick anything to the book.*
- I think that I'm taking it all the wrong way.*
- You want to be helped.*
- I don't mind rolling around in the mud if that's what it takes to win.*
- And if you win, you're expecting for a bigger reward than what you've already got.*
- I can take whatever you're tossing my way. But I have been promised the world.*
- Keep your hopes up.*
- It's a little late for help.*
- Are you looking for revenge?*
- I just want to turn back the hands of time.*
- You want to be a winner. You have to play the cards that are dealt you.*
- But I can bluff my way to the top.*

- I assumed that you were already on the top of the world.*
- You could say that. I just want to take care of every little lady that I can.*
- A regular humanitarian.*
- What are you doing?
- I'm celebrating. It's been a long haul.
- Why are you all alone? The party's downstairs.
- I just needed some personal time.
- Where is she?
- She's downstairs with everyone else.
- You should be down there with her.
- I will. I just need to figure some things out on my own.
- There are no problems between the two of you?
- Nothing like that. I just need to be alone.
- You want me to go?
- Not at all. Have a drink!
- You took one of the bottles of champagne up here with you.
- Of course, I did.
- You're one nasty little boy!
- You're teasing me.
- I've always had a thing for you. It's just that you're spoken for.
- You don't have to put it that way.
- How else can I put it.?
- I don't know. If I wasn't with Aileen, you'd probably be my first choice.
- The consolation prize. Always a bridesmaid, never a bride.
- I don't mean that. You're a lovely girl. Your lips are so kissable.
- Whoa!
- I guess it's the champagne talking.
- Hold me close!
- I just don't want to give you the wrong idea.
- We've worked together so closely. We're like a team. Just hold my hand.
- I'm not sure.
- Here. Like this. That doesn't feel so bad.
- If she walked in on us now, she would wonder.
- It's your celebration. You can do whatever you want.
- That's some kind of fanatical wish-fulfillment.
- You can pretty well do whatever you want.
- Not really.
- No, you're the king of the world.,
- That's not a good attitude to have.
- But if you kissed me, I wouldn't tell anyone.
- If you had to keep it a secret, it wouldn't be as fun.
- Just tell me how you feel about me.
- I told you.

–Really tell me.

–I’m with someone else. But if she wasn’t with me, you’d be top on my list.

–She’s not here now. Whatever we do together, she doesn’t have to know.

–Women have a way of knowing.

–Just call it our little secret.

He leans back in his chair. She is too close to ignore. He came in her to get away from the pressure. Now he feels that it is even greater than before. This is only the beginning of his troubles. At this point, he has to muster all his courage to stand firm.

–I should get back downstairs. I was only supposed to go on a bathroom break.

–No one followed you up here. What about security?

–I snuck away.

–See, your intentions were already questionable.

–I just wanted to see what I could get away.

–You’re already tired of being watched all the time. You won’t have a moment on your own.

–No, I won’t. That’s why someone is going to find us up here.

–You’re right. I should go. Just give me one kiss.

–I don’t like how that sounds.

–It’s not how it sounds. It’s how it feels. And it’s going to feel really good.

–You’re good with fantasies.

–That’s why they hired me. That’s why I was able to get so close to you. Now I’m your fantasy. Everything that you’ve ever wanted.

–No one can promise all that.

–I can.

–Who the hell are you?

–Don’t you ask the same question about yourself? Don’t you wonder what brought us together?

–You said that you needed to get going. I do too.

–We shouldn’t come back to the party at the same time. People would get suspicious.

–Then I’ll go first.

–They’ll still connect us. I have to go first.

–OK!

–Give me that farewell kiss.

–You’re not really saying this. Someone is speaking through you.

–Don’t they say the same thing about you?

–Yeah, but that’s not what I mean. You don’t really want me. You just like the idea of being with me. Especially after everything that’s happened.

–No, I want you. You. I wanted you from the first time that we met. I got all panicky when we first shook hands.

–I wouldn’t have known. You always seemed so composed.

–And you did too! But you knew what I felt. I’m good with that sort of thing. You’ve been burning inside for me just like I have for you.

–You’re an attractive woman. I noticed that kind of thing right off the bat. But I’m with

someone, someone that I really love. I just can't act out my fantasies.

–You have all along. Now give me that kiss.

–If you ask too hard for something, you're never going to get it.

–Is that your political mantra?

–No, that's a reality of adulthood. We just have to pretend that none of this ever happened.

–I can keep my mouth shut if you can.

–It would be so easy.

–I'll leave before you.

It takes a while for him to come back to his own party.

–Where were you?

–Upstairs. I needed to be alone. I've been thinking about what this kind of change means to me.

–Everyone's been looking for you. You had us worried.

–I told them where I was.

–I don't think that they really knew. You were so vague. You know that you won't be able to do that sort of thing anymore.

–Yeah, I know!

–Who's that girl over there? She's been giving us the strangest looks.

–You've met Whitney. She's one of my communications advisers.

–Whitney? Cute girl!

–In a way!

–Don't tell me that you haven't noticed. By the way, she was gone quite a while.

–You've been keeping tabs on everyone in the room.

–No. But I've seen her looking at you before.

–And you followed her out of the room.

–I saw her leave. And she came back just a little while before you did. That did seem a little coincidental.

–What are you talking about?

–I don't know. You were gone quite a while. And then she comes rolling in here just a few minutes before you do. She was looking all frantic as if something was going on.

–You saw all that. Don't tell me that some other woman in the room didn't leave to go to the bathroom.

–Maybe they did. But no one came in here with one of those guilty looks.

–What are you saying?

–Is something going on between you two?

–What are you saying?

–I thought that you changed. Now you're back to your same old tricks.

–I needed some time alone. I want upstairs by myself. And I came back by myself.

–But I saw her leave the room. And she was gone quite a while.

–You asked me who she is. You didn't even remember her name. But you had the wherewithal to follow her as she left the room. And you waited until she came back. That doesn't make sense.

–Just call it my intuition.
 –It’s all in your imagination.
 –But I know you! You’re up to your old tricks.
 –Tricks? There are no tricks.
 –Everyone sees you in one way. They don’t know what you’re like underneath that brilliant exterior.

–Why do you stay with me if I’m the way that you describe?

–We all love you. No one can let go.

–This is not something that I plan.

–I know!

–*You’re going to need your vitamins.*

–*I can make you feel good!*

–*How can you do that?*

–*I can get you a drink. It will warm your insides.*

–*Let’s start by warming my outsides.*

–*Do you have a victory speech ready.*

–*We have to hail the revolution.*

–*I love you, honey!*

There is no honey in this story. Just a long range touch. And a little peace-making!

The Good Lord give you a body that is a perfect reflection of your soul!

–*You can make it even better.*

All life has been scared away.

–I know where the penises are buried. He’ll never win.

–If you drill deep enough, you’ll strike oil!

DRILL! DRILL!

Catch the speculators at their craft.

–We’re writing your man a big check before our money goes away.

–I think that your opponent was going to have a big infusion of cash. But all his supporters lost a boatload in the market.

The Good Lord has punished you for being such a fat ass. Now he’s going to get you off.

–*Someone has to pay so that you can keep on with your crimes.*

–*You’ve got all those penises hidden in your closet.*

–*The bones?*

–They found a suitcase of money that was linked to your campaign.

–I can’t help where every Tom, Dick, and Harry leave their money.

–It had your name on it.

–I didn’t know that I was a dead prez.

–That’s not what I mean.