

**SNYDER**

After his release I caught him myself, red handed, trafficking stolen food and clothing. He was last sentenced to six months, but the willful ruffian escaped.

**PULITZER**

So you'd be doing the city a service removing this criminal from our streets.

**MAYOR**

If that's the case, we can take him in quietly and—

**PULITZER**

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Mr. I

# AUDITION EXCERPT #1

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## MALE

# JACK/ MALE ENSEMBLE

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**PULITZER**

Ask and ye shall be received. Mr. Snyder, if you please. Sit.

*(PULITZER directs SNYDER to retreat to the shadowy corner and spins KATHERINE in the swivel chair so she's hidden as well. HANNAH escorts JACK into the room.)*

**HANNAH**

Mr. Jack Kelly.

**JACK**

Afternoon, boys...

**PULITZER**

And which Jack Kelly is this? The charismatic union organizer, or the petty thief and escaped convict?

**JACK**

Which one gives us more in common?

**PULITZER**

Impudence is in bad taste when crawling for mercy.

**START**

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JACK

Crawlin'? That's a laugh. I just dropped by with an invite. Seems a few hundred of your employees are rallying to discuss recent disagreements. I thought it only fair to invite you to state your case straight to the fellas. So what'd'ya say, Joe? Want I should save you a spot on the bill?

PULITZER

You are as shameless and disrespectful a creature as I was told. Do you know what I was doing when I was your age, boy? I was fighting in a war.

JACK

Yeah? How'd that turn out for ya?

PULITZER

It taught me a lesson that shaped my life. You don't win a war on the battlefield. It's the headline that crowns the victor.

JACK

I'll keep that in mind when New York wakes up to front page photos of our rally.

PULITZER

Rally till the cows come home. Not a paper in town will publish a word. And if it's not in the papers, it never happened.

JACK

You may run this city, but there are some of us who can't be bullied. Even some reporters...

PULITZER

Such as that young woman who made you yesterday's news? Talented girl. And beautiful as well, don't you think?

JACK

I'll tell her you said so.

PULITZER

No need. She can hear for herself. Can't you, darling?

*(KATHERINE stands up. JACK steps back in surprise.)*

I trust you know my daughter, Katherine.

*(lets that sink in)*

Yes. My daughter. You are probably asking, why the *nom de plume* and why doesn't my daughter work for me? Good questions. I offered Katherine a life of wealth and leisure. Instead she chose to pursue a career. And she was showing real promise, until this recent lapse. But you're done with all of that now, aren't you, sweetheart?

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