WELL, ACTUALLY
IT’S NOT SO SIMPLE, AS IT MAY APPEAR.

I feel that—

YOU’VE GOT TO LOOK WITH REASON, NOT WITH FEAR.
IT CAN BE EASY TO JUMP IN WITH NOTHING BUT YOUR RAW EMOTIONS.
AFTER ALL, IT’D BE AN EMOTIONAL EVENT.
BUT IF YOU HOLD ON TO YOUR WELL THOUGHT OUT AND REASONABLE NOTIONS
YOU’LL FIND IT’S EASIER TO PREVENT.

But do we need to prevent it?

WELL, ACTUALLY,
VIOLENCE IS NOT THE ONLY WAY.

I’m not advocating—

WELL, ACTUALLY,
YOU NEED TO BE MORE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY.

I KNOW YOU HAVE YOUR INSTINCTS, AND YOU THINK THEY MAKE YOU STRONG.

You didn’t address my point—

(Exit PAINE to join the ENSEMBLE.)

(Exit PAINE to join the ENSEMBLE.)

MAN 3
Today’s topic, the Constitutional Convention!

(MAN 2 nails a paper with “The Constitutional Convention” on the wall. MARY crosses to the ENSEMBLE with three books, ready for the meeting.)

GODWIN

You’re really prepared.

MARY

Of course.

MAN 1

Why would the Americans throw out a working government when they could just adjust the existing one?

MARY

If you’re establishing a new nation, it makes much more sense to start with a clean slate.

MAN 1

But why reinvent the wheel?

MAN 3

See, but, if you’re establishing a new nation, it makes much more sense to start with a clean slate.

MAN 1

You’re so right.

MARY

I just said that.

ENSEMBLE

WELL, ACTUALLY,
OPINIONS AREN’T SOMETHING YOU CAN OWN.

MARY

But he said the exact–

ENSEMBLE

WELL, ACTUALLY
IT WAS THAT HE USED A PROPER TONE.
YOU HAVE TO THINK THINGS THROUGH IF YOU ARE TRYING TO BELONG.

MARY
Can we get back to the issue of—

ENSEMBLE

WELL, ACTUALLY,
YOU’RE WRONG.

(MARY is walking around, being stopped by the MEN. MAN 2 is nailing events to the wall.)

MAN 1

May I play devil’s advocate?

MAN 3

It’s just my opinion.

MAN 1

Don’t be so damn sensitive!

MAN 1

You have to look at--

MAN 1 & 3

--both sides!

MAN 1

Who are you trying to impress?

MAN 3

I wish you would put yourself together for these meetings.

MAN 1

Wow, that’s quite hyperbolic.

MAN 3

You have this shrill like quality to your voice.

(The MEN dance. MARY is bringing books onto the stage and forming a platform with them. She stands on the platform of books.)

MEN

WELL ACTUALLY,
WELL ACTUALLY,
WELL ACTUALLY...
MARY
YOU STAND HERE AND TELL ME
THAT A POOR MAN'S BACK DESERVES NO BREAKS
THAT ANY SINGLE POINT HE MAKES
WILL JUST BE MOOT.

YOU STAND HERE AND TELL ME
THAT A POOR MAN'S VOICE MAKES NO SOUND.
THAT HE'S WORTH NO MORE THAN THE GROUND
BENEATH YOUR BOOT

IF YOU THINK THE POOR WON'T RISE UP,
NOW'S THE TIME TO GO AND WISE UP.

(Long pause.)

PAINE
I'm sorry… that you interpreted what we said that way.

ENSEMBLE
WELL, ACTUALLY,
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO ANGRY WHEN YOU SPEAK.

MARY
What?

ENSEMBLE
WELL, ACTUALLY,
IT'S GRATING TO THE EARS TO HEAR YOU SHRIEK.
WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE IT'S BETTER THAT YOU RUN ALONG.

MARY
I know what I'm talking about.

ENSEMBLE
WELL, ACTUALLY,
WELL, ACTUALLY,
WELL, ACTUALLY…
YOU'RE WRONG!

PAINE
Don't worry that pretty little head.