

My Neighbor Teddy Roosevelt

A full-length comedy loosely based and inspired by historical events with a lot of creative liberties thrown in.

by
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| CHARACTER NAME | BRIEF DESCRIPTION | AGE | GENDER |
|-------------------|--|------|--------|
| Jonathan | A modern man stuck in the past. | 21 | Male |
| Teddy Roosevelt | 26th US President | 43 | Male |
| Quentin Roosevelt | Theodore Roosevelt's youngest son. | 16 | Male |
| EXTRAS 1 | Plays Bear, Doctor Asmongold, Senator 1, can play the Cub, and Lion | 60s | Male |
| EXTRAS 2 | Plays Hunter, Intern, and Senator 2. | 20s. | Male |

Time: Throughout Teddy Roosevelt's life in the early 1900s and a few moments in 2019.

Setting: 1900s United States.

Place: All over.

SCENE 1

JONATHAN is cooking and cleaning in his home as he speaks to the audience. There is something off about the stage that indicates it is outside of the actual setting. This is Jonathan's mind space.

JONATHAN

...Oh! Hello there. Yes. This play incorporates a few wall breaks. You see, right now you are in my head space. A little area that allows me to voice my thoughts and help me keep what little shred of sanity I have left. So my name is Jonathan, and contrary to what I am wearing, I am a modern man. From 2019. I was accidentally hurled back in time to now against my will I guess. Since I don't really know how changing the past affects the present. God forbid my actions now somehow stop the Great Depression or Nine Eleven from happening. (Sad laugh) so I've been doing my best to keep a low profile. Unfortunately I have a little problem.

The door swings open and TEDDY enters. Breaking the mind space.

TEDDY

Bully Jonathan! Let's get out of here! Allow me to take you on another adventure of a lifetime!

Mind space.

JONATHAN

...My neighbor is Teddy Roosevelt.

Exit Mind Space

TEDDY

Jonathan my dear boy, how would you like to go hunting?

JONATHAN

I don't know Theodore. I didn't have too much fun last time...

TEDDY

What do you mean? What wasn't fun about it?

JONATHAN

Well...

Mind Space

JONATHAN

Ok Theodore. There's your bobcat. Let's shoot it and get it over with. Please?

TEDDY

Shoot it? Well that's not very sportsman of you my boy!

JONATHAN

We came here to hunt a bobcat. We found it. It's scared. I'm tired. It's tired. My feet are wet and I want to go home. Can we please just put it out of its misery?

TEDDY

Come on Jon! Be a man! We need to show the wildlife just how strong we are!

JONATHAN

No we don't. And don't call me Jon.

TEDDY

(scoffs)

You'll never get hair on your chest like that my boy. Here, hold my gun. I'll show you how a real man does it.

JONATHAN

Wha-? What are you doing?

Teddy pulls a knife from his boot and begins to climb the tree.

JONATHAN

Teddy!? What are you doing? Get down here right now!

TEDDY

Don't call me Teddy! And I am showing you just how a man does it!

Teddy fights the bobcat.

JONATHAN

Oh my God. Oh God. Theodore! Get your ass down here! I swear if it doesn't kill you, then I will! Oh jeez...Please tell me he won this fight...

Teddy wins. He drops the body at Jonathan's feet then climbs down.

TEDDY

That! Is how a man rules over nature my boy!

Exit Mind Space.

JONATHAN

...I...guess it wasn't that bad.

TEDDY

Exactly! Now come along Jonathan! Do you need to borrow one of my rifles again? You really should buy your own.

JONATHAN

I've given you my thoughts on guns. And hold on a moment, I have a soufflé in the oven.

Teddy grabs Jonathan and drags him off.

TEDDY

No time for being a woman Jonathan! We have a bear to kill!

JONATHAN

No! It'll burn...did you say bear?

They exit.

SCENE 2

Teddy, Jonathan, and HUNTER enter.
Rifles in hand. Teddy is holding bear
poop.

TEDDY

Based on curvature and smell of this bear poop, the creature ate approximately two bushes worth of blackberries before heading north-east about eighteen hours ago.

It then got into a combat with four or five wolves, wrestled a Heffalump, tossed itself down-river where it then robbed a boat, sailed it to the coastline and then finally made its way...here!

JONATHAN

You got all of that by examining its poop?

HUNTER

Imagine what else you could get by tasting it.

JONATHAN

Don't...

Teddy eats the poop.

TEDDY

Oh! And it appears to have a cub!

JONATHAN

How can you tell that by eating its poop? Just how?!

TEDDY

When you become a true outdoorsman like me, my boy, you learn to do a lot of things! Like this...

Teddy whistles out the call of a Northern Cardinal. He gets a reply.

TEDDY

According to the cardinals, the bear is nearby.

JONATHAN

Now I know you can't talk to-

TEDDY

I wager if we split up, we can find our prey faster!

HUNTER

Excellent idea Theodore!

JONATHAN

No! Not an excellent idea!

TEDDY

Excellent idea me!

JONATHAN

Theodore! Please. It's a bear. If it finds me I will die immediately!

TEDDY

Oh nonsense Jonathan! Bears love to eat their prey alive. Your death will be quite long!

HUNTER

Well said Teddy!

TEDDY

Don't call me Teddy.

JONATHAN

D-don't call him Teddy.

TEDDY

Well you heard it boys! Let's split up!

Teddy and Hunter run off.

JONATHAN

W-wait!...

Jonathan wanders around for a bit. Bear sounds can be heard in the distance. He stops.

JONATHAN

Please tell me that is Teddy's stomach...

A bear lumbers on stage.

JONATHAN

(stammering)

O-oh. Th-th-yeeeeaaaaahhhahaha. Yeeuuuww. I-uhh.AH. AHH. T-TEDDYYYYYY!!!
BEAR!

The bear mauls Jonathan. Tossing him about the stage like a ragdoll. Offstage. Onstage. Offstage again.

Teddy enters.

TEDDY

That's my boy bear!

Teddy rips off his shirt.

TEDDY

And nobody hurts my boy!

Teddy takes up a bareknuckle boxer stance and fights the bear. Tossing it around like a ragdoll. Offstage. Onstage. And offstage again. Once dead, Jonathan crawls back onto stage and is picked up by Teddy.

Hunter enters.

TEDDY

Jon! You're alive!

JONATHAN

Don't call me Jon-

TEDDY

You have the constitution and vigor of a true man!

JONATHAN

I wouldn't say...

Cub groans. CUB enters.

JONATHAN

O-ohhh. No.

HUNTER

There's the cub you mentioned.

TEDDY

Ah! No wonder she attacked you so viciously Jonathan! You got too close to its cub! You fool!

JONATHAN

It's not like I was trying!

HUNTER

It doesn't look very old. Think it can live by itself?

TEDDY

Probably not. Poor boy was probably still weaning on milk.

HUNTER

Well. Guess we should give it some mercy.

Hunter aims his gun at the Cub.

JONATHAN

Woah! What are you doing?

HUNTER

It's the right thing to do. Better this than letting it starve.

JONATHAN

There has to be something else we can do!

TEDDY

Jonathan, move. I understand the moral quandary of taking a life so young is a hard one-

JONATHAN

There is no moral quandary here! If we didn't come out hunting, the poor guy would not be in this situation. We have to take responsibility for our actions. Killing it would just be animal cruelty.

HUNTER

Can you believe this? "Animal Cruelty," what even is that. Theodore, tell the kid to move so I can shoot this thing.

JONATHAN

Teddy. Buddy. Please. You were a sickly child once, right? Could barely walk when you were six. Look at you now...uhhh...imagine if God had the same mentality and decided to put you out of your misery instead of letting you grow to the man you are today! This bear still has a chance to become something more than a little corpse on the ground.

HUNTER

The hell is this speech? Get out of the way!

TEDDY

Hold up! Jonathan raises some points.

HUNTER

He does?

JONATHAN

I do?

HUNTER

Theodore. There is no way it can live out here. The most merciful thing we can do is kill it fast and quiet-like.

TEDDY

Nonsense! The little guy just needs some help to grow into his full potential!

HUNTER

You're growing soft Teddy.

TEDDY

A real man doesn't care what other's think of him! And don't call me Teddy! Now come here you-

JONATHAN

What are you doing! It's a wild-

Teddy picks up the cub.

TEDDY

Nonsense Jonathan. It barely has its teeth! Haha! And it is as playful as a pup! Come on boys! Right this way!

Mind Space

JONATHAN

This is how it goes every time you know. Every time I go on a Teddy Roosevelt adventure, I find myself in a stupid or dangerous situation. Every time I try to tell him no and sure enough - “come on my dear boy! Be a man!” Or “You have to fight harder if you want to be like me!” Or “If you didn’t want to come you should have said no in a more commanding presence befitting of your stature!” Then he just turns off his attention. Rinse and repeat with every adventure.

Exit Mind Space. Zoo Ambience.

HUNTER

(Reading)

Teddy the bear. Generously donated by President Theodore Roosevelt after his mother was killed by hunters. Showing that even the toughest of creatures has a soft side.

JONATHAN

This is wrong on so many levels.

TEDDY

Tell me about it. “Teddy?” I hate that name.

JONATHAN

I’m more caught up on the fact they named the bear after the person that killed his mom.

TEDDY

They completely omitted that part from the plaque. How is the world going to know I killed a bear with my own two hands?

JONATHAN

Well, they started selling stuffed animals named after you, so I guess history will know you had...something to do with them.

Teddy Scoffs. Hunter walks over with a teddy bear.

HUNTER

Hey look Teddy, it’s you! So soft and cuddly.

TEDDY

Don’t call me Teddy!...I wonder if it’s too late to get them to change the name to Jonny Bears. At least it would be more in character.

JONATHAN

I strongly ask that you don't...and don't call me Jonny. It leaves a bad taste in my mouth.

Teddy laughs and clasps his arms around Jonathan and the Hunter.

TEDDY

Jonathan, I swear, every day with you is an adventure!

They all exit.

SCENE 3

Enter Mind Space.

Harvard University 2019. The mad science lab of Doctor Asmongold located in the tunnel system under the university.

ASMONGOLD calibrates the time machine. JONATHAN enters.

JONATHAN

Professor Asmon, why am I dressed like this?

ASMONGOLD

Doctor!

JONATHAN

What?

ASMONGOLD

When you signed up for the internship program, I asked you to call me DOCTOR! And it's not Asmon! It is Asmongold. How would you feel if I referred to you as...name?

JONATHAN

Jonathan.

ASMONGOLD

Than! What if I called you Than then!? Would that annoy you?

JONATHAN

Probably, yeah.

ASMONGOLD

Exactly. So you will refer to me as DOCTOR Asmongold!

JONATHAN

Who shortens a person's name to the second half?

ASMONGOLD

Am I clear intern?

JONATHAN

Yes. Doctor Asmongold...and it's Jona-

ASMONGOLD

Now you're probably wondering why I have you dressed like this!

JONATHAN

A little, ye-

ASMONGOLD

Well intern, behold my latest invention!

Asmongold makes a spectacle of his time machine.

JONATHAN

Oh! Very...neat Doctor...What is it?

ASMONGOLD

What is it? WHAT IS IT?! You behold the greatest example of human genius in the world and the only thing your simplistic brain can come up with is "what is it?!"

JONATHAN

Well-

ASMONGOLD

I know you fresh out of highschoolers only come to Harvard for the opportunity to drink and party and seduce your professors because mommy and daddy are no longer watching!-

JONATHAN

What? Ew! No!

ASMONGOLD

But I...what do you mean “ew no?”

JONATHAN

I came here for an education. I don’t want to sex up my teachers. And I don’t even like alcohol.

ASMONGOLD

...This is the best students the world has to offer?

JONATHAN

What?

ASMONGOLD

I remember when I was in school. My fraternity used to feed rats pure sodium tablets and chunk them into the girl’s dorms.

JONATHAN

Why would you do that?

ASMONGOLD

The laughs we had! It came in threes you know? First from the rat flying through the window, then the explosion! And finally the realization of their bedrooms being covered in rat guts! So many screams!

JONATHAN

That’s awful! That’s traumatic and animal cruelty!

ASMONGOLD

And we never got caught! Those were the students of the future!

JONATHAN

The future looks bleak.

ASMONGOLD

And the conquests we had! We had a bet going on who could seduce the oldest woman on campus.

JONATHAN

Oh god, this is toxic...

ASMONGOLD

I won of course! Aw beautiful Ms. Gold, you were the most energetic widow I have ever married.

JONATHAN

Doctor-

ASMONGOLD

Today's students though? A whole bunch of home ec sissies! I think it has to do with all the women professors-

JONATHAN

Doctor Asmongold! Can we please get back on track! Please tell me about your amazing invention!

ASMONGOLD

Wha-? Oh yes! I was getting there intern, if you would just be more patient! This, my passive little intern, is my newly invented Time Machine!

Thunder and lightning despite them being underground. Jonathan looks around confused.

JONATHAN

A time machine?

ASMONGOLD

Precisely!

JONATHAN

Riiiiight. A "time machine."

ASMONGOLD

I can see you are having trouble wrapping your head around the idea intern. Allow me to show you how it works!

Asmongold grabs an apple and places it inside the machine.

ASMONGOLD

Now watch. I will set the time on the machine five minutes from now! Pull this lever and...

The machine lights up making crazy sci fi sounds then comes to a stop.
Asmongold opens it. The apple is gone.

JONATHAN

It's gone!

Jonathan searches around the machine.

ASMONGOLD

Gone through time!

JONATHAN

Doctor, this is crazy. It breaks all theories!

ASMONGOLD

Theories are made to be broken! Now, I have sent the apple forward in time five minutes.
Now if I know myself correctly...

The machine lights up again and the apple reappears,

ASMONGOLD

There it is!

JONATHAN

But it has not been five minutes yet.

ASMONGOLD

Are you an idiot intern?

JONATHAN

My name is Jonathan.

ASMONGOLD

Yes, I sent it five minutes forward in time, but obviously future me had to explain how it travels backward in time! So it has now appeared here because I sent it back in time in about three minutes from now!

JONATHAN

Ok. That makes sense enough so far.

ASMONGOLD

Now here is where there is a little hiccup.

Asmongold closes the door again.

ASMONGOLD

Now that we are nearing the five minute mark. I have to send this apple back in time. Watch and be amazed at my gigantic raging brain! In three. Two. One!

He pulls a lever and the machine lights up making cool sci fi sounds. He opens the door and the apple is still there.

JONATHAN

Nothing happened.

ASMONGOLD

Of course something happened! I sent it back in time to the exact moment we received it earlier. Except look! The time I sent it is one minute before we should have received it! Instead of us getting it in five minutes, we got it in four? Do you know what this means?

JONATHAN

That time travel stories are still confusing as hell?

ASMONGOLD

It means that events corrected themselves! You saw! I sent it to five minutes from now. But I sent it back a minute early. That could only mean one thing...

JONATHAN

...That you miscalibrated?

ASMONGOLD

Me? The great Asmongold miscalibrate! Learn your place boy! No. It means the past corrected itself to make the events happen in a logical way so that the apple cannot exist in two times at once! The only fundamental rule of time travel is that no two of the same atom can exist at once, so the universe course corrects decisions so that does not happen!

JONATHAN

I don't know Doctor. That sounds extremely hard to prove.

ASMONGOLD

Which is what brings us to why you are dressed the way you are now!

JONATHAN

...Wait. Nooo.

ASMONGOLD

Yes my young intern! You are going to prove that the past can be changed!

JONATHAN

There is no way I am doing that! This machine is more likely to kill me than do whatever you are wanting it to!

ASMONGOLD

Think of the scientific possibilities!

JONATHAN

Think of all the damage it could do! It could do anything as small as change my name to...to destroying the universe!

ASMONGOLD

You are overly dramatic! I assure you that whatever you do is going to have a minor effect on the timeline as we know it.

JONATHAN

I don't know...

ASMONGOLD

If you don't, I am sure I can find someone else more willing. Of course, that would come at the cost of your internship, which could look terribly on you to the university. As well as any future workplaces.

JONATHAN

...Fine. What do you want me to do?

ASMONGOLD

Kill Abraham Lincoln.

JONATHAN

What!?

ASMONGOLD

Look! Here is my history textbook from when I was a struggling young man! Signed by me. See? You take this with you, it should, supposedly, be immune to the changes of the past! Then we just compare the name of the man who killed Honest Abe! Your copy will say John Wilkes Booth, and the new timeline copy will say.....

JONATHAN

Jonathan! My name is Jonathan! Come on Doctor, it's been three months!

ASMONGOLD

Quit being such a pansy boy! The new timeline will say Jonathan Wilkes Booth! Then...then my theory will be proven and I can do...whatever it is a mad scientist does with the powers of time travel!

Evil laugh.

JONATHAN

How will I get back?

ASMONGOLD

What?

JONATHAN

How will I get back?

ASMONGOLD

Hehehehe. With this!

Asmongold pulls out a futuristic looking watch.

ASMONGOLD

This watch is specially calibrated to return you to the time of your departure! To me, you will be gone for an instant! Here you go!

Asmongold forces the watch and textbook into Jonathan's hands then forces him into the time machine.

JONATHAN

Hey! Hey!

ASMONGOLD

Now hurry up you! I can hardly wait! The anticipation is killing me! Or you! Or both of us! Come on now! Hurry up!

Asmongold slams the door shut.

ASMONGOLD

Ok. Now to just set you to...when was it again. 18...95? Or was it 98? Yes, that sounds right! Remember intern! Kill Abraham Lincoln, get caught, and then use the watch to get out of there! I'll be waiting!

Asmongold pulls a lever and cool sci fi noises and lights go on then Darkness.

High Speed winds pass Jonathan's ears as he wakes up. Falling. He screams and let's go of his book and watch which fly away.

JONATHAN

No! No no no noooooo!

A sickening crunch as he slams into the ground.

Exit Mind Space

SCENE 4

SENATOR 1 and 2 stand by TEDDY as he reads through a bill.

SENATOR 1

So as you can see President Roosevelt, the economics outlined in that bill will bring more trade and better wages to America.

SENATOR 2

Exactly! The exportation of cotton is still a lucrative industry you know! And as time goes, we have found newer locations for even better cash crops! I assure you President, this bill is absolutely worth signing!

TEDDY

...What is this section here?

SENATOR 1

That section? Oh! Nothing important.

SENATOR 2

Oh yes! That was added by some northern senators we were working with. It's meant to be experimental! You know! Progressive!

TEDDY

It indicates that an employer can choose to not pay people from out of state as long as they cover room and board...

SENATOR 2

Again! It was a northern senator's idea! Not ours! Haha. Those damn factory workers must have done some lobbying.

Teddy just takes off his pince-nez and looks at them. On the verge of violence.

QUENTIN enters.

QUENTIN

Hey dad! You busy?

TEDDY

Quentin! My dear boy! Not at all. Was just wrapping up some business with these dixies!

QUENTIN

Well when you finish, want to throw the pigskin around?

TEDDY

That sounds like a marvelous idea my boy! Go grab it and I'll meet you outside!

Quentin exits. Teddy waits a moment
before ripping the bill in half.

SENATOR 1

N-no! Awww....

TEDDY

You two are lucky my son came when he did! I was this close to ripping up more than your pathetic attempt at new age slavery. Now get out of here ya damn dixies!

Teddy escorts them until they Exit.
Enter Quentin.

QUENTIN

Dixies?

TEDDY

A group of people that need to get with the times my dear boy!

QUENTIN

Sounds awful.

TEDDY

There's a reason I will drop everything to play ball with my boys!

Enter Jonathan.

JONATHAN

...Hey Theodore! You wanted to see me?

TEDDY

Bully Jonathan! My boy! I was wondering when you would get here! Quentin and I were just about to throw the old ball around. You remember Quentin right?

JONATHAN

Quentin? Oh wow! I didn't recognize you! You've grown so much!

QUENTIN

Jonathan! I haven't seen you in years! Did you ever perfect that quiche recipe?

JONATHAN

Almost. I think the ingredients I am getting have been too low-grade.

QUENTIN

Well if you need I can lend you a bit of money. I've been wanting to try this perfect quiche you keep going on about. You promised after you got it figured out you'd teach me the recipe, right?

JONATHAN

The offer is still on the table!

TEDDY

Alright alright! Enough of this cooking talk! Let's toss ball!

JONATHAN

So Quentin, what all have you been up to?

QUENTIN

Mostly just studied. Playing sports. Dad had me help the church with a food drive last week.

JONATHAN

Teddy! That is so nice of you.

TEDDY

Don't call me Teddy!

JONATHAN

Well that all sounds exciting!

QUENTIN

Kind of. I would not mind trying something new.

TEDDY

Oh! Perhaps I could take you with me out of country next time I am out! The French were quite cordial...if a bit smelly when I last went there.

QUENTIN

When will that be?

TEDDY

Some time in the next month or two.

JONATHAN

Mind if I come along with? There is some French cuisine I have been wanting to try my hand at making.

QUENTIN

Oh that sounds like fun-

TEDDY

Quentin did I ever tell you how Jonathan and I met?

QUENTIN

Can't say you have.

TEDDY

It was during the Cuban war...

Mind Space

Teddy is riding a horse while reigning in two more. It is raining. Jonathan approaches.

JONATHAN

Hey! Hey! I know this is a really stupid question to ask, but...is this Washington DC?

TEDDY

Washington? Afraid your a few thousand miles off boy. This is Florida-

JONATHAN

Florida! How the hell did I end up in Florida? Awww. Crap, I'm supposed to be in DC for the opera. I don't even know what day it is! What if it already happened? Does it even matter? It's not like I can get home anymore.

TEDDY

Can I still be of help to you? Me and the rest of the men need to get these horses on the ship!

JONATHAN

No. No...it doesn't matter anymore. I need to get back to...I don't even know anymore.

Jonathan starts to walk off.

TEDDY

You said you wanted to get to DC?

JONATHAN

Did. I don't think it matters now.

TEDDY

Are you homeless by chance?

JONATHAN

I guess that is a way to put it.

TEDDY

Well how about I fix that for you!

JONATHAN

Beg your pardon?

TEDDY

The war with Cuba has been a bloody one. I fear America is losing its drive to keep fighting.

JONATHAN

War with Cuba? There was a war with Lincoln during Lincoln's presidency?

TEDDY

I want to give the American people a taste of victory! And nothing says victory like a cavalry charge of strong men and strong horses against the enemy! Wouldn't you agree?

JONATHAN

I...suppose so.

TEDDY

The thing is, not a single reporter was willing to come with us on this daring venture! I figured one of my men could ride ahead and get a picture, but I would hate to exclude such valiant soldiers! How about I give you this camera, you shoot the picture, and in exchange, I will get you to DC as soon as I take leave!

JONATHAN

Oh! So I just ride with you to Cuba, snap a picture of you guys doing a charge, and I get to go to DC?

TEDDY

As soon as I get my leave! Yes.

JONATHAN

Doesn't sound too bad. Sure! You got a deal. If we can possibly negotiate a sooner date rather than later though, that would be terrific,

TEDDY

Oh-ho-ho! A choosing beggar! I love it. Come on then! How about you make yourself useful and lead this horse.

JONATHAN

Oh! Yeah...I've never led a horse before.

TEDDY

Really? You must really come from the city! Just grab hold of the reigns here...perfect! Already looking like a Rough Rider! Haha! Oh! I don't believe I caught your name!

JONATHAN

Oh! My name. Uhhh...Jon...athan Wilkes Booth.

TEDDY

Like the man who killed Lincoln?

JONATHAN

.....Y-yeah. My parents were big fans of his...and distant cousins...until he...killed...Lincoln...

TEDDY

Well talk about some sad luck. I am sure nobody could have guessed he would go crazy the way he did.

JONATHAN

Well...life has a way of really screwing people over.

TEDDY

Ha! You said it. Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt!

He shakes Jonathan's hand.

JONATHAN

Wait! As in...Teddy Roosevelt?

TEDDY

You've heard of me?

JONATHAN

Yeah! A little.

TEDDY

Then you should know that I hate being called Teddy.

JONATHAN

Oh! Sorry. Really sorry. I didn't mean to offend.

TEDDY

That's alright boy! Let's get a move on! Come on Rough Riders! Let's make some room! We only have one barge for the horses and ourselves!

JONATHAN

And that is how I met Teddy. Sorry. Theodore. Oh what do I care. He can't hear me in here. Ha. Ha. (He glances around) If I had known the danger I would be put in on this venture, I would have said no. But I dare any of you to try to say no to Theodore Roosevelt. You just can't. Though, if I had known he would gravitate onto me the way he has, I definitely would have reached down into the fiber of my being and...probably said no!

Guns firing. Bombs exploding. Jonathan stands there with Teddy who is mounted on a horse.

TEDDY

Well go on Jonathan! We need a good picture!

JONATHAN

Are you kidding? If I run out there, I'm going to die!

A man next to Teddy is shot.

TEDDY

I'll hold the charge until we can get a good picture Jonathan!

JONATHAN

Are you crazy?!

TEDDY

I'm passionate!

Another person is shot and killed.

TEDDY

People are dying Jonathan! It's up to you if everyone dies!

JONATHAN

You cannot leave this up to me! I have no backbone for this at all!

TEDDY

We'll grow one! We go on your signal!

The bullets are deafening. A ringing in the ears before Jonathan runs. Dodging bombs and bullets.

TEDDY

He's doing it! Thatta boy!

Jonathan gets a good distance intact. He readies the camera and waves down Teddy.

JONATHAN

Please hurry up!

TEDDY

Rough Riders! Today we show America and the rest of the world what true men look like! No killing the innocent! And no killing people with their arms raised! Be polite, yet firm. Intimidating, yet calm! Patient, yet expedient! Today, we show the rest of the world what it means to carry a big stick! Rough Riders. Charge!

They charge. Jonathan snaps a picture.
Exit Mind Space.

TEDDY

And that was when I first came up with the idea of Big Stick Ideology.

QUENTIN

Wow Jonathan. I never would have guessed you could kill a man.

JONATHAN

Sorry what?

QUENTIN

Haha. I can see why my dad likes you so much!

JONATHAN

No really, what did I miss?

TEDDY

See? Exactly why I like him. Jonathan's had so many heroic deeds that they all blend together now, huh Jonathan?

JONATHAN

No. I was in my own headspace. I really was not listening.

QUENTIN

Well, now I have two remodels to look up to! I swear Jonathan, dad, when I grow up, I'm going to be more of a man than both of you!

TEDDY

Woah! I can't wait to see it Quentin!

Teddy gives a gigantic Teddy Roosevelt grin at his son.

TEDDY

Well, it is getting a bit late! I really did not expect story time to take so long. Come on Quentin.

JONATHAN

...Wait. Wait! What about the official government business you wanted help with?

TEDDY

Oh yes! We'll take care of that next week Jonathan. Tuesday work for you?

JONATHAN

Well I was going to-

TEDDY

Then it's a date! I look forward to your company again dear boy!

They exit. Jonathan lingers for a moment.

JONATHAN

Right...see you then.

Jonathan exits.

SCENE 5

TEDDY sits at the oval office desk.
JONATHAN and QUENTIN enter.

QUENTIN

Hey dad! Jonathan's finally here.

JONATHAN

You make it sound like I am late.

TEDDY

Well technically you are late. Exactly seventeen seconds late. It's fine though, it gave me time to finish up my book.

JONATHAN

Right. So, why did you ask me to come in Mr. President?

TEDDY

I'm glad you asked Jonathan. It's actually about this book.

JONATHAN

...That book?

TEDDY

Yes! This book.

JONATHAN

Is this like a book club thing? Was I supposed to read this book?

TEDDY

No! Of course not. Come to think of it, that probably would have been worthwhile to do, but I only had this one copy and I was reading it!

JONATHAN

Right. So why don't you tell me about the book. Give me the sparknotes version.

TEDDY

The what?

JONATHAN

Uh-just...summarize it for me.

TEDDY

Righteo then! Are you familiar with Upton Sinclair by chance? I didn't think so. You really should read more Jonathan. Well, he wrote this book right here. The Jungle. Although it's fiction, people are claiming the descriptions of the horrors in the meat packaging factories is spot on.

Mind Space.

JONATHAN

I actually have read The Jungle. It was required reading when I took US History. Sinclair was trying to portray the horrors the US allowed on its immigrants. How they were taken advantage of, forced to work the least paying, least dignifying jobs while being fed this bullshit hoax about the American Dream. You know, that hoax that feed immigrants and kids to keeps us working. How if we all just keep working harder, faster, and fight through all the abuse and sickness, we can have our own home and family and not have to work another day in our life. I don't know. Maybe I am just jaded from being in the past for so long. I feel like I used to be so much more...enthusiastic.

Exit Mind Space.

JONATHAN

Mr. President. Theodore. Is there anything else in the book that it touches on? Anything I should know about?

TEDDY

I suppose it touches on a number of things. The praise on the accuracy of these factories has piqued my curiosity. Sinclair makes it sound like the backbone of the American meat industry is...well, I don't want to bring bias your report.

JONATHAN

My report?

TEDDY

Yes Jonathan. I need some trusted inspectors to look into this matter and give me honest feedback on what they see. I fear an actual inspector might be bribed to lie to me. So I have asked Quentin and now you to look into these factories and give me an honest account of what you see!

JONATHAN

Woah. Wait. Me? And Quentin?

QUENTIN

It was my idea.

JONATHAN

Your-

QUENTIN

Dad was telling me about this book last week after we finished playing catch.

TEDDY

Originally I just wanted your feedback on what I should do about these worries of mine. After all, the average American eats meat every day.

QUENTIN

And I told him that, maybe he needs some first-hand accounts.

TEDDY

And I said! That's a smashing idea my dear boy! But I couldn't possibly go. I'm too tied up with work. Those damn senators won't give me a moment's peace.

QUENTIN

So I suggested that maybe he hire some inspectors.

TEDDY

Then I voiced my worries about the people I hire getting bribed-

QUENTIN

So I volunteered.

JONATHAN

Y-you volunteered?

QUENTIN

I figure if there is anyone my dad can trust, it's going to be family, right?

JONATHAN

Quentin, I...I am proud of you. That is a completely selfless thing to do, but...I don't want you to be revealed to the horrors that await you in there. Assuming they are actually bad! As you hinted at Theodore.

TEDDY

Nonsense Jonathan. My boy's ready to face the world. He's not a child anymore, he is a growing man.

JONATHAN

Please Teddy, I am just worried about your son.

TEDDY

Don't call me Teddy. And if you are worried about him, then you can agree to go with him. That's why I wanted you here after all!

QUENTIN

I'm going to go whether you come with me or not Uncle Jonathan.

JONATHAN

It's bad enough I have to deal with one man more stubborn than a bull. But two now?
Fine. I'll go.

QUENTIN

Haha! Yes!

TEDDY

Thank you Jonathan. You are one of the few people I can truly trust in this world.

JONATHAN

Right. (Deep Breath). Let's go Quentin.

QUENTIN

We'll be back tonight Dad.

TEDDY

Do hurry! You're mother is preparing a honey-roasted ham!

Quentin and Jonathan exit. Time passes to night. Jonathan enters in a heaving gasp. Flies buzz around him and he has the look of a man with lifelong PTSD. Quentin follows in behind.

TEDDY

By the Lord! Jonathan! What happened to you?

JONATHAN

It's worse Teddy! It's much worse!

TEDDY

C-calm down my boy! What's worse? Quentin! What's worse?

QUENTIN

I. We...

JONATHAN

Everything! Everything is worse Teddy! Jesus Christ those poor immigrants. I watched a kid, an actual kid, couldn't be older than ten, lose his God damned hand in a meat slicer! And the foreman just swept it into the grinder! Is this what we accepted with this time? Oh God and the smell! All the shit and rotted meat on the ground! And the flies! There were maggots in the meat Teddy! And, oh god their on me! I can feel them crawling in my clothes!

Jonathan rushes off.

TEDDY

Quentin. Is this all true?

QUENTIN

I...

TEDDY

Out with it boy! I need to know!

QUENTIN

I was able to smell it...

TEDDY

But what did you see my son! Tell me.

QUENTIN

Nothing.

TEDDY

Nothing?

QUENTIN

Uncle Jonathan had me questioning the workers and residents outside of the factories. They told me some horrific things dad, but. I didn't see anything. When Jonathan came out, he was screaming and acting like a loonie, but. You know how he is. He overreacts all the time!

TEDDY

Are you saying that we can't trust Jonathan's character on this one?

Uncertainty and guilt sink in for a moment before Jonathan enters again. Shirtless and rubbing a bar of soap all over himself.

JONATHAN

It's animal cruelty Teddy! T-t-to kill a pig or a cow or whatever the hell you kill and then have it rot on the floor and then swept right into our mouths! I swear, I may never eat meat again. In fact, from this day forward, I've sworn it off. I don't need it...why are you looking at me like that.

TEDDY

(Forcing a smile)

Well Jonathan! It certainly sounds like you had yourself an adventure! And without me this time. Who would have thought that would happen! Am I right? Haha

JONATHAN

Mr. President, wipe that stupid smile off of your face. This is no time for smiling. I want you to smell me. Go on, take a good long sniff.

TEDDY

I can smell you plenty from here.

JONATHAN

No. Come over here and smell me. Right next to me. That smell is a thousand times worse in those factories.

TEDDY

Well I can't rightly control smells Jonathan.

JONATHAN

No you can't. Want to know what you can control? Kids getting chopped and fed to the masses! There needs to be consequences to businesses that would allow that! There needs to be change! We can't keep living in these times. Think about this Mr. President. Road kill that has been sitting in the blistering sun for two whole weeks infested with parasites and disease. Rotting with gangrene. Because that is what is going inside people's stomachs. Your people! The people you represent!

TEDDY

Jonathan, I need you to calm-

JONATHAN

Remember Cuba Teddy? All the people that died. All of our friends? It wasn't the mosquitos. It wasn't the climate. It was the meat we were eating every day! American meat!

QUENTIN

Jonathan...

JONATHAN

We just got lucky. If you or me had grabbed O'Reilley's can, Or Thomas Smith's can, or Mr. Harper's can, we would have been dead!

TEDDY

...What Do you suggest we do?

JONATHAN

Change. We need change. We can't just stomach this anymore. We can't just wipe our hands clean and say "these are the times we live in" because the times we live in is crap!

TEDDY

The government is not meant to get involved with business.

JONATHAN

Tough. If they don't like it then...give me a camera. I'll go back and show congress and the people what they have been eating!

TEDDY

No. That is quite alright Jonathan. You've done plenty. Just write up everything you saw in as much detail as you can. I'll present it to the Senate immediately after it's done. Alright? Leave it to me.

Teddy goes to exit.

JONATHAN

Teddy.

TEDDY

Yes Jon?

JONATHAN

What are you thinking?

TEDDY

I don't know yet. An administration of some sort...I'd appreciate your help with it.

JONATHAN

I shouldn't.

TEDDY

Jon...the Future of this country needs someone of your character if it wants to change for the better.

JONATHAN

Right...Just...reach out to me next week. I need to think about it.

TEDDY

Will do. We'll fix this country dear boy. One problem at a time.

Teddy Exits.

JONATHAN

Like true progressives.

QUENTIN

Uncle Jonathan-

JONATHAN

I know! I know, I shouldn't have tried to protect you. You're a man now or whatever shit that means. But trust me. You are not ready to see what was in there.

QUENTIN

No. I'm...sorry. I doubted your character there for a bit. I thought you were overreacting and being your sensitive...you know, whiny self. I heard dad's war stories about you, but what you did just now reminded me why I look up to you. I'm sorry.

JONATHAN

I've known you for half your life Quentin. You are a good kid. Just...I worry you'll adopt your dad's gung-ho mentality and jump into a meat grinder. You're better than that. You have the potential to change things.

QUENTIN

I know that. I've felt like lately, I have not been able to do anything for anyone.

JONATHAN

You're not even an adult. You shouldn't have to bare the burden of others yet.

QUENTIN

I want to though! I want to be more like dad and you!

JONATHAN

Then keep working on yourself. When you are an adult-a full grown adult, something will come your way. Something where you can help everyone. And I know that when you jump on that opportunity, everyone will be proud of you.

QUENTIN

Thank you Uncle Jonathan.

Quentin exits.

Jonathan lingers a moment, then exits.

SCENE 6

Asmongold's lair.

Enter Mind Space.

DR. ASMONGOLD stands around
berating an INTERN

ASMONGOLD

When you signed on as my intern, you agreed that you would do whatever I asked of you without question!

INTERN

That was be-

ASMONGOLD

And look at you now! Questioning me! When I ask you to get into the radioactive chamber, the first thing I want to hear out of your mouth is what?

INTERN

Go to hell.

ASMONGOLD

Wrong! I want to hear nothing come out of your mouth. I want you to just do it!

INTERN

You're insane!

ASMONGOLD

It won't kill you if that is what you are worried about. Trust me, I could lose my tenure if it killed you, and I am not giving that up.

INTERN

It's not just the radioactive chamber! How long have I been working for you Dr. Asmongold. How long?

ASMONGOLD

I don't know. Like...three weeks?

INTERN

Two years! And what is my name Doctor?

ASMONGOLD

...T...don't tell me...T-eeeeEEEEEd?

INTERN

Marty! It's Marty Doc! Come on!

ASMONGOLD

Bah! I don't have the time to remember every intern's name! My time is precious and your time is my time. That's how internships work. At least, that's how they worked back in my day!

INTERN

Well we aren't in your day doc!

Intern exits.

ASMONGOLD

You'll see Ted! I...I'll bring my time back! And then you'll fall into line!...You...baby!

JONATHAN enters.

JONATHAN

Hello, is this Doctor Asmon...gold's? My ethics professor recommended I come talk with you about an internship. I need one to graduate and he said you're probably looking for someone by this point...was that yelling I heard? I can always come back.

ASMONGOLD

He. He. He. Hello boy, what is your name?

JONATHAN

Jonathan.

ASMONGOLD

Too plain. I'm never going to remember it. Congratulations, you are hired! I'll just refer to you as intern or boy or something.

JONATHAN

It's really not that hard-

ASMONGOLD

Your first task is to stand in this chamber.

JONATHAN

Chamber? W-why?

ASMONGOLD

Boy, when I ask you to get in the chamber, I don't want questions, I want results!

JONATHAN

I just want to know why I am getting in the chamber.

ASMONGOLD

I am a man of science. My experiments are to push society forward and better our civilization.

JONATHAN

Well I do want to better society.

ASMONGOLD

Good! Then you will make the perfect guinea-I mean member of my team.

JONATHAN

Do I not have to fill out any paperwork?

ASMONGOLD

Bah! Paperwork? In my day we didn't worry about such minuet things. Now get in the chamber kid.

JONATHAN

Uh- I'm twenty-

ASMONGOLD

I'm hearing a lot more talking and not enough getting inside the chamber.

JONATHAN

O-ok...I'm going.

Jonathan enters the chamber. The door closes. Lights go crazy as Jonathan screams in pain.

ASMONGOLD

Mrs. Gold! I think I got a good ooooooone.

They exit.

Exit Mind Space.

SCENE 7

Two SENATORS stand around talking. QUENTIN stands off to the side, listening in.

SENATOR 1

He has a lot of gall.

SENATOR 2

More like a lot of pride!

SENATOR 1

How he managed to become President is beyond me.

SENATOR 2

He shouldn't be. Remember? Damn Yankee.

SENATOR 1

He needs to get in line with the wants of the people.

SENATOR 2

He needs to get in line with the tenth amendment.

SENATOR 1

Exactly. His meddling is getting in the way of how this country is supposed to be!

SENATOR 2

Couldn't have put it better myself.

They continue to mumble to each other.

JONATHAN enters.

JONATHAN

Hey Quentin. Ooh. You look mad. What's going on?

QUENTIN

These two.

JONATHAN

Those two? What about them? Who are they?

QUENTIN

Senators from some southern states. They've been saying some disgusting things about my father.

JONATHAN

Out loud?

QUENTIN

Sort of. I'm trying to overhear it.

JONATHAN

You really should stop. Watching something because it makes you mad is never worth it.

QUENTIN

Do you mind quieting down?

JONATHAN

Look. They're Senators. I am sure they are fine people. They had to win the hearts of their constituents after all.

QUENTIN

You'd be surprised.

JONATHAN

Oh posh! Haha. Never thought I would say that. Come on. Let's go talk with them. You'll see they are not that bad.

QUENTIN

Jonathan. Wait!

JONATHAN

Hello friends!

SENATOR 1

Oh boy. It's the president's lapdog.

JONATHAN

Lapdog?

QUENTIN

Do not get mixed in with these guys.

JONATHAN

Give 'em a chance.

SENATOR 2

Everyone knows about you and your constant meddling in politics.

SENATOR 1

Politics is not for everyone. As a civilian, you should really learn your place.

SENATOR 2

Like some other people.

Quentin starts moving in for the kill.
Jonathan stops him.

JONATHAN

...Right. Well, my name is Jonathan-

SENATOR 1

No one asked! Haha!

The Senators laugh.

JONATHAN

...And, I am helping the president with his latest project.

SENATOR 1

Yes. The Food and...Something Organization.

SENATOR 2

I believe you mean, Drug and Alcohol Appointment.

JONATHAN

That's not-

SENATOR 1

Isn't alcohol a drug.

SENATOR 2

Proves the redundancy of the matter.

SENATOR 1

I could certainly go for an appointment of alcohol right now, if you know what I mean!

SENATOR 2

Ho! You are speaking my language!

JONATHAN

...So, uhhh...right. Not a fan of the policy, that is your right-

SENATOR 1

Of course it is our right! Did you see anything in the Bill of Rights about "all shall have clean meat and morphine?"

JONATHAN

Well no-

SENATOR 2

Of course you didn't! Because the founding fathers wanted states to decide that matter!

JONATHAN

Well I don't know about that!

SENATOR 1

Of course you wouldn't you Yankee. But we do. You and your ilk president want the federal government to control everything!

SENATOR 2

And they won't stop until every aspect of our lives is controlled by big government.

SENATOR 1

It starts with a Republican and descends into Monarchy!

SENATOR 2

Or worse-

SENATOR 1

A Dictatorship.

SENATOR 2

Just like Lincoln.

SENATOR 1

Just like Lincoln.

QUENTIN

How *old* are you people?

JONATHAN

Quentin please. Allow me to handle this...now listen. I heard you two have had some strong words to say about my friend over there.

SENATOR 1

Oh yes. Your friend's son, has been standing there all morning listening to us.

SENATOR 2

I swear he gets redder and redder with every passing comment.

SENATOR 1

He looks like he ate a pepper and can barely stand the heat.

SENATOR 2

That would explain the tears welling up in his eyes.

They laugh.

QUENTIN

Why I-

JONATHAN

Quentin. It's fine. People are going to disagree and be petty. That is a normal part of life. Let's not join their ranks. Compassion, empathy, patience, and openness are the best ideals. Not just for the self, but also for society...Now gentlemen, I do not know what started this hatred of my friend-

SENATOR 1

Well would you like the general answer to that or today's answer?

JONATHAN

Uh...b-both! Absolutely both so we can work this out!

QUENTIN

Can we not entertain them? You give them a foot and next thing you know-

JONATHAN

They take a mile.

QUENTIN

More like start a rebellion.

JONATHAN

You overreact. Nobody wants that.

SENATOR 1

Well, the general answer is, he's a filthy rich Yankee overextending his hand and taking away power from the people!

SENATOR 2

Not to mention his war mongering. He should be focusing more on the state of our country.

JONATHAN

Th-those are some perfectly reasonable reasons to be upset! Absolutely! I agree with you.

QUENTIN

Don't agree with them!

SENATOR 2

He agrees with us?

SENATOR 1

You agree with us?

JONATHAN

Of course! Between you and me, I have had a lot of issue with Teddy's obsession with war. He treats it like it is some sort of macho sport.

SENATOR 1

He does! He is absolutely compensating for something.

The three laugh.

JONATHAN

Haha. See Quentin? There are things we can agree on. It is just about finding middle ground!

QUENTIN

The middle ground for these people is so far to the right it is practically in Russia. You have no idea who these people are!

SENATOR 1

I swear, he never goes to war for good reasons!

JONATHAN

Like World War II.

SENATOR 1

World War what now?

JONATHAN

Uhhh, like the war with the Phillipines. You know, around the world.

SENATOR 2

Exactly! What are we supposed to gain from that?

SENATOR 1

We need to be fighting the war at home!

JONATHAN

Yes! Our money going to the military should be going back into the country.

SENATOR 2

I could not agree more!

QUENTIN

Any moment now.

SENATOR 1

That money going back to the states, we could rebuild infrastructure.

SENATOR 2

Or feed our veterans.

JONATHAN

Or fund education.

SENATOR 1

Or fund a campaign to
Bring back slavery!

SENATOR 2

-bring back slavery!

QUENTIN

And there it is.

JONATHAN

Haha...what?

SENATOR 1

That bastard of a president can't keep with his own race.

SENATOR 2

None of these Yankees can.

SENATOR 1

Hell, just a moment ago, your buddy of a President came out with open arms-

SENATOR 2

And we thought he was going to greet us, you know? Proper to our status-

SENATOR 1

But he walks right on by and shakes hands with our driver. That black spot over there. See him?

SENATOR 2

And the President is still there.

SENATOR 1

Chatting with him! Like he is just another citizen!

SENATOR 2

Can you believe that? A President shaking hands and talkin' with a nig-

Jonathan punches the senator so hard he is immediately knocked out.

QUENTIN

My God!

JONATHAN

Shut your mouth you fucking racist! Oh god what have I done?!

SENATOR 1

The hell is wrong with you?!

QUENTIN

Uncle Jonathan! You-

SENATOR 1

Are going to jail for this! Federal Prison even!

QUENTIN

Piss off you butternut!

JONATHAN

I swear it was an accident!

QUENTIN

Don't back down Uncle Jon! I saw you rear back and slam that fist into his face! Nothing accidental about it!

JONATHAN

No, I-I mean-don't call me Jon! I-

SENATOR 1

Witness testimonial! You will rot away the rest of your days in prison!

TEDDY enters.

TEDDY

It was wonderful hearing your stories friend! Please, stop by again. I will gladly have you as a guest any time of the year! Haha.

(Noticing the unconscious Senator)

Oh...what happened here?

SENATOR 1

Mr. President, it is good you are here! Your bottom boy over there went mad and assaulted my Junior Senator!

QUENTIN

Dad, these men have been badmouthing you for the past fifteen minutes until Jonathan showed up and silenced them!

SENATOR 1

He sucker punched my compatriot! On federal grounds!

QUENTIN

You provoked him!

SENATOR 1

Provoked him! We were on perfectly amicable talking terms until he went ballistic!

QUENTIN

I'll show you ballistic!

TEDDY

Calm down Quentin! As much as I don't want to stop you, I am afraid I have to.

SENATOR 1

Mr. President, gather your servicemen and arrest this man so he can be tried and hanged or whatever you do here in the north!

JONATHAN

Theodore, I am so sorry. I didn't-

TEDDY

Shush Jonathan. Allow me to handle this.

SENATOR 1

You see that lapdog? Friendship means nothing in the face of justice. Even to your President.

QUENTIN

Don't worry Uncle Jonathan. Dad will get you out of this.

TEDDY

So Senior Senator...tell me, what exactly happened.

SENATOR 1

This isn't a court hearing Mr. President, your friend and boy over there attacked us! On federal ground!

TEDDY

Odd. I've never known Jonathan to attack anything without good reason. In fact, I've never known him to attack anything at all!

SENATOR 1

What you think and what actually happened are two separate things Mr. President.

TEDDY

Too right my dear boy! I am already piecing together what happened.

SENATOR 1

I'm not your boy!

TEDDY

My dear boy Jonathan over there has taken a page out of my book and decided to handle this situation the quick, efficient, and manly way! My God I find myself proud!

SENATOR 1

What?! Are you teaching your friends to assault your political rivals?

TEDDY

Not so! The boy assaulted your Junior of his own accord! No pushing or prodding from me at all. It makes me so proud.

SENATOR 1

...Then you are not above having him arrested?

TEDDY

What he did. Is it a federal crime?

SENATOR 1

What?

TEDDY

Assaulting a federal employee on federal ground...Is that a federal crime?

SENATOR 1

Well...I'm not a judge Mr. President. I-don't know.

TEDDY

I see. Well, if it is a federal crime, I'll have you know that I will pardon it.

SENATOR 1

...What?!

TEDDY

I'd pardon it.

SENATOR 1

You can't do that!

TEDDY

Afraid I can. It is my Presidential right. Gifted to me by George Washington himself!

JONATHAN

What's going on over here?

SENATOR 1

You're both corrupt. The entire Roosevelt family and friends is corrupt!

QUENTIN

Don't you dare badmouth my family!

JONATHAN

Please, neither of you need to get mixed up in this. I punched this man and knocked him out. I did wrong.

TEDDY

What happened to the coward I met so long ago in Cuba? Fessing up to your own dishonest actions? It only makes you more honorable! I am proud of you. Truly, you are a good man Jonathan. Too good to rot in prison. And too good to be bankrupted by a couple of senators who have no idea how to adjust to the times!

SENATOR 1

Now listen here-

Teddy rips off his shirt. A silence.

TEDDY

I'm listening...

SENATOR 1

(meekly)

You won't get away with this.

TEDDY

You are welcome to spend more time on this matter, though, I'd argue that it would do nothing but ruin you. Why don't you two take today off and go somewhere nice to cool off for a bit? Look, your wagon is still here! What a good man your driver is to watch and wait for you to get to your destination...go on now! Get moving!

Senator 1 grabs Senator 2 and drags him off.

QUENTIN

Haha! That was amazing dad! He was as white as a sheet!

TEDDY

That he was my boy!

JONATHAN

Theodore, I am so sorry.

TEDDY

As you should be Jonathan. I don't need another man fighting senators to defend my honor. Though I am flattered you did! And to see the aftermath of your defending my honor. It truly humbles me!

JONATHAN

N-no I-

QUENTIN

You should have seen him dad. That bad mouther turned his head like this, and then BAM! Knocked out!

JONATHAN

Please don't-

TEDDY

Ah-ha! Taking advantage of your opponent's weakness and taking him out in one blow! I taught you well!

JONATHAN

Theodore. Listen-

TEDDY

Perhaps I should started calling you my dear "man" now. Haha!

JONATHAN

That doesn't flow well.

QUENTIN

Come on Uncle Jonathan! This is a momentous day. We should celebrate with some pancakes!

JONATHAN

Listen to me! I didn't knock out that bastard because of his badmouthing your father.

QUENTIN

You didn't?

TEDDY

Then why did you?

JONATHAN

They started talking about slavery and bringing it back, and they started saying crap about skin color, and I saw red. Next thing I knew, my fist was making contact with that racist's face! I almost went for the other one too, but then I heard Quentin and snapped out of it.

QUENTIN

Me? I was in full support! You had my blessing to send that wannabe rebel back to his plantation.

JONATHAN

I'm sorry, but you have me all wrong. I did not mean to do it. It was just an act of passion that I already regret. We should not be using violence to try to get our way.

TEDDY

Unless it is something you truly believe in!

QUENTIN

Exactly! It was not a punch for my dad, but it was for something you believe in! So it is ok!

JONATHAN

N-no! Not even then. That's how we get Civil War part two!

TEDDY

I would hope if we had a Civil War part two that every man in the union would take up arms and fight!

JONATHAN

That's not my point! We are trying to avoid violence. Period. At least I am!

QUENTIN

You're not doing a great job at that.

TEDDY

Well Jonathan, history declares that the best and only way to get results is to kill the other man.

JONATHAN

Well maybe history needs to change.

TEDDY

It's not just history Jonathan. It's a constant of life. War has existed since the dawn of time and society is changing fast. But no matter how fast it changes, war is the only thing that stays constant. That being said, I don't keep the US in constant conflict because I am a warmonger. It is my honest belief that one day an ultimate evil will spawn, and the old world will fall. And because of the training and practice we have done now, it will be the West that rises up to defeat it.

JONATHAN

Oh, so you're different? That's your excuse for constantly getting people killed? You aren't. You're just another old boy caught up in this "endless cycle of violence" bullshit. You have the opportunity to change things but you are so worried about the tradition of violence that you can't truly change things!

TEDDY

You badmouth me? I thought you knew me Jonathan. I never do anything without good reasons!

JONATHAN

There are no good reasons for violence...old boy.

TEDDY

(Threateningly)

What about to defend yourself?

JONATHAN

You have only ever been an aggressor Teddy.

TEDDY

Don't call me Teddy.

JONATHAN

Or what? You'll punch me?

TEDDY

A pansy like you is not worth the effort.

JONATHAN

Don't you just hate it when the smaller man doesn't fight back?

TEDDY

(In his face)

I liked it more when you were a pushover.

Teddy exits.

QUENTIN

...Uncle Jonathan?

JONATHAN

I'm fine Quentin.

QUENTIN

Are you two going to be ok?

JONATHAN

Yeah...friends fight sometimes, but it will never change the fact that we are friends. I'm sorry you had to see that.

QUENTIN

Don't treat me like a kid. I'm fine.

JONATHAN

You're right. Sorry, I just...I don't want you to become like your dad. You have a chance to be better than him.

QUENTIN

Don't badmouth my dad.

JONATHAN

I'm not! I am telling you to...don't get caught up in what your dad spouts. Society has to change. And it starts with people like you.

QUENTIN

...You should probably leave. Dad might kill you if he sees you again.

JONATHAN

I was just thinking about that. You take care of yourself Quentin.

Quentin just nods at Jonathan before
exiting. Jonathan exits after.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2**SCENE 8**

Mind Space.

Enter JONATHAN.

JONATHAN

After that last scuffle, I tried to not cause any more tension with Teddy. As far as I was concerned, he had his beliefs, and I had mine. There were some tensions, but we were still friends, after all. And we had many more adventures.

Enter TEDDY and QUENTIN. Teddy is shirtless. Jonathan takes off his shirt.
Quentin holds a bell.

TEDDY

Remember Jonathan, if you don't want to be punched in the face, you have to keep your hands up and keep moving around.

JONATHAN

I know.

TEDDY

No no no. Not like that boy! Your stance is too close. I could easily knock you over!

JONATHAN

Do we really have to do this? This is your sport Theodore.

TEDDY

Come now Jonathan. Bareknuckle boxing builds character! Besides, we're always doing what you want to do. Let me have my fun for once.

JONATHAN

Ugh. Fine.

QUENTIN

Do you want me to ring the bell yet?

TEDDY

Hold on my boy. Jonathan's still got a pansy stance. Come on dear boy, you need to open up your chest and get your arms out there. You need range!

JONATHAN

So I need to keep my hands up for defense, but I need to put them all the way out here?

TEDDY

Precisely!

QUENTIN

Should I ring the bell now?

TEDDY

In just a moment! Now Jonathan-

SERVICEMAN enters.

SERVICEMAN

Mr. President. A telegram for you sir.

TEDDY

What's this?

He takes it and the Serviceman exits.

Teddy opens and reads the letter close to his face.

TEDDY

Ah. It's from my distant cousin, Franklin. I wonder what he wants. Quentin, remind me to ring him up later.

Quentin rings the bell.

TEDDY

What?

Teddy lowers the telegram, and Jonathan punches him in the face. Teddy falls to the ground, holding his eye.

TEDDY

Cheap-shotting bastard!

QUENTIN

Dad!

Quentin rushes to his aid and they both exit.

JONATHAN

...Do I win?... Looking back on that situation, it was pretty funny. I don't think Teddy ever forgave me for that punch, though, since I uhh...blinded him in one eye. I still feel pretty bad about it. I tried to apologize, but he just had a laugh like "I should have known better than to try to introduce you to a man's game! Next time, I'll let you stay home and knit, or whatever you do." There wasn't a next time. He kind of quit the sport after that. I later introduced him to the art of Jiu-jitsu, which I think saved our friendship! Oh man, and after his presidency ended, he certainly didn't stop being my neighbor, and he definitely didn't stop dragging me everywhere with him. He even took me on a trip to Africa! Can you imagine seeing 1900s Africa? It was...not exactly the best experience.

Enter Teddy and Quentin. They carry large rifles.

TEDDY

All right my boy, remember, you just need to aim around the shoulder...

QUENTIN

...Dad. Where's Uncle Jonathan's gun?

TEDDY

He doesn't have one.

QUENTIN

Why?

JONATHAN

I don't like killing helpless animals.

TEDDY

Helpless? It's a white rhinoceros. The horn on it's head makes it hardly helpless.

JONATHAN

You've killed ninety-five of them!

TEDDY

Ninety-six here in just a moment.

JONATHAN

That species is going to be endangered in the next one-hundred years, you know.

TEDDY

Oh? And how do you know that?

JONATHAN

Statistics. What does it matter? Would it kill you to think about the future for once?

TEDDY

(Ignoring the second part)

You're not fooling anybody.

QUENTIN

So why doesn't Jonathan have a gun?

TEDDY

Because he has a death wish.

JONATHAN

Listen, you have your right to bare arms, I have my right to-

Teddy shoots.

TEDDY

Ho-ho! Look at that my boy! Dropped it in one shot!

QUENTIN

Great job dad!

TEDDY

What do ya say we get a closer look?

Teddy and Quentin exit.

JONATHAN

Him and his animal cruelty.

Jonathan starts after but is stopped as a lion growl is heard.

JONATHAN

(sighing)

Not again...

A LION runs in and carries Jonathan offstage.

JONATHAN

Tedddyyyyyyyyy!

TEDDY

Again with you!?

Teddy runs across the stage. His shirt already off. He chases after the Lion.

TEDDY

Don't you dare touch my boy!

Quentin runs after.

Once he exits. Jonathan enters again.

JONATHAN

By the end of that trip, Teddy had killed over five hundred large animals. Including ninety-seven white rhinos, nine black rhinos, ten buffalo, which...I didn't even know buffalo lived in Africa, ten hyenas, six cheetahs, three leopards, a crap-ton of antelope, and eighteen lions, one of which you just saw. If I were to go into small game, we would probably be here for a few hours. We only ate maybe half of them. I think the only thing that stopped Teddy from killing everything on that continent was Taft. For those of you that don't know, Taft was the first businessman president. One of those, everything can be solved with money sort of guys. After he took over, he undid a lot of progress that Teddy and I put through to better this country so he could line his pockets with more money after his presidency. Sounds pretty familiar, huh? Teddy, in response, decided to run for a third term.

A gunshot is heard. Jonathan paces around. Waiting. Teddy enters.

JONATHAN

There you are! Where were you? It's not like you to be this late.

TEDDY

Traffic was bad. It couldn't be helped.

JONATHAN

I told you to leave thirty minutes earlier than you did. But do you ever listen to me? No.

TEDDY

Alright. Calm down. I don't suppose you have a copy of my speech by chance?

JONATHAN

A copy of your-? My god Teddy, did you forget your speech.

TEDDY

No. I have it right here! It managed to get a little hole in it though.

JONATHAN

...Theodoer, is that blood?

TEDDY

Hmm?

JONATHAN

On your speech. Is that blood?

TEDDY

Oh yes! Just before I got into my car to come here. I suppose a man was quite cross with me for some reason and pinked me.

JONATHAN

He shot you?!

TEDDY

Well, since we don't have a copy, I'll just have to wing it!

JONATHAN

No! No. Nooo. You are going to a hospital.

TEDDY

I am fine my boy.

JONATHAN

You are bleeding out!

TEDDY

And I shall use that to my advantage! When I walk out there bleeding on the podium, the people will be awed!

JONATHAN

Or they'll be horrified!

TEDDY

Why do you always have to put a damper on everything?

JONATHAN

Why are you always trying to prove how manly you are?

TEDDY

I would think by this point there is nothing to prove.

JONATHAN

And yet you still insist!

TEDDY

This is a tactic. I am not trying to prove anything! The people get some spectacle and will see that I am a candidate with no fear! A candidate who cannot be stopped!

JONATHAN

I think they will understand if you go to the hospital for being shot!

TEDDY

You just wouldn't get it Jonathan.

Teddy walks out and regards the audience.

TEDDY

Friends, I shall ask you to be as quiet as possible. I don't know whether you fully understand that I have just been shot.

Teddy pulls his coat aside and shows his blood-stained shirt.

TEDDY

It takes more than that to kill a bull moose.

Teddy exits.

JONATHAN

That speech went on for ninety more minutes. Now...now we are awaiting the votes to be counted. And it sucks. It sucks to know that Teddy isn't going to win. It sucked to know he wasn't going to win way back when we started. It's not like I can change his mind. From what I have seen, history has been written in stone, and no matter what I do, there is nothing that can be done to change it.

Exit Mind Space.

Teddy enters in a huff.

JONATHAN

I am so sorry Theodore.

TEDDY

That damn Taft! Because of him, a die-hard dixiecrat is running the country!

JONATHAN

I could have told you this was going to happen. You split the Republican party.

TEDDY

Well maybe those Republicans need to learn to not vote straight ticket! They know I could make this country better, but don't have the common sense or reading ability to vote for a different letter!

JONATHAN

To be fair, this would have been your third term if you won. You have a lot more you can do with your life than run this country. Why don't you fund a library or maybe build shelter for the homeless?

Teddy ruminates silently.

JONATHAN

Start a peanut farm?...Teddy?

TEDDY

Don't call me that! You know I hate it.

JONATHAN

Sorry. Was just trying to check in on you.

TEDDY

I don't need a check in. I need to get out of this damn country. Come on Jon, we're going to South America!

JONATHAN

South America? Why the heck do you want to go there?

TEDDY

Did I not just say? I'm getting away!

JONATHAN

I know the why. I want to know what you would even do down there.

TEDDY

A friend of mine is organizing a tour to buffer foreign diplomacy. After that is done, we are to take a cruise down the Amazon river.

JONATHAN

That...doesn't sound so bad actually. It is pretty tame.

TEDDY

I agree! Which is why I am not doing it.

JONATHAN

What?

TEDDY

Between you and me Jonathan, I have been in contact with a man named Cândido Mariano da Silva Rondon. He's a military man with just as much knack for adventure! He and I have agreed to an expedition of The River of Doubt.

JONATHAN

The River of Dou...no. No! Absolutely not! We are not doing this!

TEDDY

Come to think of it, my son Kermit is working as an engineer in Brazil! We should invite him along. You remember Kermit, right?

JONATHAN

Ye...actually I don't think I have ever met Kermit.

TEDDY

Really?

JONATHAN

Actually, besides Quincy, I don't think I have met any of your family.

TEDDY

Oh. Well we should fix that! Come on my boy!

JONATHAN

Quit yanking me around everywhere! We are not doing this.

TEDDY

I know you have been opposed to a number of our adventures Jonathan, but I promise this will be an adventure of a lifetime!

JONATHAN

This is not just an instance of me saying I'm not going, Theodore. I am saying, we, as in you and me, are *not* doing this.

TEDDY

...Beg your pardon?

JONATHAN

Theodore, an expedition down that river will put you, Kermit, and everyone you take with you in danger.

TEDDY

Nonsense. It will be a quick ride down the river and then we'll be home for supper.

JONATHAN

I am trying to save you a lifetime of suffering here!

TEDDY

And I am trying to make a name for myself.

JONATHAN

You have already made a name for yourself! What more do you have to prove?

TEDDY

That I can do it. That nothing is above me.

JONATHAN

Is that really worth risking your life? What if you die?

TEDDY

Do you know if I'll die?

JONATHAN

What if I do? Would it stop you?

TEDDY

No. I have already lived and enjoyed as much of life as any nine other men I know. I have had my full share, and if it is necessary for me to leave my bones in South America, I am quite ready to do so. Now, are you going to join me or not?

JONATHAN

To add my bones to yours? You have dragged me on an endless number of adventures. And if you have lived enough life to challenge nine men, then I have lived enough to challenge ten! I thought after my first adventure which landed me in your presence, it would be done, and I would just live out the rest of my days here, lying low until I die, but no. You just keep dragging me off. More and more. Adventure after adventure. Well I am done with adventures Teddy! And I am tired of it. You have been worse than the guy that landed me here!

TEDDY

Excuse you? I have treated you with nothing but kindness since I found you running around like a hobo in Florida. And don't call me-

JONATHAN

Kindness? You call dragging me all over the planet, forcing me to be someone I am not, ignoring me to drag me off on these adventures, holding the fact that you let me stay in your spare home to blackmail me to put my life in danger time and time again is kindness?

TEDDY

It is! You want to know what I see when I look at you Jonathan? A small, insignificant, sissy of a man! I've taken you under my wing to man you up!

JONATHAN

I am plenty man enough as it is. I was plenty enough a man when you found me!

TEDDY

You were cooking and cleaning like a woman.

JONATHAN

And? What is wrong with that? Just because I am not some foolhardy, insane, outdoorsman, does not say anything about my character!

TEDDY

You were a pushover!

JONATHAN

I was young! Things are different now. And you can't realize that because you are still trying to be that pushy, bossy, batshit, old colonel that I met way back when!

TEDDY

You shut your mouth!

JONATHAN

Get with the times! Because things are changing!

TEDDY

I thought you were my friend.

JONATHAN

I am. That's why I am trying to stop you! For once just listen to me. I am trying to save you. Like you have done for me so many times before. You are too good a man for this country to lose you.

Silence, as a moment of conflict washes over the two.

JONATHAN

I want to go home Teddy.

TEDDY

Then go.

JONATHAN

I can't.

TEDDY

Why?

JONATHAN

Because it is impossible for me to get back home...

Jonathan sighs heavily.

JONATHAN

This friendship. Our friendship. I..have known who you are, and I knew who you were going to be. And I have been entertaining this friendship in the hopes of using you and your kindness to help me get back home. As we get older though, I realize I do not have as much time with you left. I am sorry for using you, but I need your help.

TEDDY

...I have a destiny I have to fulfill. And it does not involve backing out of my life now. You want help? Get out of my home.

JONATHAN

What?

TEDDY

As you said, you're a man. I shouldn't have been babying you to begin with! The best thing I can do for you is to set you off on your own!

JONATHAN

Teddy please-

TEDDY

No. You've abused my kindness long enough! You want to go home, then put in the work to find it. Pull yourself up by the bootstraps!

Teddy goes to exit.

TEDDY

And stop calling me Teddy!

He exits.

SCENE 9

Mind Space.

JONATHAN

Ted-sorry. Theodore came back from his expedition, but it took a toll on him. His nearly died and had lost over a hundred pounds in a month's time. By the time Teddy came back, it was 1914. The Great War, or, World War I as we later called it, was on the horizon. And before long, it was here.

Jonathan exits. Exit Mind Space.

QUENTIN and TEDDY enter.

Quentin is wearing a military uniform.
Teddy is having to hold himself up by a walking stick.

They salute each other, then hug.

TEDDY

My boy. A hero.

QUENTIN

Just following in your path dad.

TEDDY

The United States will be proud to have you!

QUENTIN

I can imagine Europe will be happy to know they have a Roosevelt fighting for them!

TEDDY

They better! I can't imagine asking for a finer war hero!

QUENTIN

To think. Me going on my own adventures-

TEDDY

Just like your dear pop!

QUENTIN

Just like you! And somewhere where you haven't been before!

TEDDY

I've been to France-

QUENTIN

But have you ever been in the skies above France? Fighting off bad guys from the sky?

TEDDY

You got me there. If you keep one upping me like this, I can only imagine the kind of adventures you will have!

QUENTIN

They'll put what you and Uncle Jonathan did to shame!

TEDDY

Yes...

QUENTIN

...Where is Uncle Jonathan? I haven't seen him in awhile.

TEDDY

He uh-went home.

QUENTIN

Home? I thought he lived in the spare house.

TEDDY

No. No. He just had an elongated stay, that's all. Until he was grown enough to get on his feet again.

QUENTIN

Oh. Does he know I joined the US Army Air Service?

TEDDY

I can't imagine he does. I'll be sure to include it in my next missive to him.

QUENTIN

Thank you. When this war is over, I want you both to be the first people I see! You'll see. I'll make you both proud.

TEDDY

I already am proud of you.

They embrace again.

TEDDY

And I am sure Jonathan will be proud to see the man you've grown to be...now go on will you! You have a boat to catch!

QUENTIN

Right!

They salute each other.

QUENTIN

I love you dad.

TEDDY

I love you too son.

Quentin exits.

SCENE 10

The sound of gunfire and a plane crashing are heard. TEDDY sits in a lone chair onstage, staring at a folded American flag in front of him.

JONATHAN enters. He brings in a chair to sit next to Teddy.

JONATHAN

...I...came here as soon as I got the news.

TEDDY

Right...

JONATHAN

I was searching around the forests for uh...nevermind. I uh...don't remember where I heard. But as soon as I did, I came here.

TEDDY

Right...

JONATHAN

I uh...don't really know what to say.

TEDDY

Then don't say anything.

JONATHAN

...Right.

They sit in silence for a time.

TEDDY

He wanted you to be there when he got back. To salute him as he came off the boat.

JONATHAN

...wish I could have been there.

TEDDY

I'm sure he did too.

JONATHAN

I just...how are you holding up?

TEDDY

Do you care?

JONATHAN

Of course I care. You're my friend. My best friend even.

TEDDY

...Right.

JONATHAN

It's weird not seeing you with a gigantic grin on your face.

TEDDY

I'm concentrating.

JONATHAN

On what?

TEDDY

Staying strong.

JONATHAN

For who?

TEDDY

(To the flag)

For him. He wouldn't want to see his old man broken up about his adventure of a lifetime.

JONATHAN

I don't think anyone will judge you for crying over this.

TEDDY

Nobody wants to see that.

JONATHAN

A real man doesn't care what others think of him. Right?

TEDDY

...Right.

They sit in silence a bit longer before
Teddy rests his head on his cane. As
though even the act of sitting is too
strenuous for him

TEDDY

My boy...they hurt my boy.

JONATHAN

I know...

TEDDY

It's my fault.

JONATHAN

No it isn't.

TEDDY

I saluted him! I saluted him as he left to his grave.

JONATHAN

You couldn't have known.

TEDDY

Couldn't I? It feels like you were trying to stop this from happening.

JONATHAN

Well I-

TEDDY

I shirked everything that you tried to teach him...everything you tried to teach me.

JONATHAN

You were raising him to be a just like you. A fine young man.

TEDDY

...just like me...

JONATHAN

You were a loving father. You raised him right...He's a hero because of you.

Teddy tightens his grip onto his cane.
His other hand blindly reaches out to
take Jonathan's hand.

TEDDY

Would he still be here if we had listened to you more?

JONATHAN

I don't know.

TEDDY

Is this why you came here?

JONATHAN

What?

TEDDY

You're not from here. You tried to stop this from happening. That's why you came here!

JONATHAN

T-the grief is talking.

TEDDY

I'm not an idiot.

JONATHAN

I implied you were crazy, not stupid.

TEDDY

I know you're from the future Jon.

JONATHAN

What? Nooo. You're delirious. I am-

Teddy reaches into his pocket and pulls out the watch Jonathan lost so long ago.

JONATHAN

...my watch. Where did you-

TEDDY

Around Harvard. I was invited to speak there after our victory in Cuba.

Jonathan grabs the watch and looks at it.

JONATHAN

My God...

TEDDY

I found the textbook as well.

JONATHAN

What?

TEDDY

I read the entire thing that night.

JONATHAN

The entire thing?

TEDDY

All the way up to President Bush.

JONATHAN

Senior or Junior?

TEDDY

Well there was only one of them.

JONATHAN

Senior then.

TEDDY

I take it you are from after that?

JONATHAN

Yeah. 2019...

TEDDY

I thought so.

JONATHAN

You had this the entire time! Why didn't you say anything?

TEDDY

Well I...I couldn't have known it was yours.

JONATHAN
(Unbelieving)

Really?

TEDDY

I had my suspicions, but I couldn't have known for sure until now.

JONATHAN

Normally you would have shared something like this with me in a heartbeat! But you held onto it...even brought it here to the funeral. Why?

TEDDY

Why did you come here?

JONATHAN

To be here for you.

TEDDY

You know what I mean. Was this supposed to happen? Were you trying to save my son?

JONATHAN

Teddy. Please.

TEDDY

There has to be a reason for it. Right? Some grand scheme or heroic. What was it?

JONATHAN

It's not like that-

TEDDY

Please Jonathan! Tell me. What could I have done to save my son!

JONATHAN

...I...I didn't come back here for anything! I was asked to be a test subject for an experiment. Was supposed to come back here, do a thing to change the future, and then go home and record if anything happened. But then I lost my watch and my sense of direction, and...I wasn't trying to save anybody. I've been trying to keep my head low this entire time! Trying to not change anything. Our meeting was just happenstance...I'm sorry.

TEDDY

Is...is that really-

JONATHAN

Oh who the hell am I kidding. I didn't even want to come back here. My boss or professor, whatever the hell you want to call him, forced me into his machine under threat. He wanted me to kill Lincoln to see if John Wilkes Booth would change to Jonathan Wilkes Booth. Such an asinine plane! And I was going to go along with it! Then, come to find out, he set the timer to forty years off! And this entire time I've been looking for some way out of this god awful time period! Everyone is either a racist, a sexist, a brute, or an idiot. Or everything! And you had my way out of this the entire time?

TEDDY

I didn't want to let you go.

JONATHAN

Because we're that close of friends or something?

TEDDY

Well, actually Jonathan, it's because I...well...I thought you were a bit of a sissy.

JONATHAN

This again?

TEDDY

In Cuba, at first I thought you were just a coward. Perfectly understandable, it was war, but then everything you did was just whining and crying and knitting, and generally acting like my boys' mother. I took it upon myself to try to man you up. I think...I think I saw a bit of my son in you. And I wanted to send someone off into the future who could be just like me. A bit of that old Rough Rider spirit to make sure this country has a chance.

JONATHAN

Not for not Theodore, as progressive as you are, you are a product of the past. As you said. Old. Things needs to change. In my time, where I come from, everyone is allowed to be everything. Sure there are some people that want to return to how things are now, maybe even earlier. You know, where everyone has specific roles. But most people I know just want people to be allowed to do what they want, no matter who they are.

TEDDY

That sounds like something I could get behind.

JONATHAN

I know it may not seem it, but I'm just trying to be who I want to be. To be my own man. And I've kind of been failing at that. I've let a lot of relics of the past decide what I do. My boss, you, and a crap ton of proud idiots and confederate has-beens who want to return to the "good old days!"

TEDDY

Good God. They still exist?

JONATHAN

I doubt they will ever go away.

TEDDY

...Well...

JONATHAN

What?

TEDDY

You stood up to me. Several times.

JONATHAN

I suppose so.

TEDDY

And I watched you punch an old Dixiecrat in the face so hard he couldn't run for reelection due to the brain damage-

JONATHAN

I still feel bad about that.

TEDDY

You have been mauled by wild animals, changed the political landscape, and kept up with me on a number of wild adventures I dragged you on.

JONATHAN

What's your point?

TEDDY

Jonathan. If the men...no. If the people, everyone, of your time have half as much character and morality as you do, then I think this country will be fine.

JONATHAN

Sometimes it feels like I am in the minority.

TEDDY

Then I will leave it to you to change things then. A person like you wouldn't make for a bad President.

JONATHAN

I don't know about that.

TEDDY

Well, as long as we never end up with some draft-dodging businessman, I think we will be fine.

JONATHAN

Oh boy. Yeah. That would be baaaaaad.

Jonathan stares at the watch for a bit.

TEDDY

I suppose you are going back to your time then?

JONATHAN

I probably should...

He puts it on, but then just stares at it again.

TEDDY

Well? Go on then.

JONATHAN

I mean...I don't have to right now. I'll just end up back in my own time whether I go now or later.

TEDDY

What are you getting at?

JONATHAN

I could stick around for a bit longer. You know? Have a few more Teddy Roosevelt adventures.

TEDDY

I wish I could Jon. According to my biography though, I die next year. And I can feel it. My muscles can't keep up with me, and it feels like my heart is tearing itself apart, and I can't tell if it is because of the bullet blocking my artery or because of the grief. I don't think I have enough in me for another "Teddy Roosevelt adventure."

JONATHAN

How about a Jonathan adventure then?

TEDDY

...I think I could support that.

JONATHAN

Come on Theodore. Let's get out of here. Let me take you on an adventure of a lifetime.

The two embrace before exiting.

SCENE 11

Back in Asmongold's lab.

ASMONGOLD paces around impatiently. Cool sci fi sounds and lights go off before JONATHAN enters from the time machine.

ASMONGOLD

There you are! You are two seconds past due!

JONATHAN

Blame yourself. You're the one who set the watch!

ASMONGOLD

Bah! Learn to speak to your elders boy! Now did you do it? Did you kill Aberaham Lincoln? I have this timeline's textbook ready for cross-reference! Oh giddy! I am so excited.

JONATHAN

I uh...I don't have it.

ASMONGOLD

What?

JONATHAN

The textbook from the alleged other timeline? Yeah, I left that behind.

ASMONGOLD

Where?!

JONATHAN

With Theodore Roosevelt. You set the date forty years off.

ASMONGOLD

Bah! My calculations were correct! Obviously you must have damaged something within the two seconds it took me to send you back.

JONATHAN

You are not blaming me for every one of your mistakes. Speaking of, a watch was a terrible return home device! I lost it immediately and got stuck for twenty years.

ASMONGOLD

You're own fault! The only mistake I have made in this entire venture, was hiring you to be my assistant Marty!

JONATHAN

My name's not Marty! It's Jonathan!

ASMONGOLD

What?...No...no. I am positive it was always Marty.

JONATHAN

Well, it's not. And it never has been.

ASMONGOLD

It never has been for *you*. Of course! This experiment was not a waste of time after all! You said you spent time with President Roosevelt?

JONATHAN

Yeah. Nice guy. Went on a bunch of adventures with him.

ASMONGOLD

Then there must be some reference of you in history! And obviously your parents hated history after being forced to read about your deeds for their history class or something, and chose to name you Marty!

JONATHAN

My name is not Marty damn it!

ASMONGOLD

This requires another experiment to confirm! Here here. Take my copy of Tsung Tzu's *The Art of War*. You will go back in time, and feed him rubbish on Western tactics, and then-

Jonathan destroys the Time Machine.

ASMONGOLD

What are you doing! My life's work!

JONATHAN

You know Doc. It sucked living back in 1900. But I got to spend some time with a great man. He pushed me around and dragged me with him to do a bunch of stupid stuff to try to teach me how to be like him. Despite it not fully sticking, at the end of his life, he said to me "Jonathan. You are a great man," and he opened up, and allowed me to teach him some things as well.

ASMONGOLD

What does this have to do with destroying my time machine!?

JONATHAN

It's time to move forward. And for all the people that can't move forward-

Jonathan rips off his shirt.

JONATHAN

Get over here!

Jonathan starts to bareknuckle box Asmongold. Tossing him around like a ragdoll. Offstage. Onstage. And offstage again until the lights go out.

END OF PLAY