

# REPUBLIC UNDONE 11/26/18 By John B. Henry

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Messenger: Dante DeVito  
Mary Peck: Molly McCartney  
Andrew Carnegie: Bill Nitze  
Alice Paul: Pat Nicklin  
Lucy Burns: Hali Jilani  
Henry Monroe Trotter: Hermond Palmer  
Joseph Tumulty: Peter Stenner  
William Jennings Bryan: John Lesinski  
Edith Galt Wilson: Gail Kitch  
Colonel House: Bill Nitze  
Lloyd George: Travis Brown, Colin Davies  
Lord Grey: Dante DeVito  
Kaiser: John Schmitz  
Kaiser's Wife Augusta Victoria: Sandy Read  
Ludendorff: Wolfgang Schaefer  
Judge: Peter Stenner  
Jailer: Dante DeVito/Colin Davies  
Suffragists: Molly McCartney, Gail Kitch, Hali Jilani, Nuchhi Currier, Pat Nicklin  
Doctor Cary Grayson: Peter Stenner  
Speaker of the House: Peter Stenner  
Clemenceau: Howard Coon, Bill Walton  
Senator Henry Cabot Lodge: Travis Brown, Bob Randolph  
Alice Roosevelt Longworth: Hali Jilani

MADISON GHOST: (*Smoke*) I'm the ghost of James Madison. I'm narrating a drama of our 28<sup>th</sup> President, Thomas Woodrow Wilson. I engineered the United States Constitution to secure peace, the secret of liberty. My beatific wife Dolly humors my didactic nature. Theater for amusement delights elective monarchs. Theater for instruction terrifies them. The Great War wrote the epitaph of the American Republic. Woodrow jettisoned the Constitution's crown jewel – separation of powers – the greatest bulwark against gratuitous wars. Our drama begins with Woodrow's maiden infatuation, Hattie Woodrow, in 1881 at age 24.

#### SCENE I: COURTING FIRST COUSIN

WOODROW: (*Kneeling, ring in hand*) Cousin Hattie, you're the apple of my eye. (*Project **GOD'S COVENANT***) Our love is part of **GOD'S COVENANT**. You're ordained to marry me!

HATTIE: God made Eve from Adam's rib. He shortchanged women.

WOODROW: He had to start somewhere. And it was the best part of his anatomy.

HATTIE: I don't want your headaches, insomnia and indigestion. You're a mama's boy!

WOODROW: You'll forget my shortcomings. All the world will know how special I am.

HATTIE: I must be the center of a man's universe. We're first cousins.

WOODROW: As they said in colonial Virginia: "Close enough to be sure. Far enough away to be safe."

HATTIE: Food, wine, art and sports excite me. God, oratory and power excite you.

WOODROW: Opposites attract. My greatness will dim without you.

HARRIET: You're the only one that counts. You sound better than you are. I can't love you.

WOODROW: (*Stands*) Yes, we can. "No" isn't in **GOD'S COVENANT**.

HATTIE: But it's in mine...Tommy. (*Exits*)

WOODROW: Without an adoring wife, I'm lost.

#### SCENE II: COURTING ELLEN

MADISON GHOST: The resilient Woodrow soon courts the heroine who orchestrates his path to the White House.

ELLEN: Our fathers are both Presbyterian ministers.

WOODROW: Ellen, you're the apple of my eye. Our love is part of **GOD'S COVENANT**. (*Project GOD'S COVENANT*)

ELLEN: (*Skeptical*) Sounds as rehearsed as the Lord's Prayer.

WOODROW: No, I just dreamed it up.

ELLEN: Is following your father's footsteps in **GOD'S COVENANT**?

WOODROW: Dad shepherds the Presbyterian elect. All of humanity is my flock! I'll fuse politics and religion. Even more than Lord Gladstone, Britain's greatest prime minister. (*Project picture*) His picture has adorned my bedroom since childhood.

ELLEN: Gladstone talked like Jesus Christ. But governed like Napoleon. He took Britain's global empire to a new level.

WOODROW: My name will be more glorified than Gladstone. A sparrow won't fall without my benediction. James Madison's checks and balances handcuff great men like me.

ELLEN: Great men are driven by the same hormones as the rest of us. Power. Money. Sex. Fame. And Certainty. That's why we need Madison's separation of powers. For all his brilliance, Napoleon lost everything in Moscow.

WOODROW: But Napoleon's Tomb is Paris' most honored attraction.

ELLEN: But Madison's Constitution commands veneration a century after Napoleon's triumph at Austerlitz has been forgotten.

WOODROW: You're more formidable than Wellington at Waterloo.

ELLEN: I must share a secret.

WOODROW: Will it disturb me?

ELLEN: A suicide in the family.

WOODROW: Who?

ELLEN: Daddy. The killing fields of war traumatized him. Mother held him together while she lived. I couldn't pull him out of his depressions.

WOODROW: I'm like your Daddy. I have melancholy.

ELLEN: Me too. Dear Woodrow, I do adore you. You're my knight in shining armor.

WOODROW: You'll outshine Dolly Madison in the White House.

ELLEN: I dream I'll be the power behind your throne. God gave you eloquence. God gave you brilliance. God gave you industry. But God sent me to give you judgment and wisdom. My nightmare is marrying a bank clerk.

WOODROW: God blessed you with social graces.

ELLEN: Why don't you become a college professor? Your talent for oratory is perfect. Write a book about modernizing the Constitution. You'll get rave reviews and lucrative speaking engagements with JP Morgan.

WOODROW: You're just like mother. So intelligent. So supportive. So, what else?

ELLEN: The Civil War is taboo with Yankees. Learn to speak like them. Princeton was Madison's stepping stone to the White House. Princeton's presidency can also be yours.

### SCENE III. MAMA'S BOY

MADISON GHOST: Woodrow and Ellen pause on a scene from Woodrow's childhood. The child is the father to the man.

JOSEPH: My son, you're disgracing our family. For the 10<sup>th</sup> time, pronounce the words correctly.

TOMMY: Maun lower.

JOSEPH: NO! NO! It's lawn mower.

TOMMY: I'm sorry Dad. I love you. I'm trying my best.

JOSEPH: It's lawn mower. Say it correctly!

TOMMY: Maun lower.

JOSEPH: (*Explodes in anger*) You're a failure! (*Tommy runs away crying*)

JESSE: (*Enters*) Where's my beautiful child?

JOSEPH: Learning to read.

JESSE: I heard Tommy crying.

JOSEPH: He's 11. He still can't read.

JESSE: He's a child. You're making him feel inadequate and worthless.

JOSEPH: He must be made of sterner stuff. Just like tempered steel. The more he's beaten the harder he'll become.

JESSE: Tommy's traumatized when he disappoints you. He's too terrified to learn.

JOSEPH: Don't turn Tommy into a mama's boy. He needs to grow up to be a Man. Not Mommy's Tommy!

JESSE: (*Tommy enters, crying*) Sit on your mother's lap. Why the tears?

TOMMY: (*Clings to her*) I'm the only fifth grader who can't read. I keep angering Dad. I'm a loser.

JESSE: Don't say that! Everything will work out. You can do anything you put your mind to.

TOMMY: I've got constant headaches.

JESSE: (*Gives jar*) Here's a jar of pills. Just for you. Take a pill whenever you feel one coming on.

(*Gives bowl*) Here's some of my soup. It's good for your digestion. (*Both exit*)

ELLEN: I can see why you resist personal encounters. Your father gave you ambition. Your mother gave you confidence. I'll do both. (*Woodrow & Ellen watch flashback scene*)

#### SCENE IV. HOME SEMINARY

MADISON GHOST: Learning to read marked an inflection point for Tommy.

JOSEPH: It's time to learn **GOD'S COVENANT**.

TOMMY: What's that?

JOSEPH: The chosen people war against the unchosen. (*Both kneeling in front of chair with Bible in seat*) God told Samuel to kill the Amalekites: "**Utterly destroy all they have and spare them not: slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.**" **1 Samuel 15.** (*Both stand up*) Moses didn't shed a tear over killing 500,000 first born Egyptian children. God has chosen Americans to rid the world of evil. Praise be to God, Tommy, your reading fills me with pride. Now, I'll make you a master orator who eclipses not only me but Demosthenes. When he spoke, Athens marched.

TOMMY: I'm lucky you're my father.

JOSEPH: Practice makes perfect! Make 10,000 speeches.

TOMMY: Demosthenes will my muse.

JOSEPH: Great orators excite emotions. Humans are hormonal, not cerebral.

#### SCENE V: COURTING CARNEGIE

MADISON GHOST: Woodrow's lectures attract students in droves. He becomes Princeton's calling card. Ellen tactfully arranges luncheons for faculty wives. Woodrow's elected university president. Princeton is leagued with Harvard and Yale within a decade. Woodrow shines on the speaker's circuit. His political horizons brighten.

WOODROW: I'm honored by your presence, Mr. Carnegie.

CARNEGIE: (*Opens wallet & pulls bill out*) I'll bet you \$10,000 I'm the richest man in America!

WOODROW: I'll take the bet if you enhance my salary. Princeton will be the greatest university on earth if you underwrite my Oxford-Cambridge Quad Plan. (*Project QUAD PLAN*)

CARNEGIE: Princeton is graduating mandarins to administer an American empire. You championed the Spanish-American war. Cuba was just an excuse to conquer the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam. You supported waterboarding.

WOODROW: It's the white man's burden to rule over non-chosen people. *(Pulls from chest pocket)* Rudyard Kipling poems are close to my heart.

CARNEGIE: *(Pulls from chest pocket and puts in Woodrow's)* True Americans should reserve that sacred space for the U.S. Constitution and John Quincy Adams's July 4<sup>th</sup> address against going abroad in search of monsters to destroy.

WOODROW: We live in a new age!

CARNEGIE: How could a minister's son forget there's nothing new under the sun? America's future is the march of the mind. Not the march of the foot soldier. I'm dotting America with public libraries. Without constitutional literacy, our Republic is doomed.

WOODROW: Humanity's salvation demands a muscular American military.

CARNEGIE: Our salvation is peace. It has made us rich beyond the wildest dreams of the founding fathers. I didn't build the steel industry to underwrite wars. I left Scotland to get rich.

WOODROW: What about a football stadium called Carnegie Colosseum? Grander than Harvard and Yale!

CARNEGIE: *(Stamps foot)* I hate football! Worse than lions eating Christians in the Roman Colosseum! Only savages exult in brain damage! If you stop pestering me, I'll build you a lake for crew. Rowing is harmless.

WOODROW: We'll call it "Lake Carnegie".

#### SCENE VI: MARY PECK

MADISON GHOST: Be not too hasty to trust or admire preachers of morality. They discourse like angels, but live like men.

ELLEN: Jesse, Margaret and Eleanor have left the nest. I feel worthless.

WOODROW: *(Looks up from typewriter)* You should be beaming. You've raised 3 lovely daughters.

ELLEN: I'm just an extra in your movie extravaganza.

WOODROW: A movie has room for only one leading actor.

ELLEN: We both need space.

WOODROW: It will strengthen our marriage.

ELLEN: Here's your ocean liner ticket and a hat to keep you warm. (*Both exit*)

(*Scene in Bermuda*) (*Woodrow & Mary enter*)

WOODROW: Mary, I love Bermuda in the winter. Your dinner parties are intoxicating. You're a more compelling listener than Mark Twain is a humorist.

MARY PECK: Come down and see me sometime. Any time.

WOODROW: I'll do just that. Every chance I get. Ellen and I agree separate vacations are best.

MARY PECK: Let's put Ellen's picture on the mantelpiece. You have it in your pocket, don't you?

WOODROW: Yes, I do. Thank you. That does make me feel better.

MARY PECK: Your pioneering Quad Plan fascinates me. I love talking about Lord Gladstone. (*Project picture*) You're really onto something with your soaring ideas about limitless presidential power.

WOODROW: Here's a present. (*Hands book*) My favorite Gladstone biography.

MARY PECK: I've read your 5-volume history of the American people. You're thinking is vastly superior to the Constitution's framers. Madison doesn't even get a cameo appearance.

WOODROW: Only fools deny the world is run by mankind's moral conscience.

MARY PECK: Who says men aren't angels? The hell with the great little Madison. On our beach walks, I love your recitation of Shakespeare's Henry V before Agincourt.

WOODROW: (*Looks in eye*) "If it be a sin to covet honor, I am the most offending soul alive. We few, we happy few, we band of brothers. For he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother. And gentlemen in England shall think themselves accursed they were not here, and hold their manhood's cheap whiles any speaks that fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day."

MARY PECK: My darling! Wonderful! Another Henry V! Fight for honor! Fight for empire! You'll move across the pages of poetry and romance.

#### SCENE VII: NO PEERS

MADISON GHOST: Visions of Mary Peck dance in Woodrow's head. He returns to Princeton refreshed for battle with war paint. The Quad Plan exposes his dark side. (*Project QUAD PLAN*) He abandons his bosom friend, Jack Hibben.

WOODROW: Jack Hibben defected to my Princeton faculty enemies over my Quad Plan.

ELLEN: I'm shocked. He's admired you for years.

WOODROW: If you're not for me, you're against me!

ELLEN: Come, sit by me. Echoing your father is a dead end. Go get cleaned up. You're scheduled to speak at the Princeton alumni dinner in an hour. Remember, punctuality is the courtesy of kings. (*Woodrow exits*) Dark blood spreads over Woodrow's pupils whenever he meets resistance. He shrinks elephants into fleas and magnifies fleas into elephants. Without me, he'd be a Captain Ahab. (*Pours glass of water*) (*Woodrow storms in*)

WOODROW: The Board just rejected my Quad Plan. (*Project QUAD PLAN*) Quad damn it!

ELLEN: You've accomplished everything you can. Princeton's now in the same league as Harvard and Yale. (*Messenger enters with telegram*)

WOODROW: I've been offered the Governorship by New Jersey's Democratic bosses.

ELLEN: God comes through again like Ty Cobb in the bottom of the ninth. Let's go for it. Onward and upward.

#### SCENE VIII: COURTING BRYAN

MADISON GHOST: In 1910, Woodrow was elected Governor -- the stepping stone for Woodrow and Ellen to capture the White House. With the genius of Toscanini, Ellen orchestrates his campaign advisors, Joseph Tumulty and Colonel Edward House.

ELLEN: I appreciate your labors for Woodrow.

TUMULTY: His campaign speeches are unforgettable.

HOUSE: They earned him the 1912 Democratic presidential nomination.

ELLEN: (*Facing Tumulty*) Thank you for masterminding Woodrow's progressive landmark legislation.

TUMULTY: His eugenics law sterilizing criminals is very popular.

HOUSE: And his public utility regulation is even more praised.

TUMULTY: Now New Jersey's the model state.

ELLEN: William Jennings Bryan can veto any Democratic presidential candidate. He's in Princeton. So I invited him to dinner. (*Tumulty & House exit*) (*Ellen lights candles*)

BRYAN: (*Enters*) Mrs. Wilson, your charms draw more eyes than rainbows. For every successful man, there's a smarter and stronger wife. Ah, the aroma of your Southern fried chicken is more alluring than the scent of red roses.

ELLEN: I admire everything your wife enabled you to do.

BRYAN: I admire everything you enabled Woodrow to do.

ELLEN: My husband's the best candidate. Your endorsement is worth any cabinet position.

BRYAN: It's a deal. Secretary of State. (*Ellen extends her hand*)

#### SCENE IX: THE PECK AFFAIR

WOODROW: I just love your 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue penthouse. LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!

MARY PECK: Princeton's only a heartbeat away. Our perfect tryst. (*He pulls close*) You're mighty glad to see me.

WOODROW: Your divorce elated me.

MARY PECK: You've changed my world.

WOODROW: Mary, you're the apple of my eye. Our love is part of **GOD'S COVENANT**.

MARY PECK: You deliver those words like a poetic refrain.

WOODROW: My happiness depends on you.

MARY PECK: You're my knight in shining armor.

WOODROW: I can't resist you. You're my beautiful, wild child of nature. My perfect playmate. You make me drunk with happiness. If it's a sin to covet your love, I'm the greatest sinner alive. (*Both exit*)

(*Princeton home, Woodrow enters*)

WOODROW: Ellen, I'm home. There you are.

ELLEN: (*Shaking letter in his face*) Adulterer! Your love letter to Mrs. Peck was hidden in your Gladstone biography.

WOODROW: Give it to me.

ELLEN: Scoundrel! You say the same things to her you say to me. “You’re the apple of my eye.” Guilty! “Our love is part of **GOD’S COVENANT.**” Guilty again! (*Faces audience*) Women are interchangeable to you!

WOODROW: (*Lovingly grabs her*) It doesn’t mean what it says.

ELLEN: (*Pulls away*) Things will never be the same. You’re a man of high ideals and NO principles. And I mean NO principles.

WOODROW: (*Moves toward her*) It was folly.

ELLEN: (*Pulls away*) You broke your marriage vows to God as well as me. Mary Peck is part of the Devil’s Covenant. Not **GOD’S.** (*Cries*)

WOODROW: (*Moves toward her*) It depends on the meaning of the word “of”.

ELLEN: (*Pulls away*) First you insult my honor. Then you steal our intimacy.

WOODROW: (*Moves toward her*) Dearest Ellen, I’m speechless.

ELLEN: (*Pulls away*) Your silence proves guilt.

WOODROW: (*Moves toward her*) You knew I lacked judgment and wisdom when we married. At least I’m not a bank clerk.

ELLEN: (*Pulls away*) I abandoned my painting career for you. The worst trade since the Indians sold Manhattan for trinkets and beads.

WOODROW: (*Moves toward her*) I’m grateful for everything you’ve done.

ELLEN: (*Pulls away*) Adultery is a peculiar gratitude.

WOODROW: (*Moves toward her*) I listened to the serpent like Eve.

ELLEN: Men always blame women! (*Pause*) Now the White House is within our reach. And what do you do? You risk everything! I’m sick and tired of being the only adult in this marriage.

#### SCENE X: ALICE PAUL

MADISON GHOST: In 1912, Teddy Roosevelt shatters the Republican Party. Woodrow and Ellen sail into the White House. Woodrow skillfully tacks between progressive and unreconstructed Democrats. Alice Paul and Lucy Burns, the suffragette drum majors, infuriate Woodrow. They headquarter the National Women’s Party s off Lafayette Park within shouting distance of the White

House. The day before Woodrow's inauguration, Alice and Lucy march thousands of women demanding the right to vote. It wins them a meeting with the President.

*(White House scene) (American flags & President's desk with typewriter)*

ALICE: *(Standing)* Suffrage is the litmus test of a true progressive. Why don't you understand that, Mr. President?

WOODROW: *(Typing at desk)* Politics kills feminine charms.

ALICE: Feminine charms shine brightest in the 9 states where women vote.

WOODROW: Voting destroys the family.

LUCY: Family values flourish out West.

WOODROW: Currency reform is my priority – not recasting womanhood!

ALICE: The Federal Reserve is good only for financing gratuitous wars and enriching too-big-to-fail banks.

LUCY: We aren't bound by any laws in which we have no representation.

WOODROW: Oh my dears: You're revolutionaries!

ALICE: I take that as a high compliment. My ancestors fought the War of Independence. *(Pause)* I'll win freedom from you.

WOODROW: Never tell a woman she's wrong. As long as nothing changes, I'm thrilled to be a progressive!

ALICE: Words! Words! Words! I'm so sick of words.

WOODROW: Suffrage should be decided state by state.

LUCY: Suffrage is an earmark of national identity. Suffrage will make America great more than farming or manufacturing. *(Hands "Make America Great" yellow suffrage hat)*

WOODROW: I didn't run on suffrage. I represent only my party.

ALICE: Stop insulting our intelligence.

WOODROW: Suffrage isn't worth more than 10 minutes. Our meeting's over.

ALICE: Democrats have enough votes in the Senate and House to pass our amendment.

WOODROW: You'd have drowned first at the Salem witch trials. I mean that respectfully, of course.

LUCY: That's a charmless affront.

ALICE: We'll campaign against every Democrat until you bow to our demand.

WOODROW: Women vote just like men. You won't change anything.

LUCY: That's a wonderful argument for disenfranchising men. Let's switch places. (*Woodrow resumes typing*) (*Alice & Lucy exit and join suffragists in LaFayette Square*)

Pat leads Suffragists in First Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqPiFXux1lg&sns=em>

**Pat Sings:**

Hark the sound of myriad voices rising in their might  
Tis the daughters of Columbia pleading for their right  
Raise the flag and plant the standard, wave the signal still  
Brothers we must share your freedom

**All Suffragists together:**

Think it not an idle murmur  
You who hear the cry  
Tis a plea for human freedom  
Hallowed liberty  
Raise the flag and plant the standard, wave the signal still  
Brothers we must share your freedom  
Help us and we will

Oh our country glorious nation, greatest of them all  
Give unto thy daughters justice or thy pride will fall  
Raise the flag and plant the standard  
Waive the signal still  
Brothers we must share your freedom  
Help us and we will

SCENE XI: WILLIAM MONROE TROTTER

MADISON GHOST: Woodrow endorsed the white supremacy of his era. He excluded coloreds at Princeton. He campaigned as a second Lincoln to attract colored support, but he governed with the racism of South Carolina Senator "Pitchfork Ben" Tillman to placate southern bigots. He re-segregated the federal workforce, fired colored officials in the South, and turned a deaf ear to lynchings. William Monroe Trotter, Harvard's first colored Phi Beta Kappa, confronts Woodrow in the White House.

WOODROW: Three guys go into a bar. A kike, a Jap and a nigar. The bartender says (*interrupted by Trotter*)

TUMULTY: Welcome, Mr. Trotter.

WOODROW: Segregation is good for everybody. The Supreme Court blesses separate-but-equal.

TROTTER: They enforce the separate but ignore the equal. We're the untouchables. White co-workers the Brahmins.

WOODROW: I'm all for progress. It's just change I can't stand. You must be patient. After all, it took us more than two centuries to abolish slavery.

TROTTER: The time is over for taking the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. The time has come to rise from the dark valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice.

WOODROW: Even Jesus accepted slavery. He was no Spartacus.

TROTTER: Our leadership celebrated you as a second Abraham Lincoln. Now our followers denounce us as traitors.

WOODROW: That's blackmail. You've lost your moral standing. Race has no place in politics.

TROTTER: Except when you want our votes.

WOODROW: Segregation must be approached factually, not emotionally.

TROTTER: You're flouting the 15th Amendment. Wholesale disfranchisement! Literacy tests! Klan lynching! Our Constitution must be color-blind. All citizens should be equal before the law. The humblest the peer of the most powerful. Civil rights are sacred.

WOODROW: I won't tolerate your impertinence! Get out!

TROTTER: Mr. President: Do you work for the Klan's Imperial Wizard? We need justice and receive injustice. We need the rule of law and receive mob violence. You should tremble before God. He's just and his justice will not slumber forever. (*Exits*)

TUMULTY: Woodrow, get hold of yourself.

WOODROW: Sometimes I lose control of the volcanos inside me.

TUMULTY: To win re-election, you must court, not alienate, colored voters.

WOODROW: D.W. Griffith's film "BIRTH OF A NATION" writes history with lightning.

TUMULTY: Your hosting the premiere at the White House was a blunder. The racist movie glorifies the Ku Klux Klan.

WOODROW: I have to protect my Southern base.

## SCENE XII: ELLEN DIES

MADISON GHOST: Ellen's death at the outbreak of the Great War uncabins Woodrow's demons.

WOODROW: (*Holds hand in her bed*) I've been blessed by 29 wonderful years with you. Dearest, please don't leave me. Not now!

ELLEN: You left me long ago for Mary Peck.

WOODROW: I ended the affair.

ELLEN: You tore a hole in my heart. I rolled a stone over the wound and tried to pretend it wasn't there. How else could I go on?

WOODROW: Please Ellen, I haven't slept with Mary in years.

ELLEN: My heart never healed. It bleeds a little every day.

WOODROW: I can't bear to hear you talk this way.

ELLEN: My love subsists on life support. Half dead. Half alive. I'm dying from your ingratitude.

WOODROW: I thank God every day for you—my Nectar and Ambrosia to do His work on a large stage.

ELLEN: Why do you write Mary Peck every week?

WOODROW: I write about current affairs. So historians will know my thinking.

ELLEN: Why don't you keep a diary like John Quincy Adams? Your letters are adultery by other means.

WOODROW: My laurels and fame I owe to you. Marriage to Mary would be political suicide.

ELLEN: Don't let the war be your serpent. It squanders money for schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, the poor, the elderly and the disabled.

WOODROW: God hasn't revealed His war plan to me yet.

ELLEN: Men have made a mess of things. Where's your conscience? Treating coloreds and women as second-class citizens is no way to lead mankind. Don't treat the Germans the way the Yankees treated us. Promise me you'll keep us out of war.

WOODROW: I can't promise to break **GOD'S COVENANT**.

ELLEN: You already did with Mary Peck.

WOODROW: You've convinced me.

ELLEN: How can I believe you? You have a credibility gap. (*Doctor enters*) Doctor Grayson, follow my instructions. Minister to Woodrow's eating disorders, migraines, insomnia, twitching, coughing, strokes and depressions. Have I forgotten anything? (*Dies*)

WOODROW: (*Grabs head with both hands & shouts*) Dr. Grayson, my worst migraine ever!

MADISON GHOST: Ellen presciently foresaw the Great War would beget European hecatombs and a spike in civilian deaths. Her spirit animates the women's peace movement featuring parades in Boston, New York and Philadelphia. With the vote, women might have silenced the trumpets of war. The song, "**I Didn't Raise My Boy To Be A Soldier**" reverberates from sea to shining sea. (*Pat & chorus sing*)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9qi9LbvD3Q&sns=em>

Ten million soldiers to the war have gone,  
Who may never return again.  
Ten million mothers' hearts must break  
For the ones who died in vain.  
Head bowed down in sorrow  
In her lonely years,  
I heard a mother murmur thru' her tears:  
I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier,  
I brought him up to be my pride and joy.  
Who dares to place a musket on his shoulder,  
To shoot some other mother's darling boy?  
Let nations arbitrate their future troubles,  
It's time to lay the sword and gun away.  
There'd be no war today,  
If mothers all would say,  
"I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier."

SCENE XIII: COLONEL HOUSE

MADISON GHOST: Ellen's death puts Woodrow in a stupor. The executive branch is paralyzed until fulsome flattery beguiles Woodrow from a loss so overwhelming.

WOODROW: (*Playing cards*) Solitaire has always been my favorite game. With Ellen gone, I play every day and night. I wish someone would kill me.

HOUSE: Don't say that! God elected you for immortal work.

WOODROW: Heavens! After Moses, I thought God talked only to me.

HOUSE: (*Fawning*) I live to please you. God sent me to replace Ellen as your other self.

WOODROW: Will you be as selfless?

HOUSE: I can't do enough.

WOODROW: You won't betray my confidences. Everyone else would.

HOUSE: You're wisest of the wise. Bravest of the brave. Gentlest of gentleman. Noblest of nobleman.

WOODROW: (*Project fist*) I always fume over that little group of willful men who thwarted my Quad Plan. Princeton would have leapfrogged Harvard and Yale.

HOUSE: Even with that handicap, you still put Princeton in a tie.

WOODROW: He who puts his hand to the plough and looks back isn't fit for the kingdom of God.

HOUSE: Every day I thank God for the privilege of serving you.

WOODROW: (*Hugs*) Take the Lincoln bedroom. You can make a tax-deductible donation to the Wilson Foundation later.

HOUSE: The Great War is the biggest upheaval since Jesus Christ. By bringing perpetual peace, you'll sit on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. Jesus will have to move aside.

WOODROW: The Holy Trinity is the most exclusive club.

HOUSE: I'll be your national security advisor.

WOODROW: Without pay. Without acknowledgment.

HOUSE: We'll circumvent the Constitution. I'll never face Senate confirmation.

WOODROW: Secret diplomacy will be my European signature.

HOUSE: We'll keep Secretary of State Bryan in the dark.

WOODROW: That'll prevent his resignation and challenge to my re-election.

HOUSE: Better to have Bryan inside the tent pissing out than outside pissing in. (*Wilson exits*) I've mastered Woodrow's personality. Malignant narcissism. Fragile self-esteem. Invents facts. Vindictive toward the un-worshipful. Infuriated by contradiction. Chronic temper tantrums. Introspection unimaginable.

#### XIV: BREAKING NEUTRALITY

MADISON GHOST: During my presidency in 1812, Britain violated our neutrality by kidnapping 20,000 American seamen and interdicting American trade. (*Project BRITAIN VIOLATES AMERICAN NEUTRALITY*) I asked Congress for a declaration acknowledging a state of war. Woodrow learned nothing from my example. In fact, Woodrow virtually excluded me from his 5-volume "*History of the United States*". The violations of neutral trading rights that I confronted were nothing compared to British predations confronting Woodrow after WWI erupted in August 1914. Southern cotton, mid-Western meat and western copper were blockaded. If Britain refused to back down, I would have asked Congress to acknowledge a state of war.

BRYAN: (*Woodrow typing*) (*Bryan gives paper*) Dispatch this note to Downing Street. Demand freedom of the seas and respect for American neutrality.

WOODROW: Suppose the British persist.

BRYAN: Embargo food, the British go hungry. Embargo weapons, the British can't fight. We're holding a royal flush against their two of clubs. Madison went to war with the cards reversed.

WOODROW: J P Morgan complained at his Long Island mansion about you blocking his loans. The Allies must have unlimited credit.

BRYAN: Neutrals having "Allies" is like baseball umpires owning teams. If we support the military capabilities of one side at war but not the other, we've abandoned our neutrality.

WOODROW: Neutrality means whatever I want it to mean. Neither more nor less.

BRYAN: You're provoking Germany to blow up our munitions factories and sink our armed merchant ships. If you play our royal flush, Downing Street will fold.

WOODROW: Let me study your diplomatic note. (*Bryan exits*) (*Continues typing*) (*House enters*)

Irish-American and German-American voters may abandon me for supporting Britain.

HOUSE: No one's dearer to my heart than you. Just wait until after the 1916 election to escalate into full-scale war against Germany.

WOODROW: I'll campaign on keeping us out of war.

HOUSE: Every night I dream I'm in heaven knowing you're my President. William McKinley and Teddy Roosevelt began our empire with the conquest of the Philippines. You can make America a world power.

WOODROW: My dozens of military interventions in the Caribbean and Latin America are dress rehearsals. *(Gives paper)* Here's Bryan's note to London.

HOUSE: I'll see if the British Ambassador approves. *(House exits)*

BRYAN: *(Enters)* Did you send my Downing Street cable?

WOODROW: No!

BRYAN: I'll unhorse you for the 1916 nomination!

WOODROW: Relax. *(Pause)* We can't risk our special relationship.

BRYAN: Where's that in the Constitution?

WOODROW: I won't win a Nobel Peace Prize if I embargo Britain.

BRYAN: Your oath is to defend the Constitution. Not Britain.

WOODROW: You don't define American interests. I do. What's good for me is good for America.

BRYAN: The Constitution defines American interests. Not you. And what's bad for the Constitution is bad for America.

#### SCENE XV: BRITISH EMPIRE

MADISON GHOST: By practicing neutrality and avoiding foreign entanglements, the United States became the world's economic locomotive. Our Constitution is unique in repudiating world domination as the earmark of national greatness. Our Constitution optimizes the liberty of citizens to develop their faculties and pursue their ambitions. It will never align with the British zeal to rule the waves.

*(Chorus sings Rule Britannia)*

LLOYD GEORGE: Lord Gray!

LORD GRAY: Lloyd George.

LLOYD GEORGE: How thrilling to direct something more powerful than the British Navy. The greatest propaganda campaign the world has ever seen.

LORD GRAY: Crucified Allied soldiers. *(Points at projected poster)*

LLOYD GEORGE: Raped nuns with breasts sliced off. *(Points at projected poster)*

LORD GRAY: We cut Germany's cables to the United States.

LLOYD GEORGE: Peddling fake news to America is a cake walk.

LORD GRAY: We market war like soap. *(Hands pamphlet)*

LLOYD GEORGE: *(Reads)* "The War That Will End War" *(Project)* is the way we advertise the bloodiest war in history.

LORD GRAY: Colonel House is working the advertisement into Woodrow's speeches. *(House enters)*

LLOYD GEORGE: Welcome, Colonel.

LORD GRAY: We're just praising you.

LLOYD GEORGE: We divided the Ottoman Empire.

LORD GRAY: *(Project numbers)* The British empire increases 862,549 square miles.

LLOYD GEORGE: And the French empire increases 238,000 square miles.

LORD GRAY: 4 to 1.

LLOYD GEORGE: Some allies are more equal than others.

HOUSE: Keep it secret. Or it'll kill our advertising campaign.

LLOYD GEORGE: We appreciate your non-neutral neutrality.

LORD GRAY: Vetting your diplomatic dispatches.

HOUSE: Arming, feeding and funding you.

LLOYD GEORGE: You've got to do more for a ticket to the peace table.

HOUSE: What's your admission price?

LORD GRAY: Millions of American soldiers.

HOUSE: That'll break the stalemate for sure.

LLOYD GEORGE: Woodrow must stop praising self-determination. The Irish take it rather seriously.

LORD GRAY: So do our subjects in India.

LLOYD GEORGE: It might even catch fire in the Philippines.

LORD GRAY: Be careful what you wish for. You might get it.

HOUSE: Don't worry. Woodrow will trade self-determination for a League of Nations.

LORD GRAY: We're recommending you for knighthood.

HOUSE: Thank you, my Lord.

#### SCENE XVI: KAISER WALKS THE LINE

MADISON GHOST: For two and a half years, the Kaiser endured Woodrow's non-neutral neutrality. The Kaiser, his wife Augusta Victoria and the military commander Erich Friedrich Wilhelm Ludendorff discuss their predicament.

KAISER: Ach mein Gott! I'm heart-broken.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: (*Enters holding dead child*) I found her lying beside her parents and twin sister. Only a few days before she was nursing at the bosom of her loving mutti. Starved to death by the cruel British blockade. Presided over by unser Cousin Georg.

KAISER: Oh, Georg. What ingratitude! We gifted them 8 generations of German monarchs.

LUDENDORFF: While Wilson moralizes about our U-boote, a million innocent civilians starve to death.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: The British blockade's a war crime.

KAISER: Neutrals protest its illegality. Only Wilson is silent.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: Even his own State Department disputes his view of international law.

LUDENDORFF: Blockading Britain is proportionate retaliation.

KAISER: It satisfies international law.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: The British use surface vessels. We use submarines.

LUDENDORFF: Our U-boote spared crews before the British armed their merchant ships.

KAISER: British ships fly American flags with impunity.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: Wilson abandoned Americans in Mexico. But he's willing to risk war to protect Americans recklessly travelling on British armed merchant ships in war zones.

LUDENDORFF: I can achieve victory before American troops land. Eure Majestät, lift all submarine restrictions.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: (Recites Lord's Prayer in German low voice)

LUDENDORFF: God, our heavenly Father, hear our prayer. We acknowledge our shortcomings and ask thy help in leading thy German Reich to glorious victories. Give us this day a machine gun that will fire 10,000 rounds a second. In thy merciful patience, forgive each bullet that misses its mark. Forget not thy children that hide from us in the trenches. Bring them under our merciful hand that we may end their suffering. Lord, thy will be done! Lead us not into the temptation of letting our wrath be too gentle in carrying out thy divine judgment. Deliver us from the Evil One. Thine is the kingdom, Deutschland.

AUGUSTA VICTORIA: Amen (*German*)

KAISER: Herr General. The military always overpromises. The von Schlieffen Plan had us in Paris early on. For now, discretion is the better part of valor.

#### SCENE XVII: EDITH WILSON

MADISON GHOST: Doctor Cary Grayson was the matchmaker of Woodrow's marriage to a younger southern belle. The Doctor became family and lived in the White House.

WOODROW: Edith, you're the apple of my eye. Our love is part of **GOD'S COVENANT**. (*Project*)

EDITH: Did you rehearse those lines? They sound memorized.

WOODROW: You're the perfect antidote to the world's loneliest job.

EDITH: Marriage to power is a woman's aphrodisiac.

WOODROW: I'm late to a cabinet meeting. I'll share everything with you later. *(Exits)*

DOCTOR GRAYSON: *(Enters)* Your husband's chronic depressions are concerning.

EDITH: Do you have a remedy?

DOCTOR GRAYSON: You're it. He's a 600 horse-power motor in a frail chassis.

EDITH: If you had been Woodrow's Princeton physician, you might have prevented his stroke and paralysis. *(Pause)* I love to dominate him on the golf course. With his 40 handicap, I'm coasting to victory after the third hole.

WOODROW: *(Enters)* I've been looking all over the White House for you. *(Doctor Exits)* What happiness you give me. When you rest your hand in mine, I feel like shouting for the strength and joy that's in me.

EDITH: So sweet you need me so much. You're my tiger.

WOODROW: It's bliss to be in your arms. I share my heart only with you. *(Pause)* We're inseparable Virginians running the world.

EDITH: *(Woodrow sits at typewriter)* I wish Bryan would die from an overdose of peace or grape juice. Fire him! *(Pause)* And while you're at it, fire Tumulty too!

WOODROW: What did Tumulty do?

EDITH: He lacks breeding.

WOODROW: Because he wasn't raised like us, he's deft at handling my diverse visitors.

EDITH: He's a crypto-hyphenated American craving Irish independence. Colonel House's flattery disguises his vaulting ambition. Our intimacy forecloses all others.

WOODROW: You make my heart sing at heaven's gate.

#### SCENE XVIII: BRYAN RESIGNS

MADISON GHOST: President Polk lied about the boundary with Mexico to justify the Mexican-American War. President McKinley justified the Spanish-American War based on a lie about the USS

*Maine*. Woodrow follows their example in covering up the munitions carried on the Lusitania which made it a legitimate target for German submarines.

EDITH: Over a hundred Americans drowned.

BRYAN: What did they expect? The German Government posted in 50 American newspapers for weeks: (*Reads*) "NOTICE! Travelers please be warned that vessels flying the British flag are liable to destruction in waters adjacent to the British Isles."

EDITH: Your mother was right. The Germans will destroy Western civilization. Britain's fight is our fight. Time for you to be Gladstone. Go to war!

BRYAN: American passengers can't shield British munitions-carrying vessels from enemy attack.

WOODROW: (*Typing, facing Bryan*) Munitions are irrelevant. Americans have a sacred right to travel wherever they want and however they want. It's more sacred than due process.

BRYAN: You should champion pending legislation banning American passengers on ships of warring nations. Only a tiny fraction of wealthy Americans would be effected. You're a phony humanitarian. You have a heart of stone for the German children starved by the British blockade.

WOODROW: Only disloyal hyphenated-Americans would say that. People are saying you're on the Kaiser's payroll.

BRYAN: The Lusitania was a British -- not an American -- ship. Sunk in a war zone -- not on the high seas.

WOODROW: That's fake news!

BRYAN: The torpedo hit the hull where British munitions were stored. That's why it sunk instantly.

WOODROW: Give me alternative facts!

BRYAN: You provoked submarine attacks by endorsing the illegal British blockade of the European continent. (*Takes from Wilson and reads*) Let me see your diplomatic note to Berlin.

WOODROW: Unless Germany pays reparations, I'm breaking diplomatic relations.

BRYAN: That's it! I won't be complicit in starving women and children. Here, sir, is my resignation! (*Hands letter, exit*) (*House enter*)

HOUSE: You tower over Washington and Lincoln. They never even dreamed of saving mankind.

WOODROW: Before I can make America great, I must stop Mary Peck from selling my intimate letters to her to the Republicans.

HOUSE: The 1916 election is only 13 months away.

WOODROW: Here's \$7,000!

HOUSE: That must be all your savings.

WOODROW: Give her the money.

#### SCENE XIX: DECLARATION OF WAR

MADISON GHOST: (*Project*) Mary Peck held onto Woodrow's letters. He won re-election in 1916 under the banner: "HE KEPT US OUT OF WAR." Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare. On April 2, 1917, Woodrow asks Congress to declare a state of war.

HOUSE: In 128 years, Congress has never initiated a war. Madison, Polk and McKinley asked Congress to declare that foreign aggression had ended peace. We must follow their example.

WOODROW: You're right. The American people aren't clamoring for war. Congress will never take the lead in declaring war against Germany.

HOUSE: We'll just say Germany has initiated war against us. (*Exit*) (*Edith enter*)

WOODROW: (*Kneeling*) Oh, my sweet Edith, looking in your eyes gives me strength.

EDITH: (*Kneeling*) **Deuteronomy 32:** God says: "I kill..."

WOODROW: "I wound..."

EDITH: "I will make mine arrows drunk with blood"

WOODROW: "and my sword shall devour flesh." For 3 long years, my offer to mediate was scorned. (*Hands*) Here's my war speech.

EDITH: (*Turning pages*) I'm thrilled I'm part of **GOD'S COVENANT**. My darling, you're brilliant! The world's greatest man. More famous. More admired. More worshiped. Our greatest war President.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: I give you the President of the United States.

WOODROW: "It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war. But the right is more

precious than peace. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood for the principles that gave her birth.”

*(Outside Capitol citizens gather)*

“Over There” <https://youtu.be/Y2ktNsYMaag>

**JAMES CAGNEY/MALE :**

Johnny, get your gun, get your gun, get your gun.

**FRANCES LANGFORD/PAT SINGS IN HATTIE/CITIZEN OUTFIT:**

Take it on the run, on the run, on the run.

Hear them calling you and me,

Every Son of Liberty.

**JAMES CAGNEY:** Hurry right away, no delay, go today.

**PAT sings:**

Make your Daddy glad to have had such a lad.

Tell your sweetheart not to pine,

To be proud her boy's in line. Over there, over there,

Send the word, send the word over there

That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming

The drums rum-tumming everywhere.

So prepare, say a prayer,

Send the word, send the word to beware -

We'll be over, we're coming over,

And we won't come back till it's over, over there.

**JAMES CAGNEY: EVERYBODY SING!**

**WHOLE CHORUS/COMPANY: (SING TWICE)**

Over there, over there,

Send the word, send the word over there

That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming

The drums rum-rumming everywhere.

So prepare, say a prayer,

Send the word, send the word to beware -

We'll be over, we're coming over,

And we won't come back till it's over, over there.

SCENE XX: LET FREEDOM DIE

MADISON GHOST: Let's reflect for a moment. "*Over There*" has excited you far more than any other song. Yet it salutes war—the legalization of first-degree murder. You'll self-destruct unless you preserve institutions that check the craving for power and domination. (*Woodrow enter*) Woodrow, you better hope you win this war. If you don't, you'll be prosecuted for crimes against humanity.

WOODROW: You screwed up the Constitution. Separation of powers prevents Presidents from doing great things. I can't save mankind if I'm hobbled by Congress.

MADISON GHOST: Our glory is enabling every citizen to develop his or her talents. That liberty will perish by going abroad in search of monsters to destroy. The blood of every dead doughboy is on your hands. You're guilty of mass murder.

WOODROW: The most glorious death is on a battlefield. My allegiance is to the world. **God's Covenant** trumps your Declare War Clause.

MADISON GHOST: War is the most dreaded enemy of public liberty. The parent of debts and taxes, brandished by the few to dominate the many. War fosters inequality and fraud, and corrupts manners and morals. Perpetual war is the death knell of freedom.

WOODROW: Hyphenated Americans pour the poison of disloyalty into our national arteries. The Not-Yet-Guilty should be feared most. They're the hardest to imprison.

MADISON GHOST: Dissent is the most important safeguard against ruinous error. But your Espionage and Sedition Acts criminalize that safeguard. You've imprisoned dissenters 270 times more than John Adams did with his hated Sedition Act. You're the best evidence in American history for the indispensability of separation of powers. (*Madison & Woodrow exit*) (*Judge, Alice & Lucy enter*)

(*In courthouse*)

JUDGE: How do you plead?

ALICE: Not guilty! (*Suffragettes cheer*)

JUDGE: But the Not-Yet-Guilty are the worst offenders. Women should be seen. Not heard!

LUCY: Not guilty. (*Suffragettes cheer*)

JUDGE: Order!

ALICE & LUCY: We're political prisoners! (*Suffragettes echo*)

JUDGE: Stop! You're risking contempt.

LUCY: Petitioning is protected by the First Amendment. (*Suffragettes cheer*)

JUDGE: Order!

LUCY: You're punishing free speech.

ALICE: Wilson's a hypocrite. (*Suffragettes cheer*)

LUCY: (*Raises banner*) "KASIER WILSON: Have You Forgotten Your Sympathy With the Poor Germans Because They Aren't Self-Governed? 20,000,000 American Women Aren't Self-Governed."

JUDGE: 7 months in jail! (*Exits*) (*Alice & Lucy dragged off!*) (*Alice & Suffragettes sing "RISE UP WOMEN" Tune: John Brown's body*)

Rise up, women, for the fight is hard and long.  
Rise up in thousands singing loud a battle song.  
Right is might, and in strength we shall be strong  
And the cause goes marching on.  
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, hallelujah! The cause goes marching on.

JAILER: (*Enters, puts flashlight on Alice's face*) Sleep deprivation! Our best enhanced interrogation technique.

LUCY: That won't defeat our hunger strike.

ALICE: We won't eat until women get the vote! (*Suffragettes echo*)

JAILER: Then we'll force feed you. (*strap down, resistance, force tube down throats, scream, suffragettes echo*)

## SCENE XXI: THE FALL

MADISON GHOST: Two million American doughboys break the European stalemate. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, the French and British dictate unconditional surrender. Scorning his advisors, Woodrow travels to Paris as a Messiah.

WOODROW: God defeated Germany to enthrone the conscience of the world. The savagery of self-interest surrenders to the dignity of righteousness. History's supreme moment has arrived. Drawing the sword of peace, American boys co-mingled their blood in French soil as a timeless reminder of their selfless devotion in lifting the burden of mankind. Their sacrifice points like a rugged finger to heaven. Like the ancient Hebrews, Americans are God's chosen people. Old Glory flies as the flag of humanity. The League of Nations culminates America's long journey of providential service. War's a thing of the past. (*Exit*)

MADISON GHOST: The Versailles Treaty is a fuse to World War II. The war to end war degenerates into a peace that ends peace. Wilson's perpetual peace is torpedoed by British Prime Minister Lloyd George and French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau.

CLEMENCEAU: War is great!

LLOYD GEORGE: Great for expanding our empires.

CLEMENCEAU: Great for expanding our executive power.

LLOYD GEORGE: That's why we call it the Great War! (*High five*)

CLEMENCEAU: We're lucky Woodrow didn't listen to General Pershing.

LLOYD GEORGE: He had four million soldiers. All the money. He could have marched to Berlin. Dictated peace without victory.

CLEMENCEAU: Woodrow's influence ended with Germany's unconditional surrender.

LLOYD GEORGE: How are we going to repay Woodrow's \$10 billion of war loans?

CLEMENCEAU: Mask our bankruptcy with voodoo economics. Force the Germans to sign a war-guilt clause and pay our debt with reparations.

LLOYD GEORGE: Let's squeeze the Germans until their pips squeak.

CLEMENCEAU: I'm not called the Tiger for nothing.

LLOYD GEORGE: Is that why you always wear gloves?

CLEMENCEAU: To hide my claws. (*Woodrow & Edith enter*) Let's get down to business. (*Pointing to chart*) 1.3 million Frenchmen dead.

LLOYD GEORGE: (*Pointing*) Almost a million from the British Empire.

CLEMENCEAU: (*Pointing to Woodrow*) You only lost 116,000.

LLOYD GEORGE: Adjusted for population, our losses are 30 times yours.

CLEMENCEAU: We need Lebensraum. Let's dismember Germany.

LLOYD GEORGE: 10% of their population!

CLEMENCEAU: And 13% of their territory! (*Ripping map*) Alsace-Lorraine. (*Ripping*) Let's also give western Germany to Belgium.

LLOYD GEORGE: (*Ripping*) Let's amputate eastern Germany and create Czechoslovakia.

WOODROW: That's 3 million Germans!

EDITH: Don't they get self-determination?

CLEMENCEAU: The same self-determination you gave your Redskins.

LLOYD GEORGE: Let's leave the League of Nations out of the treaty.

WOODROW: You can't do that.

LLOYD GEORGE: (*Ripping*) Let's amputate eastern Germany more and put 2 million Germans in Poland.

CLEMENCEAU: (*Ripping*) Don't forget Denmark. (*Ripping*) And Italy. They need Germans too.

LLOYD GEORGE: Let's exclude Germany from the League. Just like we excluded those bastards from our negotiations.

WOODROW: Thank God for my League of Nations. Otherwise, Germany would seek revenge.

## SCENE XXII: PROTECTING CONGRESSIONAL WAR POWER

MADISON GHOST: Days before the Armistice, American voters repudiated Woodrow in the mid-terms. Control of both chambers flipped to Republicans. Votes were lost by Woodrow insinuating his political opponents were traitors. Senate Majority Leader Henry Cabot Lodge and Alice Roosevelt lead the Republican charge against Woodrow's Versailles Treaty. (*White House*)

SENATOR LODGE: After history's greatest carnage, Woodrow imagines a moral conscience of humanity that enforces peace. But will it come when he calls for it? If it balks, Woodrow's treaty takes the nation to war without a congressional declaration. (*Woodrow & Edith enter*) Mr. President, may I help you carry the Treaty? (*Reaches for book Woodrow carrying*)

WOODROW: Not on your life!

SENATOR LODGE: The treaty's unconstitutional. The League can't take us to war.

WOODROW: The treaty imposes only a moral obligation.

SENATOR LODGE: Then you should accept my reservation which reads: “The Congress, under the Constitution, has the sole power to declare war and employ U.S. military forces.”

WOODROW: I don’t do reservations.

EDITH: 116,000 American boys fought for humanity by giving their lives for Woodrow’s League of Nations.

SENATOR LODGE: No! They fought under the Stars and Stripes. They thrilled to The Star-Spangled Banner. And they sang God bless America.

WOODROW: (*Holds League*) The heart of the world beats in this great and sincere document.

ALICE ROOSEVELT: (*Holds Constitution*) But the heart of America beats in our Constitution.

SENATOR LODGE: The League Covenant is badly written. It might get an A at Princeton but an F at Harvard. (*Pause*) Mr. President, the League with my reservation. Or no League.

WOODROW: Over my dead body. I’ll take my case directly to the American people.

SENATOR LODGE: You already did that and lost. It’s my turn to pass judgment on you.

### SCENE XXIII: WOODROW’S LEGACY

MADISON GHOST: Woodrow whistle-stopped his pro-League message across the nation until a stroke incapacitated him. Woodrow scorns the compromise necessary for treaty ratification. To defend the Declare War Clause, the Senate defeats his handiwork.

WOODROW: Mr. Madison, your damn separation of powers and your damn Declare War Clause annihilated my plan to implement the Sermon on the Mount. My League of Nations would have prevented war forever by summoning the moral conscience of the world for peace.

MADISON GHOST: Your mentor Lord Gladstone praised what you have damned as the “most wonderful work ever struck off by the brain and purpose of man.” You pulled down the Constitution like Samson pulled down the temple.

WOODROW: I was created and put on earth to lead all of mankind. Moral perfection is my crusade. If mankind will not accept my leadership, I’ll cram it down their throats. Nobility of purpose exonerates whatever it takes for mission accomplished.

MADISON GHOST: The Constitution is our birth certificate. The glue that holds us together. The Constitution exalts process over policy, institutions over personality or party. It is the dividing line between the rule of law and the law of the jungle.

WOODROW: Your self-doubting Constitution handcuffs great men like me. If checked by Congress and the courts, the President can never bring international order and stability. We must trust the President. Verification is superfluous.

MADISON GHOST: You're the serpent in America's constitutional paradise. A hundred years from now the United States will be fighting perpetual presidential wars. Children will never have known a day of peace. America will blanket every continent with military bases. Foreign youth will be frightened by cloudless skies that welcome our predator drones. The government will conduct dragnet surveillance on our entire population. The national debt will soar past \$20 Trillion. Our nation will exalt domination over liberty and ignorance over wisdom. You sir are to our constitutional Republic what Julius Caesar was to Rome.