

# The Apology

By Jack Hall

Dedicated to Rahm Emanuel

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## CHARACTERS

Tom- A reporter

The Chief of Staff

The President

*A podium is on stage. Tom is in the audience, turned out away from the podium, with a microphone.*

TOM: Good evening. We interrupt this program to take you to a live news conference at the White House, where the president's chief of staff is going to issue a statement regarding the controversial remarks he made in a meeting with donors over the weekend. By now everyone has heard the derogatory and politically incorrect off the cuff remarks made by the president's wacky and renegade friend, and we are told tonight's statement is designed to make things right.

*The Chief of Staff walks to the podium. Behind him is the President.*

TOM: And here comes the Chief of Staff with the President now. Looks like he's approaching the podium now. Let's listen in.

CHIEF: Good evening. I would like to issue an apology to everyone who was offended by my remarks over the weekend that members of our opposition party were acting like, quote, a bunch of brain dead vegetables. These remarks were made without thinking - ironic as that may be - in the heat of the moment. As such I meant no disrespect or malice towards people who are, in fact, brain dead vegetables in the hospitals of America. I have spoken with Dr. Emil Shuffhausen of the national center for brain dead studies, and he has accepted my apology. I hope the families and friends of the nation's brain dead population will also forgive me. And I sincerely hope our political rivals will quit acting like stupid clowns and come back to the bargaining table.

*The Chief starts to leave. The President stops him, whispers in his ear. The Chief walks back to the podium.*

CHIEF: Okay, well, um, I guess I need to apologize again to the clowns of America for my remarks made just ten seconds ago. Once again, my remarks were thoughtless, off the cuff, and made in a moment of heated emotion. I meant no ill will towards clowns - stupid or otherwise - who are just trying to make the world a better place with their face paints and big shoes and balloon animals. I will be placing a call to the head of clowning

at Ringling Brothers at the conclusion of this press conference. Hopefully he will accept my apology, along with the clowns of America. And once again, I call on our rivals in Congress to stop acting like the hillbilly rednecks they are.

*The President rolls his eyes and grabs the Chief by the arm.*

CHIEF: What?

*The President whispers in the Chief's ear. The Chief sighs.*

CHIEF: I'd like to apologize to the rednecks of America for my insensitive and totally off the cuff remarks. Once again, heat of passion... No malice intended... and I promise to call and personally apologize to Toby Keith once this press conference is over. And if our political opponents will stop acting like nerds, we can finally get--

*The President stops the Chief again.*

CHIEF: Okay, sorry about the nerd comment too. I didn't mean to hurt any nerd feelings, and soon as this is over I'll call William Shatner-- *(to the President)* Should I call Shatner or George Lucas?

*The President shrugs.*

CHIEF: Should we take a poll?

*Another shrug.*

CHIEF: Fine, I'll call them both. And I look forward to sitting down to business with our stupid, ignorant, no-good--

*The President stops the Chief, whispers in his ear.*

CHIEF: Can I say--

*The Chief whispers. The President shakes his head.*

CHIEF: Well, what about--

*The Chief whispers. The President shakes his head.*

CHIEF: Well, is there anything I can use that's not politically incorrect?

*The President whispers.*

CHIEF: Really? I can say that?

*The President nods.*

CHIEF: Okay, so once again, I apologize to the vegetables, the clowns, the rednecks, and the nerds of America, and I call on our political enemies to stop acting like a bunch of narrow-minded Christians.

*He looks to the President, who gives him a wink and a thumbs up.*

CHIEF: Thank you, good night!