

# JOHN/CAROL Callback

Start

JOHN. ... by...?

CAROL. By the administration. By the teachers. By *you*. By, say, one low grade, that keeps us out of graduate school; by one, say, one capricious or inventive answer on our parts, which, perhaps, you don't find amusing. Now you *know*, do you see? What it is to be subject to that power. *(Pause.)*

JOHN. I don't understand. *(Pause.)*

CAROL. My charges are not trivial. You see that, in the haste, I think, with which they were accepted. A *joke* you have told, with a sexist tinge. The language you use, a verbal or physical caress, yes, yes, I know, you say that it is meaningless. I understand. I differ from you. To lay a hand on someone's shoulder ...

JOHN. It was devoid of sexual content.

CAROL. I say it was not. I SAY IT WAS NOT. Don't you begin to *see*...? Don't you begin to understand? IT'S NOT FOR YOU TO SAY.

JOHN. I take your point. And I see there is much good in what you refer to.

CAROL. ... do you think so...?

JOHN. ... but, and this is not to say that I cannot change, in those things in which I am deficient.... But, the ...

CAROL. Do you hold yourself harmless from the charge of sexual exploitativeness...? *(Pause.)*

JOHN. Well, I ... I ... I.... You know I, as I said. I ... think I am not too old to *learn*, and I *can* learn, I ...

CAROL. Do you hold yourself innocent of the charge of ...

JOHN. ... wait, wait, wait ... All right, let's go back to ...

CAROL. YOU FOOL. Who do you think I am? To come here and be taken in by a *smile*. You little yapping fool. You think I want "revenge." I don't want revenge. I WANT UNDERSTANDING.

JOHN. ... *do* you?

CAROL. I do. *(Pause.)*

JOHN. What's the use. It's over.

CAROL. Is it? What is?

JOHN. My job.

CAROL. Oh. Your job. That's what you want to talk about. *(Pause. She starts to leave the room. She steps and turns back to him.)* All right. *(Pause.)* What if it were possible that my Group withdraws its complaint? *(Pause.)*

JOHN. What?

CAROL. That's right. *(Pause.)*

JOHN. Why?  
CAROL. Well, let's say as an act of friendship.  
JOHN. An act of friendship.  
CAROL. Yes. *(Pause.)*  
JOHN. In exchange for what?  
CAROL. Yes. But I don't think, "exchange." Not "in exchange."  
For what do we derive from it? *(Pause.)*  
JOHN. "Derive."  
CAROL. Yes.  
JOHN. *(Pause.)* Nothing. *(Pause.)*  
CAROL. That's right. We derive nothing. *(Pause.)* Do you see that?  
JOHN. Yes.  
CAROL. That is a little word, Professor. "Yes." "I see that." But you will.  
JOHN. And you might speak to the committee...?  
CAROL. To the committee?  
JOHN. Yes.  
CAROL. Well. Of course. That's on your mind. We might.  
JOHN. "If" what?  
CAROL. "Given" what. Perhaps. I think that that is more friendly.  
JOHN. GIVEN WHAT?  
CAROL. And, believe me, I understand your rage. It is not that I don't feel it. But I do not see that it is deserved, so I do not resent it... All right. I have a list.  
JOHN. ... a list.  
CAROL. Here is a list of books, which we ...  
JOHN. ... a list of books...?  
CAROL. That's right. Which we find questionable.  
JOHN. What?  
CAROL. Is this so bizarre...?  
JOHN. I can't believe ...  
CAROL. It's not necessary you believe it.  
JOHN. Academic freedom ...  
CAROL. Someone chooses the books. If you can choose them, others can. What are you, "God"?  
JOHN. ... no, no, the "dangerous" ...  
CAROL. You have an agenda, we have an agenda. I am not interested in your feelings or your motivation, but your actions. If you would like me to speak to the Tenure Committee, here is my list. You are a Free Person, you decide.

JOHN. Give me the list. (*She does so. He reads.*)  
CAROL. I think you'll find ...  
JOHN. I'm capable of reading it. Thank you.  
CAROL. We have a number of *texts* we need re ...  
JOHN. I see that.  
CAROL. We're amenable to ...  
JOHN. Aha. Well, let me look over the ... (*He reads.*)  
CAROL. I think that ...  
JOHN. LOOK. I'm reading your demands. All right?! (*He reads. Pause.*) You want to ban my book?  
CAROL. We do not ...  
JOHN. (*Of list.*) It says here ...  
CAROL. ... We want it removed from inclusion as a representative example of the university.  
JOHN. Get out of here.  
CAROL. If you put aside the issues of personalities.  
JOHN. Get the fuck out of my office.  
CAROL. No, I think I would reconsider.  
JOHN. ... you think you can.  
CAROL. We can and we *will*. Do you want our support? That is the only quest ...  
JOHN. ... to ban my *book*...?  
CAROL. ... that is correct ...  
JOHN. ... this ... this is a *University* ... we ...  
CAROL. ... and we have a statement ... which we need you to ... (*She hands him a sheet of paper.*)  
JOHN. No, no. It's out of the question. I'm sorry. I don't know what I was thinking of. I want to tell you something. I'm a teacher. I am a teacher. Eh? It's my *name* on the door, and *I* teach the class, and that's what I do. I've got a book with my name on it. And my son will *see* that *book* someday. And I have a respon ... No, I'm sorry I have a *responsibility* ... to *myself*, to my *son*, to my *profession* ... I haven't been *home* for two days, do you know what? Thinking this out.  
CAROL. ... you haven't?  
JOHN. I've been, no. If it's of interest to you. I've been in a *hotel*. *Thinking. (The phone starts ringing.) Thinking ...*  
CAROL. ... you haven't been home?  
JOHN. ... *thinking*, do you see.  
CAROL. Oh.  
JOHN. And, and, I owe you a debt, I see that now. (*Pause.*) You're

Stop