

The Contender 1 – 1 (HM)

Evans

That's a nasty bit of business what happened on that river. Nasty. It's a damn shame that you were the unlucky bastard in that spot. (lights a cigarette) Six and a half years in the White House and the press still hasn't caught wind of these little bastards. Pretty uh ... pretty heroic what you tried. Just like everyone's been saying. Pretty ... uh ... pretty Audy Murphy.

Hathaway

Thank you, sir. I only wish I could have saved her.

Evans

If it was me I don't know whether I would have dove in there. I might have. But honestly, I don't know.

Hathaway

Ah ...

Evans

At least for once the press is turning one of us into a hero. What was it like?

Hathaway

It was ... it was cold.

Evans

Sure it was. This time of year? You were risking your life saving that woman. The cold alone could have snapped you like a twig.

The Contender 1 – 2 (HM)

Hathaway

It was dark under the water. The uh ... headlights were on. So were the interior lights. I could see her face. She was very pretty. Young. She was terrified.

Evans

Wow.

Hathaway

It was like she was being buried alive. She looked at me. And then she had this look of helplessness. I tried to pull at the door, but uh ... I needed air, you know? I couldn't ... by the time I got back down to the car she was dead. Her face was frozen in that look. She carried that look of terror into her death.

Evans

You did more than most men would.

Hathaway

But I wonder.

Evans

(pause) Look. Jack, it's just not going to happen. I can't nominate you. I can't put you up. We can't have another Chappaquidick, Governor.

Hathaway

Chappa ...? I tried to save her. Kennedy ran away, remember? I tried to save her.

The Contender 1 – 3 (HM)

Evans

You failed. Nobody's saying it was your fault. (beat) It's a bad deed, Jack. You're one of the leaders of this party, a rising star, but you've got a Republican heavy judiciary. They're not going to give a rat's ass about that. They're not going to care about your years of service or what you've done for education in your state. This would be it. You know, a girl died and this administration needs a smooth confirmation. We had a rocky time over the crime bill. We can't have any more obstacles put in front of us.

Hathaway

Well, I appreciate you telling me personally, Mr. President. I'll ah ... I'll support whoever you select, of course.

Evans

I know that. You're the future of the Democratic Party. You always will be. Well, there's a boatload of press out there. I don't think you should avoid them.