

DAD

So, what's the news?

CHARLIE

Have you heard dad, there's this congressional committee that's, um, well they're investigating the quiz shows?

DAD

Yeah, I read that. What's it about exactly?

CHARLIE

Well, evidently, certain of the contestants were given the answers in advance

DAD

Whew! Cheating on a quiz show. It's like plagiarizing a comic strip.

CHARLIE

Well, at any rate, it seems that the committee wants to call me to testify.

DAD

Oh, I've testified before - funding for the arts - it's nothing.

CHARLIE

I think this is a little different.

DAD

You'll run circles around them. It's not exactly Jefferson and Lincoln down there any more.

CHARLIE

I think this is a little different, dad.

QUIZ SHOW 3 - 2

DAD

I think you'd be glad at a chance to clear your name.
Otherwise, people might believe . . .

CHARLIE

People will believe what ever they want to believe. That's
not the issue.

DAD

Just tell them the truth. You'll do fine. The real issue,
Charlie, is how this keeps distracting you from your
teaching.

CHARLIE

Oh dad.

DAD

This and that program in the morning, though you insist
that it doesn't.

CHARLIE

Dad, I can't simply just tell them the truth.

DAD

[pause] Can't tell them the truth? Why on earth not?

CHARLIE

It's complicated.

DAD

Complicated?

CHARLIE

Yeah. I can't.

DAD

Charlie, from what I understand, it's just this bunch of
frauds showing off an erudition they didn't really have. All
you have to do . . .

CHARLIE

The problem is, dad, I was one of those frauds.

QUIZ SHOW 3 - 3

DAD

What? (PAUSE) What? What do you mean?

CHARLIE

They gave me the answers.

DAD

They gave you the answers? They gave you the answers?!

CHARLIE

Well, no, no, at first they just asked me questions they already knew I knew the answers to. We ran through those, and I still didn't want them to actually give me the answers, so I had them give me the questions, and I'd go look up the answers on my own, as if that were any different. Well we ran through those in a couple of weeks, and then, I just didn't have the time, and finally it just seemed silly, so . . .

DAD

They gave you all their money to answer questions they knew you knew. Now that's inflation.

CHARLIE

You're not being very helpful.

DAD

I'm sorry Charlie! I'm an old man! It's all a little difficult for me to comprehend!

CHARLIE

It's television, Dad! Look, it's just television.

DAD

You make it sound like you didn't have a choice.

CHARLIE

What was I supposed to do at that point? Disillusion the whole god damned country?

DAD

Charlie, you took the money.

QUIZ SHOW 3 - 4

CHARLIE

Yes! I know, I took the money!

DAD

Is that what this was about?

CHARLIE

No. No, I don't know.

DAD

It was a god damned quiz show Charlie.

CHARLIE

I've no things of my own, sir.

DAD

This is not the time to play games . . .

CHARLIE

It was my own. It was mine.

DAD

Your name is mine. (pause) Charlie.