

Druckman Assignment for October 19/B. Bellman  
*What is the most important question my character is trying to answer?*

**SMILE!**

BARBARA

People always come together when they have a common enemy, but today, we are a country divided, and the enemy is both within and without. Maybe we can get some insight to this from our guest, the former presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton – a remarkable woman who came so tantalizingly close to being our first woman president. Please join me in welcoming her today.

*(Applause, turns to Hillary)*

Welcome Madame Secretary. Let me start by asking how I should address you? Is it Ms. Rodham Clinton? Hillary? Madame Secretary?

HILLARY

Hillary is fine.

BARBARA

But you've had so many titles: First Lady, Senator, Secretary of State, Presidential contender –

Hillary

Hillary is fine.

BARBARA

Hillary. *(Pause)* Thank you. I know that our audience is eager to hear your thoughts about this current state of affairs, this current administration, so let me get right to the first question: Why do you think you lost?

HILLARY

I've asked myself time and time again, but each time I think I know, I keep coming back to that one nagging question: What more could I have done to prove my qualifications to lead?

BARBARA

Shared your chocolate chip cookie recipes with America! You know, the way to a man's heart -- *(Pause)* Forgive my pathetic attempt at a little irony. I hope you appreciate my sense of humor.

*HILLARY ruefully smiles.*

HILLARY

I see.

BARBARA

But let's get back to my opening statement. Do you agree that diverse people always come together when they have a common enemy?

HILLARY

Was I the common enemy?

BARBARA

You were – and are – supremely competent! But, could it be, perhaps, that your competence, your composure, your steely presence under fire – was emasculating for most men? And threatening to most women?

HILLARY

What more could I do?

BARBARA

You could smile.

HILLARY

What?

BARBARA

Smile. Like you mean it. Not that packaged look you've practiced a million times.

HILLARY

I don't understand.

BARBARA

You know – the smile you have for your granddaughter. The smile you show when you're alone. The smile you probably have every time you turn on MSNBC. *That* smile.

HILLARY

What does that have to do with my losing the election?

BARBARA

Birds show off their necks when they are attracted to a mate. Maybe you should have shown more neck? Maybe that would have made you more – approachable.

HILLARY

I beg your pardon?

BARBARA

More Vulnerable.

HILLARY

The country needed a leader. Not a Mommy.

BARBARA

Really? Are you so sure? Maybe it's not what they needed, but it's what they wanted. Instead, they voted for Daddy. Promises everything. Promises to kick your enemy's ass. Exhibits bad behavior and shows how to get away from it. That Daddy! *Sugar Daddy!*

HILLARY

I thought they wanted me to cry.

BARBARA

They wanted you to show you were real. Crying was just one manifestation of it. That would have been believable, but I can see how that would have messed up your makeup. So I don't think crying would have sealed the deal. You know what I think?

HILLARY

Do tell.

BARBARA

This is must my opinion, of course, and I haven't taken a survey or anything, so it's just my gut talking, but I think that most women – and I think I can speak freely about this – have Daddy issues that are just variations of the Prince Charming fantasy – you know, “some day my prince will come” and all that. I mean, don't we love to see Ivanka trying to be Daddy's little girl and therefore everybody's darling? The princess who will tame the beast? What's the equivalent of that? Ursula? Maleficent? Cruella de Ville? Nice guys finish last.

HILLARY

I never thought of it that way. Maybe you have a point.

BARBARA

Now, if you had acted more like a Dominatrix, then maybe...

HILLARY

I would have been more approachable?

BARBARA

More believable. You need to spank those bad boys. That's what they wanted. A good, hard, spanking. And the women wanted to see that. That's why they thought you were weak – with Bill. They wanted to see you bring him to his knees, but instead, you gave him a pass. Weak. That's how it was perceived. And you should have shown up in stilettos and short skirts. Like Sarah Palin - that Bimbo. But people *loved* her. That *nobody* was somebody they could all relate to. Stupid. Fuckable. Emotional. You know – like *them*. But she looked like she could give a good spanking.

HILLARY

Sorry. I don't know how to do "stupid".

BARBARA

No, of course not. But you could have brought out some of your inner bitch to show that you could hurt someone. That's what people want in their heroes. Someone who has the ability, the skill, the cunning to draw blood, instead of just "passing it" if you know what I mean.

HILLARY

I think I do.

BARBARA

I think you do too. But why don't we turn to the audience and see what our members think of this conversation. How about it – why do you think Hillary lost? Anyone? Anyone?