

From The Election, by Don Zolidis

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By Don Zolidis

KYLI, teenager, host of a local access television program

MARK, teenager, candidate for student body president

CHRISTY, teenager, candidate for student body president

KYLI

Welcome to our new show, Shooting Range. A recent poll of likely voters found that Christy Martin leads Mark Davenport ninety-one percent to three percent, with six percent undecided. I wonder who those three percent are that like him, you know? Kind of makes you wonder. I mean, not to say that some people are stupid or anything, but you have to be pretty courageous to like a guy that wants to take points from the highest scoring kids and give them to the lowest scoring kids. Because when you think about it, that's pretty evil – Here to explain himself is embattled candidate, Mark Davenport.

(MARK enters.)

MARK

Thanks for having me on the show. I just really wanted a chance to clear the air here.

KYLI

Mark – why are you proposing such an insane and anti-American plan?

MARK

I'm not. That is not my plan.

KYLI

Looks like Davenport has reversed himself on the point redistribution plan.

MARK

It's not my plan.

KYLI

A strong denial.

MARK

It never was my plan. That's not my plan. My plan is clear.

KYLI

The voters don't like flip-floppers Mark. You used to be for the plan, and now you're against the plan.

MARK

I was never for the plan. There is no plan.

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KYLI
I've heard there's a plan.

MARK
Did I say it?

KYLI
Other people are saying you said it.

MARK
But I didn't say it! I didn't say it! The plan was made up by Christy's campaign to make me look bad.

KYLI
Oh. Oh really?

MARK
Yes.

KYLI
That's a pretty strong accusation against a candidate who's run a very positive campaign so far.

MARK
She called me a fish killer!

KYLI
I think you're missing the distinction between Forward Presley and Christy's campaign.

MARK
Forward Presley is Christy's campaign!

KYLI
No they're not. They have different names.

MARK
She is not running a positive campaign. She's running an evil campaign! She's spending all kinds of money on attack ads, and then she created this polling firm to give false information about me –

KYLI
Wow. You seem to be a little unhinged.

MARK
I'm not unhinged. I'm not. She's lying! She is a liar!

KYLI

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If you can't handle the election, why would voters think you would be able to handle being president?

MARK

Do the voters want to hire a liar for president? Is that what they want?

KYLI

Well – it wouldn't be Shooting Range without a chance for the other side to speak their mind, so here we have Christy Martin –

(CHRISTY enters. Applause.)

CHRISTY

It's great to be here Kyli. Thanks for having me on the show.

KYLI

Thanks for being here. And can I just say that your hair looks great?

CHRISTY

Thank you.

KYLI

You're just so pretty.

CHRISTY

I try.

MARK

Are you gonna ask her any questions?

KYLI

Of course. Christy, Mark Davenport has accused you of being a liar. How do you respond to that?

CHRISTY

I'm saddened by that. I really am. In fact, we talked just the other day about running positive campaigns. He made a promise to me. And then as soon as I turn my back, I'm once again being called a lying chick.

KYLI

Wow.

CHRISTY

I know. And I'm sure he meant chick in the most positive sense, and I hate to play the gender card here, but it really shows his sexist mind-set that as soon as things start going badly, he starts calling me a chick.

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MARK

I didn't call you a chick. When did I call you a chick?

KYLI

Mark. Haven't you tried to silence her enough?

CHRISTY

Boys can't handle a strong, opinionated woman. It's threatening to them. That's why he lashes out.

KYLI

I know. Tell me about it. My boyfriend is the same way. I keep telling him not to silence me, and what does he do? He silences me.

CHRISTY

It's terrible. And you know what this? It's a diversion. He doesn't want people to think about his point redistribution plan. He wants us to forget about it. So I'll say it again: Mark Davenport wants to take points from hard-working students who do their homework and give them to lazy, stupid kids who play video games all day long. That's what he wants to do. He wants a world in which no one is any better than anyone else, and we all end up with a B average. Well I don't want that. I want a school where kids who work hard can get As, and kids who don't do anything at all can get C minuses and still pass.

(applause.)

KYLI

Mark, your response to that?

MARK

Look – it has nothing to do with you being a chick.

CHRISTY

There it is again.

MARK

I didn't say it.

KYLI

We just heard you, Mark. You just said it.

MARK

But I didn't mean it like –

KYLI

That's what they always say.

MARK

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Can we stick to the point redistribution stuff? When did I say that?

CHRISTY

Are you asking me?

MARK

Yes.

CHRISTY

I don't know, they're your plans. You talked about it at the last debate.

MARK

No I didn't! That's a lie!

CHRISTY

He called me a liar again.

KYLI

Wow.

MARK

Because you are! You're a liar! I never said that at the debate!

KYLI

This is easy enough to check – we can just go through the videotape of the debate and see if he said it.

MARK

Absolutely! Let's go to the tape and see what I actually said!

CHRISTY

Whoah, hold on. I think we're blowing this out of proportion. When I said that you said that you had a point redistribution plan, I didn't mean that as a factual statement.

MARK

What?

CHRISTY

I did not mean that as a factual statement.

MARK

How can you make a statement if you don't think it's a fact?

CHRISTY

It was a statement of opinion.

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MARK

What?

CHRISTY

It is my opinion that you said that at the last debate.

MARK

So it's a lie.

CHRISTY

It's an opinion. Opinions can't be lies.

MARK

You can't have an opinion about whether or not I did or didn't say something.

CHRISTY

Who made that rule? So when you're president, you get to decide which opinions people can hold, is that what you're saying?

MARK

I'm saying that you told a lie –

CHRISTY

In a school ruled by Mark Davenport, people aren't allowed to express opinions, that's what you mean. Well let me tell you something you fascist, we have freedom of speech in America. That's the first amendment if you've ever heard of a little thing called the Constitution. And in this country, I have a right to my opinion!

MARK

No you don't!

CHRISTY

Because I'm a woman, is that it? I should just shut up and go make sandwiches or something! That's what you want! But I'm not shutting up, Mark, I'm not shutting up because there are little girls out there looking up to me, and when they ask their Mothers if they can be student body president some day, I want those mothers to look at those girls, and say, "yes, princess, yes, because Christy Martin did it. So you can do it too." I have millions of sisters out there you sexist fascist communist thug, and WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED.

KYLI

ALLELUJIAH!

(Pause.)

Oh. Sorry. And that's all the time we have today for Shooting Gallery. Join us next time when we have a special program dedicated to the inspirational story of Christy Martin.

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(to read the rest of this play, visit www.playscripts.com)