

THE LAST WORD

Name (of company, if applicable)
Address
Phone Number

FADE IN:

Harriet comes banging on Anne's door late at night.

ANNE

Harriet! What are you - What are you doing here?

HARRIET

I do not wish to be sodomized in the hallway.

ANNE

- Do you know what time it is?

HARRIET

Sit down please, we need to talk.

ANNE

What is this shit?

HARRIET

These are obituaries from newspapers all over the country. I want you to read them and see what other obituary writers are doing.

ANNE

OH wow. I'm sorry you don't like what I wrote. That was just me writing about your life.

HARRIET

But my life is not over, yet. Now, I have determined there are four essential elements to a really great obituary.

ANNE

Is that right?

HARRIET

That's right. One. The deceased should be loved by their families.

ANNE

Right.

HARRIET

Two. The deceased should be admired by their co-workers.

ANNE

I ... I know.

HARRIET

Three. The deceased must have touched someone's life, unexpectedly. And if said person was a minority or a cripple so much the better.

ANNE

Ok. And the fourth?

HARRIET

The fourth? That's the wild card. I do not know what my wild card is.

ANNE

Wild card?

HARRIET

Yes. A statement of such breadth and wonder that it is the opening line of the obituary. For example, "A noted lover of arts, Bonnie Lee Johnson passed away today..."

ANNE

Right, right.

HARRIET

"...A three time state ball room dancing champion, Lou Mendoza, died last night."

ANNE

OK, I have a question. Well, four to be exact.

HARRIET

Four? Oh, four. ...Family. My child and I have not had any contact for several decades. My colleagues as you have discovered are not exactly beating down my door to sing my praises. I don't know any crippled black kids. And four, I have no idea what the wild card is.

ANNE

Those are the questions.

HARRIET

Yes, and you are going to help me find the answers.

ANNE

You don't say.

HARRIET

OH yes, you are going to help shape a legacy instead of just transcribing it. I bet you have not been offered that very often.

ANNE

To write a story before its over?

HARRIET

Thats what I've been talking about Anne, yeah.

ANNE

(Walks to door and opens it as Harriet is on her way out)

So you're going to change your life, like right now?

HARRIET

Exactly. Would you find any problem in procuring me a disadvantaged youth to mold?

ANNE

OH, um, home depot is probably getting another shipment in soon, the shelves will be stocked.

HARRIET

Sarcasm, the wit of the witless.

ANNE

Condescension, the repartee of the rude. Sorry. Shit, sorry.

HARRIET

NO, no never apologize for speaking your mind.

ANNE

Thanks for coming!