

The Heavy Work That Will Make Everything Lighter

a Democracy Cycle Play

by Steven Cole Hughes

CAST

MAYA	40-something, Black, liberal
MADDIE	20-something, any ethnicity, unaffiliated
KAREN	40-something, white, conservative
JO	60-something, any ethnicity, liberal
DANIEL	20-something, Latino, does not really know/care about politics

The Heavy Work That Will Make Everything Lighter

A V.I.P. READER stands alone on stage and reads.

READER

In the summer of 2024, the Theatre Gods were lounging around drinking martinis and listening to the original cast recording of *Gypsy* when they heard about an intriguing theatre project. Three theatre companies were creating a play about Democracy. Always eager to remind citizens that Theatre and Democracy were born in the same place at the same time, the Theatre Gods sashayed into action. Instead of using their fabulous magical powers to change the minds of funders to give money to theatres instead of athletic complexes, the Theatre Gods decided to directly intervene and place five random people in an actual City Council, and make them believe they were doing the *actual* job of an *actual* city council in the *actual* town of Gunnison, Colorado. The Theatre Gods, being old school, used an actual phone book to select their five random people. What you are about to see is the result. And to quote the 2008 film *Hamlet 2*, "It was stupid, but it was also Theatre."

*Gunnison City Hall. 2nd floor council chambers.
Regular Session. Tuesday. 5:30pm.*

*A semi-circular table with five chairs behind it. An
American flag and the Gunnison City Seal on the
wall.*

*MAYA, MADDIE, KAREN, JO, and DANIEL
suddenly appear. A Council quorum is present.*

ALL

Whoa/Hey/Ow/What the...!

(JO stumbles.)

DANIEL

Are you OK?

JO

Yes, I'm fine, thank you.

MAYA

I didn't think we... wow. OK.

KAREN

What is going on? WHAT IS GOING ON?!

MADDIE

Um.

KAREN	MAYA	JO	DANIEL	MADDIE
I mean... is this... is this the thing we agreed to? Because, I didn't...	Is everybody OK, here? Everybody all right? Nobody's hurt?	Where are we? Sorry. Go ahead.	Where are we? Sorry. No, you go ahead.	Um. Is one of you Heather? Or Steve? Huges?
Is this how it starts?	I'm sorry?	I think we're in the City Council Chambers.		
Is it starting now?	Are you talking to me?	Yes, I came here once for a...	The City Council...?	Or, is this, like, the Gunnison Valley Theatre thing?
What did she say?				
What is she saying?	OK. I'm going to...	I think...	Is this the... the... thing we...	Or, is one of you Nick Chase?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?	Hey, everyone?	I think so?		
What is she saying?	Hey, everyone!	Who?	Who?	
	OK. So. Here we are.			M A Y A Y e s , I

(End of Scene)

Scene 2

(Several minutes have passed. MAYA is standing behind the center of five chairs seated at a semi-circular table.)

MAYA

It says here: “Presiding Officer Calls Regular Session to Order. Silent Roll Call.”

(They all look at each other.)

DANIEL

How are we supposed to take a silent roll call if we don’t know each other’s names?

MADDIE

Yeah.

JO

Well, let’s go around the room and introduce ourselves. We can do that, right? I mean, that’s not against the... rules... or –

DANIEL

No.

MAYA

I think the “silent roll call” is probably just how they normally do it. Like, maybe this is an old Agenda, or... maybe this is a rough guideline for us to follow, or...

DANIEL

Why don’t we go around and say our names...

JO

Yes, I’ll start.

MAYA

OK, let’s say names and pronouns.

MADDIE

(KAREN scoffs.) Yeah.

JO

OK. Hello, everyone. My name is Jo Adams. My pronouns are she/her/hers. I’m delighted to be here today, and... well, I guess I’ll just – we’ll just start there.

DANIEL

Sure. Hey everyone, I’m Daniel Aguilar. Pronouns are he/him.

MAYA

Hello, I'm Maya Abbott, she/her.

(MAYA looks to MADDIE.)

MADDIE

I'm Maddie. I use she/they pronouns.

(MAYA looks to KAREN.)

KAREN

My name is Karen Adams. No relation to Jo. Lots of Adams's.

(They all chuckle.)

As for pronouns, I think it's obvious. To look at me. I'm a woman. So.

(Pause. MAYA wonders whether to say something...)

MAYA

OK.

JO

So, that was roll call.

MAYA

Sure.

JO

What's next?

MAYA

Um, let's see...

KAREN

Can I just...? I'm sorry, Maya, is it?

MAYA

Yes.

KAREN

It seems like you've just stepped into this leadership role, and I just wonder if maybe we should... vote, or...

MAYA

I'm just reading this Agenda. Someone else is welcome to... I'm not trying to be the leader, I'm just...

JO
I'm happy to have you read the Agenda.

DANIEL
Yeah, me too.

MAYA
If that's OK with –

KAREN
Yeah, no, that's fine. I was just...

MAYA
OK.

(Looks at the Agenda)
Is a Council quorum present?

DANIEL
How many of us are there supposed to be?

MAYA
Um, I don't...

(MADDIE raises her hand)
You don't have to raise your hand, sweetie.

MADDIE
Um. What's a quorum?

MAYA
Oh, a quorum is, like...

JO
A quorum is the minimum number of people needed for a meeting to happen.

MAYA
Yeah, so if there were supposed to be five of us, but four of us were here, we'd have a quorum.

MADDIE
Oh, OK.

DANIEL
So, do we have a quorum?

JO

Are there only five of us? I mean, did they only ask five people?

MAYA

I think that's the idea.

KAREN

The first five people.

MAYA

Right.

KAREN

Yes.

DANIEL

OK. So, we're all here. The first five people in the Gunnison telephone directory.

(They all look at each other.)

JO

Metaphorically.

KAREN

What's the metaphor?

JO

Or...

MAYA

Symbolically.

DANIEL

Right.

JO

Hypothetically.

KAREN

Yes.

DANIEL

We're the first five people in the hypothetical Gunnison telephone directory.

(End of scene.)

Scene 3

(MADDIE talks to the audience.)

MADDIE

“I would rather be governed by the first 2000 people in the Boston telephone directory than by the 2000 people on the faculty of Harvard University.”

These remarks are credited to William F. Buckley (1925 – 2008), a conservative writer and thinker, founding editor of the *National Review*, host of the PBS show *Firing Line*, which aired from 1966 to 1999.

The quote is ostensibly about being suspicious of anyone who would seek to govern you. The idea is that a random group of your peers who have not sought to govern, would be better for you than the anointed, liberal elite of an east coast, ivy league school.

This quote has been a rallying cry for Conservatives for decades. And, like, I get it. We should have government of the people, by the people and for the people. But, like, aren't the faculty of Harvard people, too? Like, they're not *not* people just because they work at Harvard.

Also, it's government. Government is hard. I think. You have to know a lot about a lot. Right? We're trusting these people to make laws for us. To tell us what is legal and what is illegal. So, we're trusting them to be smart people. Or, like, informed. There's the whole “which politician would you rather have a beer with” thing, but, like, I'd rather have a beer with a friend and have my politicians be, like, smart.

Also, would you rather have your car fixed by the first 2000 people in the telephone directory or by 2000 employees of Grease Monkey?

Would you rather be operated on by 2000 random people or 2000 graduates of Harvard Medical School?

So, it's a famous quote, and a lot of politicians repeat it, and it makes you think, but it's also, like, stupid. Like, of course I would rather be governed by the Harvard faculty than a bunch of randos. But so many conservatives live and die by this philosophy because they don't like being told what to do by smarty pants liberal elites. They don't like being told that drinking a 128 oz. soda isn't good for them. They don't like being told that they can't lie about elections on Facebook.

So, in a way, I hope we fail, because then I can show my parents that this is a really stupid idea.

Scene 4

(They are all seated around the table.)

MAYA

OK, it says here: “II. Announcements. You can skip this.” That’s not me saying we can skip this, it literally says underneath “Announcements,” “You can skip this.”

(DANIEL gets up and walks over to MAYA and looks at the Agenda.)

“III. Western Colorado University Liason Announcements.”

DANIEL

“You can skip this.”

MAYA

“IV. Public Input”

DANIEL

“You can skip this.”

MAYA

“V. Consent Agenda.”

DANIEL

“You can skip this.”

MAYA

“VI. Proclamations and Appointments.”

DANIEL

“You can skip this.”

MAYA

“VII. New Business. A. Write a Bill of Rights for Every Citizen of the Gunnison Valley.”

(MAYA looks at everyone. DANIEL nods.)

JO

What?

DANIEL

(Reads from the Agenda)

“Write a Bill of Rights for Every Citizen of the Gunnison Valley.”

KAREN

Is that what we're here to do?

DANIEL

Must be.

MAYA

OK.

MADDIE

This is, like, our job?

MAYA

OK.

JO

This is our charge. This is what we're here to –

KAREN

This is what they've asked us here to –

JO

Yes. This is it.

MAYA

Finally.

JO

Yes. I think.

KAREN

Did they tell you that?

JO

I'm sorry?

KAREN

Did they tell you that that's what we're supposed to do? Write a Bill or Rights?

JO

Well, no, but, you know, skip this, skip this, skip this, now: write a Bill of Rights. That seems –

MAYA

Yes –

JO
That seems like an obvious... task. For us.

DANIEL
Yeah.

MAYA
Well, I like the sound of that.

JO
Me, too.

MAYA
Write a new Bill of Rights. Specific to the Gunnison Valley.

DANIEL
Yeah. OK. OK, so, the Bill of Rights, that's...

JO
That's...

KAREN
The first ten amendments to the constitution.

JO DANIEL
Right. Yeah.

MAYA
OK. Anybody know the Bill of Rights? Like, can you name them all?

KAREN
I know the second amendment is the right to bear arms.

MAYA
Uh huh.

DANIEL
First amendment is the right to free speech. Right?

JO MAYA
Yes. Uh huh.

(MADDIE raises her hand.)

MAYA
Maddie, honey, for real, you don't have to raise your hand.

MADDIE

Sorry. Um. I know the first amendment.

MAYA

OK.

MADDIE

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

MAYA

Yep.

DANIEL

Whoa!

JO

Did you learn that in school?

MADDIE

Yeah, like, a long time ago.

DANIEL

OK, so, what's the second amendment?

KAREN

I already said, it's –

MADDIE

I don't know any others – I only had to learn the first one.

MAYA

OK. Well, we know the first two.

JO

Isn't there something in the second amendment about a well-regulated militia?

DANIEL

Yeah, right.

MAYA

Gotta have that militia.

DANIEL

Right?

JO

Yes, it's very strange.

KAREN

It's not strange. The second amendment is not strange.

JO

Well, it's...

DANIEL

You want to make sure you have the right to join a militia?

KAREN

It's not about joining a militia. The second amendment affirms our God-given right to protect ourselves. To keep and to bear arms.

MAYA

OK. OK.

DANIEL

Isn't there something about soldiers being quartered in citizen's houses?

JO

Yes, I think that's another amendment.

MAYA

Is that the third?

JO

Just as useless as the second.

KAREN

The second amendment is not useless!

MAYA

Alright, Karen, nobody's saying – well...

JO

Yes, I'm saying it's useless.

KAREN

See?

MAYA

OK, well, that's – this is good, this is –

KAREN

This is good?

MAYA

Well, it's – I mean, we want people of differing –

JO

We want to debate.

KAREN

I didn't come here to debate the second amendment.

DANIEL

What did you come here for?

KAREN

The same reason you did, I assume.

DANIEL

And what's that?

KAREN

So that my voice can be heard.

MAYA

Yes, Karen. OK, so, let's move on.

JO

It seems as if we only know three of the ten Bill of Rights.

DANIEL

Why don't we just look it up?

MADDIE

We don't have our phones.

DANIEL

What?

MADDIE

We don't have our phones. Have any of you noticed that?

(Everyone pats themselves, looks around... etc.)

JO

I hadn't noticed.

MAYA
Me neither.

KAREN
I had noticed that.

DANIEL
There are no computers anywhere, either. Do you think that's... on purpose?

JO
It must be.

KAREN
Yes.

MADDIE
Whoa.

MAYA
That's OK. That's OK. What we agreed to do is... I mean, this seems in line with... you know.

DANIEL
Yeah. I mean, that's OK. We don't want Chat GPT to write the Bill of Rights. Right?

MAYA
Right. OK. So. Can we figure out the rest the old fashioned way?

JO
Isn't the Bill of Rights a lot of amendments about legal matters? Court... incriminating yourself...

DANIEL
The fifth! Pleading the fifth!

MAYA
Yeah, yeah, like you can't be a witness against yourself.

DANIEL
Thou shalt not bear false witness.

MAYA
That's the bible.

DANIEL
Oh, right.

(MADDIE laughs.)

KAREN

Please don't make fun of the bible.

MADDIE

I wasn't –

MAYA

We're not making fun of the bible, Karen.

JO

She just –

MAYA

I just said that's from –

DANIEL

That's not making fun...

MADDIE

Um. Maybe we should stop trying to come up with the original Bill of Rights and start working on our own Bill of Rights?

MAYA

Yeah yeah.

DANIEL

Right. Should we, like, wear wigs or robes or something?

(Long pause as everyone looks at DANIEL.)

MAYA

I don't think so, no.

(End of scene.)

Scene 5

(Everyone speaks to the audience.)

DANIEL

I work at Wal-Mart. And I was on a break one day and there was this blinding light and this, like, orchestra music? And this dude in a kimono, or like a house dress like my abuelita used to wear, came floating down like out of nowhere and like hovered in front of me and said, “Do you like musicals?” And I was like “I’ve never seen a play before,” and he was like “What? No way!” And then he said “that’s not the point. I’m here because we want you to be part of an experiment.” And I was like – am I going to be taken to a spaceship and have, like, experiments done on me? And he said “We want to put you on the Gunnison City Council and you’re going to make laws for your fellow citizens.” And I was like, “OK.”

JO

I used to teach an Ethics & Philosophy course at Western Colorado University. And in my section about ancient Greece, I talked about theatre as a forum for public discourse. Going to the theatre was a civic and a religious duty. Citizens would hear characters advocate one position or another, and after the performance, be prompted to discuss their own views. Euripides’ *The Trojan Women* was presented while Athens was at war with Sparta, and the play depicted the cruelty of the Greek army after it captured Troy. The debate sparked by the play was so intense that within a year the Athenian citizens voted their government out of office. I told the Theatre Gods that I written my own short play about some issues that are very important to me. I tried handing it to them, but they just wanted to talk about musicals.

KAREN

I feel like my character in this play is underdeveloped. I mean, I know it’s a play, and I know that these theatre companies held story circles in various cities, and the organizers of the Gunnison Valley story circles really hoped that they would get some Conservative voices to participate, so it wasn’t just, in the words of one attendee “progressive, white moms.” But when one prominent local Conservative was asked to take part, they declined. Because they were uncomfortable with the use of the word “Democracy.” So, here I am. A character based on no one.

MAYA

But I said, “So, we’re actually going to do this? For real? Like, it’s not just an experiment. We’re actually going to be doing this for the people of the Gunnison Valley?” And they said, “Listen, we all know that three biggest forces shaping American society today are: 1. Big Tech, 2. Big Pharma, and 3. Big Theatre.” And I said, “Oh, I wasn’t aware that Theatre was...” and they said, “We’re Going To Make This Happen.”

(End of scene.)

Scene 6

MAYA

OK, so who wants to start?

(They all look at each other. MADDIE thinks about raising her hand, then she just speaks.)

MADDIE

Well, I mean, like: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness?

MAYA

Yeah...

DANIEL

That's already in the Constitution.

JO

Declaration of Independence.

DANIEL

Right.

MADDIE

Oh.

MAYA

But that's a good place to start, Maddie –

DANIEL

Is that “We the people...”?

JO

No, that's the Constitution. The Declaration of Independence is “When in the course of human events...”

MADDIE

Yeah, I was just –

MAYA

No, that's OK. This is a good place to start. Why don't we not include anything already covered by one of the big founding documents.

JO

Right.

DANIEL

Yeah.

MADDIE
OK.

MAYA
How 'bout this: what do you think is the biggest, or one of the biggest challenges for our community?

DANIEL
Housing.

JO
Housing.

MAYA
MmHmm. Climate change.

JO
Yes.

MAYA
Maddie?

MADDIE
Like, mental health?

MAYA
MmHmm. Karen?

KAREN
Immigration.

DANIEL
Immigration? That's a challenge in Gunnison?

KAREN
Yes, it's –

JO
That's a local problem?

KAREN
You don't have to live in a border state to be concerned about our nation's immigration policies.

DANIEL
That's the first challenge you thought of for Gunnison?

KAREN

She said climate change!

MAYA

Climate change affects all of us. Every community.

KAREN

So does immigration!

JO.

OK. All right, fine, immigration.

MAYA

OK, so what is something we could include in a Gunnison-specific Bill of Rights that would address these challenges?

(Everyone thinks.)

What do you think, Karen?

(Everyone looks at Karen.)

KAREN

What does it matter?

MAYA

Pardon?

JO

Oh, come on.

KAREN

What does it matter what I think? You all seem to be on the same page, which is decidedly not the page that I happen to be on. So, even if I did have a strong opinion it would probably be overruled.

DANIEL

We all have an equal voice here.

MADDIE

Yeah, I'd like to hear whatever you have to say.

KAREN

Thank you. It just seems like every time I speak everybody comes down on me for some reason.

MAYA

Well –

KAREN

I clearly have some different opinions on some things –

DANIEL

That's OK –

KAREN

And I'm clearly in the minority.

MAYA

Karen. I would like to hear what you have to say. We're starting from scratch, here. We're creating a Bill of Rights for every citizen of the Gunnison Valley. Let's brainstorm. Let's throw out ideas. Jo is taking notes. Would you like to go first? What do you think are civil rights or freedoms or liberties that every citizen is entitled to?

KAREN

Well, I think we should respect the traditional values of this community.

MAYA

OK. Jo, are you –

JO

(writing)

Yes.

MAYA

OK.

DANIEL

What do you consider to be traditional val –

KAREN

See?! This is what I'm –

DANIEL

I'm just asking –

MAYA

Karen –

KAREN

Faith, family, freedom...

MAYA

OK.

MADDIE

Isn't that, like, already covered in the –

KAREN
Oh, for goodness sake!

JO
I think Maddie's right.

DANIEL
Yeah.

MADDIE
The first amendment guarantees the freedom of religion, so that's, like, faith.

DANIEL
Right. And the Declaration of Independence calls for –

JO
Right.

KAREN
What about family?

DANIEL
As a right? Guaranteed to you by the government? You have the right to family?

MADDIE
Yeah, I mean –

KAREN
STOP MAKING FUN OF ME. STOP IT. PLEASE.

DANIEL
We're not –

MAYA	KAREN
Daniel.	STOP.

(pause)

JO
Should we all write poems?

(End of scene.)

Scene 7

MAYA
I come from
the Gunnison
Valley.

JO

DANIEL

MADDIE

KAREN

I come from
Gunnison.

I come from
the
mountains.

I come from
the dorms.

I come from
the Gunnison
Valley.

I come from
the snow
plows
scraping
pavement.

I come from
Sundays at
Six.

Dogs
barking.

Blaring
country
music in the
hallways.

I come from
the crunch of
snow under
tires.

Double
Dragon's
cashew
chicken.

Anejoes
house
margaritas.

Big Hass
smoothie at
Doubleshot.

Patcharee!

Elk, cooked
by a friend
who shot it.

Chicken
Makhani
from Sherpa.

Patcharee.

Gas station
burgers.

City Market
sushi.

So many
coffee shops.

Patcharee
Patcharee
Patcharee

My friend's
garden.

Patcharee.

Shift meals
at Marios.

Patcharee.

Sing a song
of Patcharee!

MAYA

JO

DANIEL

MADDIE

KAREN

I come from
a community
of kindness.

I come from
the
indigenous
people who
nourished
this land.

I come from
no affordable
housing

A place with
little
diversity.

I come from
a mental
health crisis.

I come from
stopping to
say hello.

I come from
a vanishing
middle class.

We all call
him Butch.

I come from
housing
nobody can
afford.

A place with
inequity.

I come from
public good
vs private
prosperity.

I come from
community.

People who
feel like
imposters
because we
don't ski.

I come from
over-priced
housing.

Good folks
without
secure
housing.

A place with
a housing
crisis!

I come from
the same
three bands
play at
everything!

I come from
helping
others.

Gunnison
Valley
Mentors.

I come from
a lack of
housing.

Open space
initiative.

I come from
a struggle for
self-worth.

I come from,
like, no
Third Space.

I come from
a care for
nature

Outsiders
who become
insiders.

I come from
no financial
incentive to
have a long-
term rental.

Legacy of
this
community.

I come from
participation
in civic
decision-
making.

I come from
the definition
of
community
is changing.

MAYA
I am going to

JO
I am going to

DANIEL
I am going to

MADDIE
I am going to

KAREN
I am going to

Be present.

Stay
involved.

Keep
showing up.

Find homes
for all the
people and
dogs.

Believe we
can come
together.

Love people.

I am going to
a community
where all can
thrive.

I am going to
better
listening and
more
empathy.

I am going to
where the
ditches flow.

I am going to
be proud to
be a graduate
of Western.

I am going to
see us for
what we are.

A warm
home that I
can afford.

The heavy
work that
will make
everything
lighter.

Birdsong in
the backyard.

Sustainability.

My friends,
the crows.

And make
the ultra-
wealthy pay
for hoarding
resources,
money,
businesses,
jobs and
land.
Power to the
People!

*(End of
scene)*

Scene 8

(Later. They are all sitting in different positions in various states of exhaustion Maybe someone is pacing.)

JO

(Looks at her notes.)

So far, we only have one Right. And that's:
Every citizen has the right to warm, affordable housing.

(They nod. They're all wracking their brains.)

(End of scene.)

Scene 9

(Later. Different positions. More brain wracking. Maybe someone throws a paper airplane.)

(End of scene.)

Scene 10

(Later. Different positions. More brain wracking. DANIEL gets out a granola bar and noisily unwraps it. Everyone looks at him, shocked and a little offended. He quietly puts it away without eating it.)

(End of scene.)

Scene 11

(Later. Different positions.)

JO

Oh! I have one! How about: Every citizen has the right to a Townie?

MAYA

Love it.

DANIEL

That's great.

MADDIE

I like it!

KAREN

What if you've never learned how to ride a bike?

DANIEL

No...

MAYA

Karen...

KAREN

What.

DANIEL

Seriously?

KAREN

WHAT.

MADDIE

Karen, really?

KAREN

Yes. I don't know how to ride a bike. OK?!

JO

Karen...

KAREN

Are you going to make fun of me for not knowing how to ride a bike, too?!

MADDIE

Karen, when we get out of here, I'm going to teach you how to ride a bike.

(KAREN looks at MADDIE.)

I mean, if you want to.

(Everyone looking at KAREN and MADDIE.)

Would you like to learn? I'm happy to teach you.

KAREN

That's very kind of you, Maddie. OK.

MADDIE

OK.

KAREN

Thank you.

MADDIE

You're welcome.

(End of scene.)

Scene 10

(Later. [Whatever they've been doing for scene transitions, this one is longer, or slower])

JO

And so it came to pass, this group of strangers did indeed draft, and agree upon, a Bill of Rights for Every Citizen of Gunnison County.

The Bill of Rights is as follows:

1. Every citizen has the right to warm, affordable housing.

MAYA

2. Every citizen has the right to education.

DANIEL

3. Every citizen has the right to accessible healthcare.

MADDIE

4. Every citizen has the right to accessible mental healthcare.

KAREN

5. Every citizen has the right to earn a living wage.

JO

6. Every citizen has the right to food security.

MAYA

7. Every citizen has the right to be themselves.

DANIEL

8. Every citizen has the right to fair and equal representation.

MADDIE

9. Every citizen has the right to a Townie. If you do not know how to ride a bike, free lessons will be provided. If you do not own a bike, one will be provided for you from one of the ten bike shops in our tiny valley.

KAREN

10. Every citizen has the right to all these things without shame or doubt.

(They all look at each other.)

JO

That last one was mine.

MAYA MADDIE
Jo! I thought we weren't going to –

JO
You're right. You're right. Strike that from the record.

MADDIE
Wait, are we being –

JO
And we may or may not have proved William F. Buckley right during our brief time together as the first five people in the hypothetical Gunnison telephone directory. But as we all emerged from Council Chambers that day, blinking into the light, Maya suggested that we all go to happy hour at The Dive. Karen said she wished there were more things for adults to do in the Gunnison Valley that didn't involve drinking. The Theatre Gods heard that and invited us to picnic instead. One of the Theatre Gods suggested that we karaoke showtunes after the picnic. Not one of the five of us wanted to karaoke showtunes. The Theatre Gods heard that as well, and abandoned the idea. Because we live in a democracy.

At the picnic, Karen and Maddie arrived together, on bikes.

And people may see us in the simplest terms, in the most convenient definitions, but through the power of live theatre, what we found out is that each one of us is:

MAYA
A college-educated Black woman.

MADDIE
An undecided, 18 – 35-year-old.

DANIEL
A Wal-Mart employee trying unsuccessfully to get his co-workers to unionize.

KAREN
A suburban white mom.

JO
A retired lesbian.

MAYA MADDIE
Jo! What?!

JO

What. It never came up.

DANIEL

And the Theatre Gods asked us, “Well, what have we got?” And we said:

EVERYONE

A Bill of Rights for Gunnison County.

(DANIEL thrusts his fist into the air like Bender from The Breakfast Club, and they all walk off into the distance.)

End of Play

