

00:00:17

MICHAEL: Millstone. Raritan. Arthur Kill.

00:00:22

New York Harbor.

00:00:29

Memorandum to Dean Charles M. Woolfolk. Subject: Canoe trip to Manhattan. Can you give some attention to the [inaudible] pressing? Did you know that ever since the Indians, no one has ever canoed from Princeton, where we live, to Manhattan Island. How about you and me doing it on Labor Day weekend? CHARLIE: To: Professor Michael Rocklin. Subject: Canoe trip in reference to your recent memo. Are you out of your cotton-picking mind? You want to canoe, fine, but let's go where we're not likely to be cut in two by an ocean liner. Otherwise you can count me out. MICHAEL: Charlie, is that your final word? CHARLIE: Final word, Michael. Absolutely. [Radio playing] Hey, hey, hey! It's the start of a big play Labor Day weekend here in New York City. And we are right here at the top spot on your dial with 24-hour news, weather and songs on Number One Sound, Power Radio. Out of Manhattan, WNOW.

00:01:42

Well obviously it wasn't the final word. That's me, Charlie under that heavy canoe with my crazy friend Michael. All summer long he kept whooping it up for a canoe trip from Princeton to New York. I kept holding out for a wilderness trip but it wasn't any use. I guess I knew all along that as soon as I'd agreed to any kind of canoe trip we would end up going where Michael wanted to go. So when Labor Day weekend came around there we were headed for three days on big city waters. [Radio playing] It's the Big Daddy with the big sound with a big weekend. Number 37 in New York bubba let's rock and roll!

00:02:31

Speaker Name

And no matter what channel you traveling you will always come back to Power Radio! Yesterday, today and tomorrow. One more time with the Big One, it's time to get it together! It's the top spot for all the action all the time. Remember Big Daddy says if you want to be in the know or if you want to know where to go you'll hear at first on Power Radio! Anything, anywhere, any way. So sit back this Labor Day weekend, relax, pour yourself a tall, cool one and get it on! MICHAEL: Charlie, we made it baby!

00:03:11

Come on, let's get going. It's going to be all easy from now on. CHARLIE: Now before we go any further there's something I should tell you about Michael. He is the eternal optimist. Anyone who was born and raised in the Bronx would have to be. It's the one characteristic in Michael that I find more tediously admire and cannot stand. CHARLIE: Michael you must be crazy. I can't go another inch. And we're not even in the water yet.

00:03:48

How did I ever let you talk me into this.

00:03:51

And you will notice in me a strong streak of pessimism. Well maybe not pessimism Exactly. Let's say I'm a skeptic. Maybe it's got something to do with my Southern upbringing. As it turned out that my skepticism was warranted. Right away we met our first problem today. STRANGER: Hey! Where are you guys going? MICHAEL: New York City. STRANGER: Not in that you're not. CHARLIE: Why not? STRANGER: There's no water. It nearly tore the bottom out of my canoe. MICHAEL: We're going to go anyhow. STRANGER: Better pray for rain. Where did you say you are going? MICHAEL: New York City. STRANGER: In a canoe? Lots of luck. CHARLIE: You hear that Mike? No water. MICHAEL: Shoot. There's plenty of water. Let's get this show on the road. CHARLIE: [Groans loudly] MICHAEL: What's the matter? CHARLIE: My hand. The water did it. MICHAEL: Ahhh. Stop clowning. CHARLIE: Phew. That stuff is fresh out of the sewer plant. It's going to eat the bottom out of this canoe. Speaking of eating. What did you bring for food? MICHAEL: Oh we got Ritz Crackers. We got Fritos, Pop Tarts.

00:05:11

We got prunes. Another box of prunes. Marshmallows. We got Cracker Jacks. CHARLIE: Where are we going, to a drive-in movie? MICHAEL: Heck, we've gotta have this kind of food so it won't spoil in the heat. CHARLIE: Prunes? Maybe we'll spoil in the heat. MICHAEL: Look it's a balanced diet. CHARLIE: Balanced with what? Hey.

00:05:38

Which end is the front of this thing?

00:05:41

I knew I didn't know anything about it a canoe. But I was shocked to find out Mike didn't either. And we were ready to embark on a trip that would take us literally to the Atlantic Ocean.

00:05:52

“Michael,” I said, “let's postpone this trip until we learn how to paddle. What do you say?”

MICHAEL: I say we shut up and just come here [takes a picture]. [Music plays] I got a gal and she loves me. She's as sweet as she can be. She's got eyes of baby blue. Makes my gun shoot straight and true. Going up Cripple Creek. Going in to run. Going up Cripple Creek to have a little fun. CHARLIE: The Indians called the Millstone the Mannawang (sp), which means hard to travel. They were right. The Indian who named it that must have tried to canoe it like we did in late summer when it hadn't rained for two months. The water was so low we could hardly float. At every turn stumps and tree limbs and other junk got in the way.

00:06:51

Michael could not care less long as I kept making like Humphrey Bogart. [Music plays] Cripple Creek is wide. Cripple Creek is deep, but I'll wade Cripple Creek before I sleep. Roll my britches to my knees. Wade on Cripple Creek as I please. Going up Cripple Creek. Going in to run. Going up Cripple Creek to have a little fun.

00:07:07

Speaker Name

Going up Cripple Creek. Going in to run. Going up Cripple Creek to have a little fun. CHARLIE: It became evident after an hour or two in the swamp that knowing how to handle a canoe was definitely not a prerequisite for this trip. [Music plays] I went down to Cripple Creek to see what those guys were having to drink. And I got drunk and fell against the wall. The old corn liquor was the cause of it all. Going up Cripple Creek. Going in to run. Going up Cripple Creek to have a little fun. CHARLIE: My father used to tell me that anything worth doing was worth doing well. He also used to tell me not to criticize others who might not have had the same advantage as I had. He'd quote Kipling about keeping my head when everyone else was losing theirs. I wondered what Michael's father used to tell him. [Music plays] Going up Cripple Creek. Going in to run. Going up Cripple Creek to have a little fun. Going up Cripple Creek. Going in to run. Going up Cripple Creek to have a little fun.

00:08:41

CHARLIE: This is ridiculous. We have been out here for three hours and I don't think we've make a mile yet.

00:08:50

MICHAEL: Push? CHARLIE: Yeah. CHARLIE: Mike said we were a modern-day Lewis and Clark but it seemed more like Mutt and Jeff to me. And if things weren't bad enough already Mike decided to audition for the Metropolitan Opera. MICHAEL: [loud singing] You and me we, we sweat and strain. Bodies aching. Wracked with pain. Tote that barge. Lift that bale. You get a little drunk. FEMALE STUDENT: Dr. Rockland? MICHAEL: [loud singing] And you land in jail! FEMALE STUDENT: Dr. Rockland! MICHAEL: Oh my God. That's one of my students. Sally What's Her Face. FEMALE STUDENT: Doctor Rockland, what are you doing here? CHARLIE: He comes here every day just to sing Old Man River. FEMALE STUDENT: Really? But where are you going? MICHAEL: We're canoeing to New York. MALE STUDENT: Heavy. FEMALE STUDENT: Who is that with you? Oh, Dean Woolfolk. Oh, I didn't recognize you with the uh, uh. CHARLIE: That's all I needed. The word was sure to get around campus that the good Dean had lost his mind. Michael didn't care though the word had been out on him for some time. [Music plays] I'm on my way to Canaan land. I'm on my way to Canaan land. I'm

00:10:53

on my way. Great God, I'm on my way. I asked my brother to go with me. I asked my brother to go with me. I asked my brother to go with me. I'm on my way. Great God, I'm on my way. If you can't go, don't you hinder me. If you can't go, don't you hinder me. If you can't go, don't you hinder me. I'm on my way to Canaan land. I'm on my way to Canaan land. I'm on my way. Great God, I'm on my way. STRANGER: Hi. Nice day on the river isn't it? MICHAEL: Yeah, it really is a nice day. We came from Princeton up there. We're going to go all the way down here and hope to find the Raritan. CHARLIE: I don't know how many times I had to listen to the same thing. Every time we passed someone Michael told them the whole story. STRANGER: ... back? MICHAEL: Yeah. STRANGER: Look fella. I took my family up the Arthur Kill in a cabin cruiser and

I'll tell you at Arthur Kill is wall to wall oil tankers. I had to turn around and go back. And the waves were so high, and the current so strong, I never did get to New York. MICHAEL: Well we're going to make it one way or the other. CHARLIE: Hey mister, how far is it to the Raritan? STRANGER: The Raritan? It's right there. CHARLIE: Right where? STRANGER: Right in front of you. CHARLIE: That's it? STRANGER: Yup. CHARLIE: You mean we dragged this thing over 20 miles of snags and paddle it halfway across the state of New Jersey just to get to that? Come on Michael let's go. MICHAEL: Hey. Sure you wouldn't like to come along? STRANGER: Not on your life.

00:14:17

CHARLIE: However impossible this might seem, the Raritan, one of New Jersey's major waterways, looks smaller than the Millstone. I'd been hoping that it would be a big wide river. So wide that Michael wouldn't be able to talk to anyone on the banks, even if he shouted at the top of his lungs. CHARLIE: Can't you let a single living soul go by without telling them all about this trip? If we run across the Creature from the Black Lagoon the first thing you'll say is, "Hi. We're canoeing to New York City. MICHAEL: So what. CHARLIE: So what? That guy back thinks we're crazy. MICHAEL: Why should he? CHARLIE: Why should he? What if you were in a bathtub and out of the faucet comes a battleship and the Admiral says, "Hi, I'm on my way to the Pacific Ocean. Would you or would you not think he'd lost his mind? MICHAEL: You're too much Woolfolk, you really are. Hey let's move this thing. We got a long way to go.

00:15:12

The sun is going down. CHARLIE: It was pitch dark before we found a public park on the banks of the Raritan. Up to that point we haven't seen anything but hostile "Keep Out" and "Private Property" signs. [Radio playing] We will have more for you right after this big one. CHARLIE: Hey Michael you bring any kind of weapon? MICHAEL: Weapon? What for? CHARLIE: What for? We are canoeing into New York Harbor. Those guys in Deliverance got buggered and they were only out in the woods. MICHAEL: Listen,

00:15:53

nothing is going to happen to us. Besides, the Statue of Liberty is gonna take good care of us. CHARLIE: The Statue of Liberty. She's standing up there like an advertising for Right Guard. She won't do a thing when the muggers and buggers get us. MICHAEL: We shouldn't take a weapon on a trip like this. This trip's a crusade. We're going into New York Harbor because those people in the city are too scared to come out in the streets. We're going to come in there with our canoe and prove they've got nothing to be afraid of. We're going to lift the siege on the whole town. Look we get in there. They give us a ticker tape parade. They have fire boats with streams of water in the sky. They take us to City Hall and give us the keys to the city. The Mayor is there and we get telegrams and Nixon and Brezhnev and Golda Meir. Then they fly our wives up there by helicopter and give them a corsage. You make a speech. I make a speech. And old Norman Mailer

00:16:50

see, he's down there on the stairs. CHARLIE: Hold it. Hold it. The weather report. [Radio playing] From Long Island to Cape May. They are saying a summer storm will be a short-lived one, but while it's here it will generate high winds and a lot of rain. In fact the word is it could develop into a full-blown hurricane before it's over. CHARLIE: A hurricane? [Radio playing] We are sorry about that. We'll keep you posted on this weather so we can keep it going. MICHAEL: Oh, don't listen to that stuff. Those guys make it up. CHARLIE: You don't make up a hurricane. It either exists or it doesn't. MICHAEL: OK so we have a hurricane. It'll be a ball. CHARLIE: A ball? Michael you're crazy. You're gonna drown us tomorrow. MICHAEL: Supposing it's real bad. We get blown around a little bit. OK. CHARLIE: Mike if we wake up in the morning in the middle of a hurricane, there is no way you're going to get me out in that thing. MICHAEL: That's your final word? CHARLIE: Final word. Absolutely. [Wind and rain] CHARLIE: Michael, let's get out of this stuff. MICHAEL: Keep going. The rain's gonna let up some time. CHARLIE: You were right. It stopped raining. MICHAEL: Hey, what time is it getting to be? CHARLIE: It's 3:30.

00:18:16

How much farther? MICHAEL: Well the Garden State Parkway Bridge is right over there and Perth Amboy ought to be right on the other side of it.

00:18:24

CHARLIE: It's the wind. It keeps blowing us back up the river. MICHAEL: Hey what's the matter with your arms? CHARLIE: I don't know. Every time I relax them they keep coming up like that. Don't yours? MICHAEL: Nah. It must be the dried prunes. Come on let's get going.

00:18:46

Wow. We made it. We made it. The Atlantic Ocean, Charlie. This here is Perth Amboy. That must be Staten Island. And that must be the beginning of the Arthur Kill. CHARLIE: Well where do we camp? MICHAEL: Let's head for Staten Island. CHARLIE: Oh, come on Michael. It's starting to rain again. Let's go into Perth and get a hotel room. MICHAEL: Shoot!

00:19:07

Hotel room on a canoe trip. You must be kidding. There's a beach over there. Let's keep going to Staten Island. CHARLIE: It was dark and raining hard before we reached that beach on Staten Island. The lights of a small town guided us in. Michael insisted we put up a tent instead of seeking proper shelter, but when he offered me a soggy Ritz Cracker for dinner, I rebelled. Wet, tired and hungry

00:19:37

we stumbled into Dave's Bar. BAR TENDER: What will you have boys? MICHAEL: How about a couple of beers? BAR TENDER: Coming right up.

00:19:47

CHARLIE: Hey, how are you feeling? MICHAEL: I'm really tired. My back is killing me. My arms feel like they're going to fall off. And I really stink. CHARLIE: Yeah. You do stink. Too. Hey how much longer are we going to put up with this? Why don't we call home? MICHAEL: What for? CHARLIE: So somebody can come and pick us up. I can never find this place.

00:20:14

BAR TENDER: Here we go boys. That'll be twenty cents. MICHAEL: Twenty cents? For two beers? Where is this

00:20:20

place? CHARLIE: Tauntonville. That's where it was. Probably the only place left in America that still sells 10 cent beer. And just when I thought I could get Michael to give up this crazy trip. BAR TENDER: Sure.

00:20:39

CHARLIE: Well what do you say? Let's call home. MICHAEL: Are you kidding? Ten cent beers. That's a sign from heaven.

00:20:47

BAR TENDER: Is ice water all right? MICHAEL: Is it? You see Charlie, providence is smiling on us tonight. CHARLIE: Shhh. [Radio plays] A tropical disturbance that moved into the New York area this morning has begun to move out to sea. Fair skies and normal temperatures should return tomorrow, although there still will be some gusty winds. High temperatures will be... MICHAEL: See, I told you everything's gonna be all right. CHARLIE: Give us another round.

00:21:29

When I looked out that morning I was greeted by a scene so forlorn that my first reaction was to hide in my sleeping bag. We seem to have pitched our tent on a disaster area. Rotten pilings and docks, old tires, orange peels, plastic containers and through all this, a horseshoe crab had nearly crawled in for the night. MICHAEL: Hey, is it still raining? CHARLIE: No it stopped, but the wind is still blowing. MICHAEL: What time is it? CHARLIE: Seven o'clock. MICHAEL: Seven o'clock? We will never get to Ellis Island by...OH! What is that thing? CHARLIE: That's a little gift from the sea. MICHAEL: Oh that's terrible. CHARLIE: What's for breakfast Michael, I'm starving. MICHAEL: I know, I'm pretty hungry myself. Hey let's get out the old goody bag and see what we've got. Well, we got marshmallows and we got Fritos. We got Ritz Crackers and Pop Tarts and peanuts. And we've got your old favorite old buddy -- prunes, prunes and more prunes.

00:22:52

CHARLIE: But the garbage in Michael's bag wasn't anything compared to what we ran into a little way up the Arthur Kill. Everywhere we looked there was garbage. It probably came from all over New York, Brooklyn, Queens, wherever and they were dumping it here. Truckload after truckload as if they were mining the garbage somewhere and stockpiling it on Staten Island. Someday, these dumps will say a lot to archaeologists about our civilization. [Music plays] This land is your land. This land is my land. From California to the New York island. From the Redwood forest, to the Gulf Stream waters. This land was made for you and me. CHARLIE: Between the sea and the land there's always been an eternal struggle with the two forces in some kind of balance. But here, with the help of man, an alien land was winning the battle. We had never been so close to so much garbage. And we paddled as rapidly as possible to get away from it. [Music plays] This land was made for you and me. CHARLIE: After two days of prunes and Pop Tarts we didn't stand much of a chance against the elements.

00:24:41

The sun was as fierce that day as the rain had been before. Not only that, the wind and the current and the tide were against us. If we'd known then about tides, that they run out at six miles per hour, we never would have tried it. Inadvertently we entered a channel through a graveyard of rusting hulks and rotting ferryboats. The voices of the past were as terrifying as the problems of the present.

00:25:12

[Mélange of voices echoing things said from the start of the video] Wracked with pain! You're going to go up the Arthur Kill in that canoe? Michael you're crazy. Oh it must be the dried prunes. I never did make it to New York.

00:25:25

Well, we're going to make it, one way or the other. Michael you're crazy. Final word. Absolutely. Besides, the Statue of Liberty is gonna take good care of us. STRANGER #1: Would you like some coffee? Would you like some coffee? CHARLIE: Where are we? [Steam coming out of pipes] STRANGER #1: We got coffee and danish. Two kinds, cherry and prune.

00:26:01

CHARLIE: Hey, what's this place for? STRANGER #1: It's a cleaning plant. We clean out the tank barges here. Steam clean the insides. CHARLIE: Yeah? Hey you guys hear anything about the weather? STRANGER #1: I hear it's going to clear up and be just perfect for Labor Day. STRANGER #2: I hope so. Because me and the old lady are going to the country for the weekend. CHARLIE: No, about the wind. Any chance this wind is gonna let up?

00:26:24

STRANGER: I hope not. This breeze is just right. Otherwise it'd be much hotter in here. CHARLIE: Well for us out there it's terrible. We can't move. STRANGER #2: Where are you headed? CHARLIE: Manhattan. STRANGER #1: Cool. STRANGER #2: In a canoe? MICHAEL: Yeah, but I don't think we're ever going to make it. You were right last night Charlie. We can't get up there by nightfall. That wind, it's never going to quit. And I have absolutely had it. STRANGER #2: Why don't you guys try to get a tow. CHARLIE: No. STRANGER #2: No I mean it. I'll make you a sign. Maybe somebody will throw you a rope. CHARLIE: Hey, maybe he's got something there. MICHAEL: Look Charlie, we've got to get there on our own power. CHARLIE: Well we can't get there on our own power. MICHAEL: What do you want us to do, take an automobile? What's the point? CHARLIE: The point, my goal-oriented friends, is that I could've quit on this trip at any time. But you kept saying, "We gotta make it. We gotta make it." Well we're not gonna make unless we get some help. If we don't get a tow we'll never make it to Ellis Island, much less Manhattan. MICHAEL: OK. OK.

00:27:41

I don't like it, but I don't see any other way. Man have you ever seen somebody just expire from exhaustion right before your very eyes? STRANGER #2: What do you think gents? [Holds up a sign saying "Tow Up River"] MICHAEL: You sir, are a true artist. MICHAEL AND CHARLIE: [Shouting] Hey. Here we go. There's another one coming. Hey, hey hey! Hey, please. Come on, give us a tow.

00:28:39

MICHAEL: Some people. You know, they could give us a tow. Hey, another one. Hey! Come on over our way. Can you tow us up river?

00:29:01

Are you sure you can do it? Really? Oh great!

00:29:08

Whoopee! This is the greatest. Terrific. We have never had this kind of luck before. This is terrific. Nobody will ever believe this. CHARLIE: All our yelling and shouting finally paid off. The captain said he was going up the Arthur Kill and would drop us in the entrance of New York Harbor. For the first time I felt that maybe, just maybe we could make it. [Music plays] Come along boys and go with me. Sail away ladies, sail away. We'll go back to Tennessee. Sail away ladies, sail away. Don't you [inaudible] [unintelligible]. Hush little baby don't you cry. You'll be an angel by and by. Sail away ladies, sail away. Don't you [unintelligible]. CHARLIE: It was nice to have somebody else doing the work for a change, but as the boat gained speed we found ourselves bouncing in its wake.

00:30:41

We should have been frightened to death but figured with this piece of luck we had to be leading a charmed life.

00:31:04

[Music plays] Muskrat Sallie Ann. Dragged his split tail through the sand. Picking on a banjo Sally Ann. I'm gonna marry you Sal, Sal. I'm gonna marry you Sallie Ann. I'm gonna marry you Sal, Sal. I'm gonna marry you. CHARLIE: Our luck kept getting better and better. At Dave's Bar the Beer was 10 cents, but this guy was giving it away free. And you can bet those girls were a welcome sight too. Michael and I just lay back and enjoyed the whole thing. I was beginning to like this trip. [Music plays] I make my living in sandy land. I make my living in sandy land. Picking on a banjo Sally Ann. I'm gonna marry you Sally Ann. I'm gonna marry you Sal, Sal. I'm gonna marry you Sally Ann.

00:32:07

The Arthur Kill as lined with more chemical plants, power stations and oil refineries than you can imagine. This has to be one of the largest industrial complexes in America. But lying in the canoe as we were it can have a curious beauty. Of course it's not the sort of thing you look forward to on a canoe trip. It isn't just what's on shore. It's what's in the water too. Oil spills, floating garbage and of course boats of all kinds. The closer we got to New York the bigger the boats got. These were ocean going tankers and tugs the size of small hotels. The industries along here have been the scene of one disaster after another. Gas tanks have exploded, tankers collided. No wonder they call it the Arthur Kill. And here we were zipping through it all behind our powerboat with no more effort than it takes to ride the Monorail at Disneyland. MICHAEL: Hey, you for it? CHARLIE: I'm for it.

00:33:31

Let's go! [Music plays] As I walk down the Broadway one evening in July. I met a maid, she asked me trade and a sailor Jack says I. And away, you sandy. My dear Annie. Oh, you New York gals can you dance the Polka. CHARLIE: Well we made it. In spite of all my complaining we'd overcome the obstacles and met the challenges and I don't mind telling you I was just a little bit proud and doggone glad Michael I kept after me to make this trip. The tide had finally changed and we rode it right up past the Statue of Liberty. It was a good thing too.

00:34:29

If we'd met the wrong tides here, we'd have been swept out under the Verrazano Bridge and ended up in some place like the Canary Islands. I was ready to run that canoe straight across the Harbor to Battery Park and call it a day. But Michael still wanted to visit Ellis Island. I didn't sense it then, but as you will soon see Ellis would prove to be a bizarre end to an already unusual trip. [Music plays] Well I kissed her hard and proper and back to the ship did steer. I'll never court flesh girls no more, I'll stick to rum and beer. And away you sandy, my dear Annie. Oh you New York girls, can you dance the Polka.

00:35:20

MICHAEL: Wow. Ellis Island. Isn't that fantastic? Hey let's go in there Charlie. CHARLIE: We can't go in there.

00:35:30

Look at those signs. No trespassing.

00:35:34

MICHAEL: Oh, they just put that up for the tourists. Let's go.

00:35:38

CHARLIE: Michael, you're gonna get us thrown in jail. It wasn't just the fines that were bothering me, I began to have a funny feeling about the whole island.

00:35:56

MICHAEL: Wow. This is really a strange place. CHARLIE: Yeah and it's gonna get a lot stranger in a minute. Look what's coming around the point. Let's get this thing in the bushes. That funny feeling wasn't so funny anymore. I could just see the headline, Canoe Raiders Jailed. But with the police boat moving on, we figured that they hadn't seen us. So we decided to keep the canoe under cover and have a look around.

00:36:30

What an incredible place this old immigration center is. Like something out of Great Expectations. The huge, brick buildings rose up to copper covered roofs that were desperately holding themselves together. The pathways outside were overgrown with vines and weeds that wanted to block our passage. A sunken boat at the dock meant that not even the ghosts could get off this island. Inside, eerie hallways led to rooms where time seemed to have stopped long ago. Papers were still on the desks. You could almost hear the foreign voices and the cries of children. Plaster was falling off the walls and hanging in festoons from the ceiling. The island had its own power plant and machine shops. I had the feeling that if we could find the right switch everything would start up again.

00:37:30

It was like a silent movie that stuck in the projector. Michael said his grandparents came through here and they and all the other immigrants were going to have their names engraved on the walls of a museum. I was thinking about that and then I saw that old coat. Hey, look at that.

00:37:55

MICHAEL: Hey, don't do that. CHARLIE: What's the matter with you?

00:38:04

MICHAEL: Nothing. CHARLIE: Boy was he touchy. Was everything here holy or something? All right. [Loud piano playing] If he wanted to be holy about it I'd give him his fill of it. That chapel we stumbled into was ready made for a ham like me.

00:38:25

MICHAEL: Come on. Knock it off will you. CHARLIE: Praise the Lord! Gather around all you ragged refuse and praise the Lord that gave you safe passage to this Christian land.

MICHAEL: Bull. CHARLIE: It says in the Bible that they shall

00:38:41

speak in tongues. And do I hear one speaking in a foreign tongue back there? MICHAEL: I said bull! CHARLIE: Praise God brother. It won't be long before you'll be an American and speaking the language of us all.

00:38:56

You hear that your ragged and your poor? There is a man that will be a success and the Lord helps him who helps himself. So help yourself to America. Take that heathen portion. It's God's country. Go and build the railroads, mine coal, make the steel, dig a canal.

00:39:15

Now you're getting the point brother. By the sweat of thy brow shall thy earn thy bread. Go and sweat in the sweet land of liberty. Keep clean, work hard and know thy place and the good Lord will smile down on you and bless this land. Hallelujah! [Unintelligible]

00:39:36

Okay maybe I did push the little too far. I can see now that I'd underestimated how intensely Michael felt his immigrant ancestry. [Background singing - God Bless America] [Singing in various languages]

00:41:26

CHARLIE: Where you been? I've been looking all over for you.

00:41:29

MICHAEL: Oh, just looking around. CHARLIE: This building is crumbling.

00:41:36

MICHAEL: Don't do that. CHARLIE: Don't do what? MICHAEL: Don't kick things around like that. CHARLIE: Hey, is this place ever huge? MICHAEL: Twelve million people came through this place.

00:41:47

CHARLIE: Twelve million people. That's more than the whole state of New Jersey. By now

00:41:53

Michael had had it with me. Realizing that he was truly unhappy, I tried to talk to him but he said people like me might never understand. That finally made me angry. Just because my people were in this country a hundred years before there was an Ellis Island I was suddenly some kind of a leper. But I wasn't kidding back there in the chapel it was us who put this country together so the immigrants would have something to run to. We welcomed them here with open arms. Gave them a land of milk and honey and made them part of the greatest society on Earth. But Michael didn't see it that way and insisted that I look at things from the immigrant side of the table. What the hell do you want of me?

00:42:46

[Three loud bangs] MICHAEL: Step forward.

00:42:48

CHARLIE: Let me tell you he wanted a lot. That old coat fit better than you'd ever have thought, but the mildew was awful.

00:42:57

As soon as he shoved it on me I knew I had another part to play. MICHAEL: Race? CHARLIE: White. MICHAEL: Religion? CHARLIE: Protestant. MICHAEL: National origin? CHARLIE: England. MICHAEL: The country is filling up with these people.

00:43:25

Name? CHARLIE: Woolfolk. MICHAEL: Spell it. CHARLIE: W.O.O.L.F.O.L.K.

00:43:36

MICHAEL: What's it mean? You don't look WASP-ish.

00:43:40

CHARLIE: What's it mean? It means shepherd or wool merchant. It's my name. MICHAEL: Look, how'd you like to have a nice American name like

00:43:55

Vocwalinsky? CHARLIE: Vollo. Wenski? MICHAEL: That's right. Vocwalinsky. Look they may make an immigrant museum here someday and inscribe all their names. You wouldn't want them to put you down as Woolfolk would you? CHARLIE: But I can't even pronounce Vol... CHARLIE: That doesn't matter. The important thing is that the people here know how to pronounce it. [Loud bangs] I'm gonna spray you for lice and vermin now. Open your coat.

00:44:43

Now then are you ready to become an American? CHARLIE: Yes sir. MICHAEL: Well there is a canoe leaving for Manhattan in the morning. Be on it. And another thing.

00:44:56

Do something about that nose. CHARLIE: My nose? What's the matter with my nose? MICHAEL: What's the matter with your nose? What's the matter with your nose? What's the matter with your nose? [Harsh laughter]

00:45:40

CHARLIE: That canoe did leave for Manhattan.

00:45:43

And we were both on it. Rockland and Vocwalinsky.

00:46:03

MICHAEL: Look, this trip is kind of a crusade. We go into New York City because those people are too scared to go out into the streets. We canoe into the harbor and we show them they don't have anything to be afraid of. We're going to lift the siege on that town. CHARLIE: Who, us? MICHAEL: Yeah, us.

00:46:19

Look we're the great urban explorers. Look, we get in there, they give us a ticker tape parade. They have fire boats with streams of water in the sky. They take us to City Hall and give us the keys to the city. The Mayor is there and we get telegrams from Nixon and Brezhnev and Golda Maier.

00:46:39

CHARLIE: Hey. Where are you guys going? MICHAEL: New York City. CHARLIE: Where are you guys come from?

00:46:59

Speaker Name

MICHAEL: Princeton, New Jersey. CHARLIE: In a canoe? CHARLIE AND MICHAEL: You must be crazy [laughter]! [Music plays] Going up Cripple Creek. Going in to run. Going up Cripple Creek to have a little fun.