

## **1. MEDIA SPIN**

**SILKWORM**

So whose life you gonna ruin today?

**JONES**

Not ruin. *Promote*. Some dippy college kid.

**SILKWORM**

What's your spin?

**JONES**

*Me? Spin?* I'm a straight-news reporter.

**SILKWORM**

And *I'm* George Washington. What's with the kid?

**JONES**

He's written a sappy song. Called "Free the Music." Whattaya think he means by that?

**SILKopopWORM**

I dunno. Get the music outta jail?

**JONES**

We think he's promoting downloads. You know, kids swipin' songs and not payin'. And we're not happy about it.

**SILKWORM**

Who's the *we*?

**JONES**

The guys who run the guys who pay the guys who sign my paycheck.

**SILKWORM**

I see. MegaMaxiMusic.

**JONES**

As in, MegaMaxiMedia. Music, magazines, movies, and me.

**SILKWORM**

What are you gonna do about it?

**JONES**

Get him under contract. And then teach him the ways of the world.

**SILKWORM**

That explains the puff piece.

**JONES**

*And*, he's from Klunk's district. My bosses are tryin' to push the Music Rights bill through Klunk's committee. Get it?

**SILKWORM**

Music Rights? More like Music Rip-Offs. For MegaMaxi.

**JONES**

That's why we're playin' it nice... for now. Nasty comes later,... if required.

**SILKWORM**

Nice-Nasty, nasty-nice. Jones, you're *very* versatile. Oh, and uh,... say hi to the guy in your headset, will ya?

*(SILKWORM sees SUAREZ, and exits before she notices him.)*

**JACK**

I am *so pumped!* Won this song award... Trip to Washington!... Off to college next week!

**SUAREZ**

Jefferson City College.

**JACK**

Yeah. Campus life is gonna rock. They got broad-band in the dorms, you know.

**SUAREZ**

Careful. They're suin' people for that, you know.

**JACK**

Yeah,... but I don't download. I upload. Songs that people can sing. For themselves. I'm fine with people downloadin' my songs without payin'. It means they're singin' 'em.

**SUAREZ**

That's legal.

*(JONES walks over to JACK.)*

**JONES**

So you're one of those guys who thinks music oughtta be free, are ya?

**JACK**

I guess.

*(JONES snaps her fingers. The camera starts filming.)*

**JONES**

I'm Jocelyn Jones, here in the U.S. Capitol with young Jackson Smith, who won this year's Congressional Song Writing Award for a wonderful tune called "Free the Music." What do you mean by that?

**JACK**

Exactly what the title says. Music oughtta be free.

**JONES**

Funny you should say that. My sources tell me, you're about to be offered a big contract. By MegaMaxiMusic.

**JACK**

*Me? Wow! That rocks!*

**JONES**

How's it feel to be famous?

**JACK**

*Famous?*

**JONES**

Gonna cash in?

**JACK**

*Cash in?*

**JONES**

There you have it. In his own words. Young man writes a song, wins a contest, and cashes in on fame. I'm Jocelyn Jones.

## **2. MUSIC LOBBYISTS**

**CONNY**

Libby, check out this piece in the Post. MegaMaxi plans to re-release all the old Janis Joplin albums, recut as Andean folk tunes, complete with llama grunts and bird whistles. That oughtta appeal to the old hippie in you.

**LIBBY**

Stop invading my space, you hick-chick music wacko. Go play your country songs. Backwards. And walk out of the bar sober.

**CONNY**

Libby, we disagree about many things, but *not* about our client.

**LIBBY / CONNY**

MegaMaxiMedia.

**CONNY**

People should pay, when they listen to music.

**LIBBY**

*Politicians* should pay, when they *don't* listen to us.

**CONNY**

Because we dish the cash...

**LIBBY**

To people we like.

**CONNY**

And dish the muck...

**LIBBY**

On people we *don't* like.

**CONNY**

What's with Klunk? He let that teacher embarrass our client. Wonder if he's drifting on us.

**LIBBY**

That songwriter student of hers is of more immediate concern.

**CONNY**

Oh?

**LIBBY**

MegaMaxi wants to own him. And control that “Free the Music” song of his. So they can kill it.

**CONNY**

Lucky boy.

**LIBBY**

He has this thing about free music. He wants people to download his songs from the web without paying.

**CONNY**

How *unpalatable*.

**LIBBY**

He’s gonna be on national TV tonight. Suppose that song hits it big. Imagine what that would mean for the music industry? All the money MegaMaxi has spent on anti-piracy ads and lawsuits would be totally wasted.

**CONNY**

How *unprofitable*.

And for *us*?

**CONNY**

How *unemployed*.

**LIBBY**

On top of which, the first line of his song is about the Veterans Bridge, soon to be renamed the...

**LIBBY / CONNY**

MegaMaxiMedia Veterans Bridge.

**CONNY**

Which has such a nice musical ring.

**LIBBY**

It’s why we gotta get him to sign today, *before* he sings on national TV, *before* he tells everybody to download, *before* MegaMaxi goes public about their name on that bridge.

**CONNY**

If he won’t?

**LIBBY**

They want him.... handled.

### **3. MODERN ROMANCE**

**SUAREZ**

I never thought I’d find *you* here, Sly. After we broke up, didn’t you move to New York to be a teacher?

**SILKWORM**

For two weeks. Then I went into advertising, and got hired to elect a mayor. I learned how makin’ people vote for a politician is like makin’ ‘em buy shoes. You gotta fit the product to the customer.

**SUAREZ**

And *that* profound thought inspired you to go into politics?

**SILKWORM**

Uh-huh.

**SUAREZ**

Don't you care what your clients stand for?

**SILKWORM**

Nope.

**SUAREZ**

And *you* are helping Klunk rename the Veterans Bridge after MegaMaxiMedia? What on earth for?

*(SILKWORM shrugs.)*

Suppose you get away with it. *Then* what?

**SILKWORM**

Mountain tops in national parks. For naming rights to one snow-covered peak, we could get ten or twelve million, depending on how it looks on a can of beer.

**SUAREZ**

Politics is *not* Comedy Central.

**SILKWORM**

Nor is it your civics textbook. Lighten up, Lisa.

**SUAREZ**

Not unless you tell me what other goodies are in this bill.

**SILKWORM**

Oh, just a little something about, you know, protecting innocent people in the music business from dangerous young troublemakers.

**SUAREZ**

I'll bet.

**SILKWORM**

Come on, Lisa, it's just a game. You're either a *player*, or you *get played*.

**SUAREZ**

Well, *deal me out*.

**SILKWORM**

Hey. *I* got no problem with what I do. So the money's good. Does that make it wrong?

**SUAREZ**

It's because of snakes like *you*, most people think politics is a rotten profession.

**SILKWORM**

That's the first nice thing you've said.... So I still make you mad, huh?...

**SUAREZ**

*(softly)* Yes.

Anybody else make you this mad?  
**SILKWORM**

No!  
**SUAREZ**

*I knew it!* You miss me, Lisa. Admit it.  
**SILKWORM**

Sort of.  
**SUAREZ**

#### **4. CALLERS**

**JACK**  
*(ring)* Hello?

**FOURTH CALLER'S VOICE**  
Kid, who're you tryin' to fool? You and your friends are all a bunch of criminals, trying to steal other people's music.

**JACK**  
*Who? Us? Criminal? (affecting a rapper)* You gonna rap, an' sell your crap, about a cop with broken bones, you flip your lid when skinny kids download your lovely poem-tones. *(click)* Hello?

**FIFTH CALLER'S VOICE**  
Show me the money. *Kapishe!*

**JACK**  
Songwriters who want to stop us don't need the money. Songwriters who need the money don't want to stop us. *(click)*  
*(MOLLY rushes in, breathless. KLUNK puts down the telephone, and looks at the TV.)*

**MOLLY**  
*Jack, you oughtta see what's goin' on! People are usin'their cells, IM-ing, palm piloting friends like crazy! You oughtta see our web hits! Sing-ups are goin' on all across the country!*

#### **5. POLITICAL AD**

**SILKWORM**  
Check out what I did with Klunk's ads.  
*(SILKWORM gestures at the TV set. LIBBY and CONNY enter, as old MIDGE and MADGE, dressed as young punkers.)*

Yo, Midge?  
**MADGE**

Yo, Madge?  
**MIDGE**

**MADGE**

Smith is dissin' our friend *Klunk*.

**MIDGE**

I'll smack him down.

**MADGE**

Smith want us to, like, pay for our music.

**MIDGE**

That's, like, so twentieth century.

**MIDGE / MADGE**

*We don't wanna pay for anything!*

**MADGE**

Let's tell everybody to stay home and, like, so not vote.

**MIDGE / MADGE**

*Free the music! Save Klunk! Free the music! Save Klunk!*

**SILKWORM'S VOICE**

Paid for by the college dropout committee for a, like, totally free life.  
*(LIBBY and CONNY, alias MIDGE and MADGE,  
exit.)*

**SUAREZ**

That commercial is a total lie.

**SILKWORM**

A lie about a lie is the truth.