

## Monologue #1

And it was so good to be with people who felt like shit. I kept feeling like I don't deserve to feel this bad, you know? And someone got up there and said uh--he said um, blah blah blah blah blah and then he said, I'm saying it wrong, but basically he said, "C'mon guys, let's show the world that Laramie is not this kind of town." But it IS that kind of a town. If it wasn't this kind of a town why did this happen here? I mean you know what I mean, like--that's a lie. Because it happened here. So how could it not be a town where this kind of thing happens? Like, that's just totally--like, looking at an Escher painting and getting all confused, like, it's just totally like circular logic like how can you even say that? And we have to mourn this and we have to be sad that we live in a town, a state, a country where shit like this happens. I mean, these are people trying to distance themselves from this crime. And we need to own this crime. I feel. Everyone needs to own it. We are like this. We ARE like this. WE are LIKE this.

## Monologue #2

I pull up to the corner, to see who Matthew Shepard, you know. It's a little guy, about five-two, soakin' wet, I betcha ninety-seven pounds tops. They say he weighed a hundred and ten, but I wouldn't believe it. They also said he was five-five in the newspapers, but this man, he was really only about five-two, maybe five-one. So he walks up the window--I'm gonna try and go in steps so you can better understand the principle of this man. So he walks up to the window, and I say, "Are you Matthew Shepard?" And he says, "Yeah, I'm Matthew Shepard. But I don't want you to call me Matthew or Mr. Shepherd. I don't want you to call me anything. My name is Matt. And I want you to know, I am gay and we're going to go to a gay bar. Do you have a problem with that?" And I said, "How're you payin'?"

The fact is . . . Laramie doesn't have any gay bars . . . and for that matter neither does the state of Wyoming . . . so he was hiring me to take him to Fort Collins, Colorado, about an hour away.

Matt was a blunt little shit, you what I'm sayin'?--he always was. But I liked him 'cause he was straightforward, you see what I'm saying? Maybe gay but straightforward, you see what I'm saying?

## Monologue #3

I'm just glad it's over. I really am. Testifying in that trial was one of the hardest things I've ever done. And don't get me wrong, I love the stage, I really do I love it. But it's tricky because basically what you have is lawyers questioning you--from this angle but the answers need to be funneling this way to the jury. So what you have to do is establish a funneling system. And that's hard for me because I'm a natural conversationalist, so it's just natural instinct that when someone asks you a question, you look at that person to make eye contact. But it's kind of tough when you literally have to scoot over--change your position, in effect, funnel over to where the jury is. But I was able to do that several times over the course of my testimony.

#### Monologue #4

I was the first “out” lesbian or gay faculty member on campus. And that was in nineteen ninety-two. Um, I was asked at my interview what my husband did, um, and so I came out then. . . . Do you want a funny story? When you first get here as a new faculty member, there’s all these things you have to do. And so, I was in my office and I noticed that this woman called. . . . I was expecting, you know, it was a health insurance phone call, something like that, and so I called her back. And I could hear her, she’s working on her keyboard, clicking away--I said, you know, “This is Cathy Connolly returning your phone call.” And she said, “Oh. It’s you.” And I thought, “This is bizarre.” And she said, “I hear--I hear--I hear you’re gay. I hear you are.” I was like, “Uh huh.” And she said, “I hear you came as a couple. I’m one too. Not a couple, just a person.” And so--she was--a kind of lesbian who knew I was coming and she wanted to come over and meet me immediately. And she later told me that there were other lesbians that she knew who wouldn’t be seen with me. That I would irreparably taint them, that just to be seen with me could be a problem.

I’ve won almost every teaching award that’s possible on campus. And yet even last year, one of my student course evaluations said, “She likes girls. And it shows. She’s disgusting.”

#### Monologue #5

And the reverend will tell you flat out he doesn’t agree with homosexuality--and I don’t know--I think right now, I’m still learning about myself and--you know I don’t feel like I know enough to make a decision that says, “Homosexuality is right.” When you’ve been raised your whole life that it’s wrong--and right now, I would say that I don’t agree with it--yeah, that I don’t agree with homosexuality but--maybe that’s just because I couldn’t do it--and speaking in religious terms--I don’t think that’s how God intended it to happen. But I don’t hate homosexuals and I mean--I’m not going to persecute them or anything like that. At all--I mean, that’s not gonna be getting in the way between me and the other person at all.

#### Monologue #6

We never called him Matthew, actually, most of the time we called him Choo-choo. You know, because we used to call him Mat Chew, and then we just called him Choo-choo.

And whenever I think of Matthew, I always think of his incredible beaming smile. I mean, he’d walk in and he’d be like you know, and he’d smile at every one . . . he just made you feel great. . . . And he--would like stare people down in the coffee shop . . . ‘cause he always wanted to sit on the end seat so that he could talk to me while I was working. And if someone was sitting in that seat, he would just sit there and stare at them. Until they left. And then he would claim his spot.

## Monologue #7

I was in there, I was in jail with Aaron in December. I got thrown in over Christmas. Assault and battery, two counts. I don't wanna talk about it. But we were sittin' there eatin' our Christmas dinner, tryin' to eat my stuffing, my motherfucking bread, my little roll and whatnot, and I asked him, I was like, "Hey, homey, tell me something, tell me something please, why did you--" Okay I'm thinking how I worded this, I was like, "Why did you KILL a faggot if you're gonna be destined to BE a faggot later?" You know? I mean think about it, he's either gonna get humped a lot or he's gonna die. So why would you do that, think about that, I don't understand that.

And you know what he told me? Honest to God, this is what he said, he goes: "He tried to grab my dick." That's what he said, man! He's dumb, dog, he don't even act like it was nothin'.

Now I heard they was auctioning those boys off. Up there in the max ward, you know, where the killers go, I heard that when they found out Aaron was coming to prison, they were auctioning those boys off, "I want him. I'll put aside five, six, seven cartons of cigarettes." Auction his ass off. I'd be scared to go to prison if I was those two boys.

## Monologue #8

And--I don't know *how* I let that happen--I lost it on national television, but you know, we had been up for like seventy-two hours straight and gone home and gone to sleep for half an hour and had to get up and come in--and maybe I was just way--I don't know--but, in a moment of complete brain-deadness, while I was out there reading that statement I thought about my own four daughters--and go home and hug your kids and oh, she doesn't have her kid anymore.

And there I am and I'm thinking, "This is so lame."

## Monologue #9

Now when I first found out I just thought it was horrible. I just, I can't. . . . Nobody deserves that! I don't care who you are.

But, the other thing that was not brought out--at the same time this happened that patrolman was killed. And a lot of it is my feeling that the media is portraying him as a saint. And making him as a martyr. And I don't think he was. I don't think he was that pure.

Now, I didn't know him, but. . . there's just so many things about him that I found out that I just, it's scary. You know about his character and spreading AIDS and a few other things, you know, being the kind of person that he was. He was, he was just a barfly, you know. And I think he pushed himself around. I think he flaunted it.

Everybody's got problems. But why they exemplified him I don't know. What's the difference if you're gay or a prostitute or whatever.

I don't understand. I don't understand.