

**CLEANLINESS, GODLINESS, AND MADNESS: A USER'S GUIDE**  
a multimedia tragicomic play dealing with this God forsaken country

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**Scene One:** **MARY** and **GRACE** in what seems to be a home, though there's little reason you would know that. Maybe a clock on the wall.

**At rise:** Mid-conversation.

**MARY**

Where do we start?

**GRACE**

Flyers. We'll flyer up every parking lot from here to Toledo.

**MARY**

What'll we call it?

**GRACE**

The Movement To Restore Decency.  
And for short, MOTOREDE.

**MARY**

That's brilliant. Just brilliant.  
You are so smart.

**GRACE**

Well, it's what we're doing, isn't it?  
Bringing decency back to this country.  
(beat)  
Let's drink to it!

(**GRACE** takes a flask out of her purse, opens it, and takes a swig of whiskey.  
Then she hands it to **MARY**, who also takes a swig.)

**MARY**

(excited and panicked)  
This is scary.

**GRACE**

Take another swig.  
We'll be fine.

(**MARY** takes another swig.)

**MARY**

Cripes, Grace, we're doing this!

**GRACE**

Of course we are. Don't you want our kids — your future kids — to be proud of us? To wake up one day, in years to come, and say, "my mom saved the country from some really bad people."

**MARY**

Yes I do.

(**MARY** takes another swig.)

**GRACE**

For Cripe's sake, Mary, don't be so nervous. We can do this!

**MARY**

Yes we can.

Oh yes we can!

**GRACE**

Now you should know that is not the slogan for us, dear.

**MARY**

I just —

**GRACE**

(interrupting)

Oh, I forgot. Harry doesn't let you watch TV, does he?

**MARY**

He says I get too enervated from it. And that it's full of disgraceful garbage.

He keeps one under lock and key in the basement and goes down there in the middle of the night just so he can stay on top of the news.

**GRACE**

The news, hunh?

**MARY**

Yes, the news.

**GRACE**

Men are such pigs.

**MARY**

Harry's not a pig. Harry's a good, honest man.  
He doesn't drink, he doesn't smoke, and he doesn't fool around.

**GRACE**

Is that so?

**MARY**

As a matter of fact it is.  
Do you think I would marry a bum?  
I didn't come from NOTHING, you know.

**GRACE**

Nothing?  
What is that supposed to mean?

**MARY**

I was well brought up.

**GRACE**

Mary, We're getting distracted.  
Let's pray, OK?  
I'm sorry for what I said.

**MARY**

Thank you, Grace.  
God bless you.

**GRACE**

God bless you too, Mary.  
Now let's kick some ass!

**MARY**

Grace. . .

**GRACE**

Lord, God, forgive me.

(**GRACE** pulls a whip out of her pocket and beats herself on the back with it.  
**MARY** gets down on her knees and scrubs the floor.)

(1950s television commercial on how to get a man, during which **MARY** and  
**GRACE** freeze.)

**MARY**

Grace, do you ever lose faith?

**GRACE**

Pttt. . . Pttt. . . Pttt. . .

Don't let those words slip from your mouth again —

**MARY**

But, Grace, I just —

**GRACE**

Do you hear me, Mary?

Not ever. Never. Ever. Ever.

You will go to hell in a bucket.

And I can't have that.

I need you here with me.

**MARY**

It's just that sometimes, well, Harry —

**GRACE**

(interrupting)

Sure, Harry's a pain in the ass.

And that's your cross to bear.

Do you think my Dick is a picnic?

I can tell you he's not.

**MARY**

Does Dick make you — ?

**GRACE**

(interrupting)

Don't say the words, Mary.

I know what you're talking about.

You've got to get that man under control.

Do you hear me, Mary?

**MARY**

How do you do that?

**GRACE**

Let me put it this way.

Dick knows where his bread is buttered.

And he's not going to upset the apple cart.

Do you understand?

**MARY**

I'm not sure.  
I'll have to think about that.

**GRACE**

We have so much work to do.  
First thing is getting sex education out of the schools.  
It's a disgrace.

**MARY**

Have you heard that they're making a third sex bathroom now, even?

**GRACE**

Yes. For the degenerates who don't know whether they're male or female.

**MARY**

Let us pray.

**GRACE and MARY**

Oh, Lord, we are in trouble. Can you believe what has happened? The government is running amok with heathens all around us. What is this world coming to? What should we do?

(as their bodies become closer, and they touch, a jolt of lightning between them)

Can you give us a sign?

(A large rainbow appears onscreen.)

**MARY**

Grace, what do you think heaven is?

**GRACE**

(sarcastically)  
Cotton candy, ice cream, crème de mint, and clouds.

**MARY**

Wouldn't that be lovely?

**GRACE**

Lovely? I don't think so. It's our destiny. It's everything.

**MARY**

It's our destiny. Everything. Got it.

(to be continued. . .)