

# Quiz Show - Charles & Dick

Charles: Excuse the robes.

Dick: That's all right.

Charles: The first decent night's sleep I've had in months.

Dick: Thought I'd stop by before I head back to Washington. I got a 10 o'clock train.

Charles: Uh-huh.

Dick: We're going to announce our hearings later on today.

Charles: Oh, really. As I exit the stage, you enter.

Dick: Well, don't forget the world's biggest classroom.

Charles: Oh that, well, it's the world's biggest something. (beat) Uh, how do you like it, Dick, you seem like a black coffee man.

Dick: Yeah, black's fine.

Charles: Here we go. A toast – to escape. "It is the basket in which the heart is cartling down some awful battlement, the rest of life is dropped."

Dick: King Bodoin.

Charles: Emily Dickinson, actually.

Dick: The one you lost on.

Charles: Oh, that. It seems the Belgian consulate has formally protested my ignorance.

Dick: Up at Cornwall, Charlie, your father said he felt like Leopold. Remember? You lost on one you knew, same as Stempel.

Charles: Well, I must have had a mental block.

Dick: I was there last night, you know and I could swear a smile crept across your face when you lost.

Charles: I wanted to get off the show. You can understand that. Look, I feel like I've been holding my breath for 14 weeks. Why, what'd you think it was?

Dick: Look, I spoke to the committee, okay? We're going to hold the hearings without you. I am not out to destroy you or your family. You go on, you live your life and God bless you.

Charles: Okay.

Dick: What I want to know, man to man – did you get the answers?

Charles: Man-to-man?

Dick: Yeah, just between us.

Charles: What is this? Is this still that business with Stempel? Dan says he's not the most reliable fellow.

Dick: There's a problem, Charlie. I found another contestant, a man named James Snodgrass. He says he got the answers, too.

Charles: You sure these people are telling the truth?

Dick: He put all the questions in a sealed envelope and sent them to himself registered mail. That was two days before he appeared on the show.

Charles: Doesn't prove anything.

Dick: Hey, you don't need to be a genius to connect the dots.

Charles: Well, don't connect them through me.

Dick: Hey, don't treat me like I'm some member of your god-damned fan club. Are you telling me everybody got the answers but you?

Charles: You're so persistent, Dick, you know I really envy that.

Dick: Was it just the money, Charlie?

Charles: You'll forgive me, but anyone who thinks money is ever just money couldn't have much of it.

Dick: Charlie, you wanna insult me, fine. But you can't envy me at the same time.

Charles: Jesus, Dick, if someone offered you all this money to be on some rigged quiz show, instant fame, the works, would you do it?

Dick: No, of course not.

Charles: No, no, throw the whole thing in. The cover of Time, Dave Garroway, 50,000 a year to read poetry on television. Would you do it?

Dick: No

Charles: And I would? Honestly, Dick.

Dick: All right, look. Do me a favor. Don't embarrass me. Keep your mouth shut. Don't say anything. Don't talk to the papers. Just disappear for two weeks. Please, don't make me call you.

Charles: More coffee, Dick?

Dick: Nope, I better go. I don't wanna miss my train.