

JIM

My conscience is clear.

RITA

Did you say what she *said* you said?

JIM

Depends what she said I *said*.

RITA

You have to apologize.

JIM

To whom? To you?

RITA

The college’s policy is clear on this.

(Quoting the policy.)

“You may not turn in work generated by Artificial Intelligence.”

JIM

(Overlapping.)

Enough said.

RITA

(Overlapping. Ibid.)

“But you *may* use AI as part of your process.” Clearly stated. In the handbook.

JIM

And what *possible* part of the process seems to you like it could benefit—while still being the student’s work—from the contribution of Artificial Intelligence?

RITA

Lists. Brainstorming. Coming up with ideas. I was on the committee that drafted the policy.

JIM

I am well aware.

RITA

She is going to file a formal complaint with the president.

JIM

*Let* her.

RITA

The world is moving forward, Jim.

JIM

Our job is not to “move forward.” It is to expand their minds. One sometimes has to hold onto the *past* in order to do that.

RITA

It’s what the students want.

JIM

The students *also* want to come to class wearing pajamas and drinking vodka tonics.

RITA

It is one more tool to use in the classroom.

JIM

A *screwdriver* is a tool. A *saw* is a tool. *This* is an abomination. In the full Biblical sense.

RITA

If somebody handed you a lighter, you wouldn’t say, “No, it’s okay. I’m going to keep rubbing these two sticks together and see what happens.” You’d take the *lighter*. It’s human nature.

JIM

(Scoffing.)

You never could stand the idea of getting old.

RITA

(Does “small” gesture with thumb and pointer.)

You are *this* close to pissing me off.

JIM

The accomplishments of the Greeks, the Enlightenment, the Renaissance—fade away when compared with humanity’s achievement of a telephone that can do your homework for you.

RITA

For crying out loud, Jim, join the Twenty First Century.

JIM

In case you haven’t noticed, I’m quite content living in the past. The present has very little to offer me, and the future, maybe even less.

RITA

And what if a *student* said that to you? That they wanted to live in the past? What would you say to them?