

Jesus Christ & El Morya on the Media Serpent

The Seekers by Jess Stern

In the great outside world of addiction, addicts themselves felt that marijuana, or their predisposition to it, had been their own undoing. Questioned by reporters, by doctors, or in rehabilitation centers, they ruefully looked back on their beginnings with “harmless” marijuana. These reactions were often dramatically revealing, as reflected in dozens of authoritative interviews at the California Rehabilitation Center. “You smoke a stick of marijuana in the morning, get lazy on the job and get fired,” said one addict typically.

“Right now,” he said, “I live in great ease with friends on the beach of the glorious Pacific. I walk the beach whenever I like, eat when I like, and write my poetry when in the mood. I have no wants that are unfulfilled. Many beautiful girls walk through the beach house and I sleep with them at various times, and it is all very beautiful and reciprocating. There is no responsibility, no guilt and nobody feels they owe anybody anything.”

His face puckered in a frown. “Now if I understand you properly, you want me to give all this up for some kind of job three years from now that won’t give me anywhere near what I am getting now.”

He smiled and shook his head. “No, man, that’s not my bag.”

JESUS CHRIST: In this chapter on Barry Obama, you see then that he is amoral. You can skim the chapter, only reading the yellow highlights.

EL MORYA: He is made amoral from his marijuana-deathdrug smoking in Hawaii.

JESUS CHRIST: It is how you see that every day before the media he has no worries— “that’s not my bag.”

Bill Gates: For anyone ordering of the raping of 100 young women at the Northwest firm, you see this is the amorality in which these would lie time and time again in the media. These can lie to the soldiers as to why they were having Korean-like deprogrammings, and soldiers getting syringed. I myself felt suicidal at seeing these misfits.

EL MORYA: From these 2 excerpts then, see what is this mind of Barry Obama honestly, that his fabrication is license, whether in his birth details, his family history, in writing his autobiography. And it is a mind that you must see as the opium-head, the deathhead. It is what you see before you when you see signs of the banality of evil.

JESUS CHRIST: This in your study of the TV media, is then, how you see the opium head, the deathhead is the one before you.

EL MORYA: You are then to quickly see that his praise of Reverend Wright who hated the United States and lambasted the cause of freedom, was all part of this opium head, and drughead thinking that Barry Obama thinks is no more than having giggles after smoking marijuana-deathdrug.

JESUS CHRIST: See what are the skeins of the mind. Recognize the thinking of the death head. How is it that he can order 100 rapings of women? Order the syringing of military men? Order the concentration camp conditions at the military bases and call it being at war, when no war was declared by the nation? His support of the insurgents at Guantanamo Bay responsible for 9/11?

Opium in Canton China

The British government flooded the market in 1833 with cheap opium. As the habit of smoking opium spread from the idle rich to ninety per cent of all Chinese males under the age of forty in the country's coastal regions, business activity was much reduced, the civil service ground to a halt, and the standard of living fell. The Emperor's anti-opium commissioner (1785-1850), modestly estimated the number of his countrymen addicted to the drug to be 4 million, but a British physician practicing in Canton set the figure at 12 million.

Chapter 4 of *Collusion* follows.

JESUS CHRIST: How is this flooding Canton with opium by the British government any different than State by State legalization of marijuana-deathdrug!

Thus the Supreme Court justices must be hung.

The people have the right to living free of marijuana-deathdrug, freedom to live in this country without this great injustice placed upon them by the Cabal and Red China on United States soil of the placement of these referendums, legalizing it.

JP Morgan: It is also a part of the opium mind that Barry had no concern for the putting on of \$5 trillion dollars to the national debt in his first term .

Barry Obama had no concern for the trade deficit, in the shaving of the coin of the realm, putting him part-&-parcel to this reefer madness.

Nancy of Oregon: What is being said here by J.P. Morgan is that the Treasury computers have the trade deficit falsely calculating 4 quarters to not equal \$1 which is the correct calculation. But at the Treasury, 5 quarters goes to Red China, 6 quarters goes to Canada, 7 quarters go to the Saudia Arabia families, instead of 4 quarters equals \$1.

J. Paul Getty: I remind you that I dug and paid for Standard Oil fields, and they confiscated it, and it still does belong to the United States.

J.P. Morgan: That does not include the illegal Federal Reserve Bank which was just a front to transfer credit creation to the United States people. That it was a blank check whenever the New York banks needed money, they got it from the Treasury.

J. Paul Getty: The Federal Reserve must be totally abolished or you will have a revolution in the United States to put the trillion dollar debt of the New York banks upon the American people, with the usual beneficiaries to the 1% and the Saudia Arabian families.

J.P. Morgan: The purpose of the United States government is for standard weights and measurements in currency. It is for the formation of the post office and the military bases. It is not to feed the United States Treasury into the coffers of the New York banks. Be clear about this! These need to hung.

JESUS CHRIST: Now you see how it is, that the Supreme Court also need to be hung as they could have at any time stopped the State referendums of legalizing marijuana deathdrug. Instead knowing this marijuana deathdrug is no different than the poisoning in the 1830's of Canton, China with opium, they would not stop this wholesale poisoning of the United States.

This is in addition to their record on killabortion to push through—resulting in the depopulating the United States for NAFTA and illegal immigrants by the tens of millions.



EL MORYA: What you are also reading is for the serpent in the media that you must “trust your instincts” in discerning what are lies. And that the major TV networks would gloss over these blatant lies and errors of reporting, is not an acceptable condition. How it came about was that the Saudia Arabia family wanted Barry Obama into the President’s office and not Hilary Clinton. Thus you can see that this was another move to consolidate the same movement of “greasing the wheel” to transfer the United States over to Red China and to rename the United States a colony named Hong Kong.

JESUS CHRIST: Of having the media come under Cabal control.

CHAPTER 4

The Audacity of Myth

Obama sounded “like great fiction”—and that’s what he wrote.

The media’s sneakiest dirty trick in the book is bias by omission, because it is so hard to find, when journalists decide “what the people don’t know won’t hurt them,” or more precisely, “what the people don’t know won’t hurt our candidate.”

Back in 1992, CBS correspondent Betsy Aaron made a blunt statement at a journalists’ conference. “The largest opinion is what we leave out,” she said. “I mean, it sounds simplistic, but I always say worry about what you’re not seeing. What you are seeing, you can really criticize, because you’re smart and have opinions. But if we don’t tell you anything and leave whole areas uncovered, that’s the danger.”¹

In Barack Obama’s case this omission emerged in 2012 over his biographical narrative: his 1995 memoir *Dreams from My Father*, which became a huge bestseller as he prepared to run for president and enriched him with an estimated \$1.3 million in royalties (not to

mention almost \$4 million for his campaign book *The Audacity of Hope*), and that's just through 2007.²

Reporters loved this book. In an October 23, 2006, cover story in *Time* magazine, Joe Klein oozed about Obama's parentage: "He told the story in brilliant, painful detail in his first book, *Dreams from My Father*, which may be the best-written memoir ever produced by an American politician."³

Chris Matthews was even more effusive, to the point of slobbery, on MSNBC, which is to say, typical. The book was "unique because he's a politician and not since U.S. Grant has a politician written his own book, and that is refreshing." It was great literature. "It's almost like Mark Twain. It's so American, it's so textured. It's so, almost sounding like great fiction because it reads like us. It's picturesque. Is that the right word, 'picturesque'? I think it's got that quality."⁴

Matthews was exactly right. It sounded like great fiction because so much of it was fictionalized. The warning was right there in the preface to his 1995 memoir, where Barack Obama admitted the chapters to come were taking liberties with the truth: "Although much of this book is based on contemporaneous journals or the oral histories of my family, the dialogue is necessarily an approximation of what was actually said or relayed to me." Even the people weren't entirely real: "For the sake of compression, some of the characters that appear are composites of people I've known, and some events appear out of precise chronology."

Ask a journalist if he supports the notion of a president whose life story is one part mythology, like George Washington and the cherry tree. Some media people have been stunned when they are told of this paragraph, as if they never read this book, or skipped the preface. But that has never nicked the larger legend that's been created. The nation's so-called guardians of factual accuracy don't even expect honesty from Obama on *his own life story*.

Liberal journalists—especially hacks like Matthews at MSNBC—

The headline said the book “challenges” the Obama story, and in the story they used the word “mischaracterized.” It was a whole lot more misleading than that.

That new book was titled *A Singular Woman: The Untold Story of Barack Obama’s Mother*. The author was Janny Scott, the same *Times* reporter who was so impressed with Obama’s storytelling in 2008. But she found holes in the narrative. Scott quoted from correspondence from Obama’s mother, Ann Dunham, to assert that the 1995 dispute concerned a Cigna disability insurance policy. Her actual health insurer had reimbursed most of her medical expenses without argument. The *Times* noted that although candidate Obama often suggested Dunham “was denied health coverage because of a pre-existing condition, it appears from her correspondence that she was only denied disability coverage.”⁸

So he was lying. Indeed, reporters could have held Obama accountable for lying repeatedly on his way to his first presidential victory and beyond, obscenely using his own deceased mother as a prop:

- He lied to an entire stadium of supporters in his August 28, 2008, convention speech. “As someone who watched my mother argue with insurance companies while she lay in bed dying of cancer,” he announced, “I will make certain those companies stop discriminating against those who are sick and need care the most.”
- The same lie was repeated in the October 7, 2008, presidential debate, carried live from coast to coast by all the networks, like the convention speech. “For my mother to die of cancer at the age of 53 and have to spend the last months of her life in a hospital room, arguing with insurance companies because they’re saying that this may be a preexisting condition and they don’t

have to pay her treatment, there's something fundamentally wrong about that."

- He lied as president in a town-hall-style meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in August 2009. "I will never forget my own mother, as she fought cancer in her final months, having to worry about whether her insurance would refuse to pay for her treatment."

Obama also mentioned her in a 2007 campaign TV ad: "In those last painful months, she was more worried about paying her medical bills than getting well. I hear stories like hers every day."

Kevin Sack of the *Times* turned to liberal Harvard professor Robert Blendon to pronounce the obvious: if Obama's phony story line had been discovered during the 2008 campaign, "people would have considered it a significant error." But it was not an error. It was a bald-faced lie, repeated over and over.

Blendon added: "I just took for granted that it was a pre-existing condition health insurance issue." So did the entire American news media.

But the suppressing media not only failed to find this deception in 2008. They ignored it when it was exposed in 2011. Network coverage of this new jaw-dropper on ABC, CBS, and NBC? Zero in 2011, and zero in 2012.

This suppression of Janny Scott's most damaging anecdote was even true for the *Times* itself. When the paper first ran an excerpt of her book in their Sunday magazine on April 24, 2011, it came with a cover photo of Barack as a preschooler in a pirate costume standing by his mother. The article was a flowery bouquet of prose about "the stout, pale-skinned woman in sturdy sandals, standing squarely a half-step ahead of the lithe, darker-skinned figure to her left. His

elastic-band body bespoke discipline, even asceticism . . . he had the studied casualness of a catalog model, in khakis, at home in the viewfinder.”⁹

This is the same set of newspapers and networks that had devoted multiple heavy-breathing stories to “correcting” noncandidate Sarah Palin’s historical knowledge of Paul Revere or mocking Michele Bachmann for confusing the birthplace of John Wayne. But Obama didn’t stumble, and wasn’t confused. He lied repeatedly about his mother—a shameless, pandering appeal to emotion, using his mother to enact socialized health care, and the media—how can we deny this?—deliberately abetted that dishonesty.

After Obama was safely reelected, David Axelrod insisted that the voters prized Obama’s authenticity and disdained Mitt Romney’s apparent plasticity. “Barack Obama’s very authentic. They knew what drove him. They were comfortable with him.”¹⁰ Authenticity was hardly Obama’s strong suit, but how could voters know otherwise when the national media were censoring news?

Obama’s “Composite” White Women

David Maraniss of *The Washington Post* was another reporter flying all over the world trying to separate the real Obama from the phony memoir of *Dreams*—but in the friendliest possible way. Maraniss told *Vanity Fair* that Obama’s memoir had value despite its pack of lies: “I say that his memoir is a remarkably insightful exploration of his internal struggle, but should not be read as rigorous factual history. It is not, and the president knew that when he wrote it and knows it now.”¹¹

This was a bombshell. Maraniss had spent months exploring Obama’s past and held a prestigious editor’s post at the dominant paper in the nation’s capital, and was overseeing campaign cover-

think I said—and she said that’s different, and I said it wasn’t, and she said that anger was just a dead end. And we had a big fight, right in front of the theater.”

Again, Maraniss reported, “None of this happened with Genevieve.” She said they attended the theater just once together, to see the British actress Billie Whitelaw performing from the work of the Irish playwright Samuel Beckett. The one time they were in the midst of a black audience was a trip to the movies in Brooklyn to see Eddie Murphy in *Beverly Hills Cop*. Cook told Maraniss, “I was the only white person in the audience,” and “It was such a wonderful, uplifting, mind-blowing experience.”

There was no fight. There was no crying in the car (neither person had a car). There was no scene where Obama’s girlfriend asked about angry black people.

Maraniss asked Obama about this at the White House. Obama acknowledged the scene did not happen with Cook. “That was not her,” he said. “That was an example of compression. I thought that was a useful theme to make about sort of the interactions I had in the relationship. And so that occupies, what, two paragraphs in the book? My attitude was it would be dishonest for me not to touch on that at all.”¹⁶

Stop. Rewind. He’s saying “it would be dishonest of me” *not* to make up a story about a black-white lovers’ quarrel? To Obama, real life was merely raw material for manufacturing the “larger truth” of his mythology. His story was false—period.

In another stunning passage from the same chapter of the Maraniss book, a passage that *Vanity Fair* did not excerpt—perhaps because it wasn’t about Obama’s love life—Obama describes his brief tenure after graduation from Columbia at a place called Business International, which produced newsletters and updates for corporations seeking to do business abroad. Obama boasted, “I had my own office, my own secretary, money in the bank. Sometimes, coming out

of an interview with Japanese financiers or German bond traders, I would catch my reflection in the elevator doors—see myself in a suit and tie, a briefcase in my hand—and for a split second, I would imagine myself as a captain of industry, barking out orders, closing the deal, before I remembered who it was that I wanted to be and felt pangs of guilt for my lack of resolve.”

Maraniss found these recollections were “seen as distortions and misrepresentations by many of the people who had worked with him.” They said Obama had no secretary, and his office was the size of a cubicle, barely large enough to fit a desk. The dress code was informal and people in his position rarely wore suits. “He dressed like a college kid,” said his supervisor Lou Celi.

Ralph Diaz, the company’s vice president for publications, thought Obama was embellishing his role for dramatic effect “in a book that reads more like a novel.” He said “Obama worked at a very, very low position there. . . . The part about seeing his reflection in the elevator doors? There were no reflections there. . . . He was not in this high, talking-to-Swiss-bankers kind of role. He was in the back rooms checking things on the phone.”

Another colleague characterized it with equal distaste: “He retells the story as the temptation of Christ . . . the young idealistic would-be community organizer who gets a nice suit and barely escapes moving into the big mansion with the white folks.”¹⁷

In an interview with *Vanity Fair*, Maraniss admitted that he bent his usual rules to make his interview with the president more advantageous. What’s the harm in a little collusion?

“I did something I rarely do: I gave him a copy of the introduction to the book so he would understand its parameters. I also gave him the table of contents, knowing that some of the chapter titles, such as ‘Genevieve and the Veil,’ would mean something to him but not to his staff. The interview was scheduled for 45 minutes. It went on for more than an hour and a half. He answered all of my ques-

tions, sometimes took issue with my interpretations, but was fairly forthright.”¹⁸

Here’s how he was forthright. When Maraniss was interviewed on NBC’s *Today* on June 18, 2012, substitute host David Gregory noted, “You point out inconsistencies. You talk with greater depth and detail about his pot smoking as a young person. You unearth letters from former, you know, loves. Genevieve Cook. How did he react to all of that?”

Maraniss: “Well, he’s a writer himself. When I first interviewed him, he said, ‘David, your introduction’—[which] I let him read—‘is interesting, but you called my book fiction.’ And I said, ‘No, Mr. President, I complimented it. I called it literature.’ There’s a big difference between memoir and biography. And it wasn’t that I was trying to fact-check everything that he wrote in his biography, but I just wanted to get the story right. So, he didn’t—he didn’t really fight with me about it. But it was an interesting conversation.”

In the book’s introduction, after he praised *Dreams* as “unusually insightful,” Maraniss wrote that “it is important to say it falls into the realm of literature, and not of history and autobiography, and should not be read as a rigorously factual account.”¹⁹

Gregory asked, “Was he forthcoming about these additional details?” Maraniss understood Gregory’s roundabout inquiry and said Obama didn’t put up a fight to the charge he’d mangled his own life story:

“In most cases he said, you’re probably right. You know, a lot of the mythology of the family was passed along to him that he didn’t check. Like, that his step-grandfather in Indonesia he thought died fighting the Dutch in the anti-colonial war. In fact, the man died of a heart attack falling off an ottoman changing the drapes in his living room. You know, that sort of story is something that the president did not check. And when I told him the reality of so many of those things he said, you’re probably right.”²⁰

his review of Obama: The Story not 2 shabby.”²² Not shabby? Stiles had ignored the most damaging part of the book’s depth.

After running very large investigative pieces on the front page trashing Rick Perry and Mitt Romney, Maraniss and the *Post* provided the perfect contrast of anti-Republican bile with pro-Obama goo. The only Maraniss book excerpt appearing in the newspaper was placed at the top of the Sunday sports section on June 11. The 5,500-word excerpt carried the headline “President Obama’s Love for Basketball Can be Traced Back to His High School Team.” The story took up two whole pages inside the sports section.²³

The *Post* apparently found nothing about Obama’s life more illuminating or substantive for readers than repeating that Obama loved basketball—about which Maraniss had also written syrupy passages in 2008. As always with Maraniss, it was all about lovingly toying with Obama’s racial identities:

“To say that President Obama loves basketball understates the role of the sport in his life,” the excerpt began. “He has been devoted to the game for 40 years now, ever since the father he did not know and never saw again gave him his first ball during a brief Christmastime visit. Basketball is central to his self identity. It is global yet American-born, much like him. It is where he found a place of comfort, a family, a mode of expression, a connection from his past to his future. With foundation roots in the Kansas of his white forebears, basketball was also the city game, helping him find his way toward blackness, his introduction to an African American culture that was distant to him when he was young, yet his by birthright.”

All this because Obama likes basketball.

Strangely, the excerpt wrapped up with Maraniss laboring to suggest Obama’s use of marijuana in high school was very typical for the Disco Era. “If there is a representative teenager’s life, Barry Obama lived a version of it in Hawaii in the late 1970s. Several things stood out—he went to a prestigious school, he lived with

his grandparents, his father was gone, his mother was infrequently present, he was a *hapa* black in a place where most people were a lighter shade of brown—and those traits helped shape his particular character, but they did not make his life odd or mysterious. He smoked pot with his Choom Gang and goofed around outside the classroom, where he came across as smart and mature if not notably studious, but the central activity of his high school life was basketball.”

The “choom” in “Choom Gang” was a verb meaning to smoke pot. Maraniss found Obama was an enthusiastic pot smoker, but it was mentioned in passing in the *Post*. This paragraph was lifted out of a chapter that began with Maraniss reporting the future president and his friends believed in “TA,” or “total absorption,” as in “[w]asting good bud smoke was not tolerated.” Barry championed “roof hits,” that when they were pot-smoking in the car, all the windows had to be rolled up, and when the pot was gone, they tilted their heads upward to suck in the last bit of smoke from the ceiling. Barry was also known for “intercepting” the rotating joint.²⁴

Try not to be shocked. Those evocative details were left out of the 5,500-word basketball excerpt.

Maraniss and the *Post* also milked the hoops angle to sell Obama in 2008. As might be expected, a Nexis search of the words “Obama” and “Punahou” brings out mostly laudatory references to his high school basketball career. The seven stories in the sample offered zero criticisms of young Obama, but plenty of oozing sympathy for his fatherless plight. Here are the headlines, to give you a flavor:

1. “A Rusty Toyota, a Mean Jump Shot, Good Ears” (Outlook section collection of positive quotes from friends and classmates, February 11, 2007)
2. “The Ghost of a Father” (December 14, 2007)

Slouching Toward Selma

There's another example that demonstrated that the major media never cared about Obama's reckless disregard for the truth, especially when he was pandering to black voters. Maraniss reported that Obama's account of being separated from his father when he was two was "received myth, not the truth." Maraniss explained Obama's father was "married in name only. Within a month of the day Barry came home from the hospital, he and his mother were long gone from Honolulu," as Ann Dunham returned to the mainland to attend the University of Washington.

In Obama's mythical version, "the family breach did not occur until 1963, when his father left the island. That version of events is inaccurate in two ways. The date: his father had gone from Hawaii in June 1962, less than a year after Barry was born, not 1963. And the order: it was his mother who left Hawaii first."²⁶

No one reported on this, or questioned Maraniss about it, never mind questioning Obama himself. Five years before, on March 4, 2007, Obama made a speech saluting the 1965 civil rights march in Selma, Alabama, and claimed his parents were inspired by Selma before he was born. "There was something stirring across the country because of what happened in Selma, Alabama, because some folks are willing to march across a bridge. So they got together and Barack Obama Jr. was born. So don't tell me I don't have a claim on Selma, Alabama. Don't tell me I'm not coming home when I come to Selma, Alabama."²⁷

This is a pretty bizarre claim for a man who was born in Hawaii and whose parents never had a real marriage, and were literally on different continents by the time of the Selma march of 1965. Selma didn't bring his parents together; they were officially divorced in 1964, and Obama's father left Harvard in 1964 and returned to Kenya

with another white American woman, named Ruth Baker, and they married there in 1964. His mother married Lolo Soetoro in 1965. The real story in no way resembled Obama's mythical narrative that Selma inspired two people to fall in love and conceive a future president.

Obama had no claim on Selma, Alabama.

Obama was never mocked for his shameless attempts at burnishing his legend. NBC anchor Brian Williams could devote attention on three straight nights in June 2011 to how noncandidate Sarah Palin's account of Paul Revere's ride allegedly "differs with history,"²⁸ but with candidate Obama in Selma, NBC's Andrea Mitchell used this uncorrected clip: "Don't tell me I don't have a claim on Selma, Alabama. Don't tell me I'm not coming home when I come to Selma, Alabama."

On ABC, John Cochran said Obama "seemed to address accusations that he is not black enough because of his mixed ancestry," and used the same clip. ABC's Jake Tapper repeated the tactic in the morning, adding some gush: "Obama's eloquent piety is seldom received better than in a church full of Democrats, especially black ones."

On CBS, correspondent Gloria Borger at least made a small nod to reality, without correcting Obama. "In March of 1965, Barack Obama was just three years old. Even so, he says, he's still the product of Selma."²⁹ Then came a clip of Obama: "This is the site of my conception. I am the fruits of your labor. I am the offspring of the movement."

CBS *This Morning* offered a warm anniversary story from Selma on March 4, 2012, but no one explored Obama's absurd claims of 2007. On the day of Obama's second inauguration, the *Post* published a special inaugural section, where *Post* reporter Wil Haygood highlighted quotes from Obama's Selma speech again—including "My very existence might not have been possible had it not been for some of the folks here today"—a claim now clearly debunked. It was only

one of several “cultural touchstones related to African-American history” greeting Obama’s second term, like the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the new movie on Lincoln.³⁰

Daily Fake Campaign Anecdotes

Obama has never stopped using poetic license when telling his life story. So where are the reporters to point out where he doesn’t tell the truth? Let’s take just one typical Obama stump speech, on July 5, 2012, in Sandusky, Ohio, and identify the fibs and stretches. They’re not hard to find.

There are tall tales about his ancestors. He claimed, as he has many times, “My grandfather fought in Patton’s army.” In 2009, AP’s Nancy Benac noted that the president’s grandfather, Stanley Dunham, was in a supply and maintenance company, not in combat. That’s noble work, but “fought in Patton’s army” implies something else. Moreover, Benac reported Dunham’s company was assigned to Patton’s army for two months in 1945, and then quoted Obama’s own self-boasting memoir: “Gramps returned from the war never having seen real combat.” Why was Benac alone in exploring this **blatant exaggeration?**

There were also myths about Obama’s campaigns. Obama bizarrely told the crowd in Sandusky that “back in 2008, everybody said we couldn’t do it because we were outspent, we weren’t favored.” Did Obama mean in the primary race? By a slim margin, he outraced Hillary Clinton, who was the early favorite. But this spin is comical if it refers to the general election, where Obama outraced McCain \$779 million to \$347 million.

Then Obama added: “That first race that I ran as a state senator, Michelle and I, we were going around knocking on doors, passing out leaflets. Nobody gave us a shot. Everybody said, ‘Nobody can

pronounce your name, how are you going to win?" But Obama *ran unopposed* in 1996 in both the primary and the general election.³¹

At first, state senator Alice Palmer urged Obama to replace her since she was going to run for Congress. But she lost that race to Jesse Jackson Jr. and then turned around to seek reelection. In a burst of Chicago-style politics, Obama removed *three* primary opponents (including Palmer) from the ballot by challenging their signatures. A bitter Palmer refused to endorse Obama in the primary or the fall election. To the gut-punchers in Chicago, it meant Obama had arrived. But none of the networks have ever breathed Palmer's name.

Obama's years in the Illinois Senate, from 1997 through 2004, were a part of his life story the national media never found interesting. It was a bit shocking that CBS reporter Steve Kroft would pile up five friendly interviews with Obama on *60 Minutes* before the 2008 election, and two more right after the victory, and yet completely, **shamelessly avoid Obama's record in Illinois.** It might seem less surprising that his Chicago past didn't come up in the seven interviews Obama gave to Kroft since becoming president. Kroft has never asked about his radical Chicago friends like the Pentagon bomber Bill Ayers **and his anti-American minister Jeremiah Wright.**³²

It's not really unusual for CBS to catch up on ancient controversies in a presidential reelection campaign . . . or at least it wasn't when the president was George W. Bush. In 2004, CBS spent untold hours, days, weeks, months, chasing a story about George Bush and the Alabama Air National Guard in 1973 because that was important. **But Obama palling around with terrorists, associating with hate-mongers?** No one at *60 Minutes* cared what Obama did when he was in his mid-twenties. He was "finding himself."

The liberal assumption was that everything on George W. Bush's résumé was handed to this lightweight by Daddy. This is never a problem when your last name is Kennedy, only if you're an Old Money Republican. Obama, on their other hand, was their poster child,

their heavyweight champion—sympathetic, cosmopolitan, progressive, racially mixed, and eternally conflicted about it. Every prize and privilege handed to Obama—including a contract to write a semi-fictional memoir fresh out of Harvard Law School—was somehow owed to him, a small fraction of America’s racial sins being cleansed.

Steve Kroft did find one Obama scandal figure back on April 23, 2008—Tony Rezko, a Syrian-born housing developer, when he was on trial for corruption in Chicago. But CBS never mentioned Obama in the piece. Instead, Kroft was doing a story on how the Bush administration was implicitly allowing corruption in Iraq, and how the former Iraqi electricity commissioner’s name came up in Rezko’s corruption trial.³³

Kroft mustered no mention of Rezko’s contributing and bundling hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign financing for Obama, or his scandalous help in helping the Obamas as they bought a fancy six-thousand-square foot Georgian Revival house with seven bathrooms for \$1.65 million in June 2005. (Rezko’s wife, Rita, bought an adjoining parcel to the Obamas for \$625,000, and both sales closed on the same day.) At the time, Rezko was already being investigated for bribery and fraud. Obama later told the *Chicago Tribune* the deal was “boneheaded,” but the national media weren’t repeating that.

The Rezko scandal even emerged again during the Republican primary season. On November 22, 2011, as the networks were pounding away on Herman Cain’s treatment of women, Rezko was sentenced to ten and a half years of prison time for corruption and extortion. ABC, CBS, NBC, MSNBC, NPR, and PBS said absolutely nothing. CNN offered one sentence to Rezko on this day, as John King ironically announced the “news you need to know.”

USA Today and *The Washington Post* both reported the news briefly inside their papers, listing Rezko in their headlines as an ally of corrupt governor Rod Blagojevich—not Obama. The Associated

Press headline also touted “Blago ally Rezko.” Obama’s name came up just once, in paragraph 21.³⁴

This was merely the latest proof that even on the most personal matters, Barack Obama could count on the media to act like another set of corrupt business partners. Team Obama could make fun of John McCain’s seven homes or Mitt Romney’s car elevator and chuckle in the knowledge that Obama’s “news” buddies would never mention his Rezko-assisted home purchase. After all, he was perfect.