

YOUR KINDLE NOTES FOR:

ASHLI: The Untold Story of the Women of January 6

Jack Cashill

Last accessed on Wednesday, August 7, 2024

33 Highlights | 0 Notes

Yellow highlight | Location: 151

That said, the petite thirty-five-year-old Ashli Babbitt had little choice but to fly. She and her husband, Aaron, lived in greater San Diego. On the morning of January 5, Ashli kissed Aaron good-bye and headed off to Washington, proudly wearing her "Trump 2020" mask lest anyone mistake her affections or her destination. "Nothing will stop us," Ashli tweeted on January 5, "they can try and try and try but the storm is here and it is descending upon DC in less than 24 hours…dark to light!"6 Sitting next to Ashli on the plane was a young journalist named Will Carless, who, as of this writing, mans the "extremism" desk at USA Today. On January 7, he posted an unusually thoughtful message on Twitter. Two days earlier on the DC flight, Ashli had helped him with his carry-ons as he took the middle seat. "It's a little sappy, but situations like this should remind us that there is more beyond politics. The person sitting next to you on a flight, even if they're wearing a mask you disagree with, is still a person."7 Having fasted and prayed, Rebecca Lavrenz, a great-grandmother twice Ashli's age, decided she would drive by herself to DC from Colorado Springs. So why not? "Driving twenty five hours to our US Capitol in January of 2021," she would write, "to stand with 100s of 1000s of fellow patriots who also agreed that something just wasn't right in the 2020 Presidential Election was not a tough decision."8 Former US Marine Yvonne St Cyr drove even farther. On New Year's Day, Yvonne and her husband, Troy, left their home in Boise, Idaho, on a thirty-five-hour, mid-winter trek to Washington, DC. Driving, as fifty-one-year-old Sara Carpenter knew, did not insure privacy, at least if you lived in the northeast corridor and depended on your E-ZPass. In the early morning hours of January 6, Sara, a retired NYPD cop and single mom, left her home in Queens for the four-hour trip to DC. She hoped to learn more about election fraud. She would learn a good deal more than that. On the night of January 5, Rosanne Boyland, thirty-four, and her friend Justin Winchell left the Atlanta suburb of Kennesaw, Georgia, for the district, a drive of ten or so hours. They were psyched. En route, Justin sent Rosanne's dad, Bret Boyland, a text saying, "This is Justin, this is my number. I'm riding up with Rosanne. In case you have any trouble getting a hold of her through her phone, you got my number too."9 A mother of eight, Rachel Powell, forty, left her home in western Pennsylvania, met up with a friend en route, and drove together with him to the nation's Capitol. Victoria White, thirty-nine, a mother of four, made the drive from Rochester, Minnesota, with her seventeen-year-old daughter and two friends. Victoria had never been to Washington before. Armed with a large sign reading, "We The People Take

> Back Our Country," on one side and, "The Children Cry Out for Justice" on the other, forty-nine-year-old Christine Priola, an occupational therapist for the Cleveland…

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 223

The major media don't know and don't really care to know. In its initial article on Ashli, the Times satisfied itself with the unsourced claim that QAnon "has asserted that the 2020 presidential election was stolen by an elite Satan-worshiping cabal, and that it was up to ordinary people to reinstate Mr. Trump."15 In fact, the Q phenomenon does have a strong association with a conspiracy, real or imagined, known as "Pizzagate." This reputed high-level ring of pedophiles involves, most prominently, John Podesta, Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign chair. The Left, of course, ridicules Pizzagate, and the respectable conservative media dare not even mention it, but before readers dismiss it, they might watch the movie Out of Shadows.16 Among the people featured in the film is Liz Crokin, a veteran reporter and columnist who sacrificed any career ambitions she might have had to report on child sex trafficking. Said Crokin, "I was basically embraced by the mainstream media until I started reporting on Pizzagate." Her deconstruction of the coded language in the Podesta emails obtained by Wikileaks could make a media fact-checker sweat. "I'd be willing to debate anyone who thinks Pizzagate has been debunked," said Crokin. She is dismayed that "there has not been one single investigation into any of it." No doubt, prominent Democrats had been behaving badly in the run-up to the 2020 election. Anthony Weiner, Harvey Weinstein, and Hunter Biden come quickly to mind. None, however, proved more dangerous to the existing order than celebrity pedophile and Jacobin prince, Jeffrey Epstein. After years of being protected, Epstein was arrested in 2018. His secrets intact, he died in jail soon after in an incident that vaguely resembled a suicide. Although Epstein's client list remains more closely guarded than Barack Obama's SAT scores, the story of his child trafficking is well enough known. Less well known is the saga of Keith Raniere, in the words of the New York Daily News, the "pedophile leader of the creepy, woman-branding sex cult."17 Just a week before the November 2020 election, Raniere was sentenced to 120 years in prison. Among other diabolic acts, Raniere had sex with minors, created and distributed pornography with their images, and forced the girls to have abortions if they became pregnant. Given the timing of his sentencing, the media downplayed Raniere's relationship with Sara and Clare Bronfman, the youngest daughters of the late Seagram's chair and Democratic megadonor, Edgar Bronfman. A recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton in 1999, Bronfman supported Hillary in the 2008 campaign before backing Barack Obama in the general election. Those were the circles in which high-profile Democrats ran. Malia Obama interned with Harvey Weinstein. Bill Clinton logged frequent flyer miles on Epstein's "Lolita Express." Hillary Clinton intimate Huma Abedin married Anthony Weiner. A few years earlier, Hollywood gave child…

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 261

In light of this background, the media's eagerness to tar anyone who addressed the pedophilia issue with the "QAnon" brush says more about the media than about the person tarred. If one googles "Liz Crokin," for instance, the first item that appears after

her Wikipedia page is a CNN article from 2022 headlined, “Trump Poses with QAnon, Pizzagate Conspiracy Theorist at Mar-a-Lago.”

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 277

The fact that women typically care more about child trafficking than men is a tribute to their natural role as nurturers. Even though she was only vaguely aware of QAnon, Christine Priola campaigned against child trafficking. For her efforts, she was tagged in a Daily Mail headline as a “female QAnon fanatic.”23 What triggered the Daily Mail was the sign Christine carried at the Capitol reading, “The Children Cry Out for Justice.” The women’s attachment to Trump on this issue is not idle. He famously kicked Jeffrey Epstein out of Mar-a-Lago. As president, he took the child trafficking issue seriously, claiming in July 2023 that under his leadership, the US did “more than any administration in history to combat human trafficking.”24 He made this claim after hosting a screening of Sound of Freedom at his New Jersey golf club. The active struggle to ridicule conservative media precedes QAnon by decades. In 1995, for instance, the Clinton White House produced a mind-boggling 332-page report documenting what its authors called the “communication stream of conspiracy commerce.” When the document surfaced in January 1997, the Washington Post described its thesis as follows, “A cabal of right-wing extremists had figured out how ‘fantasy can become fact’ by advancing rumors about Whitewater and Clinton’s personal life through a ‘media food chain’ that starts in ideological journals and ultimately finds its way onto the front pages of mainstream U.S. newspapers.”25 In January 1997, the Clinton White House was crying foul because Newsweek did a cover story on Paula Jones. Jones was the Arkansas woman who accused then governor Bill Clinton of exposing himself and asking for sex. The Clintons denied the allegations, blaming them on the internet’s “crazy, right-wing sources.”26 Those right-wing sources proved to be not so crazy. The Jones accusation set in process a sequence of events that led to Clinton’s impeachment.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 333

The Jacobins had been cultivating this theme from the moment Donald Trump declared for the presidency. In June 2015, while discussing illegal border crossers, Trump said in his wonderfully artless way, “They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.” The word went out to the media: feel free to distort. The media needed little prompting. At an August 2016 campaign rally, Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine casually repeated what had by then become a standard media talking point. “The thing that amazes me is the depth of his trash-talking with Latinos,” said Kaine, “saying all Mexicans are rapists and going after Latino immigrants.” In a rare honest moment, even PolitiFact was forced to concede

Trump had said “nothing that even approached such a contention.”31 Not to worry. For the population that pulled its news from the major media, the odd positive fact-check mattered little. Trump was a racist. Everyone agreed. In 2017, the fight over the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville, Virginia, gave the media another chance to distort the record. Here, they led their audiences to believe that Trump called the neo-Nazis and white nationalists involved in that day’s dustup “very fine people.” For the next two years, the Jacobins repeated this lie, no one more often or more passionately than Joe Biden. Biden routinely ignored Trump’s earlier comment, “I’m not talking about the neo-Nazis and the white nationalists. They should be condemned totally.” In April 2019, he launched his presidential campaign on the tailwinds from this lie. After showing a stunningly dishonest video about Charlottesville, Biden excoriated Trump for his imagined racist sympathies. No major candidate has ever begun a presidential campaign with a more divisive and slanderous opening gambit than did Biden. Claiming that Trump’s racism motivated him to run, Biden insisted, “We are in the battle for the soul of this nation.” He warned that if Trump were reelected, “he will forever and fundamentally alter the character of this nation, who we are, and I cannot stand by and watch that happen.”32 This series of slanders convinced the Left that Trump and his supporters were—as Hillary Clinton reminded America in her “basket of deplorables” speech—“racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamaphobic, you name it.”33 The ten women profiled in this book were all opinionated. The media dug through as many of their social media postings as they could find, but no racist tropes turned up. Race was a nonissue for these women as it was for the great majority of J6ers. Ashli Babbitt complained about illegal immigration, but who in San Diego didn’t? Washington, DC, is an overwhelmingly Democratic city. For the six years preceding January 6, 2021, its residents consumed a steady stream of leftist media libeling Trump as racist. When his supporters descended on the Capitol, more than a few police officers imagined…

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 367

“Hold my beer,” said Time magazine’s Vera Bergengruen a few days later as she raised race-baiting to the level of cringe. “Babbitt’s emergence as a martyr for many of the different groups that made up the pro-Trump mob is no surprise,” wrote Bergengruen. “White women’s deaths have long been leveraged for propaganda, from the 19th century Klu [sic] Klux Klan to the militia movements of the 1990s to Donald Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign, which often invoked their killing at the hands of undocumented immigrants.”36 At the time these very white females were mainstreaming this toxin—and misspelling “Ku Klux Klan”—neither knew that a black man named Michael Byrd had pulled the trigger.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 421

While still in the National Guard, Ashli started working at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant in Maryland on a security detail. It was there she met Aaron Babbitt, a bearded man as brawny and gruff as Ashli was cute and petite. Micki was thrilled when the couple returned to San Diego County and purchased a pool supply company. “I have been blessed to have two good sons-in-law,” said Micki. Ashli and Aaron married in June 2019. “Ashli was not radicalized,” said Micki. “She was activated.”

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 712

In one of the many ironies of January 6, Ashli Babbitt was better trained to deal with civil disturbances in Washington than were the Capitol Police. Ashli spent most of her Air Force career doing police work. While on active duty, she guarded the gates at bases in, among other hellholes, Iraq and Afghanistan. Later, while in the National Guard, she was assigned to the 113th Security Forces Squadron known as the “Capitol Guardians.” Operating out of Joint Base Andrews, the unit served as a ready response force for the District of Columbia.68 On January 6, 2021, these units were not ready to respond.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 717

Needing to undermine Ashli’s potential as a martyr, journalists tended to cite her credentials with a quiet smirk. In turning against the police, they implied, it was she who betrayed her profession and her country. As shall be seen, Ashli never resisted the Capitol Police. If anyone betrayed anyone, it was the Capitol Police who betrayed Ashli and her fellow J6ers. The protestors came to DC as backers of the Blue. The Blue, at least some of them, never got that memo. To understand the breakdown, a useful place to start is an extraordinary article published by Time magazine in February 2021. The author, Molly Ball, laid out in exquisite detail what the article’s headline described as “The Secret History of the Shadow Campaign That Saved the 2020 Election.”69 The word “saved” is misleading. “Rigged” would be more accurate.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 1,261

That said, Democrats in the know were less worried than the rank and file. Theirs, after all, was the party that spawned Boss—“As long as I count the votes, what are you going to do about it?”—Tweed. The Jacobin elite—in the party, in the media, in big tech, in the intelligence community, in the US Postal Service—had been working for months to buy time to count votes after Election Day. According to the Ball Dossier, Trump was trying to “spoil the election” by insisting that “mail ballots were a Democratic plot and the election would be ‘rigged.’” To make their argument, Trump loyalists referred Democrats back to the warning issued by the Carter-Baker commission: “Absentee ballots remain the largest source of voter fraud.” Carter represented the Democratic

Party of old. In 2020, there was a new understanding. “It was crucial for voters to understand that despite what Trump was saying,” wrote the soulless Ball, “mail-in votes weren’t susceptible to fraud and that it would be normal if some states weren’t finished counting votes on election night.” To prepare the public, the Jacobins launched a massive campaign across all platforms. By Election Day, more than 70 percent of voters expected that they would not know the results immediately. “A majority,” wrote Ball, “also believed that a prolonged count wasn’t a sign of problems.” That majority did not include Ashli Babbitt or other conservative activists. At about 11 p.m. Pacific time, certain key states simply stopped counting votes. Micki could all but hear the sigh in Ashli’s text, “They’re going to steal it.” Months earlier, Trump supporter and tech entrepreneur Patrick Byrne would not have thought it possible for the media to deny the nation’s “vulnerability to mass election fraud.” As he observes in his book, The Deep Rig, historically, all parties had expressed concern about election integrity. In 2020, the Jacobins changed the rules. Byrne’s analysts warned him early on to “watch for counting being shut down during the election.” At the time, Byrne thought the idea preposterous. This practice may have been normative in Third World countries, but, Byrne wondered, “Whoever heard of counting getting stopped, in the middle of an election, in the United States of America?”124 Alas, the prediction of Byrne’s analyst allies came true. The counting ceased in the middle of the night, if not everywhere, at least in the swing state metros where the Jacobins needed it to stop. The Federalist headline on Wednesday, November 4, summed up the planned mess: “Ballot Counting Is Delayed in These Six States with Legal Battles on the Horizon.”125 Confident that they would count enough votes to win, the conspirators put out the word that there would be no need for rioting. “They had spent so much time getting ready to hit the streets on Wednesday,” organizer Mike Podhorzer told Molly Ball, “but they did it.” The “they” were the Jacobin shock troops. The “it” was “not rioting.” Overlooked by the major media…

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 1,300

“A self-organized digital army sprung into existence,” Byrne writes. “Networks of volunteers in various states, self-organizing and diving in on various aspects of the Deep Rig: what people had experienced in polling stations, what they had been told by precinct workers, what polling observers had experienced.” Many of these people had backgrounds in the military or law enforcement. Lawyers volunteered to research laws. No one asked to be paid. “It quickly became clear that the problem was not going to be turning up facts,” writes Byrne, “it was going to be managing the tsunami of evidence that poured in.”128 Mainstream journalists dealt with this flood of contrary evidence by reinforcing seawalls. On Saturday, November 7, the networks all declared Joe Biden the president-elect. In her essential book, January 6, Julie Kelly questions how the media came to this unanimous and simultaneous conclusion “despite wide-spread documented irregularities and flagrant violations of state election law; despite the fact

that the validity of 70 million absentee ballots had not been thoroughly vetted by state officials; despite the filing of numerous lawsuits related to illegal ballot processing and counting; and despite the fact that recounts would undoubtedly be demanded in close swing states."129 The Jacobin shock troops got the word even before the media did. "Activists," wrote Ball, "reoriented the Protect the Results protests toward a weekend of celebration." Ball added, "The planned day of celebration happened to coincide with the election being called on Nov. 7." Only the naive thought the timing a coincidence. Celebrating, like rioting, was orchestrated in the Jacobin world.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 1,325

As for Trump, the Brennan Center scolded him for unleashing "an onslaught of outlandish claims about widespread fraud in the election." Worse, the presumably racist Trump was "shamelessly targeting the votes of Black and Latino citizens in several cities."130 In the real world, there was nothing "outlandish" about the claims of Trump and his allies. As to the "targeting" of ethnic groups, that was something Boss Tweed had mastered more than a century prior. Trump was just dealing with the damage. For those wanting a deeper statistical analysis of the fraud, Byrne's book, The Deep Rig, is an excellent resource. For insight as to how individual states violated their own laws to assure a Biden victory, Mollie Hemingway's Rigged is a must-read. To insist, as the Brennan Center did, that the election was among the most secure in our history was to spit in the eye of concerned citizens. Moving in lockstep as was their norm, the Jacobins in media and government quickly settled on a name to describe any protest against the election's legitimacy. "Among the thousands of falsehoods Trump has uttered during his presidency," claimed Melissa Block of NPR, "this one in particular has earned the distinction of being called the 'big lie.'"131 In fact, this label wasn't "earned." It was bestowed.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 1,490

Aaron Babbitt is sure Ashli stayed to the very end of Trump's speech. Her mood was still upbeat. "We are walking to the Capitol in a mob," Ashli told the viewers on Facebook. "There's an estimated over three million people here today." The Federal Protective Service estimated that ten thousand to fifteen thousand people were walking toward the Capitol. Ashli surely overestimated the size of the crowd, but the feds underestimated it. Whatever the actual number, no one seemed overly worried. Marchers saw little police presence and no effort at all to discourage their march to the Capitol. At the Capitol itself, House and Senate members convened at 1 p.m. Sara Carpenter came prepared for the cold in a dark-green anorak-style coat, black pants and boots, and, of course, a red MAGA baseball cap. Tired, cold, and hungry, she thought of leaving early, but as she sat in the parking garage, she got a call from the

friend who had urged her to come. “C’mon, Sara,” he said. “Let’s walk to the Capitol. It’s all so patriotic. It’s going to be great.” Although not good in crowds, Sara couldn’t resist and joined the march. “It was kids. It was dogs. It was wonderful,” she said. As a former NYPD officer, she presumed the police would not let the marchers near the Capitol building, but unknown to her, the conspirators had other plans.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 1,531

Within a few minutes, a crowd had gathered at the gates in front of the west plaza area of the Capitol. At the front of the crowd, giving directions, was the ubiquitous Epps. The Capitol Police manned the terrace above the crowd. At 12:59, a fifty-year-old Trump supporter from Pennsylvania named Benjamin Phillips, the father of two teenagers, collapsed and would soon die of natural causes. A minute later, Vice President Pence entered the House Chamber to convene a joint session to certify the electoral votes. Unaware of the disorder at the Capitol, Trump continued his speech on the Ellipse.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 1,535

At 1:06, while Rep. Paul Gosar was challenging the certification of the Arizona vote, USCP deputy chief Eric Waldow ordered the “less lethal” team to open fire on the protestors now numbering about a thousand. Trump was still speaking at the Ellipse. The crowd that he allegedly incited to insurrection would not arrive at the Capitol for close to an hour. Inexperienced with crowds of this size, the USCP began shooting a barrage of grenades, gas, and rubber bullets into the growing mass of protestors on the Capitol’s west side. “That was a shooting gallery out there,” said Stan Kephart, the use-of-force expert who reviewed the video footage for the Epoch Times. “There was no tactical reason for it at all.”146 Early on, protestor Joshua Black was shot with a rubber bullet that lodged in his cheek. In violation of all norms, the police were shooting at head level. This bizarrely unprofessional attack from on high would last, on and off, for an hour or more. If the protestors grew restive and angry, it was not because of Pence’s letter. It was because they were being targeted by an ill-trained and disorganized police force, at least some of whom were openly contemptuous of Trump supporters. Independent journalist Tayler Hansen had been covering riots in cities across the country throughout the summer of 2020. Having grown up in a police family, he came to the conclusions he did about January 6 with reluctance. “The cops created this mess,” he said. “I have never seen police brutality like I saw that day.”147 At 1:28, fifty-six-year-old father of five, Kevin Greeson, collapsed after a Capitol Police flash bang exploded in his face. Retired Marine Sergeant Victor Mellor captured the moment on his cell phone.148 Greeson would soon die of cardiac arrest. By 1:30, the USCP had reestablished a police line on the west plaza and would hold it for about an hour. At

1:32, one officer was recorded objecting to the launch of smoke grenades: “It’s just going to make it worse. Hey stop, hold.” Protestors were picking up grenades and hurling them back behind police lines. The mood was shifting. Epps was at the front lines communicating with individual protestors. At 1:38, Trump tweeted, “Please support our local police and law enforcement. They are truly on the side of our Country. Stay peaceful.” At 1:49, a “riot” was declared. Those who stayed to the end of Trump’s speech would not yet have arrived at the Capitol. A minute later, Capitol Police on the west plaza shot an errant round of gas that sent the maskless officers scurrying for cover. At 1:59, on the east side of the Capitol, demonstrators overwhelmed the police by their sheer mass and made their way to the east steps. When the police retreated into the building, the crowd followed. Back on the Capitol’s west side, an officer shoved protestor Derrick Vargo off the terrace railing twenty or so feet above the ground, “a serious crime” according to Kephart. Vargo, who had hoped to plant a Trump flag, was…

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 1,745

Like many others, Troy and Yvonne lost cell phone coverage for most of the afternoon. This time they got through. As Yvonne was leaving the Capitol, the Capitol Police launched another inexplicable round of CS gas. “Why did they let it get that crazy,” Yvonne wondered. “Were they setting us up?” She was not alone in that assessment. Body cam footage captured an MPD officer saying, “They set us the fuck up. That’s what they did. They set us up, they set up [Unit] Sixty-Four to fail.” A colleague responded, “Absolutely.”169 The poor cell phone reception was not the only obstacle the president faced in calling off the protestors. For starters, they were not the zombies the media presumed them to be. For another, Trump was not about to yield to the obligatory lie that the election was “free and fair.” Yes, Trump could have said more sooner, but when at 4:17 p.m., he said on a posted video, “You have to go home now. We have to have peace. We have to have law and order. We don’t want anybody hurt,” Twitter promptly applied a warning label, saying, “The claim of election fraud is disputed, and this tweet can’t be replied to, Retweeted, or liked due to a risk of violence.” Facebook blocked the post as well.170 It was almost dark when Yvonne and Troy managed to meet up at the West Front Fountain. By this time, the MPD had helped the USCP clear the Capitol of protestors. “I wasn’t going to leave until I found her,” said an increasingly anxious Troy. It was not the happiest of reunions. Each of the two was upset with the other for getting separated, although later Yvonne would think it providential that they had. Their children could not have endured the loss of both parents. The next morning, the couple did a Facebook live presentation from their Alexandria hotel. They had come to think of the Capitol incursion as a setup. Their message to the folks back in Idaho: we’ve got to get our country back somehow, some way.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 1,815

Insecure about club membership, certain Republicans rushed to the nearest mic to prove their bona fides. Said then US senator Mitt Romney, “What happened here today was an insurrection, incited by the President of the United States.”176 On that same January 6, before the OC gas had yet to settle at the Capitol, George Bush used the imprimatur of the “George W. Bush Presidential Center” to affirm his and wife Laura’s membership. “The violent assault on the Capitol—and disruption of a Constitutionally-mandated meeting of Congress—was undertaken by people whose passions have been inflamed by falsehoods and false hopes,” said Bush, speaking for himself and Laura. Lest anyone be confused about where Bush stood, his remarks were headlined, “Statement by President George W. Bush on Insurrection at the Capitol.”177 Bush and Romney might have checked the definition of the word before rushing to use it. Britannica defines “insurrection” as “an organized and usually violent act of revolt or rebellion against an established government or governing authority of a nation-state or other political entity by a group of its citizens or subjects.”178 The riot at the Capitol

> that day was anything but organized. If the protestors had a common mission, it was not to subvert the rule of law but to persuade Congress to honor it.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 1,889

Former NYPD officer Sara Carpenter opened a window on this unseemly plot. After leaving Washington late on the afternoon of January 6, Sara headed back to New York City. On the way home, she called an old friend from grade school who lived not far from I-95 in Maryland. When Sara mentioned she had been at the Capitol, her friend started screaming at Sara "like a rabid dog." She had never spoken to Sara like that before. "You killed somebody," the friend yelled, the "You" referring to the protestors. "You killed a Capitol Police officer with a fire extinguisher." The woman's husband had once been a Capitol Police officer. Sara presumed he had inside information. She had no reason to doubt him or his wife. "It sent me reeling," said Sara. By the time she got back to New York City, her Maryland friend had posted news of Sara's presence at the Capitol on Facebook. The next day, said Sara, "I never felt so sick in my life." The conspirators caught a break on January 7 when Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick died after suffering what would prove to be a pair of strokes. Someone in authority—the New York Times would cite "two law enforcement officials"—made the conscious decision to wed Sicknick's death to the rumored death of an officer by fire extinguisher. On January 8, the New York Times told its readers that "pro-Trump rioters" were the ones who struck Sicknick with a fire extinguisher. The Times added this chillingly fraudulent detail: "With a bloody gash in his head, Mr. Sicknick was rushed to the hospital and placed on life support." Glenn Greenwald, an independent journalist, made a screen shot of the Times story before it could be revised. "This horrifying story about a pro-Trump mob beating a police officer to death was repeated over and over, by multiple journalists on television, in print, and on social media," said Greenwald. He called this counterfeit murder "the single most-emphasized and known story of the event."188 When Sara heard on January 6 about an officer being killed, Sicknick was very much alive. Video released later would show him matter-of-factly performing his duties at the Capitol after the time of his supposed murder. To secure Sicknick's status as hero before the video surfaced or the medical examiner completed his report, the Jacobins got to work. Their operatives in the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives honored Sicknick with a public memorial service in the Rotunda of the Capitol. The previous American so honored was Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and, before her, civil rights hero John Lewis. "The circumstances of his death do matter to the public," observed Naomi Wolf, "as without his death having been caused by the events of Jan 6, the breach of the capitol, serious though it was, cannot be described as a 'deadly insurrection.'" Sicknick bore no responsibility for this civic blasphemy—he was rumored to be a Trump supporter and served six years in the Air National Guard—but the record remains…

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 1,915

Not content with misrepresenting Sicknick's death, the Biden White House launched into a grotesque inflation of the day's body count. On the first anniversary of the protest, Attorney General Merrick Garland named five men "who demonstrated what

true courage looks like" and "have since lost their lives." On the second anniversary, House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries made the lie more specific, saying, "As a result of the events on January 6, the lives of five heroic officers were lost."190 In the trials of the J6ers, judges or prosecutors would routinely repeat the saga of the five martyrs to provoke the jurors. In reality, of the five, one died of a stroke, and four committed suicide within two hundred days of January 6. It was unfortunate that the men died, but it was opportunistic in the extreme to exalt the men as martyrs. The ample video footage shows that, with only a few exceptions, most of the officers faced less peril that day than did the thousands of urban police officers injured in the George Floyd riots by Molotov cocktails, bricks, guns, and frozen water bottles. "We will not only remember them," Garland concluded, "we will do everything we can to honor them."191

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,288

Of note, too, the relevant body cam footage in Rosanne's death was strategically withheld just as it was for Floyd's. As Mohyeldin admitted, "We requested the officer in question's body camera footage, but we were denied." Bret Boyland, in fact, applied through the Freedom of Information Act for Morris's bodycam footage and was denied. In Floyd's case, the footage would have helped exonerate the cops. In Rosanne's case, it would have incriminated them, Lila Morris in particular. One other death has to be factored into this disturbing calculus, that of Brian Sicknick. On the day of his autopsy, January 8, the New York Times reported, "With a bloody gash in his head, Mr. Sicknick was rushed to the hospital and placed on life support." For more than one hundred days, the OCME withheld the autopsy results. There was no medical or legal reason to withhold them. Floyd's report, remember, was released in a week. The unstated motive, of course, was to preserve Sicknick's status as a martyr and the J6ers status as murderers as long as possible. To question either side of this equation was to risk a public shaming. Always crafty, the OCME finally released Sicknick's autopsy report on April 19, 2021. Yes, April 19 was Patriot's Day, but more to the point, it was the day closing arguments were made in the Chauvin trial. This was no coincidence. The conspirators wanted as little attention paid to the results as possible. The OCME might never have released the results were it not for pressure from a Judicial Watch lawsuit. This suit also forced the medical examiner to reveal the true cause of Sicknick's death, specifically two strokes at the base of his brain stem caused by a clot. Sicknick died on January 7. There was no fire extinguisher. No bloody gash. No rush to the hospital.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,383

Not content with humiliating Trump and the J6ers behind closed doors or on daytime TV, the House Select Committee recruited veteran TV executive James Goldston. His

job, wrote the New York Times approvingly, was “to produce the hearings as if they were a docudrama or a must-watch mini-series.”233 In 2020, Goldston served as president of ABC News. Under his guidance, on an almost nightly basis that spring and summer, his producers used their editing tricks to convert violent riots into largely peaceful protests. Using those same tricks for the House Select Committee, his producers managed to turn a largely peaceful protest into an insurrection. For his efforts, Goldston, a British native, got the best reviews of his career. “They did it. They pulled it off,” said his hometown Guardian. “Anyone who feared that the January 6 committee’s season finale would turn into an anti-climax—more Game of Thrones than M*A*S*H—need not have worried. There were shocks, horrors and even laughs.”234

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,392

Those paying attention, especially those concerned with the trafficking of children, had reason to distrust Goldston even before he put the “show” in show trial. In 2019, Goldston made news, at least on the right, for spiking a 2015 interview ABC’s Amy Robach had done with Virginia Roberts Giuffre, a Jeffrey Epstein victim. In 2019, an ABC insider leaked a hot mic moment in which Robach complained about the burial of this story. In the 2015 interview, Giuffre claimed that at seventeen she had been forced to have sex with Prince Andrew. She also claimed to have seen Bill Clinton on Epstein’s island.235 Had ABC aired the interview, Epstein’s predatory ways may well have ended four years and countless victims sooner. Fortunately for Epstein, Goldston was a friend of both the Clintons and the royal family. The Jacobins take care of their own. The Goldston miniseries further inflamed would-be jurors, not that they needed inflaming. For the J6ers, from day one, proceedings in the DC courts had been all show and no justice. “IMPOSSIBLE to get a fair trial in Washington, D.C., which is over 95% anti-Trump, & for which I have called for a Federal TAKEOVER in order to bring our Capital back to Greatness,” Trump posted on Truth Social in August 2023. Trump was not exaggerating. In 2016, Hillary Clinton may not have won the states of Wisconsin or Michigan, but she crushed Trump in the District of Columbia. In fact, Hillary was the first presidential candidate ever to win more than 95 percent of the district’s two-party votes. Trump received just 4 percent. In 2020, incumbent president Trump upped his total but only to 5 percent. Of the fifty states, by contrast, none gave Trump less than 30 percent of the vote. Historically, “liberals” would have been quick to recognize the injustice of submitting Trump and the J6ers to the DC courts. For nearly a century, the Left has memorialized the injustice visited on the famed Scottsboro Boys, the nine young black men accused of rape in 1931 Alabama. The attorneys representing the nine argued that they were denied an impartial jury. The case became a liberal cause celebre and was twice litigated before the US Supreme Court. In the years since, movies have been made, songs written, and shows staged about the nine. What seems clear is that, whether innocent or not, the Scottsboro Boys were denied their constitutional rights in Jim Crow Alabama. Liberals, to the degree they exist, should have been

defending the rights of the J6ers the way they did the Scottsboro Boys. To say the least, they have not. On the first anniversary of January 6, for instance, all fifty-one ACLU chapters signed on to the kind of letter the ACLU chapter of ancient Rome might have written about the Vandals or the Visigoths. “On January 6 of last year, the residents of D.C. were traumatized as an insurrectionist mob roamed our streets, harassed our neighbors, and violently broke into the Capitol Building, killing at least five people—all in an…

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,550

Reporter Marshall Cohen smirked, “They have had a bonanza with it in the right-wing media.” Cohen dismissed Trump’s claims about widespread voter fraud as “completely wrong.” He consulted with the “experts,” and they assured him that voter fraud is extremely rare. Case closed. Not so fast. Two weeks after the “pathetic” Rachel Powell headed to prison, a victim of Trump’s lies about voter fraud, the New York Times dug a little deeper into the Bridgeport scandal. Knowing its readers were not keen on learning about such mischief, the editors put their minds at ease with the semantic pretzel of a headline, “Election Fraud Is Rare. Except, Maybe, in Bridgeport, Conn.” Here, too, “experts” were recruited to assure readers “election fraud is rare.” Bridgeport was an exception but, admittedly, the 2023 election was not a one-off. “Ballot manipulation has undermined elections for years,” reported Amelia Nierenberg. “Residents of the city’s low-income housing complexes described people sweeping through their apartment buildings, often pressuring them to apply for absentee ballots they were not legally entitled to.” Nierenberg explained the phenomenon to her disbelieving audience as though it had never happened before. “Sometimes, residents say, campaigners fill out the applications or return the ballots for them—all of which is illegal.”248 OMG! This was the kind of granny farming Project Veritas unearthed in Minneapolis in 2020, and that the Times so grossly misreported that Project Veritas felt compelled to sue for libel.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,650

much as it pained her to accept a plea deal, Dr. Gold did not feel she had much of a choice. Prosecutors were threatening a twenty-year sentence. In the year after her arrest, DC juries had shown open hostility to J6 defendants. She and John Strand were indicted on many of the same counts as were the other protestors: civil disorder, parading, impeding, disrupting, and disturbing “the orderly conduct of a session of Congress.”255 Many, if not most, of the protestors similarly charged received three years of probation and a fine. What the prosecutors had in store for Gold and particularly for Strand was shocking. The judge at Dr. Gold’s sentencing hearing, Christopher Cooper, accused her of showing no remorse for the real victims, namely the

five police officers who allegedly died as a result of their being at the Capitol on January 6. To include among the "victims" one officer who died of natural causes and four who later committed suicide served only to stoke Cooper's already inflamed sense of self-righteousness.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,658

An Obama appointee, Cooper sentenced Dr. Gold to sixty days at the Miami Federal Detention Center, a maximum-security prison. This was an unusually severe punishment for a single misdemeanor, even by January 6 standards. It was also the first time in Cooper's career he had leveled such a sentence for a nonviolent misdemeanor. The fact that Dr. Gold had rejected Cooper's advances while both were law students at Stanford may have affected the sentence. "He was filled with rage towards me," said Dr. Gold. She believes Cooper should have recused himself.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,687

The media were gleeful. "Ex-Beverly Hills Underwear Model Gets 2 Years, 8 Months for Role in Capitol Riot," screamed the headline of the Los Angeles Times.259 Despite Strand's varied career as a model, actor, musician, and security specialist, Mother Jones mockingly reduced Strand to the "insurrectionist underwear model." Its hopeful subhead read, "John Strand could face 25 years in prison."260 The real Mother Jones must have been turning in her grave. In 1913, she was unjustly sentenced to twenty years in a state penitentiary for her role in a coal miner's strike. A century later, the Left had forgotten its own icons. When Dr. Gold was sentenced a year earlier, the media defined her first and foremost as an "anti-vaccine doctor," which she never was. Her children are fully vaccinated, and so was she. She complied with all vaccination requirements of an emergency physician—right up until the COVID shot. Dr. Gold simply made the argument that the information the government was feeding the public about COVID was a "complete fraud." This was the "only so-called 'vaccine' in the world that has proven not to be able to stop transmission or infection." CNN described Dr. Gold as someone "known for spreading debunked claims about Covid-19."261 To this day, Dr. Gold defies her critics to find anything that she said about COVID that has proved to be untrue. To find prominent people on the left who have made spectacularly false claims is not hard at all. Dr. Gold cited the example of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. At a January 2022 hearing on the legality of vaccine mandates, Sotomayor insisted, "We have over 100,000 children, which we've never had before, in serious condition, and many on ventilators." As even the CNN fact-checker had to admit, the "wise Latina" jurist overstated the numbers by a factor of at least twenty.262

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,780

As soon as the officers pulled away, rioter Chad Jones joined Alam in smashing the windows of the unguarded doors. House Sergeant at Arms employee Jason Gandolph, a licensed police officer, stood behind Ashli and did nothing to stop Jones or Alam. Now with a helmet he grabbed from another protestor, Alam broke out all the glass from the transom on far the right side. “Ashli was actively trying to disarm these people,” Hansen observed, “trying to calm them down through this entire kind of confrontation with these police officers.”271 By this time, several of the protestors on the left side of the hallway had noticed a weapon leveled parallel to the doors. A few yelled, “gun, gun” or “there’s a gun, there’s a gun.” Self-styled video journalist John Earle Sullivan happened to be in that narrow corridor as well. Through the lens of his camera, he saw the extended arm, gun in hand, and joined the chorus of those shouting “gun.” On the right side of the clamorous lobby, Ashli either did not hear the warning or feared that the gunman was on her side of the lobby doors. After yelling for Alam to stop, Ashli took matters into her own hands, literally. A southpaw, she yanked at Alam’s backpack with her right hand. As he spun around, she slugged him square in the face with her left fist. His glasses flew off on impact. Fleeing the madness, Ashli hopped with some assistance into the window frame now fully free of glass. Only a person as small as she could have managed that feat. Hansen was finally able to post this frame-by-frame breakdown of the punch in January 2022. Hell-bent on denying Ashli martyr status, the Washington Post’s Philip Bump recoiled at Hanson’s interpretation. “Even if this were true,” Bump tweeted indignantly, “I’ll just add that all of this is gross and dishonest and probably not worth elevating at all, even to identify as garbage.”272 USCP lieutenant Michael Byrd, the incident commander for the House on January 6, had all the time he needed to assess the scene. He knew that the doors were heavily barricaded and that other armed officers hovered nearby in the Speaker’s Lobby. “Members and staffers were just feet away when Babbitt attempted to climb through a shattered glass,” the House report writers insisted. That again was false.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,820

According to Aaron Babbit’s suit, “The bullet pierced Ashli in her left anterior shoulder, perforated her left brachial plexus, trachea, upper lobe of the right lung and second anterior rib, and landed in her right anterior shoulder.” Once shot, Ashli instantly fell backward onto the marble floor. She was still alive after the fall. According to Baranyi, Ashli “started to say she’s fine, it’s cool, and then she started like moving weird and blood was coming out of her mouth and neck and nose.” When California physician Austin Harris tried to treat Ashli, the police pulled him off and cleared the other protestors trying to help. According to Hansen, that is all they did. “The cops just continued to stand there,” he told filmmaker Nick Searcy. “They didn’t help her. She clearly needed her throat cleared from the blood. They didn’t do anything. They just let her bleed out. And that was it.”278 The FBI would later arrest Harris on the same

cocked-up charges they did most other protestors. A half-hour after the shooting, Ashli was pronounced dead at Washington Hospital Center. As with Hansen, no official ever talked to him or asked to see his video despite Hansen's repeated attempts to reach out. "I begged and I begged these people on the committee," said Hansen, but no one wanted to know what he saw. As Ashli lay dying, Byrd wasted no time trying to establish his alibi. Within one minute of shooting Ashli, Byrd made an astonishing radio call: 405B. We got shots fired in the lobby. We got shots shots fired in the lobby of the House Chamber. Shots are being fired at us and we're sh, uhh, prepared to fire back at them. We have guns drawn. Please don't leave that end. Don't leave that end. Like the Democrats huddling in the balcony, Byrd had fallen prey to the media scare stories about the MAGA hordes. Less than a minute later, Byrd made a follow-up call: "405B. We got an injured person. I believe that person was shot." Believe? Indifferent to the possibility that the shooting had been recorded, Byrd reflexively created his own reality. With a history of being "treated differently," he was confident his version would prevail. Sullivan made either option difficult. Sniffing a payday for his footage, he had his agent contact CNN on January 6 and enter into a one-week agreement for use of the critical forty-four seconds. CNN paid him $35,000. The network, however, would quickly come to regret this vestigial act of journalism. After Sullivan appeared with Anderson Cooper, Trump supporters like Rudy Giuliani pointed out that Sullivan was a black activist in the BLM mode. A video from his Instagram account, long since deleted, showed him at a Salt Lake City rally in the summer of 2020 telling the crowd, "We gotta fucking rip Trump right outta that office…. No, no—we ain't' about waitin' until the next election, we're about to go get that motherfucker!"279 At the Capitol, however, Sullivan played patriot and egged on the crowd. He recorded himself saying, "…

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,896

It is possible, too, that Ashli just wanted members of Congress to hear her out. This is what Thomas Baranyi, Ashli's blood still on his hands, told a reporter that afternoon. "We wanted to tell them," he said, "that we need some kind of investigation into [election fraud]."285 Worst case is that Ashli hoped to do what the Kavanaugh protesters actually did, namely, disrupt an official proceeding. If so, she was too late. The vote count had already been postponed, and the members of Congress evacuated. Whatever her end game, both Micki and Ashli's husband, Aaron, believe that it was very much like Ashli, the oldest of five siblings, to take the lead. The one interpretation that makes no sense of these last few minutes of Ashli's life is that she hoped to further an insurrection. Her brief interlude inside the Capitol refutes any such notion. Ashli Babbitt was a respecter of sacred spaces, a champion of the Constitution, and, above all, a patriot. For the Jacobins, her very virtues are what made her so dangerous.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,909

I use the word “conspirators” here advisedly. If these sundry people shared a goal—humiliating Trump and ending MAGA as a movement—they did not necessarily share the same game plan. The law enforcement agencies had legitimate reasons to have undercover operatives in the crowd. Most, one hopes, performed appropriately. Some obviously did not. There were also clearly rogue actors in the crowd. Some, like videographer John Earle Sullivan and window-smasher Zachary Alam, did not have benefactors. They went to prison. Others, like Ray Epps and the bat-wielding Emanuel Jackson, apparently did have friends in high places. They did not go to prison. “I

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 2,933

The conspirators, it appears, had not counted on Harris being at the DNC just as they had not counted on the delay in Trump’s speech. They went ahead with their plans nonetheless. For the previous half hour or so, Ray Epps had been shepherding his crew down Pennsylvania Avenue. “We are going to the Capitol,” he shouted. “That’s where our problems are.” On the west side of the Capitol, Epps and those he influenced breached the outer gates at 12:53 p.m.289 None of those involved in this breach could have heard Trump’s speech. Had Trump started his speech on time, Epps would have had thousands more potential troops behind him. This account of events, I should note, is a work in progress. By the time this book is released, we will know much more about the convergence of events at 1 p.m. This new information will come from the right side of the blogosphere, the samizdat. The Jacobins will, of course, do their best to limit the spread of new evidence. Through sheer clumsiness, however, they have already shown their hand. Their efforts to conceal Harris’s presence at the DNC, protect Epps, and memory-hole the pipe bomber mark January 6 in no small part as an inside job. Politico did not break the story of Harris’s whereabouts until January 6, 2022. Within minutes of the bomb’s discovery, Politico reported, the Secret Service whisked Harris off to some undisclosed location but not the Capitol—“Harris had said little about her movements during the siege.” As others in the media had been doing for the past year, Politico attributed the bomb to Trump supporters, claiming “that the riots could have been far more destructive than they already were, with the incoming vice president’s life directly endangered.” For its part, the FBI continued to insist that the bombs were “viable” and “could have been detonated, resulting in serious injury or death.”290 The Biden White House suppressed news of Harris’s presence at the DNC for a year. Despite her penchant for contrived drama, Harris somehow resisted the urge to present herself as the near victim of a white supremacist terror plot. Biden resisted the urge as well. There was obviously something about this little drama they did not like. The suppression of that information had real-world consequences. Prosecutors had been telling J6 judges and juries that Harris was among those under threat from the mob at the Capitol. Not until November 2021 did they amend their filings to correct this error. Said Politico, “It’s unclear why DOJ included the erroneous information in the first place and continued to do so for months.”291 The management of the Ray Epps saga is

equally curious. By January 8, Epps ranked high on the FBI's "most wanted" list. Not only did he encourage the initial breach and a secondary breach, but he also provided hands-on help to those pushing a large metal Trump sign into a line of police officers. By July 2021, the evidence notwithstanding, he was off the list altogether. Perversely, the more…

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 3,012

Playing her role in the "deep rig," Whitmer revealed this nefarious plot just four weeks before the 2020 election. Just as Clinton did in Oklahoma City, then candidate Joe Biden seized the opportunity to score political points, however specious. "There is a through line from President Trump's dog whistles and tolerance of hate, vengeance, and lawlessness to plots such as this one," said Biden on the day the FBI announced the arrests. "He is giving oxygen to the bigotry and hate we see on the march in our country." Biden took the occasion to repeat his lies about Trump's Charlottesville comments, the "through line" of his own campaign.301 Biden's silence about the terrorist bomb plot on January 6 tells us who the conspirators are not. What happened in the wake of Oklahoma City happened again after January 6: the media lost interest in finding the most wanted man in America. The pipe bomber—for continuity's sake, John Doe #3—has all but faded from memory. Those pulling the strings likely sensed that finding the bomber would undo the story they had so successfully spun. Better to let him disappear into the night. Like the ill-fated Brian Sicknick, he had served his purpose. The management of the Harris story suggests orchestration at the highest level. This was no rogue plot. Those in the know stood to gain by having the certification process shut down and Trump blamed for the disruption. That group did not include President Donald Trump. He remained hopeful to the end. Even if Pence rejected the proposal to allow each state a ten-day election audit before certification, that day's scheduled airing of fraud allegations would have revealed why so many people believed the election was stolen.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 3,065

At that moment, Ray Epps and others began pushing a huge metal Trump sign into the police line, promising more mayhem still. There would be no election challenge, no talk of a stolen election, no future for Donald Trump. And then at 2:44 p.m. Michael Byrd went and bollixed everything up. A minute or so after the shooting, a red warning flare popped, and an eight-person team—four in front, four in back—quickly extracted Epps from the scene. He was alleged to be alone. He wasn't. The video evidence is inarguable. "Every military guy I know, every three-letter guy I know that was at January sixth, we all saw the same things happening," J6 video expert Gary McBride

> told filmmaker Nick Searcy. “We all knew that this was an operation.”306 Say what you will about Michael Byrd, he wasn’t part of the plan.

Note: