

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT  
THIS PLAY IS FULLY PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT**

All plays, books, music and other materials published by Heartland Plays, Inc. are fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries which the United States has reciprocal relations including, but not limited to all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, The Universal Copyright Convention and the Berne Convention. All rights to the plays and materials on our website are strictly reserved including, and without limitation, professional and amateur performance rights; motion pictures; public reading; radio and television broadcasting; audio and video recording and reproduction of any type known or yet to be invented; information storage and retrieval systems of any type known or yet to be invented; and the rights of translation into any and all languages. No individual or organization whether amateur or stock may perform this or any play published by Heartland Plays, Inc. without first obtaining advance permission from Heartland Plays, Inc. and paying the appropriate fees including Royalties and Single-Use Copyright fees. Heartland Plays, Inc. collects royalties on behalf of the Playwrights whose plays it publishes. Unauthorized copying, transcribing or reproduction of this or any play or excerpt, or storage or transmittal in any form and by any means whether known or yet to be invented, is strictly forbidden except as provided by Agreement with Heartland Plays, Inc. Any unauthorized use is a violation of copyright laws and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

**FIVE SIMPLE RULES TO REMEMBER**

1. DO take advantage of the free online perusal of our plays to help you make the best choice for your particular needs or production.
2. DO enjoy the convenience of our online purchase application for performance rights and single-use copyright.
3. DO understand that this play and all plays and materials on our website are controlled by Heartland Plays, Inc. and fully protected by copyright.
4. DO NOT attempt in any way to copy, transcribe or reproduce this play by any means or perform this play or use any play or material from our website without first receiving permission from Heartland Plays, Inc. Any attempt to use this or any other work without first obtaining permission is a violation of copyright and punishable by law.
5. DO NOT rob this Author or any of the Authors we represent of their right to be paid for the use of their property. It is a crime and it is wrong!

**Product Code A0860.2**

# **ENVOY**

**by Craig Kenworthy**

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED  
REPRODUCTION WITHOUT SPECIFIC WRITTEN PERMISSION PROHIBITED**

**Performance Rights Available Exclusively through  
Heartland Plays, Inc. at [heartlandplays.com](http://heartlandplays.com)  
[playsnow@heartlandplays.com](mailto:playsnow@heartlandplays.com)  
customer service: 406-431-7680**

**Copyright © 2011 by Craig Kenworthy**

# **Envoy**

by Craig Kenworthy

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

**EXAMINER;** *a female State Department official in her mid-40's administering a test to two foreign service applicants*

**ANDREA;** *a rather tall 25 year old graduate of a small Midwestern liberal arts college*

**TIM;** *a 29 year of graduate of Sewanee, tall in stature with a slight paunch*

**(+TWO MEN IN SUITS)**

## **SETTING**

*At present; a conference room*

**Envoy**  
by Craig Kenworthy

*(AT RISE: EXAMINER seated at the head of a square table in a small conference room; she holds two darts in her hands. There are two additional chairs at the table, each with two stacks of 4x6 cards on the table in front of them. There is also a stuffed envelope on the table. Across the room, Stage Right, is a map of the world. EXAMINER turns toward the map, aims the first dart and throws it. SHE then aims the second dart at the map and throws it as well.)*

Examiner

Damn, the North Atlantic is so small.

*(ANDREA enters Stage Right as TIM enters Stage Left. THEY take seats in the empty chairs at the table.)*

Examiner

All right, let's get started. This is the final competitive portion of the Foreign Service examination. You will engage each other in a series of role playing exercises. On most of them, you will be given the basic situation, but will need to construct details for the other person to respond to. When I say, "Card," you will each turn over a card, read the scenario and start in on it. Tim will start (*Nods at TIM*) and Andrea (*Nods at ANDREA*) will go second. You will continue with each scenario until I say "Card" again. Once we start, I cannot answer any more questions.

Andrea

Have we started?

Examiner

Yes.

Tim

*(Turns over card; reads it)* Mr. Ambassador, this matter is of critical importance to the United States.

Andrea

*(Reads his card)* My country respects your concerns but believes this is an internal matter.

Tim

Surely, you agree that it has regional implications. Your neighboring countries may act based on your position.

Andrea

Flattery will not avail you here. My people have a long-standing connection to the current situation. We cannot change that to appease one of your industry leaders.

Tim

So you are staying with Coke?

Andrea

*(Looks at card again)* Hey, my card says we are supposed to be discussing getting a genetically modified crop into his market.

Examiner

Stay in your role, please.

Andrea

Yes, Coke.

Tim

Pepsi?

Andrea

Coke.

Tim

Pepsi One?

Examiner

Card.

Andrea

*(Reads card, looks at it again, turns over to look at the back)* I want to make it clear that my government does not condone the actions of the few, even if they believed they were expressing the concerns of the many.

Tim

*(Reads his card quickly)* Mr. Secretary, will you be issuing a formal apology?

Andrea

No, that would imply that our government bears some responsibility for this unfortunate occurrence.

Tim

So, you contend that letting the National Police hand out ripe fruit just before the vice-president's motorcade passed by is not your responsibility?

Andrea

*(Looks down at table; shrugs)* Our efforts at improving the national diet could have been better timed. Still, I believe your embassy spokesperson's characterization of my countrymen as "guava-chucking hoodlums" was also unfortunate.

Tim

Yes, he is well aware that your national fruit is the papaya.

Examiner

Card.

*(ANDREA turns over a card, reads it, picks up the envelope and slides it across the table. TIM looks right and left, picks up the envelope and slips it into his pocket.)*

Examiner, Continued

Card.

Tim

*(Reads his card)* We... we continue to hope for resolution of this crisis, but we urge your government not to consider giving into these demands.

Andrea

We share your hope, but you must see our position. We are a small country, with deep family bonds. If we refuse to negotiate, the possible loss would be devastating to us and could threaten the stability of our government.

Tim

Still, there is the question of encouraging further actions by this group. Negotiating with them will lead to other groups believing that the best way to sway your government is by taking hostages.

Andrea

Do you have any children, sir?

Tim

No, I don't.

Andrea

Every day I get a call from a family member of one of the hostages. I take all of those calls. Sometimes it is an uncle tells me his sister is not well enough to come to the phone. Sometimes it is a father, who weeps... and men here do not weep on the phone to other men. Do I tell them that geopolitical concerns are worth more than seeing their child again?

Tim

Card?

Examiner

*(Shakes her head)* Not so fun anymore, is it?

Tim

What will you say to another father three years from now? That what HIS daughter's kidnappers want is too much to ask? Will you tell him that releasing foreign extremists was okay, but releasing your own terrorists is too much of a threat?

Andrea

What alternatives can you offer me? Can you assure me that a rescue mission will be a success?

Tim

I cannot. But I can assure you that it will be the better option, whatever the outcome.

Andrea

Meaning?

Examiner

Card.

Andrea

*(Reads his card)* I am asking for your assistance in communicating with their government. Since we do not maintain diplomatic ties with them, you would be doing us a favor by conveying our concerns.

*(ANDREA rolls the stuffed globe across table at TIM.)*

Tim

And how concerned should we say you are? Somewhat concerned? Very concerned? *(Rolls globe back across)*

Andrea

We are asking you to convey our utmost concern. *(Rolls globe back)*

Tim

That serious, eh. Are there any additional details about their activities that you can share with me? It might help place those concerns in context when I speak with their minister. I would prefer to appear an interested party, not an errand boy.

*(TIM starts to roll globe. EXAMINER leans over and grabs it away.)*

Andrea

My government has the deepest respect for you and would never consider such an implication to be correct.

Tim

So, in other words, you have no intention of telling me what they are up to since you know we'll talk to them even if you don't tell us anything more.

Andrea

There may come a time when my department finds it appropriate to permit me to provide more details. Of course, that will depend on the circumstances at the time.

Tim

*(Looks at EXAMINER)* Do you test for people who are congenitally incapable of just saying "No?"

Examiner

Let's take a break. I can't let you talk to each other during it, so Andrea, you can use the bathroom first.

*(ANDREA exits backstage. TIM stands up, steps over to EXAMINER.)*

Tim

So, how am I doing? I thought the Coke thing was pretty funny.

Examiner

Yeah, you're a riot. If this was a match, she scored big time on you with the call from weeping fathers thing.

Tim

I just asked for a new card for authenticity's sake. If I handled that too smoothly, she might get suspicious.

Examiner

Yeah, right, Tim. She's coming back. Sit down.

*(TIM sits. ANDREA enters and takes her seat. TIM nods at her.)*

Andrea

Don't you want to use the bathroom?

Tim

Maybe I do, but you never know when you might find yourself in a negotiation where leaving the room for even a minute could be seen as a sign of weakness.

Examiner

Interesting theory, Tim. I guess you won't mind if we skip the second break later on. Let's get started again. But just for the fun of it, Andrea, why don't you reach across and switch top cards with Tim.

Andrea

Okay.

*(ANDREA reaches across the table and switches cards.)*

Tim

*(Reads his card; glares at EXAMINER)* I am begging you, sir. Not for myself. My child is the son of an American. He deserves a better life than I can provide here.

Andrea

I am sorry, but without some evidence as to the identity of the father, I cannot process your application.



Tim

*(Looks at card again; holds arms forward as if holding a baby)* What evidence do you need? Look at me and look at my son. Look at his eyes.

*(EXAMINER puts her hand over her mouth to conceal a smile.)*

Andrea

He is a... a beautiful baby, but the mixed heritage could be the result of a relationship with someone from any number of countries.

Tim

But I have given you the father's name and the name of the company he worked for.

Andrea

*(Looks at back of her card)* Yes, I know. We contacted him. He declined to speak with me, although his wife seemed intrigued by the call. I'm sorry; you did know he is married?

Tim

*(Pulls arms back as if pulling baby closer)* Yes, I knew. I can get money for a DNA test. Can't you get him to take one, to get enough evidence?

Andrea

Regrettably, no. If he were a member of the armed forces I could, but not for an American civilian.

Tim

He does not respond to my letters, he has blocked my emails. You seem like an honorable woman. Why won't your government help me?

Andrea

I really wish I could help you. Is there any other basis on which you could be eligible...

Examiner

*(Talks over her)* Card.

Andrea

*(Reads her card; looks a little taken aback)* As I indicated, I am here on a diplomatic passport.

Tim

That does not explain why you were taking photos of one of our military sites.

Andrea

I assure you, I was taking pictures of the birds. I didn't know that was a restricted area.

Tim

Please do not lie to me. I believe you are with the CIA. I expect that revelation could be most embarrassing to your country. Spying on such a small, weak nation as ours.

*(TIM smiles and waves his arm in a sweeping gesture.)*

Andrea

We can clear this up if you will just allow me to—

Tim

*(Slaps the table, speaking over her)* I do not have to allow you anything. I am sure you realize that you could leave here and have difficulty returning to your lodgings. The streets of our capitol can be quite dangerous at night... for a woman.

Andrea

*(Grips edge of her chair with her right hand)* I am telling you I am not an agent. I am a diplomat on a trade mission.

Tim

That is unfortunate, then. I have no need for diplomats. On the other hand, someone who has the right connections might find knowing me to be very useful.

Andrea

I see. Well, of course I am always willing to pass along information to the right people. Even if I don't know them myself since, as a trade diplomat, I have no reason to. If you will allow me to make a phone call, I can see if such people can be found. Although I am sure there are none in your country itself.

Tim

I do wish I could accommodate you, but time is short. Your presence here with me alone could lead to questions. No, I will need you to remain here. If you will give me a contact phone number, I will assure them you are quite safe and we can take it from there. Once I establish that you have put me in touch with the right people, I will send for you. My men will see to your comfort.

Andrea

*(Runs her left hand through her hair)* We seem to be at an impasse since I would have to make inquiries myself.

Tim

Why is it you Americans are so willing to declare a draw when you are clearly behind? This is not a negotiation. My men can also see to your discomfort. I will give you a few minutes to decide. *(Gets up and walks past Examiner, stage whispers to him.)* I'll be taking that bathroom break now. *(Tim exits backstage.)*

Examiner

You can relax for a second while he's out.

Andrea

*(Unclenches right hand from edge of her chair.)* Can I ask you a question now?

Examiner

No. Just kidding. So long as it isn't for advice on this scenario, it's okay.

Andrea

You've been a field officer, right. That's why you are a trainer now.

Examiner

Yes.

Andrea

Did you like it, as a job? I mean the exotic part wears out, but you liked what you did day to day?

Examiner

Kind of late to be asking those kinds of questions, isn't it? Good thing you aren't CIA. Wouldn't do to have that level of uncertainty in one of them, would it?

Andrea

No, it wouldn't.

*(The EXAMINER looks at ANDREA, opens mouth to speak, but TIM enters and returns to his seat.)*

Andrea, Continued

You know, you left me in here with my cell phone. I could have made any number of calls.

Tim

I think it's fair to assume that you were being held in a room with call blocking equipment in use.

Examiner

I don't remember saying, "Card," people. Please continue.

Tim

My men are outside the door. Has your memory of who you know improved?

Andrea

I do want to assist you, but I would need to contact my embassy.

Tim

*(Screaming)* I do not have time for this.

*(TIM exits backstage and returns moments later with TWO MEN IN SUITS.)*

Tim, Continued

We can skip the introductions. Take her to somewhere where her memory is likely to improve.

*(The LARGER MAN grabs ANDREA, pulls her upright and starts to lead her away. ANDREA looks at EXAMINER as SHE is dragged off backstage.)*

Andrea

Hey, what the hell is this? Is this supposed to be part of the exercise?

Tim

*(Takes Andrea's seat.)* Pretty good, huh. I convinced a couple of the security guys to have a bit of fun. This should tell us how she handles pressure.

*(ANDREA, a bit disheveled, enters from backstage. SHE tilts her head down and looks at TIM.)*

Tim

I see you have eluded my men. You are indeed a worthy adversary, American.

*(TIM returns to his seat. ANDREA sits down, picks up old card, folds it over twice.)*

Andrea

Yes, actually I am.

Examiner

Last round, you two. For this one, I have the option of jumping in if I feel like it.

Tim

*(Turns over card)* Mr. Ambassador, we have a credible report that explosives have been planted here in the embassy. They claim they will go off in the next thirty minutes.

Andrea

*(Reads her card)* How credible?

Tim

They included one of our internal layout diagrams with the threat. They didn't list the location of the bomb, but they marked our panic rooms and our evacuation routes.

Andrea

What are you recommending?

*(LIGHTS DOWN with RED LIGHT UP.)*

Tim

We need to evacuate everyone but security and the Marines. Now.

Examiner

We have fifty guests downstairs, Sir. You'd have to send them out the front. This could be a set-up. We put them on the street and shooting starts. You don't want to find out it was an empty threat. Order a sweep for the explosives.

Andrea

That could take too long. We can send the guests out through our secure route.

Tim

No, Ma'am. The threat shows they know those routes and even if nothing happens, that means all of the guests, some of whom can't be trusted, will know our internal security layout. Unless you are planning to ask Washington for a new building, we can't have that.

Andrea

Have you asked the locals to assess the threat?

Tim

They've never heard of the group.

Examiner

*(Stands up, leans on table toward ANDREA)* Order the sweep and go back down to the party.

Tim

*(Stands up straight)* I disagree and this is my responsibility. Order the evacuation. We'll pull it as a fire alarm and decoy it to look like a real fire. That might buy us a few minutes if someone is watching the building.

Andrea

How long to get everyone out?

Tim

Too long to wait any longer. You need to act now.

Examiner

Every embassy gets these threats. If you're wrong and they just wanted to put people on the street...

*(EXAMINER sits down, but still leans forward.)*

Andrea

We are sending them out. Pull the alarm just before I get back downstairs. But I want all our security on the street shielding the guests *(Looks at TIM)* ...all the guests. I'll get back up here as soon as they are out.

Tim

That's fine, except you go out the back. It's not as secure, but we can cover moving you.

Andrea

I'm not leaving until the staff is clear.

Examiner

Sir, I agree with him on this. You don't go down with the ship here. We don't lose ambassadors. For one thing, it makes recruiting more difficult.

Andrea

If you are right, we could have people dead in the street. How is that going to sit with the populace here if I they find out I went out the back. I stay here.

Tim

You're CIA, aren't you?

Andrea

Did we just go back a card?

*(TIM sits down and begins starts shuffling his cards.)*

Examiner

No, we didn't. But speaking of cards, turn mine over, Andrea. What's it say?

Andrea

*(Holds card so audience can see it)* "BOOM." So there was a bomb. What does that mean to my score?

Examiner

It means you're dead, but you made the right call to stay in the building. So, are you with the CIA or not?

Andrea

What? You guys have my whole life history. When did I have time to join the CIA? Between high school chorus and band?

Examiner

You spent a summer traveling between your sophomore and junior years of college, didn't you? Besides records can be faked.

Tim

*(Stops shuffling)* What's the matter, Andy? Agency got your tongue?

Examiner

Do you remember that discussion we had once, Tim? About how the CIA might do better if they slipped a few people into the Foreign Service process instead of just inserting their people in the field?

Tim

Yeah.

Examiner

So, I wonder about our girl here. She asked me whether I liked working in the field, like she was mulling that over. Seemed kind of strange at this stage. Maybe she wants to know what her day job will be like.

Andrea

I asked you because I thought you'd give me a straight answer. I may get shipped to East Timor or the Azores and it would be nice to know if it is worth it. And I am not CIA. If I wanted to be a spook, I'd just do it and not go through all of this. By the way, when did you two get so chummy?

Tim

Can I tell him? I'm a trainer, too, Andrea. We don't really make candidates face off. It's better if they have to role play against a real Foreign Service officer.

Andrea

*(Gives TIM a weak smile; turns to EXAMINER)* So, how did I do?

Examiner

In my opinion, you did fine. But the videotape will be reviewed by two other officers and they will score you. With your written score, I think you'll pass with no trouble. Unless we do find out you are CIA.

Andrea

For the last time, I am not CIA. I've never even read "Six Days of the Condor".

Tim

The movie was better. Lighten up. We're just yanking your tail. But I do get to offer input on your performance, so can you excuse us?

*(ANDREA rises and offers her hand to TIM. THEY shake hands. As ANDREA exits, SHE bends down to whisper in Examiner's ear. EXAMINER laughs. ANDREA exits backstage.)*

**This is Not the End of the Play**  
**Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes**