

Whoa!
Deep breath!
This is probably fiction...

2 ● How we stole the 2016 election

How we stole the 2016 election

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My apology

I didn't intend to.
You gotta believe me on this.
All I wanted to do was
give you a voice.

It seemed a shame
to see all these people
staying home
and not voting.

It bothers me.
I hate it when you don't have a voice.

All I wanted to do was give you a voice.

Having a voice is the challenge, you know.

It's noisy out there.

I figured the only way

you and I could have a voice

—the only chance we had—

was for all of us to say the exact same thing

at the exact same moment.

Maybe then they would hear us.

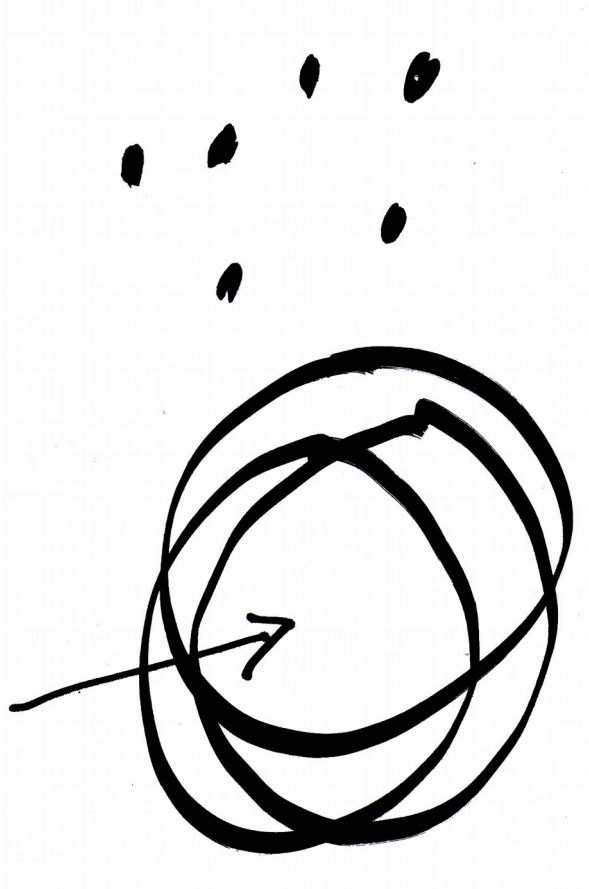
Maybe then they would slow down

and listen.

I know what you're thinking.
Believe me,
it troubled me for a long time too.

But then I figured out something.
I call it the Law of Dots and Circles.

Let me draw it for you.



I probably need to explain that,
don't I?

Dots.
That's what people say
you and I are.
Dots
surrounded by the space
of our differences.

People come along
and try to put enough dots
in a basket
so they can win
and all the other dots lose.

It's called an election.

Hmm.

Do you see a problem with that?

I do.

By the time the election is over
we don't like each other very much.

But maybe somebody got it wrong.
Maybe we aren't dots.
Maybe we aren't dots at all.

Maybe what holds us together
is so much more important
than what drives us apart.

Maybe if we listened
long enough
you could hear your story
inside my story,
and I could hear my story
inside yours.

What do you think?

What if we're not dots
but circles?

What if we really do share a voice?

What if
—instead of choosing a basket
of dots—
we simply chose us.

If you look at the picture again,
you can see
I drew an arrow
at us.

And what if that voice
was the voice we heard.

The quiet
confident
clear
voice of us.

This is the challenge of course—
finding us.

I don't mean compromise.
Compromise is what dots do.
They swim toward each other
and regret leaving
the place they called home.

Dots reach across the aisle.
Circles remove the aisle.

I don't know.
It takes great courage
to reach down inside
and find the place
where all our voices harmonize
into one.

No more dots.
No more distance.
Just us.

I get it.

We're angry.

Of course we're angry.

There are plenty of good reasons
to be angry.

But here's the problem:

What can you buy with your anger?

Think it over.

What can you really buy with your anger?
(besides a fight)

If I'm angry at you,
and you're angry at me,
then what do we accomplish?

Suppose I win
and you lose.

Do you like me any better?

Suppose you win
and I lose.

How does that help us?

How does that make me
eager to help you

the next time
you have a problem?

Jim Rohn said,
“There’s just one problem
with trying to sink
half the ship—
guess what happens
to your half!”

I pause here
because this really important.

I know you care
about the things you care about.

So do I.

But
if we take the position
that we must win
by making everyone
who disagrees with us
lose,
we weaken us.
A weak us
is a weak US.

There's a better way to win.

I call it
the Law of Arrows.

Again, I'll draw this for you.



This is how it usually works.

I push against you.

You push against me.

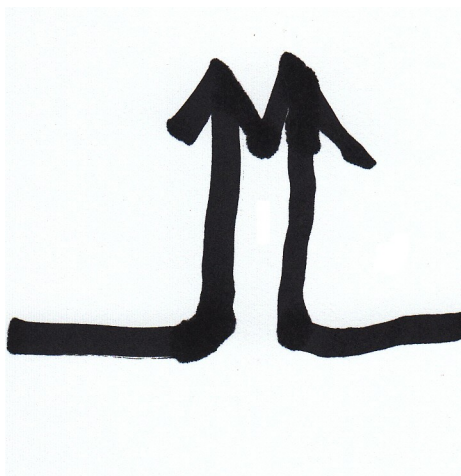
We try to win dominance
over each other.

I win; you lose.

Or, you win; I lose.

We call it politics
and pretend it's a game.
But it's not a game.

Suppose we could do it a different way.



Suppose we could step back,
take another look,
find a creative alternative,
and all push in the same direction.

How do we take
the issues that divide us
and find
“us”
inside them?

Find the rest of this book at

<http://dwightclough.com/books2/dwight-clough-books/how-we-stole-the-2016-election/>