The Deplorables
A series by
Faith E. Van de Ven
Man, Myth, Mr. President. Donald John Trump — the exception to every rule. As a nation, we watched the Republican Party tear herself in two in an attempt to block him from the candidacy, from the Oval. The opposition was palpable, but his resistance was stronger.
Republicans were weary. We suffered severe headaches from the endless empty rhetoric of politicians past. Our hands blistered from working to afford healthcare and pay for the state of welfare.

We watched eight years of a presidency plagued by manipulation and carefully crafted corruption. We had a number of choices before us — sixteen of them. But the question that kept us up at night was not who would make the best president, no. The real question burning within us was, “Who can beat Hillary?”

We prayed over it, we pined over it. Mrs. Clinton’s America promised a fate for our nation that mass numbers of us could not stomach. We watched a president call Trayvon Martin his son and defend radical Islamic terrorists for shooting up night clubs and schools — a president who would consistently shame, blame and berate his own people.

We desperately believed in America, that she really could be great again. We were afraid to admit on our own that our nation was no longer the woman she once was, but we were given a candidate who was not afraid to do so. Where he lacked in tact, he compensated with trasparency.

So when the time came to choose between Obama 2.0 or a new era of Americana, we chose the latter.
I still remember the first time I watched *The Wizard of Oz* as a little girl. I was so puzzled, struck by the notion that after all this time, the booming voice in the sky was not what I had believed it to be all along. I was in awe that there could be an old, ardent man hiding in the shadows, running the show, pulling the strings and pushing the buttons.
With blatant bravado, the old man used a microphone behind a facade to maximize his potential. Maximize his power. Steve Bannon is the Man Behind the Curtain, and Donald Trump is the microphone.

*Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain.*
War in the name of love — ironic, isn’t it? Before he was President Trump, businessman Trump and candidate Trump condemned and vehemently warned against any military action in Syria. But, when he was faced with the same scenario as President Obama, he did take military action.

Some say it was John McCain that convinced him to send 59 Tomahawk missiles into the sky while others blame Bannon. Many say it was the faces of the children struggling to breathe from inhaling sarin gas that pulled the trigger, but I believe it was a different face altogether that prompted the man in the highest seat of the land to flex his muscles.

Ivanka Trump — the eldest daughter, the favorite child — holds the keys to the kingdom because she alone possesses two of the most valuable resources in the world: the president’s heart and the president’s ear.

Hers is the face that did the right thing — that stood up to a bully, a killer.

America’s mother; America’s daughter; America’s Helen of Troy.

The face that launched 59 Tomahawk missiles.

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The FACE that launched 59 TOMAHAWK MISSILES

Credit: Ivanka Trump Jewelry
Kellyanne E. Conway — a Republican pollstress, the first woman in American history to lead a successful presidential campaign, and Counselor to the President.

Those in President Donald J. Trump’s inner circle are either extremely visible or they are entirely invisible. Steve Bannon, the Man Behind the Curtain, and Ivanka Trump, Helen of Troy, are far more invisible than most realize.

Sure, both Ivanka and Bannon hold very public offices, but we never see them in front of the camera, fighting the good fight.

Kellyanne Conway is different. She is Mr. President’s warrior, and she has been from the moment he invited her onto his team. Calm, poised under pressure, Kellyanne is a force to be reckoned with.

She does national television interviews on a consistent basis to protect and defend the policies and decision of the commander in chief, and that is no easy job.

She is Leading Lady, U.S.A.
She is the face of a nation.
Leading Lady, U.S.A.
Jesse B. Watters

Court Jester

“"I’m Watters, and this is my world right here"
Keep an eye on Jesse Watters. Hear me when I say this: It will not take long for him to fill the shoes of his former boss, Bill O’Reilly, as the face of Fox News. Jesse Watters is a new kind of commentator, a new brand of personality. Jesse Watters is widely hated by his competitors for his “gotcha” questions and “ambush-style reporting,” so much so that Huffington Post reporter Ryan Grim instigated a physical altercation with Watters at a White House Correspondence Dinner after party.

Quickly, his Watters World segment on The O’Reilly Factor turned into his own show. Since O’Reilly’s farewell, Watters landed a permanent seat at The Five table. He uses satire and sarcasm to stump his liberal subjects, quickly gaining a vast following of Republican millennials, the very demographic Fox News struggles to tap into.

It’s no secret the up-and-coming Fox News star is one of the President’s favorites. Watters was recently chosen for a primetime interview with President Trump aboard Air Force One. The court jester to the king.

And the best part is, he’s just getting started.
I met Matthew Shuman as a young intern on Capitol Hill. I was 19 years old, to be exact. At the time, Matthew was a lobbyist working to establish English as the official language of the United States of America. Before heading to D.C. I’d been told lobbyists were essentially the scum of the earth. Matthew was my first encounter with a lobbyist, and he wrecked every stereotype I was predisposed to. He treated me, a lowly intern, with the utmost respect.

With his contagious laugh, patterned socks and bright bow ties, I always knew when Matthew was in the room, and I truly mean that in the very best way. He is the life of the party.

Matthew has since moved on to bigger and better gigs. He is currently serving as the Legislative Director at the American Legion where he is doing terrific work for those who sacrifice for our nation’s freedom.

Matthew is a fervent supporter of the Republican Party, unabashedly pro-Trump. He is a veteran, and Matthew is openly gay.

The argument that the Republican Party is homophobic and retrogressive does not work on Matthew.

You cannot make a monolith out of Matthew Shuman — he is untouchable.

*He is the Trump Card.*