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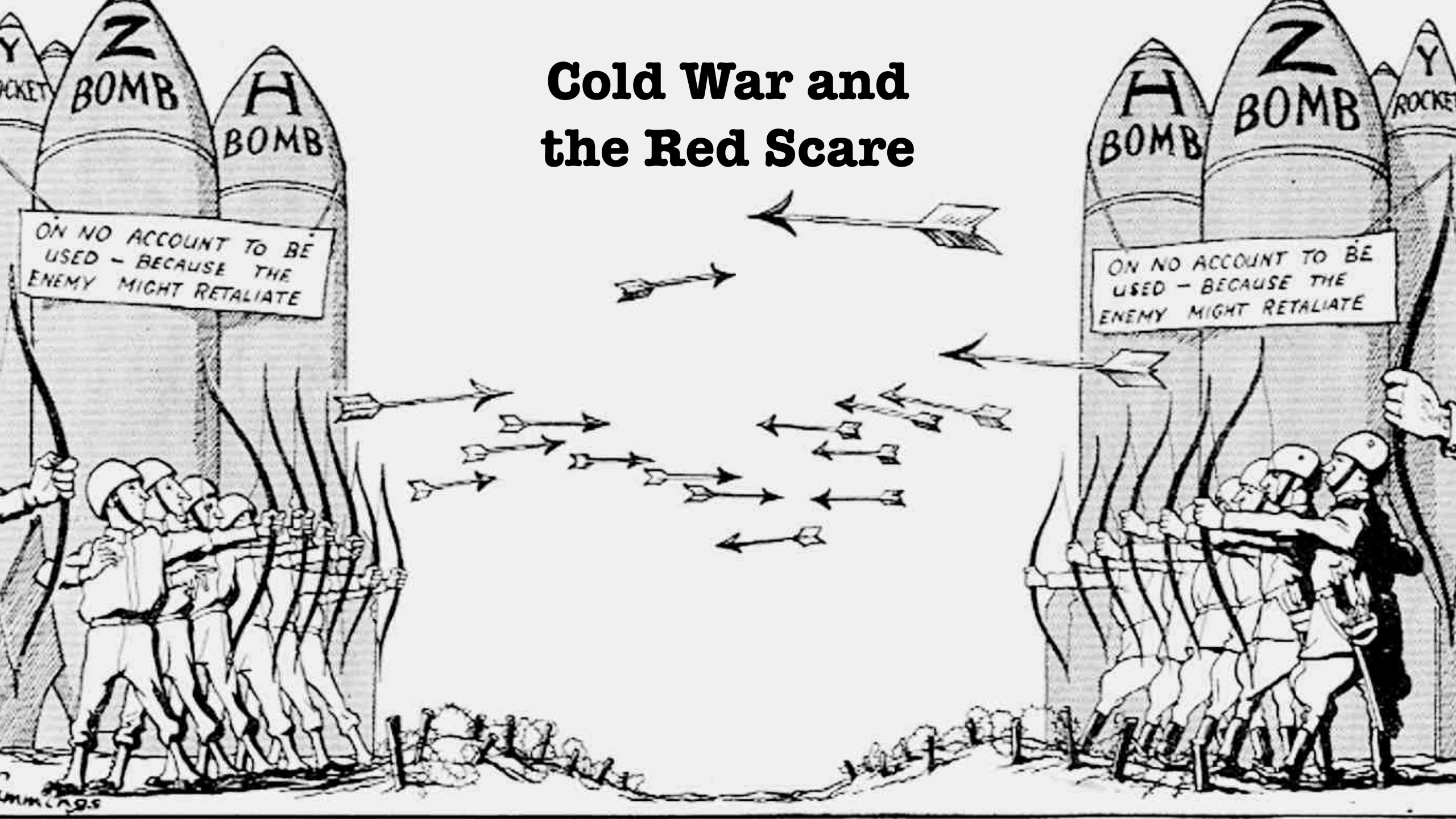
Dramaturg
Study Guide

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Character Descriptions

- Barbara Jackson – Mother of Julie, wife to Bob, a bit of a worrier but it's all out of love
- Bob Jackson – Father to Julie, husband to Barbara, protective of the family, people pleaser
- Julie Jackson – Daughter to Barbara and Bob, teenager, and acts likes it
- Helen Kroger – Neighbor to the Jacksons, wife to Peter, marches to the beat of her own drum
- Peter Kroger – Neighbor to the Jacksons, husband to Helen, intellectual, quiet but comfortable standing up for what he believes in
- Stewart – Detective for British government, straightforward and to the point
- Thelma – Observer, works for Stewart, optimistic, understanding
- Sally – Observer, works for Stewart, realistic and sometimes harsh

Cold War and the Red Scare



- Following World War II, the United States and the Soviet Union became engaged in a series of largely political and economic clashes known as the Cold War. The intense rivalry between the two superpowers raised concerns in the United States that Communists and leftist sympathizers inside America might actively work as Soviet spies and pose a threat to U.S. security. Obviously, this wasn't such a radical idea. Americans like Peter and Helen Kroger did exist, and they did work for the Soviets.
- Throughout *Pack of Lies*, you will notice a lot of talk about "well it's okay, they're Canadians not Americans." This is because of this history. The world became frightened of the weaponry and the growing tensions that the US and the Soviets had. Everyone lived in constant fear of these two countries and what they could do. This was only heightened by the growth of the Russian spy genre. Creatives took advantage of the intrigue revolving around the Red Scare creating movies and television that raised the fear like the creation of James Bond in 1953.

**Peter and
Helen Kroger**

- Their real names being Loentine (or Lona) and Morris Cohen. Morris was born in Harlem, New York, Jewish, and grew up a football star. He went to college at NYU and Mississippi A&M on a football scholarship and received his masters in Education from University of Illinois and Columbia University. It was at University of Illinois where he first got involved in The National Student League, which was basically a communist front on campus. After receiving his masters, he returned to New York where he officially became a full member and organizer of the Communist Party USA.
- Lona was born in Adams, Massachusetts and was raised Catholic. By 15, she left her parents home and moved to New York. While there, she renounced her catholic faith and became a member of the socialist party and not long after, moving to the communist party.
- The two were married in 1941 (fun fact: Lona didn't know her husband was a spy for the Soviet Union at the time of their marriage, only finding out a year later when he recruited her to join him). They are most famous for smuggling blueprints of the first nuclear bomb of the Manhattan Project in a Kleenex box to the Soviet Consulate in New York in 1945.
- After a fellow spy was arrested, the Cohens had no choice but to leave their home in New York and live in Moscow where they knew they would be safe. They never returned to America. They were placed in Poland for 4 years. And did many missions for the soviets all over the world. They resurfaced in London where they set up their antiquarian book business. Gordon Lonsdale, or the man who went by that name, worked closely along side them as the mastermind of the group they were all a part of: The Portland Spy Ring.



**Barbara, Bob, and
Julie Jackson**

- Unfortunately, these characters do not exist in real life. They are loosely inspired by real life people who did, in fact, open their home to agents by the name of Ruth, Bill, Gay, and Phil Search. They also had a son not mentioned in the show.
- Gay Search describes Helen Kroger as "an extraordinary presence for that time and that place. She was loud and brash and everything always seemed a big drama. Even the fact she wore trousers was unusual for a woman then. I remember her whistling all the way down Cranley Drive through two fingers. When you're 15 that sort of thing seems pretty exotic."
- Gay thinks her mother never got over the strain of weeks spent lying to a neighbor she thought she knew well. Ruth Search died in 1970 at the age of 62.



The Search family home

The Krogers' bungalow



CRANLEY DRIVE

History of the Show

- Act of Betrayal (television)
 - January 3, 1971
 - BBC Play of the Month
 - Written by Hugh Whitemore
- Pack of Lies (stage)
 - First performance on October 6, 1983
 - Ran on Broadway for 120 performances from February 11, 1985 to May 25, 1985
 - Written by Hugh Whitemore

Gay Search and BBC Play of the Month producer Cedric Messina were having dinner. The topic was brought up of the Krogers being released from prison (this was fairly recent in 1969) and Gay admitted that they were her neighbors and her family's involvement with their arrest. Messina called Hugh Whitemore, our writer, and commissioned him to write the piece for BBC, originally titled Act of Betrayal. The story stuck with Whitemore so he decided to revise the story for the stage years later, thus making Pack of Lies.

Hugh Whitmore

- June 16, 1936 – July 17, 2018 (age 82)
- Studied at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art as an actor
- Stevie (1977)
- Breaking the Code (1986)
- Emmy Award for The Gathering Storm (2002)



- “Pottering about” - to spend time in a relaxed way doing small jobs and other things that are not very important
- “Pooh poohed it” - dismissing an argument as being unworthy of serious consideration
- “Chap” - a man or boy
- “Chum” - a friend
- “Tut-tutting” - make an exclamation
- “Off-colour” - being **out of** sorts

British Slang