



Episode 552: The Post-Debate Analysis: Tom and Michael Malice Discuss the Hamilton Debate, and What They Might Debate Next

Guest: Michael Malice

WOODS: We're going to talk about our debate, and I aired it here on the show yesterday, and I urge people to watch the video if at all possible. It really is a visual experience. In particular, first of all, just the opening credits that our wonderful camera guy did for us are just tremendous.

MALICE: John F. King, let's get —

WOODS: John F. King, indeed. I don't know what the "F" stands for, but he is really darn good. I'll just put it that way. He is —

MALICE: It stands for "federalist."

WOODS: I can't believe I'm still handing you material. He did an absolutely super job, so I'm going to link to the video at TomWoods.com/552, and /551 was the episode where I played the audio of the debate.

MALICE: Hold on, let's talk about that intro for a second, because —

WOODS: Oh yeah, it's super. Yeah, let's talk about it.

MALICE: So I will argue this with a straight face: I think *Dallas* — so the intro, for people who don't know, is an homage to the '80s television series *Dallas*, which, Tom, we're so old; some kids in their 20s don't know what *Dallas* is. I ask them — like if I need people who are younger than me, and I try to gauge what they know, I ask, "Do you know what *Dallas* is?", and they'll say, "You mean the city?" *Dallas* was a series from 1978 or '79, I believe, till 1991. It was the biggest rated series in the entire '80s, and it was the first show to demonstrate in a major way that you could take a soap opera format and apply it to primetime and have it be quality. And I think it's the greatest show in history. I'm not joking, because it's so well written, and the characters are all driven by, you know, rational philosophies and the conflicts they get into, and it's often contrasted with *Dynasty*, which was its competitor, which is terrible dreck; you know, it's just soap opera trash. So it's really a masterpiece of a show.

So the opening to *Dallas* the series was very iconic, where each character is introduced with the screen split into three panels, and it's always been on my bucket list to have that done for me in some capacity. So I mentioned that to John and I'm like, you know, this would be such a bucket list thing, but obviously it's not possible, and he goes, no, I'll do it. And when he did it, I almost started crying; I was so happy.

WOODS: It came out so well. I'm just so thrilled about it. And you know, I didn't watch *Dallas* in the '80s. I do remember the country was absolutely consumed by the question of who shot J.R. You remember that, when that happened?

MALICE: Of course.

WOODS: And the whole country was talking about this.

MALICE: Well, I would highly recommend going back and watching it, because it holds up superbly. And what's fascinating is Larry Hagman, who was the protagonist J.R., as you mentioned. I have a leather-bound signed copy of his autobiography. Fun fact: he was signing those books on September 11th.

WOODS: Wow. Wow, interesting. Okay. I've given people the background of the debate, and if for some reason we have people listening today who didn't listen to the debate or have no idea what we're talking about, I don't know how you stumbled on this episode, because I tried to make it clear in the title, so this is not the episode for you. But Michael and I debated the subject of Alexander Hamilton, specifically the resolution: Alexander Hamilton was a hero for the cause of liberty. We debated that in New York City in basically a debating society, the Junto, that has a debate more or less every month or most months of the years, and it's in the Oxford style where the audience is polled before and after. And we had, as I've noted in previous episodes, we had the biggest crowd they have ever attracted for any of these debates, so I thought that was great.

MALICE: Going back years. They're not a new organization.

WOODS: No, they are not. They've been around for many, many years, so this is just wonderful feedback for us, and we were so glad to see everybody who was there. And I didn't hear anybody — and I was listening in on a lot of private conversations — I didn't hear anybody complaining. I heard everybody say they had just a wonderful time, including the debaters.

MALICE: Oh yeah, I think we came in there with the same exact intention in mind, which is to put on a great show, have a blast, poke fun at each other. And the other thing is that I think some of your listeners don't realize is that there isn't that much daylight between you and I on this issue. I think very commonly people who don't know that much about Hamilton as a Woodrow Wilson/FDR figure, because the idea is anyone who wants government therefore is our enemy. But the point is in certain situations, like if I'm being raped at this moment, I do want government at that moment. It's not as simple as that, and it's very easy to take him out of context.

WOODS: I do understand the point that you made regarding that, that in this particular situation I don't suddenly want anarchism and then have to sit and wait for three weeks for the defense agency to be established.

MALICE: Right.

WOODS: I do understand that. But I think, based on Hamilton's rhetoric, I think he's going beyond that.

MALICE: That's fair, but my point is —

WOODS: That's not to say that if he were living today he would be absolutely thrilled with everything that's going on.

MALICE: Correct, correct. But my point is to view him in a contemporary context where he's saying one thing for the purpose of increasing the state for the sake of increasing the state in a progressivist kind of way is not true. He's doing it maybe in a Giuliani kind of way, which is not great but is certainly different than people popularly conceive him of.

WOODS: Were you surprised by the initial polling, where it was 16% basically on your side, 41% for me, and 43% undecided? I tell you, I was very surprised that there were so many undecideds. I thought people would come in with their minds made up, and they would just sit and enjoy it.

MALICE: I had no idea how the initial vote was going to go, to be fair. Given that the Junta is very Ayn Rand-centered, which is something I tried to play into in my points in the debate, I thought they would possibly be very heavily for me to begin with.

WOODS: That is true, and I suspect that's really where — I think that 16% that started off with you, that was the hard core of the group. But I think the crowd that showed up for this thing so overwhelmed the hard core — because my sense is that it's an older group. But when you looked into our audience, it was overwhelmingly a younger group.

MALICE: Yes, so I think a lot of people came in with open minds. The reason I have no issue with losing, as I told you over email, is we both — we didn't take from each other. You know, like capitalism's not a fixed pie. We each just took from the undecideds, and you took much more from the undecideds than I did. So we both persuaded a significant amount of people.

WOODS: I can't remember actually if I told you this or if I just told Heather, but afterward I told somebody — I think I told you that actually as it was going on and even before it was going on as I just thought about the whole thing and I thought about you as a person and your arguments, I really thought to myself that not only would I have no problem really with losing to you, but I actually as it was going on, I almost kind of wanted you to win. I'm sorry, that sounds really weird after all the abuse we heaped

on each other leading up to it, but I thought, you know, he really has taken an underdog position here. He's taken a really hard case to argue, because as you say, most libertarians would go into this thinking there isn't even a case to be made.

MALICE: Right.

WOODS: And you stood up there and made that case, and I thought you did make some good points, and I thought he put such heart into this, it would be a crying shame for him to lose. But then I thought, well, wait a minute, yours truly also put a little effort into this too.

MALICE: Oh, of course, and that's very sweet, and that's very fair. But I mean, my only goal is for people to realize this man was enormously influential, and much of his influence was very bad, unquestionably, but he's much — we're so used — you know, a lot of libertarians hate the mainstream culture, which is divided into Republican and Democrat, and they're doing that same thing, meaning that he does one thing that's bad, therefore into the trash he goes. Whereas he was so pervasive in his influence and such an awesome person on a personal level that you can't just dismiss him and regard him as a pure Chairman Mao figure.

WOODS: All right, what are your overall thoughts about the debate itself, the statements, the questions, whatever? What stood out to you?

MALICE: This is not — this is going to sound like I'm taking away from your victory, and I don't want to imply that in any way: I really blew it with the introductory statement —

WOODS: Yeah, that was a shame.

MALICE: — because I had — yeah, I had 20 pages to go, 20 pages of notes, and I'm being all — let me just — let's talk about my little props. I came in with a quill pen, which is 14 inches long. I had a dollar sign lapel pen, just like Ayn Rand wore. I had my hair cut like Ivan Drago in Rocky IV style. And I'm doing my introductory talk — and that's a huge advantage for me, because you have to react to what I say, so I have weeks to set up the debate, and then you have to be kind of spontaneous. So it's a huge advantage for the person arguing in favor of the resolution. And as I'm speaking and making my points and hitting you pretty hard, the card goes up that I have five minutes left, and he's not even in the Washington administration, and I'm like, I'm screwed.

WOODS: My question was, I never ever rely on the guy holding up the card. I always have a wristwatch, because otherwise I'd never be able to pace myself.

MALICE: But Tom, every time I've ever given a speech, I don't know how this is, I've always been able to nail it to the minute, just psychologically. Like, I have that skill. And that was completely lost to me that day, and that really, really threw a major loop.

WOODS: Yeah, yeah, that's true, and that was too bad. Now, it wasn't quite as bad as the case of Warren Coats. Years ago I was in a two-on-two debate on the Federal Reserve in Vegas for Freedom Fest, and Warren Coats was on the other side. Coats gets up to give his opening statement in favor of the Fed, and he begins by saying, look, I will admit the Fed has made atrocious mistakes, and then he went and listed them, and then he ran out of time. He never got to tell us why we should support the Fed. And so I thought, well, at least Michael didn't have quite that happen.

MALICE: And everyone I spoke to said maybe it's true what I said about my introductory being cut off, but that my broader perspective really came through over the course of the debate —

WOODS: Yes, that's true. I think that is true.

MALICE: — so that the case was made. And I mean, again, that was very important for me to lay out that case, because I think a lot of people were accusing me of either trolling or engaging in an intellectual exercise for the sake of, you know, kind of this fun thing, and I really do admire Hamilton enormously.

WOODS: Yeah, there's no question about that, and I was glad that people were able to see that you were actually making a real argument, and as time went on, you kept pointing out particular episodes in Hamilton's life that you would then respond to by saying, "Isn't that heroic? Isn't that the case of a hero of liberty?" And every time you did that, I felt like votes were slipping out of my hands, every time you would do it. And of course, I tried to respond by picking out enormities from his life and saying, well, there's your hero of liberty.

MALICE: Right.

WOODS: So for a little while, we got a little bit bogged down on what the definition of a hero of liberty is, which is not really as interesting as the significance of Hamilton.

MALICE: And I think most of those stories that I told you, if the entirety of his biography, you would agree these are awesome stories.

WOODS: They were. They were really great stories. Now, I will say I thought — it's funny that — I'm glad actually that you felt like you had kind of an advantage being the opening speaker, because I was afraid you'd feel you were at a disadvantage, because I liked the follow up. Because I'm okay at responding to people, but the point is I get the last word, and that's a difficult thing for the first person.

MALICE: Not with me, Tom (laughing).

WOODS: (laughing) That's true, Michael Malice having the last word. But I mean, according to the strict definition of how the debate works, I'm able to say — because people, it could be like how George Washington felt about the National Bank; you know, whoever spoke to him last he was persuaded by. So people hear you talk about

Hamilton and they say, ah, maybe that's — and they hear me and they're like, oh yeah, I was right the first time. So I was able to do that.

MALICE: Well again, I thought since I — since I knew you knew the arguments I had made on your show, and those were not the arguments I would make in an Ayn Rand audience, so I knew you would not have heard my arguments before —

WOODS: Right.

MALICE: — so I really thought that would put you on your heels.

WOODS: Yeah, isn't it funny that when initially we planned this whole thing and people were asking, well, if we can't come, will you make it an episode of your show. And I thought, well, yeah, I guess, but we've already covered this on the show. I mean, what an idiot. I mean, this is all new information — I mean, not all new, but mostly new information, and plus, the way it was done. When you're in a formal debate setting, it's rather different from a podcast. It was great fun, and of course I would make an episode out of it. But you're right, I knew, especially when you kept taunting me about how I didn't know what to expect and you were going to crush me and there's a coroner in attendance and everything else, I thought what on earth could there be about Hamilton that I don't know. And so I kept telling people, I don't know what this guy's going to do to me, but I feel like I have plenty of facts on my side, so I don't see how I can go wrong (laughing).

MALICE: Well again, since I don't believe in democracy and Hamilton didn't either, facts are largely secondary.

WOODS: Well, it was funny, afterward I — I assumed you would have thought of this already, but I thought, look, even if Michael loses he can say that just proves his point about Hamilton, that you can't trust the people.

MALICE: Yeah, I guess. I mean, I think —

WOODS: Yeah (laughing) —

MALICE: I don't want to take away your victory or anything —

WOODS: No, I understand, but even if you — I mean, honestly, I know that we appreciate and respect each other, so even if we joke and rag on each other afterward, I have no problem — and by the way, you'll notice that in the wake of the debate, I haven't done any victory laps at all. I've —

MALICE: Is this passive-aggressive gloating?

WOODS: (laughing) Well, let's see —

MALICE: (laughing) Is this passive-aggressive gloating?

WOODS: (laughing) Yeah, by talking about how gracious I've been.

MALICE: (laughing) Have you noticed how gracious I've been when I won and kicked your ass?

WOODS: (laughing)

MALICE: Did you notice I never brought it up?

WOODS: (laughing) But, I mean, that is still something, right? And it's just because I — after I walked out of it, I really felt like it had been one of the most enjoyable and exciting academic-style events I'd ever had, so the idea that I would then go and, you know, put images of you with your face all bloodied everywhere on Twitter just didn't seem right.

MALICE: Well, it's also interesting, as I text you when I left — I'm extremely competitive, and that's why I always win except for this one time — and I didn't resent losing. You know how a lot of times, even if you win a debate, you're going to go back in your head and you're like, oh, I wish I'd said this, I wish I'd said that, and I didn't feel that was the case that evening. I think I said everything basically I needed to say. I had some good lines I didn't get to, but that's fine. And I also think it's interesting, I bet you if we had a different crowd, maybe if it was a more public school crowd, the outcome would have been very different.

WOODS: That's true. All right, let's explore that. In terms of a public school audience, what do you have in mind? Do you think they would have been more likely to go with you?

MALICE: I mean, the idea that the Constitution had any flaws at that era, it would have been insane to them. You would have sounded like a crazy person.

WOODS: That's true, but also the very fact that I was arguing clearly for — I mean, I know you were in some cases making an argument suited to an objectivist audience in particular, but I was definitely making an argument for a libertarian/objectivist audience, because I was talking about the New Deal and just taking for granted that everybody knows the New Deal was terrible. Well, a public school audience, if they even remember what the New Deal was, they've never heard that perspective, so again they'd think I was crazy.

MALICE: And then that's when I'd play the slavery card, and then you're completely done.

WOODS: (laughing) Yeah, I know; that's all you need to do with these kids, unfortunately. They can't think. So what does that tell you about your position? Oh, that was a low blow.

MALICE: Uh —

WOODS: Go ahead. Malice your way out of that one.

MALICE: I don't know. Okay, I guess you're right; democracy is what happens with children.

WOODS: By the way, I like that expression. "You're going to have to Malice your way out of that." I think that's pretty good (laughing).

MALICE: (laughing) Yeah.

WOODS: Yeah. Okay. We'll start using that. We'll start using that as a verb.

MALICE: Here's what I want to hear about: so, as your listeners know — there's two things that I knew you were not prepared for whatsoever.

WOODS: Oh my, yeah.

MALICE: Let's talk about them. One is you have a very good sense of humor, as I have come to know you on a personal level, that doesn't come through — but you're not a jokester. That's not your personality. So you can appreciate good humor, but you're not going to be the funny man, and that's fine. So I knew you would have no context to be prepared for my PowerPoint, which —

WOODS: Oh my gosh.

MALICE: And I'm like, Tom, you have no idea what's coming, because this is not your frame of reference, right? That's not the kind of intellectual battle you engage in. So I had a series of tweets that I photoshopped to make it look like Donald Trump was tweeting about you and clowning you, and I had it set up so that one tweet would match every minute of my opening statement, which would be a way for me to keep track of time. But instead, I said you know what, I'm going to have them on the screen, running, and I'm not going to even look at it or acknowledge it, which would be my way of outsourcing making fun of you so that I would be able to make the serious argument. And I knew you would have absolutely no preparation for this, and even if you were prepared, you wouldn't be able to respond to it. But my question is what was Lew Rockwell's reaction when he saw that tweet about how Lew calls Trump every day on the phone crying because you're such a dummy?

WOODS: Oh, that's right. First of all, let me tell people they can look at these PowerPoint slides at TomWoods.com/552, today's show notes page. It's also on yesterday's. I'm linking to a blog post I wrote after the debate, and I just embedded all these — well, they're not real tweets, but I posted all these images of all these tweets, and they sound like Donald Trump. And I hope you appreciated the point I made that as a celebrity ghostwriter, you are an expert at capturing another person's voice, and you captured Trump so beautifully and perfectly in those tweets. It was absolutely hysterical. The idea of most of the tweets was that he was ragging on either Kansas, where I live, or me. And they were absolutely drop-dead hysterically funny. They were

so great. So all I can tell you — I haven't spoken to Lew since this, but I forwarded him the link —

MALICE: (laughing) He won't take your call anymore.

WOODS: Yeah, exactly. He didn't write back to me, but all I — but then one day I'm looking at his blog, and he's blogged about it. And so that was all I saw, but he blogged to thank you — and then in parentheses, "I think" — for including me in one of his funny fake Trump tweets. The Trump tweets, I'm telling you guys, if you listened to the debate without reading the Trump tweets, you missed out on a major part of this, so make a note to yourself, TomWoods.com/552. Go look at those. A tremendous job. And when I heard you had a PowerPoint — I never use PowerPoint in presentations. I don't see any real need for it. I almost never see it done well. And I thought — plus it's more work. So I — plus, I've never felt like I'm ineffective as a speaker and I'm not getting my point across because I lack a PowerPoint. I've never felt that way. But then I heard you had one, and that sounded so out of character to me, and I thought, oh my gosh, that jerk is going to get up there and give a super, super academic presentation, and I have got no slides prepared at all. So that actually — I'll tell you, that threw me.

MALICE: Yeah, yeah, it was such great fun creating those, and I just kept thinking of new things as the week went on and adding them to the pile. It was just such —

WOODS: Hilarious. And the thing is I don't want to read them off to people, because you need to see them. And for some reason — and it captures his voice so perfectly that I did even have at least one person saying I hope these are fake, because he really should be ashamed of these asinine comments. Well they're so obviously over-the-top, preposterously fake, but yet they retain enough of the Trump voice that somebody thought it could be plausible.

MALICE: Oh yeah, it was such a blast to do those, so that was a lot of fun, and again, I knew you were not going to be prepared for that, neither would the crowd. And I didn't know if they would know what to make of it, and they all did, which really pleased me, because objectivists often get a wrap — I think correctly — for being humorless.

WOODS: Right.

MALICE: And they got it. Here's the thing, so I wasn't looking at the screen while I'm doing my introductory talk, and intermittently everyone'd start laughing, and I got confused for a second, and I realized what they were reacting to.

WOODS: Yeah, exactly, they were looking at the tweets. So yeah, that was — that was tricky, but still, you knew they were having the intended effect. I will say — now, let's talk about the other thing, because I had kind of floated the idea that maybe Heather might join me on this trip, and she said, well, I can't find anybody to watch the kids, and she's taking some prerequisite classes for nursing school, and it just didn't seem like it could work, so I thought, well, all right, that's fine. And I only got the idea

because she's taking a statistics course, and she forwarded me an email she had sent to her professor — it's either that or her choir — she forwarded me an email in which she said, listen, I'm going to be in New York, and there's no way I can be at this thing. And I said, well, I happened to notice that, and she said yeah, I was thinking about it, but just the logistics can't work. Eh, okay. So actually it turns out I had caught her. She was planning to come, but I accepted her explanation completely that she had thought about it and rejected the idea, and then tell everybody what happened.

MALICE: So this was really, really great. So I had Heather — Heather and I were conspiring for a couple of weeks to have her come to the debate. I'd met her a couple of times before. And I came in — so the debate, the doors open at 7:00. I was told to come at 7:20. So I figured, you know, there'd be plenty of seats. I came at like 7:10. At 7:10 it was packed.

WOODS: Yeah.

MALICE: And were supposed to go on at 8:00, and I was like, holy crap, this is insane. And I got very, very scared, because a) I wanted her front but not center; I wanted her front but in my corner to be seated so you could be looking at her the whole time I'm speaking being, you know, bamboozled. So I had a piece of paper that said "Reserved for Team Malice," and I was going to put it in the front row, and those were all taken, second row — and I had to go back I think four rows. And there was a young kid, and I forget his name, and I want to thank him, and I put it on that piece of paper, and I said hey, put the piece of paper in the chair. I said to him, if anyone takes this seat, I am going to kill you and your family.

WOODS: (laughing)

MALICE: And I meant it. And I told you that it was Kennedy who was coming. She was going to come, but that night there was a shooting, so they went live with her show. And I watched that seat like a hawk, and every two minutes someone was trying to get into that seat, because it was standing room only by like 7:20. It was packed. And I was all nervous, so I'm sending messages to Heather; I'm like, this is where your seat is, so on and so forth. And I flubbed the intro, when I went up to the podium, I said before we start, there are two things I want to make clear: Tom and I are adversarial in a friendly way, so don't take anything we say seriously, because I think some of your listeners thought some of this trash talking between me and you was serious and contemptuous, which was not the case —

WOODS: No.

MALICE: — so I wanted to make that clear. And I said, you know, Tom doesn't realize I've got a special guest; then they announced Heather, and she walks down the middle of the aisle just like some kind of boxer coming to the ring, and the look on your face — I'm so glad they captured it — was literally cartoonish.

WOODS: Yeah, it was crazy.

MALICE: Because you put on your glasses like someone in a cartoon signifying that they're shocked.

WOODS: Yeah, it was — and by the way, people can actually see just that little clip is on the same page that has the tweets on it, so if you go to [TomWoods.com/552](https://www.tomwoods.com/552) and you click on the link, that'll have all the tweets, and you'll also see just that moment. And you're right, because I'm near-sighted, so that means — let's see, so that means I can see things that are close? Yeah. So I threw my glasses on, just, because that can't be —

MALICE: Yeah —

WOODS: Because I thought there's no way, because I had been texting her all day.

MALICE: I was — we were preemptive with you. So let me just say two things. First of all, I didn't say the line I was going to say, which is, "If I've turned families against each other, then I've already won."

WOODS: (laughing)

MALICE: That was one of the lines I had ready. But I'm like, okay, Tom is very bright. He's going to call you and hear New York in the background or something and deduce this, so I told Heather to tell you preemptively that she wasn't feeling well, and you would then not want to bother her and would resort to texts instead of phone calls.

WOODS: Right, right, which is exactly what I did. Now, she told me that there was initially a plan where she would have a shirt or something saying "Team Malice," but she hadn't quite decided oddly enough how I would feel about that, but like she's not on Twitter, so don't blame her. She doesn't know what's going on between you and me. Her wearing that shirt is nowhere near, oh you know, like your Facebook post making a reference to the Armenian genocide. Like, I think I could live with her wearing a shirt (laughing).

MALICE: She knows. We've been talking. She knows about everything.

WOODS: Oh, it's just unbelievable. It's just — I just couldn't get over it. Because we were talking about things that sounded like she was at home, so that's why I was so thrown by it. But it turns out she's just a really, really good BS artist.

MALICE: Or you're naive.

WOODS: Well, one of those.

MALICE: Both.

WOODS: And then when I told her — because I actually had a nice dinner with Dave Smith beforehand, and we were at Morton's, the steakhouse —

MALICE: You mean Gene? You went with Dave —

WOODS: Oh, and Gene, yeah. And a few — Mark Skousen was there, and it was very nice.[00:30:18]. But it's a —

MALICE: Why didn't you introduce me to Mark Skousen?

WOODS: We didn't have a chance. Of course I would have.

MALICE: But you didn't. What do you mean, we didn't have a chance? At the debate.

WOODS: Well, that's true, but afterward we were just mobbed with people. If we'd been able to mingle, I would have been the — oh, you know what? He emailed me later, and he said I'm sorry, I had to leave early, but I wanted to say it was nice seeing — but of course I would introduce you to him. Yeah, no doubt about it. I'm going to have him on the show actually; we were chit chatting. And by the way, after we finish talking and I stop the recording, I've got to tell you something about that, so remind me. Everybody's going to want to know, but sorry, you can't know.

MALICE: Sorry about it.

WOODS: It's a great steakhouse; I don't know if you've ever been there, but it's — I've never been to a Morton's before, but it was just great. But what — oh yeah, yeah, yeah. So anyways, I was texting Heather to say, hey, we are at a super great steakhouse; it's going to be a great meal. And then she said, hey, why don't you take a picture of the outside, you know just for the heck of it, just send it to me. But it turns out it was so that she would know not to walk out in front of that restaurant, because she knew we'd be eating right near the debate.

MALICE: Oh, so smart.

WOODS: Yeah, so she said, yeah, especially if it's got the city in the background — so that she could situate it, because she was afraid after all this effort that I would see her.

MALICE: Oh, crafty. So crafty. Wow. That's amazing. Yeah, that was a really fun surprise. And it was also fun, you know, that you thought I was just taunting you.

WOODS: I did. And in fact, I texted her about that. I said Malice keeps saying to me that I am so unprepared for what's about to happen, and I said I don't know what he's got up his sleeve, maybe he's — and if I go back to the text thread, and maybe I'll edit out — if it takes me a minute I'll edit out the space, but let me go back to — it was December 3rd, I want to actually — yeah, so she's asking me what time am I getting to the event, so now I see it's all a scam.

MALICE: Oh my God.

WOODS: And then she says — oh, and then she says — I was telling her, hey, I have an interesting thing to tell you, and she goes, well, you could at least tell me, given that I'm stuck in boring Kansas. Ahhhh.

MALICE: Oh my God, amazing, amazing, amazing.

WOODS: And then I said, "Malice says I have no idea what is about to happen." And she writes, "He's just psyching you out."

MALICE: (laughing) Yes, yes!

WOODS: And then at some point, I guess it must have been earlier in the day, I typed in — I can't find it now, but earlier in the day I wrote, "I'm seriously afraid that I'm going to lose."

MALICE: Ah.

WOODS: (laughing) How about that?

MALICE: But honestly, Tom, in all seriousness, if the audience had just been Ayn Rand people, I think you'd be screwed.

WOODS: It's possible, because of course of the style of argument you were making, but if I knew they were entirely Ayn Rand people, I would have also modified my argument as well. I still think I could bring a number of those people over. I still think it could be done.

MALICE: And I think they're less persuadable than you think, and again, you remember Leonard Peikoff was on Bill O'Reilly, saying we have to nuke Iran because two and two is four.

WOODS: That's true, but I find that the individual objectivists are more reasonable than the official objectivists, if you know what I'm saying. So I still think that could be done. Now, should we say something about the idea that we kicked around for a future debate, or is it premature?

MALICE: No, let's talk about it.

WOODS: All right, let's not elaborate on the arguments yet, because I don't want you to have any idea what I would say at this thing, and I don't want to know what you would say. I think that would make it —

MALICE: You're not going to have any idea anyway, Tom.

WOODS: Yeah, that's right, and something tells me I'm not going to be prepared for this one either.

MALICE: (laughing)

WOODS: All right — well, I will tell you — yeah, see, I did talk to Lew, but he hadn't yet seen the tweets, because you hadn't sent them to me yet, so then I sent them — but whatever. But on the way home when I was in the car coming back from the airport, I told him about how it had gone and everything, and I told him about your idea that you're about to tell people, and he thought about it, and he said, you know, that actually could be interesting. And he said that actually could be an event that would actually be listened to for a long time. He said, you know, people are interested in Hamilton, but this could really be a big deal. So he thinks it's a good idea. So tell people what it is.

MALICE: Well, I want you to tell people, because we had a few ideas, and I don't know which one you're referring to.

WOODS: Oh, the one about Rand and Rothbard.

MALICE: Which — who was a better person, or who was a bigger contributor to liberty —

WOODS: Yeah, Rand and Rothbard in terms of contributions to the liberty movement. And we're not talking about Rand Paul, by the way. And in fact, I said that; I said "Rand versus Rothbard," so Lew's thinking Rand Paul. And he's thinking this is so not even a contest; I don't even know what you're talking about.

MALICE: Yeah, so who was a bigger contributor to the cause of liberty, Ayn Rand or Murray Rothbard?

WOODS: Yeah. Now, we'll have to decide — again, we'll have to nail down the exact resolution, because if it's just a question of who sold more books, then, you know, that's just a trivial observation.

MALICE: That's right; that's not fair. But it could be a question of who wrote more books, and then he would win.

WOODS: Yeah, and again, who cares? Like everybody knows that going in. So I would be interested to hear how you spin it, and I think this year — I mean, I did — I knew the basic contours of why you would admire Hamilton, and I guess I more or less understand what your view on Ayn Rand would be, but exactly how you'd formulate this argument I have no idea, and if we were to do this, I think it would be more fun not to have a debate on the show and just go into this cold. Now, we haven't run this by them, and they may say no —

MALICE: Oh, of course.

WOODS: — but they'd be crazy. We're the biggest draw they've ever had (laughing).

MALICE: Yeah, so — and I don't think we need them, frankly. And here's something else that you don't know: as a reward to myself before the debate, I ordered an autographed Murray Rothbard book.

WOODS: I saw on Facebook that you had done that.

MALICE: Yeah, and it was — actually, here's the thing that's even crazier — well, actually, we're not going to go into that. But anyway, so now I have it in my library.

WOODS: Yeah, that's great. You have quite a library.

MALICE: I own every book I've ever read.

WOODS: That's pretty good.

MALICE: So you can look at my brain when you come to my house.

WOODS: Yeah, I'll have to. Yeah, I'd love to do that. All right, look, let's wrap it up here. We are actually — Heather and I are actually thinking very seriously about taking another — that trip to New York was just not long enough, and the thing is we —

MALICE: She was telling you to prolong your stay, and you, the dope, are like no, I've got to fly back and see Heather (laughing)

WOODS: I've got to go back, because she needs help with the kids. Like, what an idiot. So she now said, all right, you now know that any time I tell you to extend your trip, that is code for I'm coming (laughing). So we are actually thinking about making a trip where we would be there, I don't know how many days, maybe four days, and I know you don't like live theater, but we love it. And our trip would be — because there are a lot of matinees on Wednesdays and a handful on Thursdays. We'd go to a matinee, then an evening, matinee, then an evening, and then just have fun in New York City and see you. So we've got to somehow make that work.

MALICE: I'm busy that night, sorry.

WOODS: I figured you would be. All right, stay on the line so I can tell you the secret story, and let's find something else we disagree on that we don't plan to have a formal debate on, and we'll talk about it on the show.

MALICE: Okay.

WOODS: All right, MichaelMalice.com of course is where people should go. You know I'm going to link to that at TomWoods.com/552. You should read his book *Dear Reader: The Unauthorized Autobiography of Kim Jong Il*. I'll have the previous episodes that Michael's appeared on so that you can listen to our conversations about that. Tremendous book. He's a great writer, and if you listen to this show, you should know that's a compliment that I reserve for a small handful of people. So Michael, thanks

again for everything, for the show today, for the surprise, for the debate, and for being a great guy.

MALICE: Thank you, Tom.