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Lois Lerner And The Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day



(AP Photo/Lauren Victoria Burke, File)

Lois Lerner—the former IRS official at the heart of Tea Party targeting—is retired from the IRS. Despite being held in [contempt of Congress](#) for refusing to testify, she hasn't been prosecuted. Yet after her long silence, her [exclusive interview](#) with Politico was anything but reticent and reserved. In it, Ms. Lerner said she did nothing wrong and considers *herself* the victim.

Ms. Lerner bristled at any suggestion she had anything to do with destroying emails, [switching to texts](#), letting her own liberal views influence her treatment of Tea Party a_holes, crazies. etc. Yet in a curious turn of events, journalist and Crapitalism author [Jason Mattera](#) showed up in her nice

Bethesda neighborhood to pepper her with questions. They included such zingers as “Do you feel bad about turning the government into a weapon to crush political dissent?”

This time, Ms. Lerner wasn't flanked by lawyers and facing softball questions at Politico. And who can blame her for not wanting to answer *these* questions. So she scurried to a neighbor's house and started knocking on the door, begging to be admitted. Ms. Lerner's day got worse when her neighbors seemed to, well, 'Take the Fifth' about letting her in. She stood there on the porch, while Jason Mattera probes with barbs like, 'it doesn't feel good to be targeted does it?'

The husband came around front and Mattera said she was trying to get in to avoid answering questions. The husband didn't want Ms. Lerner in the house either, so she heads for another neighbor's. You can watch the video here, well, until the hard drive crashes:



OK, this may not be journalism's finest hour, nor does it necessarily mean much that Ms. Lerner didn't want to answer *these* questions. It may not even mean much that the neighbor has probably had enough, and didn't want to be involved. That's so no matter how much the neighbor may *like* Ms. Lerner, or her dogs for that matter.

I'm not saying that anyone wants to be hounded (excuse the pun), either. But being hounded and asked questions of this sort cannot be entirely unexpected and may not even be unfair, especially after Ms. Lerner's [exclusive interview](#) with Politico. It all sounds a little like [Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day](#), based on the book by [Judith Viorst](#). Just like Lois Lerner's day, from the moment Alexander wakes up, *everything* goes wrong.

Gum in his hair, mishaps at breakfast, on the school bus, at school, and more. From lousy teachers that pick on Alexander, to no desert, a visit to the dentist, and getting punched by his brother,

Alexander's day is ruined. After school, the shoe store doesn't have Alexander's size in the cool sneakers, so naturally, Alexander's mom buys horrible plain white ones, which Alexander refuses to wear. Stopping by his dad's office, Alexander wrecks the xerox machine and the phone.

His dad even tells him not to pick him up at work anymore! At dinner, Alexander's mom serves lima beans (ick), there's kissing on TV, a bad bath, and railroad train pajamas Alexander hates. At each bad turn—and there are plenty—Alexander says he wants to move to Australia, presumably because it's better there. The book ends when Alexander's mother says *everybody* has bad days, even people in Australia.

So how is [Alexander](#) faring with critics? The New York Post says 'Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day' is awfully mediocre. But we clearly all do have very bad days sometimes. Just think about these unexpected mishaps: There's having your hard drive crash. Having your texts not saved. Having people question you when they have no right. There's conservative a__holes and crazies voicing political speech that the Supreme Court bizarrely said was OK, but that really shouldn't be. Just ask Eric Holder.

Want even more terrible, horrible, no good items? How about those rogue employees in Cincinnati doing things they shouldn't. I'll bet all those missing emails would prove once and for all that those ~~confused~~ rogue Cincinnatians did all the ~~targeting~~ non-biased and careful review with no help from the boss. Too bad the hard drive is ~~gone destroyed buried~~ not available despite best efforts. Maybe Alexander had something. Maybe moving to Australia wouldn't be such a bad idea after all?

Contact me at Wood@WoodLLP.com. This discussion is not intended as legal advice, and cannot be relied upon for any purpose without the services of a qualified professional.