

FROM THE VAULT

"Pilot"

Written by  
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COLD OPEN

INT. SUMMIT UNIVERSITY- COMM SCHOOL- STUDIO A- DAY

Inside the room, two camera people, a boom pole holder, and DARIO (22, semi-famous youtuber/student) are setting up for an interview.

The door flies open and MARA (19, means well, witty) enters.

DARIO

Mara, hey.

Mara walks over to the chair. It's set up in front of the camera and the curtain.

She gives a forced smile. Mara sits down and looks into the camera.

DARIO (CONT'D)

Super simple, this is just an intro  
interview where you're gonna  
introduce yourself and your  
position.

MARA

Simple enough.

DARIO

I'm just gonna ask a few questions  
about the upcoming semester and  
what you're planning for the show.

Mara nods. Beat.

MARA

So... why are you doing this?

She gestures to the crew surrounding her.

DARIO

What do you mean?

MARA

Well, you were on the show last  
year. So you should already know  
how everything works.

Dario pretends like he doesn't know what she's getting at.

DARIO

I don't--

MARA

We did that sketch together about  
having too many people in a room.

Dario drops the confused act, knowing Mara has him.

DARIO

Right. With that creepy kid who got  
suspended for being like a Nazi or  
something.

MARA

Yeah, exactly.

DARIO

I forgot that was you.

Beat.

DARIO (CONT'D)

Damn. Look at you now.

Mara laughs, unsure how else to respond.

MARA

So?

She raises an eyebrow, but Dario turns to the crew.

DARIO

You guys ready?

Mara makes a face, before Dario turns back to her.

DARIO (CONT'D)

Alright, just look into the camera  
and say your name and position.

Mara lets out a deep breath, before sitting up straight.

MARA TALKING HEAD

MARA

My name is Mara. I'm a sophomore  
and one of the executive producers  
of From The Vault.

DARIO (O.S.)

Which is...

Mara glances at Dario, then back to the camera.

MARA  
Summit University's comedy TV show.

AS WE WERE

The camera not shooting Mara's talking head catches Dario giving her a "keep talking" gesture.

MARA TALKING HEAD

Mara lets out a reluctant sigh.

MARA (CONT'D)  
From The Vault is basically like  
the Dollar Store version of  
Saturday Night Live.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)  
Anyone else you talk to will say  
that it's nothing like SNL because  
(mocking tone)  
"We are creating content under a  
whole different set of standards  
and deserve much more recognition."

Mara deadpans, leans towards the camera, and counts on her fingers.

MARA (CONT'D)  
We have a host monologue, a news  
segment, sketches, and a musical  
guest.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)  
It's fucking SNL.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. SUMMIT UNIVERSITY- CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT 1

In the center of the conference room is an oval table with chairs around it. There are large screens on three of the walls. All the screens have the "Welcome" powerpoint on them.

The room is filled with new and returning members of From The Vault. In the front of the room is Mara and ALY (21, over the top, Co-EP) giving the presentation. Mara is leaning on the podium while Aly is front and center.

Away from the table, WIL (20, strong New York accent), ANTOINE (20, arrogant French fucker), ISAAC (19, awkward), and TRACY (21, guys' girl) sit against the wall.

ALY

Alright babes! Welcome to the first From The Vault meeting of the semester! My name is Aly and this lovely piece of meat next to me is Mara.

There are a few chuckles around the room.

ALY (CONT'D)

From The Vault is Summit University's late night comedy show. We offer a number of ways to get involved both on air and behind the scenes.

ANTOINE

And for those of you thinking it... No. We are not like SNL. We have stricter standards and don't get nearly enough recognition.

Mara looks at the camera, subtly points to Antoine, and raises an eyebrow-- "What did I say?"

ALY

Exactly. But, I am loving the amount of new faces I'm seeing and I can't wait to get to know all you sexy people.

ALY TALKING HEAD

LOWER THIRD:

"Aly, Junior, Co-EP"

ALY (CONT'D)

What up! I'm Aly, the other executive producer of FTV. I'm super excited to be doing this with Mara. We both got a front row seat to the burning cluster fuck that was last semester.

Beat.

ALY (CONT'D)

The bar is very low.

INT. STUDIO C- NIGHT- FLASHBACK

Studio C is set up a like late night talk show stage. A desk and two chairs are in the corner with space in the front to do stand up.

In front of the stage are three cameras and their operators. The rest of the room is filled with chairs that have audience members in them.

There is a window at the top of the studio that looks into the control room upstairs.

OLD EP 1 (22) is on the stage wearing a headset and looking up at OLD EP 2 (22, Russian), who is standing in the window of the control room.

OLD EP 1

(screaming)

You have a lower IQ than a fucking tadpole!

Mara is standing on the edge of the stage with a headset on, her face covered in fear.

There is loud yelling coming from the headsets, but the words aren't clear.

OLD EP 1 (CONT'D)

Are you fucking serious? At least they asked me to do this job!

More screaming murmurs from Old EP 2 over the headset.

OLD EP 1 (CONT'D)

I WROTE ALL YOUR MONOLOGUES WHEN YOU WERE HOST!

OLD EP 2

Why don't you go fuck Grant!?!

That sentence came through loud and clear because it wasn't over a headset, but through the God microphone.

No one knows what to do. Everyone just sits there, unable to look away.

OLD EP 1

Oh suck my dick you communist fuck.

Old EP 2 flips off Old EP 1 through the window. Old EP 1 rips off her headset, hands it to Mara, and storms out of the studio.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- 15 MINUTES LATER

The slide show is now displaying information about audition sign ups and materials needed.

ALY

Even if you aren't sure, I highly recommend auditioning because--

Suddenly the door slams open.

GRANT (21) enters and mouths an apology about the disruption.

ANTOINE/WIL/TRACY

Graaant!/My man!/You're back!

Mara eyes Grant. MABEL (20, to the point) sits at the table with her jaw on the ground.

Grant nods at the boys plus Tracy before taking a seat in the back away from everyone.

ALY

Anyways...

MABEL TALKING HEAD

LOWER THIRD:

"Mabel, Sophomore, Associate Producer"

MABEL

I didn't think Grant would come back after last semester. He had a... memorable exit, to say the least.

INT. STUDIO B- NIGHT- FLASHBACK

The set up of Studio B is similar to C, except there is just a large desk with giant screens on either side of it.

Mara is standing with one foot on the stage and a headset on.

Grant is sitting at the desk, yelling towards the window into the control room.

GRANT

What the fuck do you mean I have to  
stick to the prompter!? Do you  
think Seth Meyers has to  
(mocking)  
Stick to the teleprompter?  
(back to yelling)  
No! Because that's not how comedy  
works.

He turns to Mara.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Why don't you tell them to shut the  
hell up and do their fucking jobs,  
so I can do mine.

Mara stares at Grant like a deer in headlights. She hits a button on her headset.

MARA

(soft)  
Hey, so Grant was wondering if--

Grant slams his hands on the table and stands up. He starts taking off his microphone.

GRANT

No. No. This is a waste of my  
fucking time. You all can go fuck  
your mediocre and talentless  
selves.

Grant slams his microphone on the desk and storms out. Mara looks at the window and throws her hands up.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- 10 MINUTES LATER

The slide show is now on a slide that says "Questions?"



ALY  
Does anyone have any questions?

Beat.

MARA  
If you remember something later,  
you can text me or Aly too.

The door to the room opens again, this time WES (24, uptight) comes in and waves.

ALY  
This is Wes, he's our faculty  
advisor.

WES  
Hello!

Wes moves to the back of the room and gives Aly and Mara a thumbs up.

ALY  
If no one has any questions, then  
we're done!

The new members get up and head out.

ALY (CONT'D)  
Don't forget to sign up for  
auditions this week.

MARA  
And there's a writers meeting  
tomorrow night in this room!

Aly slips to the back to talk to Wes. The boys plus Tracy are talking in the other corner.

Mara leans forward and puts her head on the podium. Mabel makes a b-line to her.

MABEL  
Why is Grant here?

Mara looks up.

MARA  
Huh?

MABEL  
Hello? Grant.

MARA

Oh right. Yeah, I don't know why  
he's back.

MABEL

You didn't know?

Mara shrugs.

MARA

No idea.

NEW ANGLE- THE BOYS PLUS TRACY

The boys plus Tracy are now laughing obnoxiously.

ANTOINE

...I swear to god.

The laughter dies down.

ISAAC

Antoine, Wil, you guys still down  
for a little writer's room later?

Isaac pretends to smoke a blunt.

ANTOINE

Oh, for sure. Let's be real,  
with...

Antoine nods towards Mara.

ANTOINE (CONT'D)

...in charge, she's going to need  
all the content she can get.

Everyone laughs... some real, some fake.

ANTOINE TALKING HEAD

LOWER THIRD:

"Antoine, Sophomore, Cast Member"

ANTOINE (CONT'D)

I wanna know what the thought  
process was of putting Mara in  
charge. She wrote like one sketch  
last year.

Antoine shakes his head, frustrated.

ANTOINE (CONT'D)  
Sophomores aren't supposed to be  
executive producers for a reason.  
If I knew they were picking one of  
us, I could have prevented this  
train wreck.

AS WE WERE

Wil looks over to Mara. He stills when he finds her looking  
right back at him. His smile drops from his face.

ANTOINE (CONT'D)  
You in, man?

Wil's attention snaps back to the guys.

WIL  
Yeah. Sounds good.

TRACY  
Grant, you should totally bring  
back the Blind Billy sketches?

Grant laughs.

GRANT  
Maybe, maybe.

ANTOINE  
I mean, if we hold out content long  
enough, she's gonna be desperate  
for us.

NEW ANGLE- MARA AND MABEL

Mara rolls her eyes, looking away from Wil.

MABEL  
You two are gonna have to get over  
this eventually.

Mara avoids Mabel's gaze, finding interest in the lines on  
the podium.

MARA  
I don't know what your talking  
about. We're fine.

MABEL  
Uh huh. Cause everything about  
that...

Mabel points to both Wil and Mara.

MABEL (CONT'D)  
...screamed "totally fine".

Mara throws her hands up-- "I don't know what you want from me."

WIL TALKING HEAD

LOWER THIRD:  
"Wilson, Sophomore, Head Writer"

WIL  
(stern)  
Make sure my lower third says Wil,  
not Wilson.

Wil shakes his head to himself.

WIL (CONT'D)  
Fucking Wilson.

The "son" in Wil's lower third is immediately dropped.

WIL (CONT'D)  
Why are you asking me about Mara?

Wil looks from the camera to Dario.

WIL (CONT'D)  
(harshly)  
There's nothing to say. We're fine.

Wil gets up and walks off.

AS WE WERE

NEW ANGLE- ALY AND WES

Aly and Wes are hushed in the back of the room.

WES  
What do you mean she won't?

ALY  
She told them no.

Wes gives her a "use more words" look.

ALY (CONT'D)  
She won't let them follow her  
around outside of the show.

Wes makes eye contact with the camera and awkwardly smiles.

WES  
(under his breath)  
Do something.

He leaves. Grant moves to Aly and whispers something to her.

ALY  
Yeah. Do it now.

GRANT  
Mara!

Mara picks her head up. Grant nods his head to the door and Mara nods.

MARA  
(to Mabel)  
Back in a sec.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMM SCHOOL COURTYARD- NIGHT 1

The sides of the courtyard are lined with tables. There are a few lights illuminating the scene.

The door to the conference room swings open. The room's light cuts through the dark night, then quickly retreats.

Grant comes out first and holds the door for Aly and Mara. He leans against the side of the building, crossing his arms.

GRANT  
Look. I, uh, I wanted to apologize  
for my behavior last semester. I'm  
only here to make funny stuff and  
enjoy my last year.

Grant's eyes bounces between Mara and Aly, waiting. Mara rubs the back of her neck and looks to Aly.

ALY  
No problemo. I mean, let's be real,  
the EPs were a bit problematic last  
year.

Mara looks back at Grant to find his gaze has shifted to her. Mara is caught off guard that Aly's approval wasn't enough.

MARA  
Yeah. Should be different this  
time.

Grant relaxes instantly.

GRANT

Good. Good. I actually have this  
sketch idea about--

The door to the conference room swings open and the boys,  
Tracy, and Mabel file out.

ANTOINE

Yo, Grant. You coming?

The group starts heading to the parking lot.

GRANT

Yeah.

Grant turns back to Mara and Aly.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Thanks guys.

Grant runs after the boys and Tracy. Mabel hangs back. Aly  
gives Mara's arm an excited slap.

ALY

Ready for your first writer's  
meeting, Ms. EP?

Mara laughs. She flexes one bicep and nods her head,  
pretending to be cocky.

Aly gives Mara a playful shove before making her way to the  
parking lot.

ALY (CONT'D)

Bye hotties.

MABEL

Mwah.

Mara and Mabel start walking the other way.

MABEL (CONT'D)

Sooo?

Mara drops her head, already knowing what's coming next.

MARA

So?

MABEL

Ugh, you're killing me. Grant! What  
did he want?

Mara shakes her head and smiles to herself. She knows Mabel too well.

MARA

Nothing.

Mabel gives her a "bullshit" look.

MARA (CONT'D)

I swear. It's nothing.

MABEL

What's the point of being friends with you, if you won't give me the inside scoop?

Mara raises her eyebrow.

MARA

Inside scoop? You sound ridiculous.

The two laugh, intertwine arms, and continue walking.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMM SCHOOL COURTYARD- DAY 2

Mara walks into the courtyard, but stops dead in her tracks when she makes eye contact with a camera across the courtyard.

Mara stares at the camera and tilts her head to the side--  
"really?"

Suddenly, Aly grabs Mara's arm and drags her to an empty table.

ALY

(playful)

Quick little Q, my gorgeous co-EP.

(serious)

You need to let the cameras follow you around.

Mara is taken aback. She opens her mouth to respond, but Aly cuts her off.

ALY (CONT'D)

Oh. I guess that wasn't a question.

Beat. Mara lets out a nervous laugh.

MARA

I let them follow me.

ALY

No. I'm talking full access,  
exclusive, inside look at your  
slutty little life.

MARA

If they are making something about  
FTV, why do they need the full  
frontal of my life?

Aly's face flashes with guilt, but before she can answer,  
Tracy and Isaac sit down.

ALY

Sup.

ISAAC

That was a decent turn out last  
night. How are auditions looking?

ALY

Pretty full. Why? You worried that  
you're gonna get your ass handed to  
you by some freshman?

Aly raises her eyebrow.

ISAAC

No. I, uh, I just... You know--

MARA

(mocking)

Ooo. Somebody sounds a little  
nervous.

TRACY

Oh come on. We all know the cast is  
going to be the boys again.

Mara and Aly's phones both DING. Tracy glances between them  
as Mara picks up her phone to read the text.

Mara looks at Aly, who is already grabbing her things.

ALY

Alright, bye lovelies.

TRACY

Wait, where are you guys going?



ALY  
Scheduling crisis. Too-da-loo.

Aly gives them a little finger wave. Mara turns back at Tracy and Isaac.

MARA  
Make sure you're at the meeting  
tonight!

Tracy glares at them.

TRACY TALKING HEAD

LOWER THIRD:  
"Tracy, Junior, Associate Producer"

TRACY  
Something is going on with Mara and  
Aly.

Beat while Tracy thinks.

TRACY (CONT'D)  
Whatever it is, I bet it's Mara's  
fault.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMM SCHOOL- 2ND FLOOR HALLWAY- DAY 2

Wes is leaning against the wall waiting for the girls,  
looking a bit stressed.

MARA  
Is everything--

WES  
Finally. He's waiting for us.

Wes opens the door. Mara is very confused-- it seems like Aly and Wes are in on something she's not...

That's cause they are.

MARA  
Wait, who is?

ALY  
Sh. Come on.

Aly pushes Mara through the door after Wes.

INT. DEAN'S OFFICE- DAY 2

Mara and Aly sit in front of DEAN COOKE (50s, tired) while Wes stands to the side of the desk.

Long beat.

Dean Cooke throws his hands up.

DEAN COOKE

Well?

Mara looks between Aly and Wes.

ALY

The cameras are going great. Better than we could've imagined.

Dean Cooke glances at Wes.

WES

Dario is one of the more famous youtubers at this school. It's not ideal having these cameras around but--

Dean Cooke makes eye contact with the camera, which aggravates him more.

DEAN COOKE

No. I would not say they are ideal.

He turns back to Wes and Aly.

WES

But, they are getting students interested in them, which will get FTV more views.

ALY

And once these episodes get released, we'll have a larger audience outside of Summit too.

Dean Cooke leans back in his chair, still unhappy. He rolls his fingers together.

Mara's eyes are wide--"what the fuck is going on?"

DEAN COOKE

(reluctant)

Fine. But this...

He gestures towards the cameras.

DEAN COOKE (CONT'D)  
...is it.

Aly and Wes nod quickly.

DEAN COOKE (CONT'D)  
And let me be clear. When this  
blows up in your face, which it  
will, From The Vault is not only  
over, but it will be like it never  
even existed.

Mara's mouth hangs open--"Did he say over?"

ALY  
Absolutely. You won't regret this.

WES  
Thank you for your time.

Wes and Aly quickly exit and Mara follows.

EXT. COMM SCHOOL- 2ND FLOOR HALLWAY- DAY

Aly and Wes exhale a huge sigh while Mara's eyes bounce  
between them waiting for an explanation...

It never comes.

MARA  
(angrily)  
What the fuck was that?

EXT. COMM SCHOOL COURTYARD- DAY 2

Tracy is watching the scene unfold between Wes, Aly, and  
Mara. Mabel and Antoine sit down.

MABEL  
Hey, What are--

TRACY  
(aggressive)  
Shhh.

Mabel is taken aback for a moment.

TRACY (CONT'D)  
I'm trying to figure out what's  
going on.

Tracy directs Isaac, Mabel, and Antoine's attention to the somewhat heated interaction between Mara, Aly, and Wes.

The group gawks. Antoine breaks the silence with a chuckle.

ANTOINE

I bet she's finally getting fired.  
It's about time Wes came to his  
senses.

TRACY

Ugh, I hope so.

ANTOINE

Mara being EP is the best joke From  
the Vault has ever made.

Tracy lets out a snort while Isaac and Mabel smile. They all turn their attention back to the scene upstairs.

Wil walks up.

WIL

Yo. What are we looking at?

ISAAC

Them.

Isaac points to Mara, Aly, and Wes. Wil gives the group a questioning look.

TRACY

Mara's getting reamed by Wes and  
Aly. She's a hundred percent done.

Wil lets out a forced laugh and looks back up at Mara. His eyes are filled with something... concern?

EXT. SUMMIT UNIVERSITY- 2ND FLOOR HALLWAY- DAY 2

MARA

If something is going on, I should--

WES

Not here. Come on.

Aly grabs Mara's arm and follows Wes across the hall and into the studio control room.

INT. STUDIO CONTROL ROOM- DAY 2

The control room is filled with TV screens. There are colorful buttons and gadgets at the table in front of the screens.

There are chairs at the table and a window that peeks into Studio C.

Aly slumps in a chair while Wes rubs his hands together. Mara crosses her arms and leans back against the window.

MARA

Are you going to--

WES

Cooke is trying to cancel FTV.

MARA

No, I got that. But, why? When?

ALY

He told us at the beginning of the semester.

MARA

That was a month ago!

WES

We needed to come up with a plan  
and we didn't want this to affect  
you're decision to be EP.

Mara tries to be understanding but why the fuck didn't they say something sooner?

MARA

This seems like something I  
should've known... as EP!

ALY

Mar, I hate to say it, but us not  
telling you is the least important  
thing right now.

Beat. Mara pushes her hair back from her face.

MARA

So this...

Mara gestures towards the camera.

MARA (CONT'D)

...is to save the show?

WES

Yes. It was Aly's idea and since we already had an in with Dario, it was our best chance.

ALY

But, no one knows. Like no one. And we think it's better if it stays that way.

Mara's hands fly up at the camera, the rage is back.

MARA

What the fuck are you going to do when this comes out?!

WES

Dario agreed to not release the first episode until half way through the semester. After episode 500.

Beat. Mara tries really hard to not lose her shit.

MARA

So, this is a fucking Hail Mary then?

WES

We were hoping that with the alumni views from 500 and then the views from this, that it would be enough.

ALY

We're planning on telling everyone during the prep week of 500 as a little extra motivation.

Mara is now roughly rubbing the back of her neck.

MARA

(quietly)

Okay.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)

Okay. I'm gonna trust you guys on this.

Wes nods and looks relieved.

ALY  
Mara, You need to let the cameras  
follow you around.

Mara freezes.

MARA  
What?

ALY  
For this to work, Dario needs to  
have as much content as possible,  
which means... you need to let the  
cameras follow you around.

MARA  
I don't think anyone wants to--

ALY  
Come on, you're a badass! The  
youngest Executive Producer Summit  
TV has ever seen! You're just as  
important to this story as I am.

Mara shakes her head.

WES  
Mara.

Beat.

WES (CONT'D)  
This isn't going to work if you  
don't agree.

MARA  
I just don't...

Mara makes eye contact with Aly and drops her head.

MARA (CONT'D)  
(exhales)  
Fuck.

Mara picks her head up and shakes it.

MARA (CONT'D)  
Fine. I'm in.

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT 2

Antoine, Tracy, Mabel, and a few others sit around the table. Wil is standing in the front of the room at the podium. A blank word document is projected onto the screens.

Mara is sitting at the head of the table with her laptop open. Aly sits next to her absorbed in homework.

WIL

Alright, I figured since it's the first writer's meeting, we can just pitch ideas and then build off of the ones we like.

Wil looks to the new members, but they avoid eye contact.

Antoine sees his opportunity. He clears his throat and stands.

ANTOINE

Since no one else has an idea, I think it could be really funny to have a sketch about the Lincoln assassination but Booth keeps hitting the top hat instead of Lincoln.

Wil snaps his fingers and starts typing.

WIL

Ooh. I like that.

TRACY

Wait, that's so funny, Antoine.

Antoine sits and fakes a modest shrug.

ANTOINE

It just came to me one night in bed.

MABEL

As an average Frenchman, how--

ANTOINE

Above average.

Antoine winks at the camera.



MABEL

Yeah okay. As a... Frenchman, how often do you think about Lincoln?

A few chuckles erupt around the room and Antoine gives Mabel a forced smile.

TRACY

I actually saw this thing on tiktok that we could use as a sketch.

WIL

Shoot.

TRACY

It was about Jesus being a girl's sexual awakening.

Mabel bursts out laughing.

WIL

Nice. Nice.

Wil types the idea down.

ANTOINE

What if we change it from a girl to a boy? And he had this strict religious upbringing and Jesus ended up being his gay awakening.

Mara's eyes widen like she can't believe what she's hearing. She makes concerned eye contact with the camera.

#### MARA TALKING HEAD

MARA

One of the biggest complaints about the last EP was that she was too controlling in the writer's room. So, I'm trying to let them have more freedom.

Mara lets out a sigh.

MARA (CONT'D)

Even if their ideas insult a former president or mock religion.

Mara rubs her forehead roughly.

MARA (CONT'D)

I'm trying.

AS WE WERE

It's now full blown chaos. The screens are filled with horrible and unhinged ideas.

Tracy and Antoine are now acting out a scene from their pitch.

Tracy stands on one side of the room cowering while Antoine zombie-like limps towards her.

ANTOINE  
(imitating MLK)  
I have a dream...

ANTOINE (CONT'D)  
(normal voice)  
...that you got what you fucking  
deserve, you stale piece of white  
bread.

Antoine cocks his imaginary shotgun and aims it at Tracy.

Wil watches the scene eagerly. Mabel and the others are smiling. Mara gives a look of horror to the camera.

TRACY  
(bad acting)  
Martin Luther King JR.? I thought  
you were dead!

ANTOINE  
Surprise motherf--

Mara throws her hands up.

MARA  
Stop! Stop. Oh my god. Just no.

All heads snap to Mara.

MARA (CONT'D)  
There is absolutely no way we are  
ever going to be allowed to do a  
sketch about--

WIL  
It's fineeee. Let them finish.

Mara shoots Wil a look, but he just shrugs.

WIL (CONT'D)  
It's a funny idea. Why not see how  
it plays out?

Mara and Wil hold tense eye contact. A battle of wills without a single word spoken.

MARA TALKING HEAD

MARA

How am I the bad guy for thinking that a sketch about Martin Luther King Jr. Coming back as a zombie to only eat white people is a bit too far?

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)

Also! If Martin Luther King Jr. Is a zombie, why does he have a shotgun?

Mara throws her hands up.

AS WE WERE

Tracy and Antoine are back in their seats. Mara looks like she wants to rip her hair out.

WIL

Alright guys. I think this is a good place to stop. I'll put this list in the group chat in case anyone wants to take a crack at writing these.

A DING goes off and Mara picks up her phone to see a text.

WES (TEXT)

*Let's meet tomorrow to discuss ideas from the writer's meeting tonight.*

Mara nudges Aly and shows her the text. Aly gives her a "yikes" face.

WIL

See you guys tomorrow, back here at the same time!

Everyone gets up to leave.

ANTOINE

I'll try to have Zombie MLK done for the meeting tomorrow.

WIL  
Alright, thanks man.

Antoine walks out.

ALY  
See you at auditions tomorrow,  
smoke show.

MARA  
Oh shit. Right.

ALY  
8 a.m., baby!

MARA  
Oof. That's gonna hurt.

ALY  
I'll bring coffees. Don't stress.

Aly gives Mara's arm a squeeze before heading out.

INT. STUDIO C- DAY 3

Aly is setting up a camera in front of the stage. Two empty chairs are positioned on either side of the camera. On each desk is a cup of coffee.

Mara walks in.

ALY  
Morning, babers!

Mara stops dead in her tracks and checks her phone.

MARA  
That's a lot of energy for 8 in  
the morning.

ALY  
Jokes on you, I've been going since  
6.

MARA  
Jesus.

ALY  
I'm two coffee's deep, not insane.

Aly winks at Mara.

ALY (CONT'D)  
Speaking of, your's is on the desk.

MARA  
Oh my god, my savior.

Mara drudges over to the desk and sips the coffee.

ALY  
You're in for such a treat.  
Auditions are the best part of the  
job.

MARA  
Really?

ALY  
Yeah, it's a unique experience.

The door opens and MEMBER 1 walks in.

MEMBER 1  
Hey, is this where auditions for  
From The Vault are?

ALY  
Absolutely! Go make yourself at  
home up there.

ALY (CONT'D)  
(whispering to Mara)  
Buckle up, princess.

Mara laughs and the two take their seats.

# MONTAGE OF AUDITION CLIPS

MEMBER 1  
Summit should advertise that this  
school has never had a case of the  
Freshman 15. Why, you might ask?  
It's cause we all get food  
poisoning at least once a week.

MEMBER 2  
So, I'm riding It's A Small World,  
high out of my mind, and I've fully  
convinced myself that me flapping  
my arms...

MEMBER 2 flaps arms erratically.

MEMBER 2 (CONT'D)

...is the sole reason we were still flying.

MEMBER 3

I've never understood why people say we never get snow at Summit. I mean just go to any frat party and the tables are covered in it.

MEMBER 4

In recent news, a lizard has infiltrated the X building and been terrorizing Musk. In other words, the cage match between Zuckerberg and Musk has officially begun.

RANDY (18, wholesome, shy) looks comfortable at the desk.

RANDY

Hear me out on this, okay? When did it become a societal norm to put your child on the lap of some 80-year-old who plays dress up as Santa for a living? It's like you're saying stranger danger... unless he's dressed up as Santa Clause.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. COMM SCHOOL COURTYARD- DAY 3

Mara walks outside, rubbing the back of her neck.

MABEL

Boo!

Mabel pops up from the side.

MARA

Hey.

They walk over to the vending machine.

MABEL

You look rough.

MARA

Yeah?

MABEL

Has there been anyone funny?

Mara opens her mouth the answer, but Mabel cuts her off.

MABEL (CONT'D)

More importantly, was anyone cute?

Mara laughs.

MARA

There may have been one of two who weren't... *horrible*. Oh! And one total agrees with me about how all Mall Santa's are sercret pervs.

MABEL

Ooohh. Get it!

Mara laughs and shakes her head. She pushes some buttons on the vending machine.

MARA

Nah. I can't.

MABEL

Come on. You're hot. You're an EP. You could basically force him to date you.

MARA

And that is exactly why I can't. I'm in a position of power.

Mabel rolls her eyes and shakes Mara's arm.

MABEL

Oh my god. Your self-righteousness needs to fuck off.

They laugh. Mara shoves a handful of pretzels in her mouth.

MARA

Speaking of fucking off, I gotta get back.

Mara gives Mabel a little wave before heading back inside.

INT. STUDIO C- DAY 3

Mara enters to room and offers a pretzel to Aly, who is writing something down.

ALY

Halfway there!

MARA  
Mmh. Who's next?

Aly looks at the list of auditions in front of her.

ALY  
Uh. Looks like it's all the  
returning boys.

Mara nods and sits down.

MONTAGE OF AUDITIONS

ISAAC  
I was working at a camp this summer  
which is great because the kids are  
super cute. To die for cute.  
They're so cute until this eight  
year old boy comes up to me crying  
about how he got this other girl at  
camp pregnant. Yeah. Imagine having  
to explain the birds and the  
bees...

Isaac puts his hand to the side of his mouth like he's  
telling a secret.

ISAAC (CONT'D)  
...and the abortions...

Isaac drops his hand.

ISAAC (CONT'D)  
To an eight year old kid who was  
just tonguing a third grader behind  
a cabin.

WIL  
There's one difference between guys  
and girls that doesn't get enough  
attention. The other day, my  
girlfriend got bit by a spider and  
I asked her if she "checked". And  
she had absolutely no idea what I  
was talking about. Turns out, it  
has never occurred to her to check  
if she just turned into Spiderman.  
I mean I get bit by a fly and I'm  
like...

Wil imitates the spider man web shooter thing.

WIL (CONT'D)  
...pst. Pst. pst. pst.



Wil pretends to shoot a web with each "Pst".

WIL (CONT'D)

I'm pretty sure my first heart break was finding out that I didn't become Spiderman.

ANTOINE

I think the French get a bad reputation. Like a bunch of foreigners come into our country and we get labeled as rude. Americans have foreigners come to their country and their first thought is to build a wall and deport them. Now you tell me, which is actually worse?

END MONTAGE.

INT. STUDIO C- DAY 3

Mara drops her head onto her desk while Aly is shuffling papers.

MARA

That was definitely something.

ALY

Auditions are always a riot. You really never know what's gonna happen.

Mara stands and stretches her back.

MARA

I'm so glad we're done.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)

I feel like we have some good options for the news segment.

ALY

Oh, for sure. We could definitely shake it up, you know? Get some new blood in there.

Mara is about to swing her bag over her shoulder when the door bangs open and Grant enters.

GRANT

Hey. You guys ready for me?

Mara's eyes widen.

ALY

Yeah, come in.

Mara mouths "what the fuck?" to Aly when Grant turns his back.

ALY (CONT'D)

(whispering)

Just sit down.

EXT. COMM SCHOOL COURTYARD- DAY 3

Mabel sits at a table, scrolling on her phone, when Tracy sits across from her.

TRACY

Hey, do you know how it's going in there?

Tracy nods her head towards the studio doors.

MABEL

Nah, not really. Mara just said a couple new members were funny.

Tracy nods.

TRACY

Is that all she said?

MABEL

Yeah. Why?

TRACY

Nothing about the current guys?

Mabel shakes her head.

TRACY (CONT'D)

(under her breath)

Figures.

Mabel gives a little laugh.

MABEL

Out to get her, huh?

TRACY

No. I'm just making sure she isn't trying to get rid of the guys.

MABEL

Why would Mara do that?

TRACY

The power has gone straight to her head. She thinks she's better than us now that she has a fancy title.

INT. STUDIO C- DAY 3

Grant stands up from the desk.

ALY

Ok. Great. Thanks Grant.

GRANT

Yeah, of course. Thank you. I really appreciate you guys taking the time...

Mara forces a smile and nods.

GRANT (CONT'D)

...Even though it's just a formality.

Mara's head snaps over to Aly, who ignores her.

MARA

What do you--

ALY

Don't worry about it. We're just happy you decided to come back.

Grant opens the door. He stops for a second and doubles back.

GRANT

The cameras are a really good idea to save the show. It's like the college version of 30 Rock. I can't wait to watch it.

Grant leaves but before the door can close, Tracy and Mabel barge in.

TRACY

How were auditions!

ALY

Good. Good. We have a lot of good options this semester.

Aly looks at Mara, but Mara refuses to meet her gaze.

MABEL

That's so exciting. I can't wait to see the cast list.

TRACY

Come on, we all know the cast is gonna be the boys again, right Aly?

ALY

I have no idea. We gotta go, EP business and such.

Aly grabs Mara's arm and practically drags her out of the room.

INT. STUDIO CONTROL ROOM- DAY 3

Aly drags Mara inside.

ALY

Ok. I know this looks bad and that you're upset, but--

MARA

Upset? Are you fucking kidding me?

ALY

Just let me explain. Please.

Mara crosses her arms, waiting.

ALY (CONT'D)

Grant being host was the only way we could get him to come back. His little temper tantrums aside, Grant is funny and considering we are on death row, we don't really have another choice.

Mara rubs the back of her neck. The silence is deafening.

MARA

Is that it?

Aly is stunned by Mara's calm tone.

ALY

What?

MARA

Is that everything? Any more secrets gonna come to light?

ALY

No. I swear. You know everything I do.

MARA

Aly, I mean it.

Aly grabs Mara's arms.

ALY

No more surprises. I promise.

EXT. SUMMIT UNIVERSITY BAR- DAY 3

The Summit University Bar (SUB) is the campus restaurant and bar. It has outdoor seating as well as the restaurant inside.

PRESLEY (21, spunky) is sitting at a table playing on her phone when Mara comes up.

MARA

Oh. My. God.

Mara throws her backpack on the chair and flops down.

PRESLEY

Hey! How were...

Presley trails off when she sees the cameras.

PRESLEY (CONT'D)

(confused)

Auditions?

MARA

Oh shit. Presley, the cameras. The cameras, Presley. They are gonna be following me around for a little while. Just ignore them.

PRESLEY

Okay?

PRESLEY TALKING HEAD

PRESLEY (CONT'D)  
Hey, I'm Presley. Uhh...

Awkward beat.

DARIO (O.S.)  
So, how are you involved in the show?

PRESLEY  
What? No. I'm not in the show.

DARIO (O.S.)  
You're not?

PRESLEY  
No! I'm just friends with---

HARD CUT TO:

AS WE WERE

MARA  
And apparently, they already gave Grant the host spot before the semester even fucking started! Are they joking?

Mara drops her head on the table a little too hard causing a loud bang. Presley tries to hide her laugh.

MARA (CONT'D)  
Ow.

Mara picks her head up and rubs it while laughing. She pushes her hair back.

MARA (CONT'D)  
I feel like such a sell out. I mean, could you imagine the mutiny if everyone found out. They already want me to fail, this would just give them an excuse act like fuck-year-olds.

PRESLEY  
Mutiny? Come on, Mara, it can't be that serious.

MARA  
Oh, but it is! This is the college comedy show equivalent of Watergate.

Mara's eyes light up.

MARA (CONT'D)  
Vault-gate.

Presley looks sympathetic for a moment. Suddenly her eyes light up.

PRESLEY  
If this is Vault-gate, does that  
make you Nixon?

Mara looks distraught and slams her head back down on the table. Presley smiles and pats Mara on the head.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT 3

Mara and Wes are sitting at the table. Mara has her notebook out.

WES  
Alright, hit me.

MARA  
There was an idea about every time  
a guy rides his skateboard Sk8er  
Boi starts magically playing.

WES  
(dismissive)  
We can't used licensed music.

Mara is taken aback by Wes' tone.

MARA  
Kamala Harris and AOC Weekend at  
Bernie-ing Biden if he dies in  
office--

WES  
And how exactly do you plan on  
filming? Or even cast that?

MARA  
Oh, uh, okay. There was an idea  
about Jesus being someone's--

WES  
Absolutely no religious stuff.

MARA  
Okay. Um...

Mara is scanning her notebook for a better idea, but can't find one.

WES  
That's it?

MARA  
What? No. I'm just trying to--

WES  
Is this really the best you can do?  
Copyright infringement and Jesus?

MARA  
No, I--

WES  
This is not what I had in mind when  
I chose you. If this was the  
content I wanted, I would have let  
Grant be EP.

Mara stares back at him, speechless.

WES (CONT'D)  
When I come by the meeting later,  
there better be a usable idea...

Wes gets up.

WES (CONT'D)  
... or I might have to rethink your  
position on the show.

Wes storms out. Mara leans back in her chair, defeated.

MARA  
(whisper)  
Fuck me.

**END OF ACT TWO**



ACT THREE

EXT. COMM SCHOOL COURTYARD- NIGHT 3

Mara walks out into the courtyard, rubbing the back of her neck. She rounds the corner when--

GRANT

Hey.

Mara jumps. She turns and finds Grant leaning against the building, smoking a cigarette.

MARA

Hi.

Mara turns to keep walking but...

GRANT

Rough night?

Mara laughs.

MARA

Yeah. You could say that.

Mara leans next to Grant. The pair sit in comfortable silence.

GRANT

(through smoking)

Wes just came storming out of the conference room, you got anything to do with that?

Mara takes the cigarette from Grant and takes a long drag.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Ah.

Silence.

GRANT (CONT'D)

I know you probably don't believe me, but I've changed.

Grant takes the cigarette back.

GRANT (CONT'D)

I spent the summer working on myself. No more temper tantrums. I promise.

Mara nods.

MARA  
(abrupt)  
Why did you turn down being EP?

Grant's head snaps to Mara.

MARA (CONT'D)  
It would have given you all the  
control your little dictator heart  
could've desire.

He chuckles.

GRANT  
Nah. It's not for me. I want to  
have my own ideas made. Not the  
other way around.

More silence.

GRANT (CONT'D)  
For what it's worth, I'm really  
glad you're EP.

Mara looks at him, caught off guard by his confession.

MARA  
Yeah?

GRANT  
Yeah. I mean, you're talented. And  
no one else would put this much  
time and effort into something that  
isn't theirs.

MARA  
Better pitch your ideas fast. Looks  
like I'm not gonna be around much  
longer.

Mara takes the cigarette.

GRANT  
Don't say that.

Mara shakes her head.

GRANT (CONT'D)  
(quiet and sincere)  
What can I do?

MARA

Really?

Grant nods.

MARA (CONT'D)

Shoot down the bad ideas. Wil won't  
do it and no one will listen if  
they think I'm behind it.

Silence. Grant slowly nods.

GRANT

Don't worry.

(beat)

I got you.

Mara hands the cigarette back to him. Grant nods his head  
towards the conference room.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Go.

Beat.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Can't let anyone know we're in  
cahoots together.

Mara lets out a little laugh and Grant smiles. She turns and  
heads back.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT 3

Mara walks in, but stops dead in her tracks.

The room is packed with people. Some kids are even  
standing/sitting around the sides of the room.

Wil is in the front of the room pulling up scripts. Mara  
slowly walks over to her seat and Aly gives her an excited  
look.

MARA

(to the room)

Hey. Uh, guys?

The chatter around Mara dies down, but the other side of the  
room is still talking.

Mara puts her hand in the air as an attempt to gain  
attention.

MARA (CONT'D)

Hello?

The chatter stops.

MARA (CONT'D)

Hi. I'm Mara. I'm one of the executive producers on the show.

Grant walks in and pulls a chair to the other end of the table.

Mara laughs, still surprised at the turnout.

MARA (CONT'D)

There's so many new people. How did you all hear about us?

Silence.

MEMBER 4

I saw the cameras around campus and they said it was for this.

Member 4 bounces between looking at Mara and the camera while talking. Other members nod in agreement.

Mara smiles, proud and excited.

MARA

Okay, then.

#### FRAT BRO MEMBER TALKING HEAD

FRAT BRO MEMBER (typical "bro") is wearing a t-shirt with the sleeves roughly cut off and a backwards visor.

FRAT BRO MEMBER

I heard that Jake Paul is gonna be a special guest on this. You would get mad views if you let me fight him.

#### SORORITY GIRL MEMBER TALKING HEAD

SORORITY GIRL MEMBER (stereotypical) is wearing a greek life shirt with a deep V and her cleavage popping.

SORORITY GIRL MEMBER

I'm only here so that when this goes viral, I'll get casted on Love Island.

She twirls her hair and winks at the camera.

RANDY TALKING HEAD

RANDY

I just wanna make funny things.

Awkward beat.

RANDY (CONT'D)

That's it.

AS WE WERE

Mara sits down in her chair and turns to Aly.

MARA

(whisper)

I can't believe I'm saying this,  
but you might be right after all.

Aly blows her a kiss.

WIL

Alright, lets start with Zombie  
MLK.Mara puffs her cheeks and shakes her head. She's looks like  
she wants to hide behind her laptop screen.

TRACY

Antoine showed me this earlier and,  
oh my god, it's gold.

ANTOINE

If anyone has an suggestions let me  
know.Wil pulls up the script. Grant is looking at the screen  
reading it, his eyes wide.

WIL

Antoine, feel free to cast whoever.

ANTOINE

I'll read for ML--

GRANT

Hang on, hang on.

Antoine pauses.

GRANT (CONT'D)

(mix of shock and  
curiosity)What is this about exactly?

ANTOINE

Ah, right. You missed the meeting last night. Essentially, this is a science fiction, role-reversal of the timeless, yet tragic, story of Martin Luther King Jr.

Grant's jaw is open, a mix between "what the fuck?" and "damn, that's funny".

GRANT

Jesus. That is... bold.

WIL

I'm sure it's tasteful.

Wil looks to Antoine and he nods.

GRANT

Yeah, yeah, I'm sure, but maybe this isn't the type of stuff meant for this show.

Mara's head snaps up.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Besides, no chance Wes passes this on.

Silence. Mara is on the edge of her seat.

WIL

Fair, fair.

TRACY

But--

WIL

It's funny, don't get me wrong. But this is more for Key and Peele, not FTV.

Grant looks around the room.

GRANT

Do any of you newer kids have anything you want to pitch?

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT 3- 30 MINUTES LATER

The room is alive and full of laughter. A huge 180 from earlier.

Wes opens the door and stops when he sees the amount of people in the room. He shoots Mara a surprised looked.

MARA  
(mouthing)  
Right?

Wes walks over and kneels between Mara and Aly.

WES  
(whisper)  
There's so many new people.

MARA  
I know.

ALY  
The cameras.

WES  
Really?

Mara and Aly nod.

WES (CONT'D)  
From The Vault hasn't had this many members since... maybe ever, actually.

In the front of the room, Randy is talking to Grant and Wil.

RANDY  
I thought we could do a commercial parody about the cat that fell from the top of the stands at the football game last weekend.

GRANT  
What, like an ASPCA spoof?

RANDY  
Yeah. Like we start it as an ASPCA thing, but as soon as the cat lands on the American flag it turns into a military recruitment ad.

Mara turns to Wes, nervous, but he just smiles and nods.

WES  
That's more like it.

Grant and Wil try to harmonize the "Army Strong" theme song while the video of the cat plays on the screens.

Wes gets up and leaves.

Aly slaps Mara's arm as an atta-girl. Mara drops her head onto her laptop and lets out a sigh of relief.

MARA TALKING HEAD

Mara sits down in front of the camera.

MARA  
Hey! Ready?

Mara's smile is friendly and care free, very different from her first interview.

MARA (CONT'D)  
Before we start, I just wanna say thanks for everything that you guys are doing. I mean, we might actually pull this off.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)  
Alsoooo... I'm sorry for saying that you guys were talentless leaches that weren't worthy of a participation trophy.

Mara looks at the camera, apologetic.

DARIO (O.S.)  
What? You never said that?

Mara's apologetic look snaps to guilt instantly.

MARA  
I didn't?

Mara gives the camera a "yikes" face.

END OF ACT THREE



**TAG**

MISCELLANEOUS PHOTOS/VIDEOS OF OFF THE WIRE.

**END SHOW**