

The scene between President Clayton and the character Malena Carol is part of a feature film script called *The Gaming Class*. It is a story set in a future where the class divide in America is greater than ever and pretty much everything of importance in America is inherited and owned by a set of very wealthy and powerful families. Instead of focusing on the real world, a “gaming class” emerges where a vast majority of people are sucked into the virtual world of the game *Parkland*. Malena Carol is the founder and leader of the “Parkland Revolution”, who fight back against the loss of the real world to this set of ruling families. During the course of the Parkland Revolution, Malena takes aim at a man named Parker Thompson who belongs to the ruling families. However, the main character of the story, a young man named Jacob Ormond, ends up choosing to betray the revolution for love and delivers Malena into the hands of the ruling families which begins the downfall of the Parkland Revolution. The scene itself is Clayton’s attempt to calm Malena and get her to soften her stances.

INT. UNDERGROUND DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Malena follows a bald man to a neatly prepared table where President Clayton sits waiting. Clayton stands and approaches her, extending his hand.

CLAYTON  
Good evening Ms. Carol.

She ignores him and rushes to her seat. Clayton takes his seat again too.

He SIGHS, then cracks a half smile.

MALENA  
You can take me, but you won't stop  
the revolution.

Clayton nods. He makes eye contact with the bald man.

CLAYTON  
We're ready.

The bald man leaves the room.

Clayton and Malena stare at each other for a bit. Her gaze remains focused and unkind, his is friendly but also analytical.

The bald man comes back, carrying a large and neatly made plate with lobster.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)  
You a fan of seafood?

Malena doesn't respond.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)  
I'm kind of hoping you'll respond  
here, how else will I get to know the  
concerns of the people?

She smirks.

MALENA  
Oh, you care about the people?

Clayton smiles.

CLAYTON  
Ms. Carol.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

(beat)

We're not so bad.

He takes some of the lobster to his plate. He motions to the lobster.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

Please, eat. It'd be difficult to finish it myself.

MALENA

You didn't have this tone when condemning us over Parker Thompson's death.

Clayton takes a DEEP BREATH.

CLAYTON

Parker Thompson was an acquaintance of mine. And in any case, it's not an ideal situation. But I can understand. It's a complicated thing, ruling. But now, we have a chance to make peace, and the United States wants to hear you.

MALENA

You want me to make peace with you?

CLAYTON

Yes.

MALENA

You think I'm going to be friendly?

CLAYTON

I sure hope you would.

MALENA

Right.

Malena leans in.

MALENA (CONT'D)

(violent)

Well, all I can say is I'm glad I took the head off that little shit. And the Parkland Revolution's coming for yours as well.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Clayton raises his eyebrows.

CLAYTON  
(sympathetic)  
You left his children without a  
father.

Malena looks down, then HUFFS.

He hesitates before continuing.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)  
Are you familiar with the gospels, Ms.  
Carol? From the Christian religion.

Malena gives a confused reaction to this. She nods, slowly.

MALENA  
A bit.

Clayton puts down his fork and raises his hands without it,  
leaning in toward Malena.

CLAYTON  
In the crucifixion story, we see  
Pilate give the crowd a choice between  
freeing the innocent hero and a  
murderer. The crowd chose the  
murderer, and so Pilate had the  
murderer released and Christ  
condemned. But I think in your case,  
you'll find that we can learn from  
history. This time, the murderer isn't  
freed, and the appeals of the hero are  
heard.

Malena stops before responding, then sits still, stunned.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)  
Let's move on from Parker Thompson,  
and work toward peace.

Clayton picks up his fork. He motions toward the lobster  
again.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)  
Please, eat.

She takes some of the lobster and digs into it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

And, for the next few days, if there's  
anything you'd like, just ask.

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