

CONTINUED:

RON (CONT'D)

I believe government is a waste of taxpayer money. My dream is to have the public park system privatized and run entirely for profit by corporations. McDonald's I think would be a good fit. Imagine a shiny clean McDonald's in every park. Corporations are so much cooler than government. Government is for nerds and minority women.

Jump Cut -- he is showing us around the office.

RON (CONT'D)

This office is a symbol of how I feel about government:

He points to a MACHINE GUN that's aimed at anyone who sits across from him.

RON SWANSON

This M-16 was given to me as a present by a prominent local gun dealer. I bought two and he threw in a third for free. People who come in to ask me for things have to stare right down the barrel.

It's mounted on his desk, pointing at the guest chair.

RON SWANSON (CONT'D)

What? The barrel's been concreted. I would have to pull out this plug for it to be fully operational.

He gestures to a MINE he keeps on his desk.

RON SWANSON (CONT'D)

This is a partially defused Claymore mine. I want to remind people that asking me for anything is a minefield.

He gestures to a coffee table made out of one of those massive SPIKED METAL TANK OBSTACLES.

RON SWANSON (CONT'D)

That's my crown jewel. It's called a "Czech Hedgehog," and it was used to keep Allied tanks off the beaches in France. It cost me eleven thousand dollars to ship it here. I had to have the floor reinforced. I like it.

(beat)

I think it's beautiful.

INT. LESLIE'S OFFICE - LATER

Mark stands outside in the common area. Ann approaches Aubrey. Mark glances at her. His eyes flicker away, and then immediately back. He stares at her from the side, without her noticing.

ANN

Hey, how's it going? Is Leslie around?

AUBREY

What is this regarding?

ANN

Aubrey, it's me. It's Ann, from the pit.

Aubrey nods blankly. Mark saunters over.

MARK

Lot 48, right? Sullivan Street?

(she nods)

I'm Mark, I'm a city planner.

ANN

Ann Logan. Hi.

MARK

So I want to tell you I have a lot of respect for community activists. You guys get dumped on so much, but you keep at it, organizing the poor, and giving people a voice and really keeping us honest in the government. Really cool work.

ANN

I agree, but I'm not a community activist. I'm a nurse.

MARK

I feel exactly the same way about nurses.

Ann smiles.

ANN

Really? Exactly the same way? How lucky for you that you didn't just make a really embarrassing mistake.

MARK

I know, right? Thank god.

CONTINUED:

ANN

Who else do you completely respect  
and admire in exactly the same way?  
Animal trainers? Rental car phone  
reservation takers?

MARK

Yup. All of them.

She laughs.

MARK (CONT'D)

So why is a nurse "taking on the  
system?" What's in this for you?

ANN

Oh. Well, between you and me, I own  
all the nearby lots. I'm thinking  
if I can get the city to commit to  
fixing this, I can get it for a low  
price, bundle it with my lots, and  
put up a new mall.

MARK

(disappoin  
ted) Wow.  
Okay.

ANN

I'm kidding. There's a hole in the  
ground, it's ugly and people are  
falling into it. That's all.

Mark smiles at her, intrigued.

MARK

I knew Leslie fell in. Tom emailed  
me a picture this morning. But who  
else?

ANN

...My boyfriend.

MARK

(not  
thrown) He  
okay?

ANN

Yeah, he's fine. He's great.

MARK

What's he do for a living?

ANN

(CONTINUED1

(wary)  
Why do you want to know?



MARK  
Just making conversation.

ANN  
He's a...musician. Potentially. I mean,  
yeah -- whatever -- he's a musician.

Mark nods slightly. "That guy's not a threat." They hold each other's gaze for a second. Leslie comes around the corner.

LESLIE  
There she is!  
(re: Mark)  
And there he is! There both of them are!

ANN  
Hey Leslie!

They hug.

LESLIE  
I take it you've met.

ANN  
We have. How are you feeling?

LESLIE  
I'm feeling...optimistic. Waiting for news from "on high" about whether we get our committee.

ANN  
Hey -- no matter what happens, I want to say thanks. I mean it. This is...way better than I thought it would be. You're really fighting for me.

Leslie beams.

LESLIE  
Well. That's my job. You want a quick tour?

ANN  
Sure...I have to leave in half an hour

They leave. Mark watches them go.

INT. RON SWANSON'S OFFICE - LATER

Mark walks in. SPY SHOT.

RON

Are we meeting about something?

MARK

I want you to give Lot 48 to Leslie and  
let her try to build a park.

Ron pauses and leans back in his chair. He casually swivels the gun on his desk to keep Mark in the sights. Mark picks up the Claymore mine and idly tosses it in the air. Ron stiffens.

RON

Why?

MARK

Doesn't matter. People like parks.

RON

It's a development lot. Restaurant,  
office building, something.

MARK

You owe me one. Remember? In fact you  
owe me several.

RON

You want to cash in for this?

MARK

Yup.

RON

What's your angle?

MARK

Doesn't matter.

Ron stares at him. Mark stares back. Unintimidated.

RON

Trading four years worth of favors for a  
park that'll never get built. You've  
gone soft.

Mark smiles and heads out. As he goes.

MARK

And tell her in the next 30 minutes.

He TOSSES RON the mine. Ron stares after him, thinking.

INT. GOVERNMENT BUILDING - LATER

Leslie and Ann carry Starbucks coffee cups and walk down a VERY LONG HALLWAY that connects the Parks Department with the elevator area. It is lined with columns and arches. They land at the very end, where the elevators are.

LESLIE

There are 85,000 people in Pawnee, and this building contains the entire government. "The Power Center."

ANN

This hallway is endless.

LESLIE

I know. We call it "Archway Alley." Or sometimes just: "The Hall."

ANN

Clever.

PAN slowly over a MURAL PAINTING in the elevator area, of a hard-working, tough as nails prairie woman...

LESLIE

The building is called Pioneer Hall, named by the first inhabitants of this building in 1891.

We see the pioneer woman is holding an ax and must be in the middle of her daily wood chopping.

ANN

(re: mural)

Wow.

LESLE (V.O.)

Yes -- our crown jewel. These murals depict the battle of Conega Creek.

We pan down and see the pioneer woman is actually swinging her ax at the head of a Native American woman.

LESLIE

We put the minimum wage poster over the most horrible parts.

A minimum wage poster is covering up what must be even worse scenes of slaughter.

ANN

That's...horrifying.

(CONTINUED)

LESLIE

Yes. Come on -- I'll show you the DMV  
offices!

ANN

Awesome.

From ALL THE WAY BACK DOWN THE HALL, Tom pops out and calls  
to them.

TOM

Hey! Leslie! We did it!

They look back at him.

INT. PARKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE -- LATER

Leslie and Ann hugging. Tom tries to get in on hugging Ann,  
who politely obliges, then wiggles away.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Yes, Ron Swanson has approved our request  
for a committee!

LESLIE TALKING HEAD

LESLIE

So exciting. This is my first committee,  
that I'll have headed by myself. Or with  
someone. First committee, ever, of any  
kind, for me. But...wow. I mean, in  
terms of my future? This is huge. I'm  
barely 34, and I've already landed a  
Parks Department exploratory sub-  
committee!

(jazzed)

I'm a rocketship.

BACK TO OFFICE

Leslie, Ann, Tom and others stand around drinking champagne.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

To our beautiful new committee, a  
committee of dreams! And to America!

Leslie drains a glass like it's apple juice .

TOM

Here let me.

He pours another. She downs it too. Tom marvels.



TOM TALKING HEAD

TOM

Leslie gets hammered a couple times a month. It's the only way I can tolerate her.

BACK TO SCENE

Mark comes in.

MARK

Hey -- just heard the news.  
Congratulations.

LESLIE

Thank you. It's very exciting. Do you think I should call a press conference right away? Try to get my picture out there? Or no -- I should wait. Don't want to overplay my hand. Okay. Good. So. Stay! Have a glass of champagne!

Mark glances at Ann.

MARK

Why not.

Leslie goes to get him a glass. Mark motions to Tom.

MARK (CONT'D)

Hey.  
(motions to Ann)  
What's the story?

TOM

Don't bother. She's ice cold. I already took a run at her and got nowhere.

MARK

Well, maybe you'll do better tonight, with your wife.

TOM

Dude, why you gotta be like that?

Leslie sidles up to Mark, fueled by liquid courage.

LESLIE

Well well well. Looks like you and I are going to be working together.

Tom rolls his eyes and walks off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARK

Looks like it.

LESLIE

Looks like it indood. Deed. Doo-dee-doo-dee-doo.

She sips and winces at her drunkenness. Ann walks over.

ANN

Cheers!

They all clink glasses. Leslie puts her hand on Ann's shoulder.

LESLIE

Ann, I promise you -- I am going to work my butt off to get this project done. No matter how long it takes. This butt is coming off!

Ann smiles.

MARK

That's our Leslie. She's one tough bird.

He tousles her hair -- Leslie leans into it with a smile. He stops and a second later Leslie opens her eyes. She flashes the thumb's up to Ann.

LESLIE AND ANN - JOINT TALKING HEAD

With a glass of champagne, a little tipsy.

LESLIE

America is a funny place. It's full of opportunities, full of hope, full of small towns and big cities and real people and delicious beverages and hot guys. You just never know, in America, when opportunity is going to strike.

(to Ann)

Are you excited?

ANN

Definitely. I'm fired up.

LESLIE

Yeah!

ANN

I've always heard that democracy, or whatever, only works if people get involved. Well, I'm getting involved!

CONTINUED:

LESLIE

That's right.

(singing)

"Soul sistah, soul sistah, soul sistah!"

She drinks more champagne as Ann gets riled up.

ANN

I'm a nurse, you know? People come into the E.R. with chopped off fingers and compound fractures--

LESLIE

Like me, with my clavicle!

ANN

-- sure -- and if I can handle real blood and guts, I can handle this. I'm making a vow here. No matter what, I'm going to get that pit filled in, even if it takes two months!

(beat; notices something off-camera)

What? What's so funny?

LESLIE

(downs champagne)

Wh0000000000!

END OF ACT THREE