

GARY

No ma'am. I haven't seen them.

Selina discretely checks her skirt. Dan takes Anna to one side.

ANNA

So, Dan, are you a tour guide now? I always knew you'd make it to the top.

DAN

How was your boss's meeting? I hear the catering was a box of a dozen donuts.

ANNA

Fuck you.

DAN

I hadn't finished..."and four of those were left over."

ANNA

I hadn't finished either..."Fuck you Dan. You dick." OK, that's the small talk done. We know Hallows is avoiding the Veep.

DAN

Of course she is. Veep?

ANNA

We're pushing Veep as her acceptable nickname.

DAN

You mean instead of She-Ra?

ANNA

We need 20 minutes with Senator Hallows.

DAN

There are a lot of people who need 20 minutes with probably the next Chair of Finance. Take ticket number 89 and..

ANNA

The Veep's thinking of offering the Senator a post on her Clean Jobs Commission.

DAN

After this plastics thing I think the Senator might prefer to attend something less contentious, like a Klan meeting.

ANNA

Come on Dan. Did what we had together mean nothing to you?

DAN

You know it didn't. It was just kissing and rubbing and dinner at Citronelle.

ANNA

You remember the restaurant.

DAN

It's my regular second-date pre-sex restaurant.

(to his entourage)

Ladies and gentlemen.

Dan starts to move off. His entourage follow him in sync. A beat. Anna calls out.

ANNA

It's the SRVA Fundraiser tonight.

Dan stops, comes back. His entourage shuffle back with him.

ANNA (CONT'D)

How would you like to stand right next to the President?

DAN

She gets 10 minutes.

CUT TO:

INT. SENATOR HALLOWES' OFFICE - DAY

Dan enters Senator Hallowses' office with Selina and Gary. SENATOR BARBARA HALLOWES - a confident woman about the same age as Selina - is on the phone.

SENATOR HALLOWES

I still support him. It was an ill-advised comment about offshore funds and, you know, Frank's Chair of the Finance Committee so he needs to watch what he says...

Dan leans over the other side of her desk and scribbles, upside down, on a notepad. She reads.

SENATOR HALLOWES (CONT'D)

But, look, we've all said dumb things in our lives and I don't think this is a resigning issue for Frank. Okay. Goodbye.

She rings off.

DAN

Now all that guy will take from the call will be the words 'dumb' and 'resigning'.

SENATOR HALLOWES

Thanks Dan.

(she sees the VP)

Selina!

(horrified glance at Dan)

SELINA

Hi Barbara. You're not returning my calls. You been seeing another VP behind my back?

DAN

The Senator has been very busy with extremely important legislative business.

SENATOR HALLOWES

You must remember what that was like, Selina, from when you were a Senator?

Dan leaves. Selina and Gary sit down.

Senator Hallows is drinking a coffee. Selina waits a beat, nothing is offered.

SELINA

You shafting Frank to get Chair of Finance? I remember that from my Senate days.

SENATOR HALLOWES

Yep. Officially supporting him, unofficially positioning to take over after his sure-fire resignation tomorrow afternoon.

SELINA

The usual dance. Gary, could you get me a coffee from the machine?

Gary goes to leave.

GARY

Oh, I've managed to get a fresh batch of those European sweeteners you like so much. The French sweeteners?

SELINA

Thanks Gary. You're phenomenal. They're great, great sweeteners.

Gary exits.

SELINA (CONT'D)

(explaining)

I don't like them especially, they taste just like any other sweetener. Sweet.

(MORE)

SELINA (CONT'D)

It's not like wine, you don't say, mmm, sweetener - I'm getting oak, maybe a hint of raspberries and, my, is that fennel? No, it's just a harsh chemical sweetener, but Gary puts so much effort into getting them I don't have the heart to tell the poor bastard.

A long beat.

SENATOR HALLOWES

So, I love what you're doing with the whole cutlery thing.

CUT TO:

INT. DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dan with Anna in his office next to the Senator's.

DAN

You got Google alerts on all the VP's nicknames? Mrs Doubtmeyer, you got that?

ANNA

(No)

Yes.

DAN

That's a clever one, because it implies she's both nannying and confused.

ANNA

So Hallows is going to get the Chair of the Finance Committee from Frank?

DAN

Probably. She wont be very good at it though. They'll want Frank back.

ANNA

Okay. Indiscreet?

DAN

She wouldn't believe you over me so I can be honest. Senator Hallows is mediocre. If they did greetings cards that said "You're basically adequate", that's what people would send her.

CUT TO:

INT. SENATOR HALLOWES' OFFICE - DAY

Back with Selina and Senator Hallows.

SELINA
Dan seems good.

SENATOR HALLOWES
He's great. Very loyal.

Gary comes back in with a takeout coffee.

SENATOR HALLOWES (CONT'D)
Got him from an Ohio Congresswoman. She
was clearly going nowhere. You know he's
dating my daughter?

SELINA
Janet?

SENATOR HALLOWES
No.

Gary writes something on the sleeve of the coffee cup.

SELINA
Sorry, of course not. I meant...
(glances at coffee sleeve)
Carol. Carol Hallowses.

GARY
I got you a double sleeve. Always err on
the side of caution. And two sweeteners.

Gary exits.

SELINA
So - you saw my letter inviting you on to
the Clean Jobs Commission? It's going to
be big - my stamp on this administration.

SENATOR HALLOWES
Yes, I saw the letter. Anna forges your
signature brilliantly.

SELINA
She does it so well sometimes I think I
use her version of my signature when I
sign my own name. Which I did. So why are
you avoiding me?

SENATOR HALLOWES
Isn't it obvious?

SELINA
You seriously think plastics will pull
funding over this?

SENATOR HALLOWES
What is plastic made of, Selina? You piss
off plastic, you piss off oil.
(MORE)

SENATOR HALLOWES (CONT'D)

And I do not want to fuck with those guys. Because they fuck in a very unpleasant fashion.

SELINA

Jesus, does everything in this town have to come down to money? Why can't we go back to the old days, when we just swapped land for beads?

SENATOR HALLOWES

Because, now we'd be controlled by the bead industry. I need to get going.

CUT TO:

INT. DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Gary joins Anna and Dan. He is carrying his big bag.

DAN

Nice bag Gary.

ANNA

He calls it 'The Leviathan'.

DAN

You got the nuclear codes in there?

GARY

Ha, yes, you see, what I have in here may seem trivial but it is far from trivial.

He takes out two small tins.

GARY (CONT'D)

See? Two types of lip salve - one is ordinary, everyday, regular salve. But if the Veep is in too many air-conditioned rooms her lips get radically dry, and she needs the heavy-duty stuff. Without it, she can't talk. Literally, it's too painful for her to speak words.

DAN

And I guess if she can't talk that could result in anything. Maybe war?

GARY

Very funny, Dan, but not so very far from the truth. I do a serious job.

DAN

And those guys who say you're just an old man holding a lady's purse - screw them?

ANNA

Dan - play nice.

DAN

Would you take a bullet for the VP?

GARY

Well, that's the security guys. My job would be to help her when she's down. Staunch the bleeding, get her painkillers and, you know...

DAN

Lip salve, right. In case she gets shot in the lips.

ANNA

Dan. Give me the ball.

DAN

But you're the one constantly by her side, so if someone were to shoot at her...you know...

GARY

Okay...

DAN

You ready for that? Hot, fast metal ripping your internal organs apart. It ain't Shiatsu.

Off Gary's worried look we...

CUT TO:

INT. CAPITOL BUILDING CORRIDOR - DAY

Selina, Hallows, Dan, Anna and Gary outside Hallows' office. They're about to go their separate ways.

SENATOR HALLOWES

Oh, you know Senator Reeves died?

SELINA

Retard Reeves? He must have been...91?

SENATOR HALLOWES

96.

SELINA

He was the first Senator to welcome me to the Capitol. He was old even then.

ANNA

Was he full of wisdom?

SELINA

He was full of Bourbon and he touched my left boob.

ANNA

God rest his soul.

SENATOR HALLOWES

Did you fire your tweeting guy? Because he is a weapons-grade retard. I think you might have been 'hoist by your own retard' there!

Selina laughs. Senator Hallows marches off. Dan lingers a bit.

DAN

By the way, I really admired your campaign, sorry you didn't get the nomination.

Anna mimes vomiting behind Dan.

SELINA

Thank you. I agree, I think we fought a good campaign.

DAN

Two things I would have done differently, but you've probably been over those with Anna.

SELINA

Two things? What were they?

DAN

Shouldn't have spent so much time in New Hampshire, that was in the bag, and attack ads in Oregon were four days too early, it looked like you were mean before you had to be. But look, I'm teaching my grandmother to suck eggs here.

(off Selina's look)

Mother...big sister to suck eggs.

SELINA

Interesting. Good to meet you Dan.

Selina and Gary head off.

DAN

(to Anna)

See you at the fundraiser.

ANNA
 (giving Dan the middle
 finger)
 Yup, don't forget your 'plus one'.

DAN
 (giving her the finger back)
 Yup, plus one.

CUT TO:

INT. VP MOTORCADE - DAY

Selina, Anna and Gary. There is a long silence, Selina deep in thought.

ANNA
 (knowing this will go
 nowhere)
 So, did the Senator take the Clean Jobs
 post?

SELINA
 (ignoring the question)
 What do you think of Dan?

ANNA
 Dan is a shit.

SELINA
 Okay, want to expand on that?

ANNA
 He's a massive and total shit. When you
 first meet him, you think, surely to God
 this man can't be as big a shit as he
 seems. But he is.

SELINA
 See, I...

ANNA
 It's like, if you were to see a book with
 covers made of shit, you'd think, that's
 intriguing. I wonder what's in this book
 that they saw fit to give it covers made
 of pure shit. Then you open it and -
 shit.

SELINA
 I think he's OK. I think we could use him
 for...let's just say, I think Senator
 Hallowes has made herself a very powerful
 enemy.

ANNA
 Who?

SELINA

Me!

ANNA

Yes, you. Of course.

GARY

Absolutely, you.

SELINA

I'm the powerful enemy.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

The VP's motorcade draws up to the White House. It doesn't go in but veers right to the Eisenhower Building.

INT. SELINA'S OFFICES - DAY

Selina, Anna and Gary on their way to the VP's office. In the corridor they catch up with MIKE MCLINTOCK, the VP's Press Spokesman. He's mid- to late-40s, portly, looks like he could deck you.

ANNA

Hey Mike - off to give the 3:30?

MIKE

Yeah. I heard about the cutleryfuck at the Capitol. Thanks everyone.

ANNA

Yeah, go polish that turd, Mike.

MIKE

And the plastic guy - what do you plan to say to him?

SELINA

Okay, well I guess my main...

MIKE

Actually, don't tell me. If I genuinely don't know, the bastards can't make me tell them. You know my motto: "I Don't Want To Know And Anyway What Motto, I Have No Motto."

On the far side of the office is JONAH, 24, the liaison between White House and VP. Drinks and smokes too much, wispy beard, dandruff, crumpled suit. He's standing at the window.