The Campaign Trail

Written By

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Address Phone Number

## 1. INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT - MORNING

JENNIFER (30) gets ready for work. She puts on her black suit jacket. She pulls her hair back in a ponytail and quickly puts on light colored lipstick.

# 2. EXT. CHICAGO STREET - MORNING

Jennifer walks across the street holding her phone in one hand and her briefcase in the other. Her eyes are glued to her phone.

A taxi almost runs her over, but she raises her finger towards the taxi and signals it to stop. She never looks up from her phone or breaks her stride. The taxi comes to a halt.

## 3. INT. COFFEE SHOP - MORNING

Jennifer walks into a coffee shop. There is a cup of coffee waiting for her at the register. As she walks up to the register, she is greeted by a BARISTA.

BARISTA (cheerfully) Good morning, Jen!

Jennifer hands a few dollars to the barista.

JENNIFER (curtly) Chad.

Jennifer walks swiftly out of the coffee shop and continues down the street.

4. EXT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE - DAY

Jennifer walks into the district attorney office building.

5. INT. ELEVTOR - DAY

Jennifer steps into an elevator. A YOUNG MAN steps in beside her. The young man glances awkwardly at Jennifer. He then takes out his phone and sends a text.

> YOUNG MAN (TEXT) The rooster is in the henhouse.

> > CUT TO:

6. INT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE - DAY

The staff at the office is in uproar. The staff runs around,

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frantically trying to tidy up the office, finish their meals, and put on any loose articles of clothing.

One woman in a tight skirt and suit jacket shovels down her breakfast as she runs to throw it away. RYAN (20) speed walks through the office, attempting to tie his tie. People fling rolling chairs towards the conference room.

CUT TO:

7. INT. ELEVTOR - DAY

The elevator dings. Jennifer and the young man walk out of the elevator and towards the conference room. Jennifer goes to open a door on the way to the conference room, but the young man steps in front of her, stalling.

YOUNG MAN

Let me...

CUT TO:

8. INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Ryan herds the staff into the conference room.

CUT TO:

9. INT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE - DAY

Jennifer reaches the conference room door and opens it.

10. INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Jennifer enters the conference room followed by the young man. The staff sits quietly at the conference table reading their notes and typing on their laptops.

Ryan enters the conference room holding a cup of coffee. His tie is flipped over his shoulder and his hair is a mess.

RYAN You're early today, Jen.

Ryan hands Jennifer the cup of coffee.

JENNIFER Let's make this quick, I have a lunch.

Jennifer puts down her coffee and sits at the conference table with the staff.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) So I called this meeting to talk about the Fitz case. Some members of the staff fidget in their seats. JENNIFER (CONT'D) (sharply) You guys seem nervous. Why are you nervous? Nobody responds. JENNIFER (CONT'D) (sharply) Tina, why are you nervous? TINA (40) looks up from her hands, startled. TINA (quickly) I'm not nervous, Ms. Jennifer. JENNIFER But you look nervous, why do you look nervous? TINA No, I'm not really nervous. It's just...well it's just (quickly) you're a little scary when you talk about the law... JENNIFER (angrily) SCARY? You think I'm SCARY? Tina shrinks in her seat. Jennifer notices and corrects herself. JENNIFER (CONT'D) I'm sorry, Tina. I'll try to be less scary. The staff continues to look nervously at their hands, but Jennifer doesn't notice. Jennifer goes back to her presentation. JENNIFER (CONT'D) Where were we? Right the Fitz case.

Jennifer continues with the presentation.

11. EXT. CHICAGO STREET - DAY

Jennifer flags down a taxi.

12. EXT. CAFE - DAY

Jennifer's taxi pulls up outside a cafe. BRIDGET (30), spots her and waves. Bridget is wearing tight jeans, boots, and a pink blouse. The two ladies sit down at a table.

> BRIDGET How are ya, Jen?

JENNIFER You know how I've been thinking about getting into politics?

BRIDGET

Ya?

JENNIFER I think I'm going to run for office.

BRIDGET Really? That's great! You'd be an outstanding mayor. (excitedly) And *I'd* get to be the mayor's best friend...and we'd take on the city hand in hand--

JENNIFER I was thinking governor...

BRIDGET Wait what? Like of the state?

## JENNIFER

Well, yes. I have the connections, I've been the DA for almost four years now and Quinn is almost out.

## BRIDGET

So you're *not* gonna start with mayor?

# JENNIFER

(rambling)

And also I think that Ryan is ready to take my place. He's a great prosecutor. He would be easily electable. And I think he's ready (MORE) JENNIFER (CONT'D)

for more responsibility.

Bridget scratches her head.

BRIDGET Wow governor...okay.

JENNIFER What? Do you think it's a bad idea?

BRIDGET No I don't! I still think you'd be great--

JENNIFER

So do I!

BRIDGET But Jen, don't you think this is just a little bit fast? You don't have any experience in politics.

JENNIFER I know the laws inside and out.

Jennifer waves off Bridget's doubts.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) I'll be fine. Especially with you managing my campaign.

Jennifer takes a sip of water and looks up at Bridget.

BRIDGET Ya your right you'll be fine--wait what?? I'm a journalist!

JENNIFER ...who will be managing my campaign.

BRIDGET But I have even less experience with politics than you!

JENNIFER But you're super organized and you'll know how to make me look good with the press. We'll be fine!

BRIDGET I've just never managed a campaign before in my life.

#### JENNIFER

And I've never run for office before in my life. We can "take on the *state* hand in hand"... Everything will work out I promise.

Jennifer pulls out a giant stack of books from under the table. The books have titles like "How to Manage a Successful Campaign" and "The Campaign Manager: Running and Winning Elections"

JENNIFER (CONT'D) Here look I got this for you.

Bridget looks overwhelmed.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) Just a little somethin' to help you out.

Bridget looks at the stack of books, defeated.

BRIDGET This seems like a really hard job that you probably want a pro for.

JENNIFER Please, Bridge. I really need your help on this. I've already gotten signatures.

Jennifer holds up a thick stack of papers with signatures.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) I'm definitely running.

Bridget furrows her brow thinking.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) And guess who's running against me? It's Gary.

Bridget looks up quickly.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) Ya. Gary Gerlinger.

BRIDGET (angrily) Gary's running!?

> JENNIFER (excitedly) (MORE)

#### JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Ya! He is.

# BRIDGET Fine, I'll do it.

Bridget points at Jennifer determinedly as she speaks.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) We are not going to let Gary win this election.

Jennifer lights up.

13. INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT - DAY

Bridget strides around Jennifer's apartment. She is talking quickly into a cell phone that she holds between her shoulder and her ear. She is flipping through notes on a clipboard and occasionally she writes something down.

Bridget hangs up the cell phone and walks towards Jennifer who is sitting at the end of her dining table typing on her computer. Bridget sits down next to Jennifer.

> BRIDGET Okay, so we've raised 1.7 million from the website already which is great, but we're going to need more momentum if we're going to beat Gary. You need to get out there and talk to people.

Jennifer nods.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) So, I've planned a trip for you. You're going to go give speeches in Aurora, Champaign, Springfield, Peoria, and then back here in Chicago.

Bridget pauses to look at Jennifer.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) And there's something else. You're going to need a fiance.

JENNIFER

What!?

BRIDGET (quickly) Or at least a boyfriend or (MORE)

## BRIDGET (CONT'D)

something.

### JENNIFER

Absolutely not.

BRIDGET You just have to be more approachable. People have to connect with you.

Jennifer stands up from her seat angrily, looking down at Bridget.

JENNIFER I am approachable! People do connect with me!

Bridget laughs.

# BRIDGET (laughing)

Do you seriously not realize how intimidating you are?

Jennifer sits down.

# JENNIFER Is there any other way I can make people connect with me?

Jennifer gets up from her chair.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) Maybe I can take up a hobby. People relate to hobbies.

BRIDGET That's a pretty good idea. How about philanthropy?

#### JENNIFER

I can dance!

Jennifer starts to do interpretive dance. Her jaw is locked the whole time. She isn't a good dancer, but she's taking it very seriously. Her dance is scarier than it is fun and approachable.

# BRIDGET You should stop that.

Jennifer continues the interpretive dance.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) Jen, stop. It's not working.

Jennifer stops. She is tired and sweating.

JENNIFER Why not? It's a hobby. Hobbies aren't intimidating.

BRIDGET Yours are. Hunting, roller derby, that...

Bridget motions to the spectacle she just saw. Jennifer rolls her eyes.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) Listen: a fiance would prove to the public that you're there for the families. And you're sensitive and emotional.

Jennifer sits back down next to Bridget.

JENNIFER Isn't this supposed to be about my politics?

#### BRIDGET

Well the campaign books you gave me say no. The people want someone who will represent them. So you need them to trust you and love you and get invested in your life.

Jennifer rolls her eyes.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) So you need a fiance.

CUT TO:

14. INT. TONY'S APPARTMENT - EVENING

Jennifer paces around the room. TONY (40) sits on the couch and listens. His three children (all middle-school-age boys) sit with him on the couch, listening intently.

> JENNIFER I need a fiance! That's such bu--

Jennifer looks at the kids listening to her.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) Isn't that so stupid?! Of all people, Bridget knows I won't do that.

Tony opens his mouth like he's about to say something but Jennifer cuts him off.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) First of all. I hate the entire male species. Except the four of you. You know that.

The three little boys nod in agreement and Tony rolls his eyes.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) You four are the only guys I can tolerate and you're my brother and you're his kids so I can't get engaged to any of you...

Jennifer looks at Tony and the kids as if expecting a response.

TONY (quickly) Yes, true, no, you can't.

## JENNIFER

Ok well secondly, where would I even find a man? I really don't want to date. I mean why am I even doing this?

Jennifer sits down on the floor facing the couch.

TONY Because you've wanted to be in politics your entire life!

KID 1 I could ask my friend Peter. He's single.

JENNIFER How old is Peter?

TONY

Jen!

JENNIFER (defensively) (MORE) JENNIFER (CONT'D)

What?

TONY Kids, will you excuse us for a minute?

The three boys leave the room.

TONY (CONT'D) (disappointed) Jennifer. Come on.

JENNIFER (sharply) Tony, should I do this or not?

TONY

The campaign?

JENNIFER Yes, the campaign! Is it worth it?

TONY

Yes, it's worth it! Of course it's worth it. You've wanted this since you were a little kid. You made a bill of rights for our backyard!

Tony laughs.

TONY (CONT'D)

And you gave speeches to our cat. Jen, you were born to do this. If being single is the only thing standing in your way, I think I can help you out.

#### JENNIFER

Really?

## TONY

Yeah. I have this friend. Julio. He's between jobs right now and behind on his rent.

Jennifer looks confused.

# TONY (CONT'D)

It's his mother's apartment so he doesn't want to lose it. I think if you agree to pay him enough for the next few months of rent, I could talk him into pretending to be your (MORE)

TONY (CONT'D) fiance for the duration of your campaign. **JENNIFER** (confused) What? You're a house-husband. Where are you finding these friends? TONY Hey, he's a really nice guy! Just down on his luck. Give him a shot. JENNIFER Is there anyone else you can think of? TONY Nope. KID 1 (0.S.) Peter!

Tony rolls his eyes.

TONY Just Julio.

JENNIFER (defensively) Okay, fine.

15. EXT. JULIO'S APARTMENT - DAY

Tony and Jennifer stand in front of Julio's apartment building. They ring the bell again and again. There is no response.

Jennifer lets out an exasperated sign and turns around to look at the street sign.

JENNIFER Anyhow Lane? What kind of name is that?

TONY I'll leave him a note to tell him we came by.

Tony gets out a piece of paper and starts writing a note. As he's writing, JULIO (30) approaches, shaking a tambourine and singing to himself. He has long hair and he is wearing

jeans, a plain white t-shirt, and no shoes. His hair is messy and ruffled. Julio notices Tony and Jennifer at his door.

JULIO Tony! Nice to see ya, bud.

TONY Ah, Julio! We thought we missed you.

Julio steps up next to Jennifer and Tony.

JULIO

Who's this?

Julio motions to Jennifer.

TONY This is my sister, Jen.

JENNIFER It's Jennifer.

Jennifer reaches for a handshake. Julio takes her hand in both of his and looks her in the eye.

JULIO (earnestly) It's really great to meet you.

Jennifer pulls her hand away.

JULIO (CONT'D) Are you the one running for governor?

#### JENNIFER

That's me.

JULIO Will ya look at that. Now what can I do for you two?

JENNIFER Can we talk inside?

JULIO Yes! Yes! Of Course. Come in!

Julio opens the door and motions for Jennifer and Tony to enter. Tony's gets a text.

TONY Ah, I've actually gotta go pick up the kids, but I think Jen can take it from here.

Tony leaves. Jennifer and Julio enter the apartment.

16. INT. JULIO'S APARTMENT - DAY

Julio and Jennifer sit in Julio's living room. The room is relatively messy. There are ethnic instruments hanging on the walls and in the corners of the room. Tapestries hang on the walls and an art project is strewn on the floor, half finished.

> JULIO (earnestly) Would you like some kombucha? I've got some delicious homemade kombucha.

> > JENNIFER

No.

JULIO No, really! It's *exactly* what you need. Have you ever had any?

JENNIFER

No.

JULIO You've gotta have some! Raw foods are very important.

> JENNIFER (exasperated)

No!

JULIO Do you always say no?

Jennifer contemplates her answer for a second.

JENNIFER

No.

Julio chuckles.

JULIO

So how do you like the place?

Jennifer looks around the room. Julio picks up a banjo and

begins to tune it.

JENNIFER (judgmentally) It's musical...

JULIO It was my mom's place.

JENNIFER

I know.

Julio looks confused for a moment and then smiles.

JULIO I'm babbling. What can I help you with?

JENNIFER I need you to pretend be my husband.

Julio looks up from his guitar and raises his eyebrows, slightly shocked. He quickly gets over it, smiles, and goes back to tuning his guitar.

> JULIO Sorry, honey. I'm not gonna settle down.

JENNIFER No, you have to! I need a fiance.

Julio laughs.

JULIO Well first of all I *don't* have to and also I don't even know you.

JENNIFER You can just fake it!

JULIO And I could never marry someone who won't even try kombucha.

JENNIFER Look. I know you need money.

JULIO (offended) What?

#### JENNIFER

I'll give you twenty thousand dollars to pretend to be my fiance for my campaign. Then once I win, we break up and its over and you'll never have to see me again.

Julio looks stunned. He puts down his banjo.

## JULIO

No...I don't want your charity! My money situation has nothing to do with you...

JENNIFER It's not charity--

JULIO (sharply) I don't want it!

JENNIFER Listen, I didn't mean to offend you or anything...

JULIO Please leave my house.

Julio walks to the door and opens it. Jennifer hesitates but then stands up and walks towards the door. She stops in the door frame before leaving.

> JENNIFER Please. I really need this.

## JULIO

No.

Jennifer leaves and Julio shuts the door. Julio walks back into the house and sits down on one of his chairs. He puts his head in his hands

## 17. MONTAGE - VARIOUS

A) INT. RAW FOODS STORE - DAY - Julio swipes his credit card and it is declined. He smiles apologetically at the cashier and then walks away empty handed.

B) EXT. PARK - DAY - Julio sits in the park playing his banjo. The banjo case is open in front of him. Someone comes by and puts a dollar in his case.

## JULIO

Thank you.

Julio stops playing and looks in the case. There is only one dollar inside.

C) EXT. GIRL SCOUT BOOTH - DAY - Julio walks up to a girl scout booth and smiles.

JULIO (CONT'D) One thin mints please.

GIRL SCOUT That'll be five dollars!

The girl scout hands over the thin mints. Julio takes out four one dollar bills and searches for some coins. He finds some coins but is one penny short. He sees a penny on the ground and picks it up. Julio hands the money to the girl scouts.

> JULIO Good luck with your sales.

C) EXT. JULIO'S APARTMENT - DAY - Julio walks up to his apartment to find an eviction notice.

JULIO (CONT'D)

Shit.

18. INT. JULIO'S APARTMENT - DAY

Julio stands in the kitchen staring at the phone. He reaches for the phone than pulls back. He walks out of the kitchen. Abruptly, he walks back in and picks up the phone. He starts to dial but then throws it down and holds his head in his hands. He sees the eviction notice on his kitchen counter.

Julio sighs and picks up the phone.

19. EXT. CHICAGO STREET - DAY

Jennifer and Julio walk quickly down the street. Julio is wearing tie-die clothes, round hippie sunglasses, a bandana around his head, and flip flops. Jennifer is wearing a suit. Julio is struggling to keep up with Jennifer. Jennifer takes out a packet of paper and hands it to Julio.

> JENNIFER Take this. It's information about me that you should know because now we're engaged and then some more information about who you are and (MORE)

## JENNIFER (CONT'D)

how we met and everything.

Julio opens the packet and flips through its pages.

JULIO This is a lot of--

JENNIFER Have it memorized by the end of the week. We start campaigning on Monday.

Julio reads the packet overwhelmed.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) Put that away and read it tonight. We need to get you cleaned up.

JULIO

Cleaned up?

JENNIFER Yes, you look ridiculous.

JULIO Ridiculous?? I could say the same about you.

JENNIFER You look like you just came from a Grateful Dead concert.

JULIO Jen! Are you a deadhead?

The pair turns into a high end clothing store.

20. INT. HIGH END CLOTHING STORE - DAY

A very dramatic and SASSY GAY MAN sizes up Julio and paces back and forth in front of him. He is wearing a scarf and a fedora. Jennifer stands in the back.

> SASSY GAY MAN What is this? You brought me a hippy from the streets!

The sassy gay man flips his scarf.

JULIO Yo I have a house.

The sassy gay man rolls his eyes.

SASSY GAY MAN Well do you have any *clothes*?

JULIO (offended) Yes I have clo--

JENNIFER No. He doesn't. That's what we're here for. Can you help us or no?

SASSY GAY MAN Yes, I can help. Of course I can help who do you think I am? I'll be back.

The sassy gay man flips his scarf and quickly strides away.

JULIO Jen, do we really have to do this?

JENNIFER Yes! I'm running for office, I can't have a hippie husband!

Julio rolls his eyes. The sassy gay man struts back into the room holding a few suits.

Julio puts on a suit. He stands in front of a mirror looking uncomfortable. The sassy gay man and Jennifer also look in the mirror. They are excited.

> SASSY GAY MAN I told you I could do it!

JENNIFER Wow you look like a real man now...

JULIO What? I look like a lawyer with a stick up my ass!

JENNIFER (mesmerized) Exactly...

JULIO Nope! I'm not wearing this.

He starts to take off the suit jacket.

JENNIFER Yes, you are. Jennifer grabs Julio's arm and pulls him out of the store. Julio grabs his hippie outfit as he is dragged out.

21. INT. HAIR SALON - DAY

Julio sits in a salon chair. Jennifer and the HAIRSTYLIST stand behind the chair.

JENNIFER We want powerful.

HAIRSTYLIST Powerful. Power power power. I'll see what I can do.

The hairstylist turns the chair towards her and starts to snip.

She finishes and turns the chair so that it faces the mirror. Julio's hair is cut into a short bob. Julio sees himself and his jaw drops. Jennifer's jaw drops as well. The hair stylist is proud of her work.

> JENNIFER This is a women's haircut!

HAIRSTYLIST Well, I've only ever done women's haircuts...

JENNIFER But he's a man.

HAIRSTYLIST Then why did you come to me? Nevermind I can do it. So you want it real short?

JENNIFER/JULIO

Yes!

The hairstylist turns the chair around and starts snipping.

When she is done, she turns the chair back around and Julio has a feminine pixie cut.

JENNIFER We need to go to a barber for men.

22. INT. BARBER'S SHOP - DAY

The sign outside the barber shop says "BARBER FOR MEN". Julio sits in the barber's chair. An old man cuts his hair very slowly. When he is finished, Julio has an old school haircut, slicked back with hair gel.

JENNIFER It's gonna have to do.

23. INT. JENNIFER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jennifer sits in her bed. She reads through a thick packet of paper and talks on the phone.

JENNIFER You'll be glad to hear that I found a fiance.

BRIDGET (V.O.) Really!? How? Where did you meet?

JENNIFER He's fake.

b Edillo.

BRIDGET (V.O.)

What?

JENNIFER

He's fake.

BRIDGET (V.O.) I don't understand.

Jennifer rolls her eyes.

JENNIFER I'm paying someone to be my fiance for the campaign.

BRIDGET (V.O.) (loudly) Like a prostitute!?

Jennifer holds the phone away from her ear, purses her lips, and rolls her eyes.

JENNIFER No like a business deal.

Bridget doesn't respond.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) Bridge, you can't force me to find a *real* relationship!

BRIDGET (V.O.) I know, I know. I just didn't (MORE) BRIDGET (V.O.) (CONT'D) expect you to find a gigolo...

JENNIFER Oh stop it, I found a fake fiance.

BRIDGET (V.O.) Goodness, Jen.

# JENNIFER

He's really annoying though. He's this total hippie who plays too many instruments and eats too much raw food.

BRIDGET (V.O.) (sarcastically) Sounds like your type.

Jennifer smiles fakely.

24. INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jennifer, HELEN, MARGARET, and AMY sit on Jennifer's couch. Bridget stands in front of them talking.

Helen is thin and beautiful and she looks professional. Margaret wears glasses and her hair is pulled back into a bun. She looks plain and awkward but seems highly intelligent. Amy is hefty and very plain looking. She does not wear makeup and she dresses in bland colors.

> BRIDGET So everyone knows Jennifer, obviously cause she's our candidate.

Bridget motions for Helen to stand up.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) And Jen, this is Helen. She's your field director. She will be the one keeping in contact with your voters.

JENNIFER Isn't that your job? Or my job or something?

BRIDGET No, we need to delegate.

Bridget motions for Margaret to stand up.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) And this is Margaret.

Helen awkwardly sits back down.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) Margaret is your finance director. She will fundraise and manage your finances.

JENNIFER (quietly) I can do that too...

Margaret sits down.

# BRIDGET And here's Amy.

Amy stands up.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) She is your communications director. So she will manage your interaction with the media.

Julio walks into the room. He is wearing a poncho and eating a papaya with a spoon. He sits down cross-legged on the floor next to Jennifer.

> JULIO Sorry I'm late.

Julio turns to Jennifer.

JULIO (CONT'D) (quietly) Want a bite?

JENNIFER What happened to your clothes?!

AMY (seductively) I'll have a bite. Is it passion fruit?

## JULIO

Papaya.

Julio hands the papaya to Amy who takes a sensual bite of the fruit while maintaining eye contact with Julio. Everyone looks at Amy, surprised. Bridget clears her throat. Amy

licks the fruit and hands it back to Julio. BRIDGET And this, I assume is Jennifer's fiance. Julio jumps up from his spot on the floor. JULIO That's me. Hi, I'm Julio. AMY (seductively) Hi Julio. I'm Amy. JULIO Hello! HELEN (flirty) Hi. JULIO Hey! MARGARET Hello. HELEN (flirty) I'm Helen. JULIO Nice to meet you, Hel--Amy stands up. AMY (loudly) I'm Amy. JENNIFER What the hell is going on? Stop that. This is MY fiance. MARGARET (quietly) I'm up for a chase... JENNIFER Bridge, where did you find these people??

BRIDGET They were online. Now everybody listen.

Amy sits down but Julio keeps standing. He takes another bite of the papaya and looks at Bridget.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) We're about to go on the campaign trail. And there's few things you need to know before we do. We'll be going to Aurora first. Its only an hour away, so we'll be...

25. EXT. CHICAGO STREET - DAY

Jennifer, Julio, Bridget, Amy, Margaret, and Helen stand outside with their bags packed. They are facing a sketchy white van.

BRIDGET (V.O.) ...going all together in a van.

The campaign team starts boarding the van.

BRIDGET (V.O.) (CONT'D) (sharply) As you know, Gary Gerlinger is your main opponent.

## 26. INT. CAMPAIGN VAN - DAY

The campaign team is now on the road, driving towards Aurora.

BRIDGET (V.O) Unfortunately, I had to see his god-awful face when I was researching him. But I also found that he's on the Normal city council.

JENNIFER (V.O.) As opposed to the abnormal city council?

BRIDGET (V.O.) What? No, Normal the city. Their council. Also he already has 6 million dollars and as you already know, he's a dick.

The campaign team sees a giant charter bus with "Gerlinger"

painted across the side pass their sketchy van on the road. Gerlinger's bus cuts off Jennifer's van. The driver of the van has to slam on the breaks.

> BRIDGET (V.O.) (CONT'D) And he's also going on the campaign trail.

The campaign team groans at Gerlinger's bus.

AMY (angrily) Fuckin Gerlinger!

BRIDGET (V.O.)

But he's not going to Peoria or Champaign and he already spoke in Chicago. So you'll only have to see him in Aurora and Springfield. Thank god. Now everyone remember: for the next week our only job is to win over the hearts and minds of the people of Illinois. So let's get going.

27. INT. GAS STATION MINI MART - DAY

> Jennifer looks for snacks in the gas station mini mart. She looks out the mini mart window and sees the campaign team standing outside the van stretching as the driver fills up on gas. Helen is doing yoga and Amy is doing the splits.

Jennifer grabs a bag of chips and stands in front of the cash register. Nobody is there. Julio steps up behind Jennifer, startling her.

> JULIO Hey honey, whatcha buying?

JENNIFER (annoved) Julio! There's obviously nobody here, you don't have to--

Jennifer notices a little kid who has cut her in line.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) (angrily) Hey, kid. Get to the back of the line!

The little kid looks terrified. He clutches his bag of M&Ms and runs out of the store to his mother who is filling up at

the gas station. Jennifer shoos him away.

## JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Buh bye...

The little boy runs into his mother's arms and she looks up towards the mini mart disapprovingly.

# JULIO What was that!? Winning over hearts and minds, remember?

Jennifer rolls her eyes and turns back to the cash register. There is now a CASHIER at the register. It is a girl, about 20, who has earbuds in and is chewing gum. She looks bored as she stares at Jennifer and Julio. She opens her mouth and speaks in monotone.

> CASHIER Welcome to Shell how can I help you?

Jennifer puts down her chips and Julio puts a bottle of Kombucha down on the counter.

JENNIFER I'm not buying you that.

CASHIER Yes you are, it's feminism.

The cashier robotically rings up the chips and kombucha. She then holds out her hand for money. Jennifer looks at Julio and Julio looks back with a giant grin.

Jennifer sighs, annoyed, and takes out her credit card. She hands it over to the cashier angrily. The cashier rings her up and gives back the items and card.

CASHIER (CONT'D) Have a great day.

Jennifer and Julio walk out of the store and back to the van.

# 28. INT. CAMPAIGN VAN - DAY

Jennifer an Julio are sitting in the van side by side.

JULIO Thanks for the kombucha. Yup.

Julio thinks for a moment and then decides to speak.

JULIO Can I give you just a *tiny* bit of constructive criticism...?

Jennifer thinks for a moment.

JENNIFER

No.

29. EXT. CAMPAIGN VAN - DAY

The campaign bus continues to drive towards Aurora.

30. EXT. AURORA MOTEL 6 - EVENING

Amy eagerly unloads everyone's baggage from the van. The campaign team gets out of the van. Jennifer looks at the hotel sadly.

JENNIFER

A Motel 6?

MARGARET We're on a budget.

Amy carries most of the luggage on her back and hurries towards the motel's lobby. The rest of the campaign team walks towards the cheap motel.

31. INT. AURORA MOTEL 6 - EVENING

The campaign team walks into the motel, with Bridget in the lead. She is followed closely by Jennifer. Bridget spots a very handsome man at the counter. She stops in her tracks.

#### BRIDGET

(snarling) Gerlinger.

Bridget doesn't move. She stands ridged and stares down GARY GERLINGER. The campaign team stands behind her, confused. Jennifer stares at Gary as well. After a moment, Gary Gerlinger sees Bridget and walks over. He has a giant smile plastered across his face.

> GARY GERLINGER Ah, Bridget! How nice to see you!

Amy looks at Gary Gerlinger with wide eyes. She leans

towards Helen who is also mesmerized and begins to speak.

AMY (quietly) Oh, his face is *definitely* not god-awful.

BRIDGET What are you doing at our hotel, *Gary*??

JENNIFER

Ya, GARY.

GARY GERLINGER Ah and this must be my opponent.

Gary Gerlinger smiles brightly at Jennifer and shakes her hand. Jennifer is confused and annoyed.

JENNIFER You know me, Gary.

Bridget clenches her fists and stares at Gary angrily. Gary turns back to Bridget.

GARY GERLINGER Also, it's a motel.

Gary Gerlinger smiles fakely. Bridget loses her cool.

BRIDGET (angrily) You're such a jackass!

Gary Gerlinger takes a deep breath as if to control his anger. He then scrunches up his face in the most unattractive manner. Gary is very tense, but he tries to speak calmly.

> GARY GERLINGER What did you just call me?

Again, Amy looks at Gary, wide-eyed.

AMY Oh, that's awful.

Bridget leans foreword, taunting Gerlinger.

BRIDGET I called you a JACKASS.

Gary Gerlinger continues to try to speak calmly, but becomes

more dramatic as he goes on. He also leans towards Bridget and scrunches up his face even more.

> GARY GERLINGER Well you are MEAN and LAME!

BRIDGET Well I HATE--

Julio laughs and then steps between Bridget and Gary Gerlinger. He faces Gerlinger who is still tense, leaning foreword with his fists clenched and face scrunched.

JULIO

Hey bud.

GARY GERLINGER Who are you?

Gerlinger doesn't un-scrunch his face.

JULIO I'm Jennifer's fiance.

Gerlinger's face un-scrunches and he looks bored.

JULIO (CONT'D) She's the one running against you.

GARY GERLINGER I know that, I'm not an *idiot*.

BRIDGET (quietly) Yes you are.

Gerlinger takes another angry, deep breath. Julio turns to Bridget.

JULIO (gently) Come on, Bridget. Don't be hostile.

BRIDGET But he's a buffoon!

GARY GERLINGER

Am not.

Jennifer steps up to confront Gerlinger.

JENNIFER Listen, *Gerlinger--* GARY GERLINGER I'm bored. I'm going back to the Staybridge Suites.

JULIO You're not even staying here?

GARY GERLINGER (sharply) No, I'm not. This is a *motel*.

Gary Gerlinger storms out of the Motel 6.

AMY

He seems sane.

32. INT. AURORA MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Jennifer and Julio get ready to go to bed. Jennifer sets up some blankets and pillows for Julio in the bathtub. Julio lights a scented candle and sits cross-legged on the bed.

> JENNIFER What are you doing?

> > JULIO

Shh.

JENNIFER Can you at least do that in your bed?

Julio opens one eye to look at Jennifer and raises his eyebrow. He closes his eye.

JULIO My bed is a *bathtub*... I think I'll stay here.

JENNIFER Then at least stop meditating so we can practice.

JULIO Practice what?

JENNIFER

The packet!

Julio meditates silently.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) Julio! What's my favorite color?

JULIO Green. **JENNIFER** No, red. What's my favorite food? JULIO I don't know, salad? JENNIFER No, it's steak. Did you even read this? JULIO These just don't seem like the things I'd need to know if I was actually with you. JENNIFER This is exactly what you'd need to know. Julio stops meditating and opens his eyes. JULIO What are you scared of? JENNIFER Spiders. JULIO Spiders? Seriously? JENNIFER Kinda. JULIO But what are you really scared of? JENNIFER I don't want to talk about this. JULIO But don't you want me to know you?

Jennifer stands up, exasperated.

JENNIFER No. I want you to fake know me. I want you to know my favorite things, not my life story. JULIO

Why not?

JENNIFER I can't do this right now. I need to sleep. I've got a speech tomorrow. And you've got to pull off being my fiance.

JULIO (quietly) I can't do that if I don't know you.

JENNIFER

Go to bed.

Jennifer turns out the lights. Julio starts to get under the covers.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) (sharply) In the tub, Julio.

Julio gets out from under the covers.

JULIO (quietly) Yes gov'ner.

JENNIFER (quietly) Not yet.

33. INT. AURORA CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Jennifer, Bridget, and Julio stand on a stage in the middle of the crowded convention center. Julio fidgets in his suit. The crowd murmurs confusedly. Bridget steps up to the microphone.

#### BRIDGET

I would now like to introduce the next governor of Illinois. She is the fairest candidate, the most knowledgeable, and by far the sanest. She is the only candidate I would trust wholeheartedly to run the state of Illinois. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Jennifer Lewis.

Bridget steps away from the microphone and Jennifer steps

JENNIFER I'd like to talk about the issues. We have a serious issue with--

## 34. EXT. AURORA CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Jennifer, Bridget, and Julio walk out of the convention center. A few reporters follow them.

REPORTER 1 Ms. Lewis, how do you think your speech went?

#### JENNIFER

I think...

Jennifer, Bridget, and Julio see Gary Gerlinger's giant campaign bus parked outside of the building. The bus door opens and Gerlinger steps out of the van. He is flanked by his campaign team. They are all wearing matching outfits and sunglasses. The press swarms towards Gary Gerlinger.

> REPORTER 1 Councilman Gerlinger!

REPORTER 2 Councilman Gerlinger, what will you be addressing today in your speech?

Gerlinger flashes a huge smile at the cameras.

GARY GERLINGER Today I will be discussing this wonderful state that is the beauteous and prosperous homeland to us that is a place that is also the state of Illinois!

There is loud applause from the press and the people who have gathered around Gerlinger.

JENNIFER (quietly) What??

A PERSON from the gathering crowd jumps up to wave at Gerlinger.

PERSON You're so handsome, Councilman (MORE)

## PERSON (CONT'D)

Gerlinger!

Gerlinger smiles and winks at the spectator. Julio laughs and takes a bite out of a mango. Jennifer looks at Julio angrily.

> JENNIFER Where did you get that?? Put it down, we're in public!

Julio's mouth is full of mango.

JULIO (defensively) What?

Jennifer looks disapprovingly at Julio and then looks back up to find Gerlinger walking towards her with at giant grin on his face. Gerlinger reaches out his hand and then turns to the crowd to speak.

> GARY GERLINGER (dramatically) I would just like to say hello to my wondrous fellow candidate for this selection process involving voting for the next official position that is governor.

Jennifer takes Gerlinger's hand and shakes it smiling at the crowd. She speaks through clenched teeth.

JENNIFER Did you mean election?

Gary Gerlinger replies through his giant smile.

GARY GERLINGER

What?

JENNIFER You said selection process involving voting for the next official position that is governor.

Gary Gerlinger lets go of the handshake and laughs loudly, maintaining his perfect smile.

Jennifer looks confused. Julio steps in, wrapping his arm around Jennifer and giving her a kiss on the cheek. A reporter snaps a picture.

35. INT. AURORA MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Jennifer and Julio are in the hotel room. Julio is wearing a poncho. Jennifer holds up a newspaper excitedly. The headline reads: "A POLITICAL ROMANCE?". Underneath is the picture of Jennifer looking confused as Julio kisses her on the cheek.

> JENNIFER (excitedly) We did it! Look we finally have some coverage!

Jennifer puts down the paper and strides across the room to the phone. She starts dialing.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) We need to milk this.

Jennifer puts the phone to her ear.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) It's our only advantage over Gerlinger.

Jennifer notices that someone has picked up her phone call and she turns her attention to the phone.

> JENNIFER (CONT'D) Amy! Hi. What? No, stop. It's Jennifer. Sebastian? Who's Sebastian? Amy! Listen. Stop that! I need you to get some more media coverage on my relationship with Julio.

Jennifer listens to something through the phone, looks over at Julio who is eating grapes, and then turns her attention back to the phone.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) He's good.

Julio raises his eyebrows and pops another grape into his mouth. Jennifer listens to something through the phone and then turns back to Julio.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) She wants to talk to you.

Jennifer hands the phone to Julio. Julio reaches for it reluctantly. Before Julio grabs onto the phone, Jennifer puts it back to her ear.

#### JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Wait no! You're working for me. Set up a press conference so I can show off my relationship.

Jennifer hangs up.

#### JULIO

So your energy is really intense right now. Do you want to go on a walk with me? Try to decompress?

JENNIFER

No I need to prepare for this press conference!

Julio tries to tempt Jennifer.

#### JULIO

The public would get to see us together...on a real date...

# JENNIFER

Fine. But it's not actually a date. And you have to wear that suit. No ponchos. So change.

#### 36. EXT. RIVER - DAY

Julio and Jennifer walk along the Fox River. Julio fidgets in his suit. He holds a half watermelon and eats it with a spoon. Jennifer eats a funnel cake.

# JENNIFER

I can't believe they gave this to us for free!

JULIO You're a public figure now. You should get used to it.

Jennifer smiles, but a moment later her smile fades.

#### JENNIFER

I'm sure Gerlinger gets even more free food than me though.

# JULIO

But he's also a complete buffoon who speaks solely in run-on sentences and throws tantrums like a five-year-old.

#### JENNIFER

But nobody sees that! All they see is his perfect jaw line.

JULIO

Well maybe that's what people want to see.

JENNIFER

What do you mean?

JULIO

Maybe they don't really care about politics and they just want to feel like they're a part of an intelligent soap opera.

#### JENNIFER

Intelligent?

JULIO

You're right, it's not intelligent. But it might be what the people want.

JENNIFER But everyone should care about politics.

JULIO Not *everyone*. Like *I* don't really care. I don't care about the soap opera either though.

Julio takes a spoonful of watermelon.

JENNIFER What, why don't you care? Everyone should care. This has to do with you, you know.

# JULIO

It's not that I don't think it's important. Just other things are more important.

JENNIFER

Like what!?

#### JULIO

I don't know, being happy? Fretting about politics doesn't make me happy.

Julio holds up his watermelon. And speaks matter-of-factly.

JULIO (CONT'D) Eating fruit makes me happy. And dancing and rainy hikes nd being with people I love. And that's not going to change even if Gary Gerlinger is elected.

Julio sees a reporter across the street and reaches for Jennifer's hand. Jennifer pulls her hand away.

JENNIFER Stop it! This is not a real date!

Julio smiles and speaks through his teeth.

JULIO I'm pretending.

Julio grabs her hand more forcefully.

JENNIFER Nobody's watching! So quit pretending!

JULIO Well actually there's a reporter watching from over there...

Julio points to where the reporter is standing.

JULIO (CONT'D) ...and a group of people over there

Julio points to a cluster of people who are intently watching them walk along the river.

JULIO (CONT'D) ...who could be potential voters so I'd say you should hold my hand and give me a kiss and let's get on with our FAKE date.

Jennifer looks around at the cluster of people and the now two reporters. She smiles sweetly at Julio and grasps his hand. Jennifer turns to Julio, takes his face in her hands, and gives him a long, sweet kiss.

She then pulls away, and the pair continue walking along the river.

# JULIO (CONT'D) Nice acting.

37. INT. AURORA MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Jennifer holds up a newspaper and looks at it worriedly. Julio stands next to her wearing a tie die shirt, tie dye pants, and a hippie headband. On the front page is a picture of Jennifer pulling her hand away from Julio as they argue. The headline reads: ""

# JENNIFER

Fuck!

Jennifer throws down the newspaper and starts pacing around the room.

JULIO Jen, come on. Calm down.

JENNIFER Well excuse me "Julio", I don't think you understand!

Jennifer throws up air quotes around Julio's name.

JULIO I don't think you're using air quotes right.

## JENNIFER

I kissed you! On the *face*! So we could get the perfect shot of our perfect relationship in the paper! Not this!

Jennifer picks up the paper and shoves it a Julio aggressively. Julio laughs uncomfortably.

JULIO

I don't know why you're taking this out on me...

JENNIFER Well it's not my fault!

JULIO And It's not mine either! I was trying to get that perfect shot too! For you!

JENNIFER Well you didn't do a very good job.

# I'm not the enemy here!

Jennifer sighs tiredly.

JENNIFER Can we just go? Amy set up a press conference in Champaign tomorrow so we should be leaving soon. And as always, you need to change into real clothes.

38. INT. CAMPAIGN VAN - DAY

Jennifer sits next to Bridget in the campaign van. Julio and Amy sit in front of them. Julio has changed into a suit, but he still sports the hippie headband.

Amy strokes Julio seductively. Julio doesn't reciprocate her affection, but he doesn't ask her to stop. Instead, he stares blankly out the window.

Jennifer watches sadly. She opens her mouth to say something, but then shuts it again. Jennifer closes her eyes and shakes her head quickly and then turns to Bridget.

#### JENNIFER

Okay can you give me the exact schedule for our Champaign visit? What time is the press conference?

The campaign van continues to drive towards Champaign.

INT. CHAMPAIGN MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

39.

Jennifer and Julio sit side by side on the motel bed.

JENNIFER Sorry I blamed you for the paper thing. That wasn't your fault.

#### JULIO

Ya, you need to relax. The press is paying attention to you, this is what you're gonna have to deal with.

JENNIFER

Ya, I know.

JULIO And you can't flip out every time you get a little bad press. Jennifer doesn't respond.

JULIO (CONT'D) Now tomorrow morning, we have a press conference to convince people that I'm your loving fiance. So lets get some rest so we can pretend to like each other in the morning.

Jennifer looks at Julio.

JULIO (CONT'D) I'll go to the tub.

40. EXT. HOTEL - DAY

Large TV production trucks are parked outside the hotel. Reporters drag camera equipment across the parking lot and into the hotel.

41. INT. HOTEL - DAY

Jennifer, Julio, and Bridget sit at a table in front of a crowd of reporters. Microphones are on the table in front of them. Julio wears a suit and tries not to fidget. Jennifer smiles nervously. Julio grabs her hand supportively. She doesn't pull away.

#### BRIDGET

Alright, thank you all for coming. Let's get started. Ms. Lewis will be taking questions about her political views and her personal relationship with Julio Medina.

All at once, the reporters in the crowd raise their hands and shout to Jennifer, attempting to secure her attention.

> REPORTER 3 Ms. Lewis, Ms. Lewis.

Jennifer points to REPORTER 3.

REPORTER 3 (CONT'D) What is the nature of your relationship with Mr. Medina?

JENNIFER We are engaged to be married.

The reporters shout to get Jennifer's attention again.

REPORTER 4 Excuse me, Ms. Lewis!

Jennifer points to REPORTER 4.

REPORTER 4 (CONT'D) And when will you be married?

JENNIFER We'll me married in May.

Julio leans towards his mic.

JULIO May 22nd. My mother's birthday.

Jennifer looks at Julio pointedly, silently telling him not to interject. She then looks back towards the reporters and smiles.

Again, the reporters excitedly start shouting for Jennifer's attention. Jennifer points to REPORTER 5.

REPORTER 5 Will Mr. Medina also be engaged in the politics of Illinois?

JENNIFER/JULIO (decidedly) Yes. / No.

JULIO No, I won't.

JENNIFER I guess he won't.

BRIDGET We seem undecided on that issue.

JULIO No, we're not.

BRIDGET Okay, moving on.

The reporters murmur confusedly.

REPORTER 1 How did you meet Mr. Medina?

Jennifer pauses.

JENNIFER

Well, Mr. Medina...Julio...and, well, me...we--

JULIO

I met Jen at a retreat in California. She was trying to get away from her busy life--

JENNIFER And so was he. He's a lawyer.

Julio looks at Jennifer, stunned and confused. He turns back to the crowd and continues to speak.

JULIO She absolutely loves the redwoods.

Julio looks at Jennifer. Jennifer looks back, surprised. She opens her mouth and whispers to Julio.

JENNIFER (quietly) You read the packet.

JULIO (quietly) Of course I did.

Julio turns back to the crowd of reporters.

JULIO (CONT'D) And we were the only two people from Illinois so we got to know each other pretty well.

The reporters raise their hands and shout towards Jennifer.

REPORTER 2

Ms. Lewis!?

Jennifer signals to Reporter 2.

REPORTER 2 (CONT'D) We recently saw a picture in the paper of you two fighting. Is your relationship on the rocks?

JENNIFER No, it's not. We were just having a disagreement. REPORTER 2

About what?

JENNIFER Is anyone going to ask about my politics?

Suddenly Gary Gerlinger barges into the hotel and walks up to the table with Jennifer, Julio, and Bridget. The crowd of reporters scream. Gary Gerlinger blows a kiss to the crowd and turns to face Bridget.

> GARY GERLINGER (quietly) Hi, Bridge.

Bridget's expression turns angry. Bridget doesn't reply. Gerlinger turns to Jennifer and Julio.

GARY GERLINGER (CONT'D) And hello to the happy couple!

JENNIFER What are you doing here, Gerlinger?

GARY GERLINGER I just thought I'd stop by on my way to St. Louis!

Gary turns around and smiles brightly at the crowd of reporters. The reporters take pictures of Gerlinger rapidly.

JENNIFER St. Louis isn't even in Illinois!

Gerlinger turns back to Jennifer and Julio.

GARY GERLINGER (quietly) It doesn't matter, I'm trying to secure voters.

Gary Gerlinger gives them a wink.

GARY GERLINGER (CONT'D) Also, a little bird told me you're not a real couple. Now I just need proof. See ya.

Gary Gerlinger exits dramatically. As he leaves, he begins to shout to the crowd of reporters.

GARY GERLINGER (CONT'D) Freedom! Liberty! Love! Laws! Happy! Nice! People! Places! Things! That is what Illinois is about!

# 42. EXT. HOTEL - DAY

Jennifer and Julio are walking out of the convention center. Reporters are snapping photos. The pair smiles and waves at the cameras while talking quietly through their teeth.

> JENNIFER How do you think he knows?

JULIO Maybe he was bluffing.

JENNIFER I don't think so. How could he guess that?

Jennifer and Julio make it out of the crowd of reporters and back to the campaign van. They get in the campaign van and continue to talk. The rest of the campaign team is still inside the hotel.

> JULIO Well we're not all that affectionate.

#### JENNIFER

Don't push it.

JULIO Well, it's true.

# JENNIFER

I don't want to worry about this right now. Bridget told me to do something nice. Like community service.

Julio looks out the window of the campaign van and then turns back to Jennifer.

JULIO So you said I was a lawyer.

JENNIFER What about it?

JULIO Well, I'm not a lawyer... I could never pass for a lawyer. JENNIFER Ya, putting you in a suit is like dressing up a cat. Julio fidgets in his suit and loosens his tie. JENNIFER (CONT'D) But I doubt anyone really cares about your profession. JULIO But if it ever gets out that I'm actually a comedian, nobody will trust you. JENNIFER You're a comedian? JULIO A terrible one. But yes. Bridget, Amy, Helen, and Margaret board the campaign van. BRIDGET Well that went relatively well. Tomorrow you have volunteering at Inman Place. JENNIFER What's that? BRIDGET It's an assisted living facility. JENNIFER With old people? The elderly van driver turns around and raises an eyebrow. JULIO Jen, be sensitive. BRIDGET Yes. You should secure their vote. And it will make you look good to other voters.

> JENNIFER What will we be doing there?

BRIDGET

Serving food, reading books out loud, that kind of stuff. Be at the van tomorrow at 10.

43. INT. CHAMPAIGN MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Jennifer is in the motel bathroom. Julio does yoga in the room.

Jennifer peaks her head out of the bathroom.

JENNIFER

Julio?

JULIO

Yup?

JENNIFER Can you hand me a towel?

JULIO There aren't any in there?

JENNIFER No there out there.

Julio gets up and finds a towel on the small motel room desk. He picks it up and and walks towards the bathroom.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) Close your eyes!

JULIO

Okay, okay!

Julio walks blindly towards the bathroom, reaching his hands in front of him. He bumps into the door and it swings open, knocking Jennifer onto the floor.

Julio opens his eyes and rushes to help her up.

JENNIFER (loudly) Don't look at me!

Julio promptly shuts his eyes and then trips over Jennifer's legs, falling on top of her. Jennifer screams.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) Stop! Get off me!

JULIO

Sorry!

Julio struggles to get off of Jennifer, who is completely naked. He attempts to stand up, but slips on the wet floor.

JENNIFER Off! Off! Towel!

# JULIO Why is it so wet in here??

Julio reaches for the towel and hurriedly hands it to Jennifer. Jennifer pushed Julio to the side and quickly covers herself with the towel. Jennifer looks pointedly at Julio and points to the bathroom door.

## JENNIFER

Leave!

Julio smiles apologetically and leaves the bathroom. Jennifer quickly pushes her hair out of her face and sighs.

# 44. INT. ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY - DAY

Jennifer wears an apron and carries many dirty plates in a stack into an industrial kitchen. She walks outside the kitchen into a room full of elderly people eating. One sweet looking ELDERLY MAN stops her as she walks by. The man has no teeth.

#### ELDERLY MAN

Excuse me. I need more potatoes.

The man gives Jennifer a huge, toothless grin. Jennifer looks disgusted.

#### JENNIFER

Coming right up.

Jennifer walks back into the kitchen and scoops potatoes into a bowl. She walks back out to the dining room. A reporter holds up a camera and Jennifer smiles into the lens as she hands the toothless man the bowl of potatoes.

Jennifer spots Julio in another room with a crowd of elderly people.

ELDERLY MAN Um, can I have sweet potatoes?

Jennifer ignores the elderly man and walks towards Julio and the crowd of elderly people.

In the room, elderly people are gathered around Julio in a circle. They are all cross legged, meditating. Julio begins

to move his arms, letting them dance with his breath. The elderly people follow his lead.

Jennifer walks into the room.

JENNIFER What is this?

JULIO (quietly) Shh. Sit down.

Jennifer addresses the group of elderly people sitting on the floor around Julio.

JENNIFER Stop this, you shouldn't be doing this. You should be playing bridge. He's a total hippie.

An ELDERLY WOMAN next to Jennifer is following Julio's lead and waving her arms.

ELDERLY WOMAN Oh honey, so was I.

JULIO (sharply) Jen. Quiet.

ELDERLY WOMAN Just do the movements.

Jennifer rolls her eyes but starts doing very small motions with her arms that slightly resemble what Julio and the crowd of elderly people are doing.

Suddenly, Julio does a dramatic swan dive up to a standing position. The rest of the crowd follows. Jennifer stands up timidly.

The entire room starts dancing excitedly. People twirl around the room and spin in circles.

JENNIFER (shouting) There's no music! Hello!

Julio comes up next to Jennifer and begins to twirl her around the dance floor.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Julio!

They continue to spin around the room amidst a large crowd of 70-year old hippies and a few now very old flapper girls.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) There's no music! It's not fun to dance with no music!

JULIO It's always fun to dance.

JENNIFER No, it's not! We're supposed to be helping. Serving food, helping out the elderly, taking pictures.

JULIO You need to relax.

Jennifer and Julio continue to twirl around the room. A few reporters notice the spectacle and come closer to take pictures.

Suddenly, Julio pulls away from Jennifer and does a yoga pose. The entire room of dancing elderly people instantly stops what they're doing and strikes a pose of their own.

Jennifer is thoroughly confused.

All of the people in the room fall to the floor at the same time. After a few seconds, Julio sits up and the elderly people follow his lead.

> ELDERLY WOMAN That was wonderful, Julio. Thank you.

45. EXT. CAMPAIGN VAN - DAY

The campaign van drives through miles of cornfields.

46. INT. CAMPAIGN VAN - DAY

The campaign team sits in the campaign van. Jennifer looks out the window. Julio reads a book and eats berries from a bowl in his lap.

> JENNIFER What do you think will happen in Springfield?

JULIO What do you mean? JENNIFER Do you think we'll be able to keep up the charade?

JULIO Ya, I don't think it will be a problem.

JENNIFER But I'll be debating Gerlinger. What if he brings it up?

JULIO

But he has no proof.

Jennifer sighs.

JENNIFER

I guess not.

47. EXT. CAMPAIGN VAN - DAY

The campaign van enters Springfield.

48. INT. SPRINGFIELD CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Bridget, Jennifer, and Julio walk side by side through the convention center. Amy, Helen, and Margaret walk behind them.

BRIDGET Remember to bring it back to

education. He looks like an idiot when he talks about education.

JENNIFER

Okay.

BRIDGET Also wages. He wants to lower the minimum wage to two dollars. Nobody will like that.

Bridget, Jennifer, and Julio approach the stage.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) Okay, this is where we'll let you go. Good luck up there.

Julio steps foreword and gives Jennifer a kiss on the cheek.

JULIO You're gonna do great. Jennifer walks up onto the stage and stands behind one of the two podiums. A few moments later, Gary Gerlinger strides through the door, his hands raised triumphantly in the air.

The people in the convention center scream at Gerlinger excitedly as he walks towards the podium. Gerlinger walks up onto the stage, gives Jennifer a wink, shakes her hand, and then turns back to the crowd of spectators.

Gerlinger waves to the spectators as the MODERATOR stands up to address them. The moderator is female and wearing a crisp, fitted suit jacket.

> MODERATOR Alright, I'd like to welcome you all to this debate tonight. I'd like to welcome both Gary Gerlinger...

There is overwhelming applause from the audience.

MODERATOR (CONT'D) And Jennifer Lewis to the stage tonight.

The crowd applauds.

MODERATOR (CONT'D) Let's get started. Councilman Gerlinger, how do you plan to handle the unemployment issue in Illinois?

GARY GERLINGER Well, first of all, may I say that you look FABULOUS in the suit? I mean really great. Everyone look at her, doesn't she look great?

Gerlinger motions to the moderator.

GARY GERLINGER (CONT'D) Hey, why don't you stand up? You really do look incredible.

The moderator stands up shyly and gives a small wave to the crowd. She sits back down, blushing.

GARY GERLINGER (CONT'D) Oh Illinois. Illinois, Illinois, Illinois. MODERATOR Councilman Gerlinger? The question?

Gary Gerlinger leans foreword, confused.

GARY GERLINGER What was that?

MODERATOR How do you plan to handle the unemployment issue in Illinois?

GARY GERLINGER Ah! Jobs! I think jobs are very important. When I was young, I had a job. I was a model for Abercrombie. Who likes Abercrombie? Give a holler if you're wearing Abercrombie.

Gary Gerlinger raises his hands in the air and the crowd cheers.

GARY GERLINGER (CONT'D) Ah yes, but jobs. Yes, I think Jobs are very important.

Gary Gerlinger gives a wink. The crowd cheers wildly.

JENNIFER

I'd like to say something about unemployment as well. My plan is to put the unemployed to work on our infrastructure here in Illinois. Also, I'd like to raise the minimum wage so that people like *you* are getting paid your fair share.

MODERATOR Time's up Ms. Lewis--

Jennifer cuts her off.

JENNIFER

Unfortunately, my opponent here wants to lower the minimum wage to a mere two dollars--

GARY GERLINGER Two dollars and three cents.

Gerlinger flashes a smile.

#### JENNIFER

Lowering the minimum wage that low would put hundreds of thousands of people below the poverty line and I don't think--

#### MODERATOR

Ms. Lewis--

JENNIFER That that is ever just.

MODERATOR Councilman Gerlinger, how do you respond?

## GARY GERLINGER

I think a low minimum wage is a very good thing! After all, it is the minimum. Are employers actually going to pay the bare minimum instead of striving to go above and beyond like all the other good citizens of Illinois? I didn't think so. Illinois is a place of prosperity. Nobody isn't getting what is not the share that is fair for them to be getting in this great state that is Illinois.

Gary Gerlinger smiles widely. The crowd cheers. The moderator smiles and claps. Jennifer whispers under her breath.

JENNIFER (quietly) What??

MODERATOR Ms. Lewis, why do you feel fit to be governor of Illinois?

Gary Gerlinger interjects.

GARY GERLINGER Governor of this *great state* of which Illinois is!

The moderator smiles at Gerlinger and then turns back to Jennifer.

#### MODERATOR

Ms. Lewis?

JENNIFER

I have dedicated my campaign to improving the legislation in Illinois and to providing jobs and reasonable education to the working class. I am also great at negotiating budgets and spending time and money wisely.

GARY GERLINGER Really Jennifer?

Jennifer looks confused.

JENNIFER Yes really, Gary.

GARY GERLINGER Okay, then I have something to confess to the wonderful people who are here and who reside in a place that is the same place that Illinois is.

Jennifer rolls her eyes.

GARY GERLINGER (CONT'D) Jennifer budgeted her own finances very well...by paying a man to deceive us!

Jennifer finds Julio's eye in the crowd and they look at eachother, concerned.

GARY GERLINGER (CONT'D) Her "fiance" is a paid ACTOR!

Gerlinger waves his arms dramatically. The spectators in the crowd gasp.

MODERATOR (shocked) Why would she do that??

GARY GERLINGER I don't know, it's *stupid*. But the point is that the person that is standing in the place that is next to me is a person who is an absolute and a complete liar! Gerlinger points to Jennifer. The crowd eyes her intently. Jennifer looks terrified.

JENNIFER It's not true!

GARY GERLINGER Yes it is.

JENNIFER No, I promise it's not.

GARY GERLINGER

Is too!

Jennifer takes a deep breath.

JENNIFER I love Julio and I intend to marry him.

Gary Gerlinger turns towards the crowd of spectators.

GARY GERLINGER Margaret? Where are you, honey? Can you come up here for a minute?

Margaret steps up onto the stage boldly.

Bridget, Julio, Amy, and Helen stand in shock as they watch Margaret leave.

Jennifer looks astonished as she sees her finance director take her place next to Gary Gerlinger.

JENNIFER (weakly) Margaret??

Margaret looks over to Jennifer and smirks.

GARY GERLINGER Everyone, this is my cousin, Margaret. She has been the financial director in the Lewis campaign for some time now. I'll let her tell you what it is that is proof that the Lewis campaign is what one would say is like that which is a scam.

MARGARET Hello everyone. First of all, I'd (MORE)

# MARGARET (CONT'D)

like to say I am very proud of my dear cousin, Gary. He is an incredible man and he will make an incredible governor.

Jennifer tries to keep her composure.

MARGARET (CONT'D) Secondly, about the scandal involving Ms. Lewis and her so-called engagement, it's all a scam. I'll tell you that. From the very beginning, Jennifer was told she needed a husband so she would look better to you very intelligent people and so she paid this crazy man to be her fake husband.

Margaret points to Julio in the crowd. The crowd of spectators look shocked.

MODERATOR

Is this a fact?

MARGARET

Yes, it's a fact. In fact, Julio is not a lawyer as Ms. Lewis has claimed and instead he's a wannabe comedian.

MODERATOR Do you have anything to say about this, Ms. Lewis?

JENNIFER (dazed) She's making it up.

MARGARET (quickly) No, I have proof.

Margaret takes her phone out of her pocket and plays a recording.

JENNIFER (V.O.) Stop it! This is not a real date!

JULIO (V.O.) I'm pretending.

JENNIFER (V.O.) Nobody's watching! So quit (MORE) pretending!

Margaret turns off the recording.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) (quietly) Where did you get that?

## MARGARET

Remember that story about the fight between Ms. Lewis and Mr. Medina? This was what they were arguing about. Ms. Lewis couldn't even stand for Mr. Medina to touch her.

The crowd of spectators starts to act up. A few people shout at Jennifer.

SPECTATOR 1 (loudly) So you lied to us?

SPECTATOR 2 Ya, how can we trust you now?

The crowd becomes louder.

SPECTATOR 3 That's dirty politics!

Jennifer points to Gary Gerlinger.

#### JENNIFER

He was the one who planted his cousin in my campaign! *That's* dirty politics!

# MODERATOR

Ms. Lewis: what are your next steps in the campaign? Do you plan to drop out of the race?

#### JENNIFER

No, I don't plan to drop out--

The crowd gets even more angry, shouting and booing Jennifer. Bridget rushes up on stage and escorts Jennifer down the stairs, through the crowd, and back to the van. Julio, Amy, and Helen follow.

49. INT. CAMPAIGN VAN - DAY

The campaign van drives towards Peoria and Jennifer sits

alone looking sadly out the window.

Bridget sits in the seat behind Jennifer. She closes the book she's reading and leans foreword to talk to Jennifer.

BRIDGET Jen? Are you ready to talk yet?

Jennifer doesn't respond.

BRIDGET (CONT'D) They cancelled your speech in Peoria, but we'll still stay there for a few nights before going to Chicago. You can take that time to figure out what you're going to do.

Jennifer doesn't respond.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)

Okay?

Jennifer stays silent for a moment.

JENNIFER

Okay.

50. INT. BAR - NIGHT

Jennifer drinks at a bar in Peoria. There are 9 empty shot glasses in front of her.

Julio walks into the bar and sits down next to her.

Jennifer slurs her words as she speaks.

JENNIFER Why did this happen?

JULIO Because Margaret was a double agent.

JENNIFER No but why did I get in this situation in the first place?

JULIO Ya, why did you Jen? I'm sure a lot of guys would date you for free.

Jennifer shrugs sloppily.

## JENNIFER

I don't trust men.

Julio sits in silence for a moment.

JULIO Well that's encouraging.

# JENNIFER

Yup.

Jennifer throws back two more shots.

JULIO So what do you have against my kind?

Jennifer hears the song that's playing in the bar and starts to sing along loudly.

JULIO (CONT'D)

Jen?

Jennifer continues to sing loudly. She stands up and begins to dance, making direct eye contact with Julio the whole time.

## JENNIFER

Dance with me.

Jennifer takes Julio's hand and pulls him into her dance. Their dance is uncensored and involves many large arm movements and spinning in place. The other people in the bar notice the spectacle.

The group of people playing pool in the corner starts to clap in time with the music. The bartender turns the music louder. Jennifer sings louder.

Jennifer turns to Julio and shouts over the music.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) (loudly) I like being like this!

JULIO (loudly) I like it too. But maybe we should get you back to the motel.

Jennifer climbs up onto the bar and faces the crowd of people in the bar.

The people in the bar cheer loudly. One MAN in the bar yells towards Jennifer.

MAN Aren't you the candidate for governor or something?

# JENNIFER (sloppily) Listen. I *am* the candidate and *yes*, this *is* my fake fiance

Jennifer points to Julio who is looking at her worriedly.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) But I don't want to talk about politics

Jennifer starts to whine as she speaks and her gestures become more exaggerated as she deflates.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) And I just want to have fun with my friends...

A drunk WOMAN in the bar comes closer to Jennifer and speaks up. She slurs her words as she speaks.

WOMAN Naw, butcha lied to us.

The rest of the people walk towards Jennifer. Julio steps up to help her down from the bar.

JULIO It's getting late. I think I should get you home.

Julio helps Jennifer down from the bar and leads her out the door. Jennifer falls sideways but Julio catches her.

# 51. INT. PEORIA MOTEL - NIGHT

Julio opens the door to the motel and turns on the lights. Jennifer and Julio walk into the motel room. Jennifer's arms are around Julio. Jennifer kisses Julio. Julio raises his eyebrows in surprise. JENNIFER You know, you have *beautiful* eyes.

JULIO Thank you, Jennifer. I appreciate that.

Jennifer leans foreword and kisses him passionately. For a few moments, Julio doesn't object, but then he pushes her away. Jennifer pouts.

JULIO (CONT'D) (quietly) I don't think we should do that, Jen.

Jennifer puts her arms around Julio's neck intimately.

# JENNIFER

Why not?

JULIO You're drunk, Jen. And you don't like me. You've made that very clear.

JENNIFER But what if I did?

Julio takes Jennifer's hands from around his neck and hands them back to her.

JULIO You don't. Come on. I need to get you to bed.

Julio leads Jennifer into the bathroom and takes out her toothbrush. Jennifer slumps against the bathroom counter tiredly. Julio puts toothpaste on the toothbrush and hands it to her.

Jennifer starts brushing her teeth slowly and Julio walks over to the bed, pulling back the covers and fluffing up the pillows.

Jennifer pauses her brushing and speaks in quietly slurred words.

JENNIFER Ya know I haven't had a dad for twenty years.

Julio looks up from what he's doing.

JULIO

Really?

JENNIFER Yup. Left me and my mom when I was a little kid.

Julio doesn't speak, but looks intently at Jennifer as he absent-mindedly fluffs the pillows.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) And Mom didn't even see it coming. Turned out he had a whole other family in California he loved more than us.

Julio walks over to Jennifer, takes the toothbrush out of her mouth, puts it on the counter and hugs her tightly.

Jennifer begins to cry. With one hand, Julio reaches to the bathroom counter and fills a glass of water. He hands it to Jennifer.

# JULIO

# Rinse and spit.

Jennifer rinses her mouth. Julio takes her hand and leads her to the bed. Jennifer gets in and Julio tucks her under the covers.

Julio kisses Jennifer on the forehead and starts walking towards his bathtub bed.

JENNIFER Will you stay with me?

Julio stops in his tracks. He then nods and walks back to the bed and gets under the covers.

JULIO You know, my mom left me when I was little.

JENNIFER

Really?

JULIO Yeah. She got sick.

JENNIFER

Oh?

JULIO

Cancer.

Jennifer stays quiet for a few moments.

JENNIFER (quietly) I'm sorry.

Julio pauses.

JULIO

It's ok. It reminded me not to take anything for granted. So I guess that's good.

JENNIFER That explains it.

JULIO Explains what?

JENNIFER

You.

Julio smiles but doesn't respond for a moment.

JULIO

Thank you.

JENNIFER (mumbling)

For what?

JULIO For telling me about your dad.

JENNIFER (sarcastically) Don't make me regret it.

Julio smiles.

JULIO Well ya know it explains who you are too.

Jennifer doesn't respond.

JULIO (CONT'D)

Jen?

Julio looks over and Jennifer is asleep next to him. He smiles and lays back down to go to sleep.

52. INT. PEORIA MOTEL - MORNING

Jennifer wakes up and turns to see a head imprint in the pillow next to her. Jennifer sits up quickly with a concerned look on her face.

Julio walks into the room with a tray.

# JULIO

Breakfast in bed.

Jennifer points at Julio and then points to the bed next to her.

JENNIFER Did you...did we...did

Julio chuckles.

JULIO Nothing happened.

Jennifer's expression changes from concerned to somewhat disappointed.

## JENNIFER

Oh.

Julio sets down the tray next to Jennifer. There is a cup of coffee, a croissant, and a newspaper on the tray.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Jennifer sips the coffee.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) (timidly) What happened last night?

Julio sits down on the edge of the bed.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) (quickly) Like what did I tell you.

JULIO You told me about your dad.

Jennifer pauses.

JENNIFER

Oh.

Jennifer and Julio sit in silence for a few moments.

JULIO And I told you about my mom.

Jennifer puts her head in her hands.

JENNIFER I don't remember.

JULIO It's okay. She passed away...left me when I was little.

Jennifer looks up sympathetically at Julio.

JENNIFER I'm sure she didn't want to.

JULIO

I know that. But for a long time I blamed her. I mean I had to grow up without a mom.

JENNIFER Well I can relate to *that*. As you apparently know.

Jennifer nibbles on the croissant.

JULIO I can try to forget if you don't want me to know.

JENNIFER No, it's okay. It's kinda nice that you know.

JULIO Good cause I wouldn't have been able to make myself forget.

Jennifer smiles and rolls her eyes.

JULIO (CONT'D) Why's it nice that I know?

JENNIFER Nobody knows about my dad except Bridget. And she lived it with me.

Jennifer takes a sip of coffee.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) So I've never actually told the story.

JULIO Then why did you tell me?

JENNIFER

I don't know.

Jennifer looks directly at Julio.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) I guess I trust you.

Julio looks astonished.

JULIO (dramatically) Jennifer Lewis trusts me?

Jennifer groans, rolls her eyes, and takes a large bite of her croissant.

JULIO (CONT'D) Well then you should trust me when I tell you that you'll make a wonderful governor and you should stay in the race.

Jennifer looks at Julio surprised.

JENNIFER

What?

JULIO You should stay in the race. And win. You've got what it takes. And Gerlinger doesn't even come close.

JENNIFER But everyone hates me. And they love Gerlinger.

JULIO But why? Why do they love Gerlinger?

JENNIFER Cause he's very nice to look at.

JULIO I don't know what you're looking (MORE) JULIO (CONT'D) at, but I saw him melt down like a small child.

Jennifer laughs.

JENNIFER Oh right when he gurled.

JULIO

Gurled?

JENNIFER

It's what Bridget and I would always call it when he got angry and ugly. Cause it's as disgusting as when he hurls.

Julio chuckles as he speaks.

JULIO That's ridiculous. How do you two know Gerlinger anyway?

JENNIFER He's Bridget's stepbrother.

Julio raises his eyebrows, surprised.

JULIO

No!

JENNIFER

Yes! A real life evil stepbrother. Bridget's one of the only people who can make him freak out like that.

JULIO Can she do it consistently?

JENNIFER

Pretty consistently. She can aggravate him just by making faces. We tested it when we were little.

JULIO

Wow.

Jennifer falls back on the bed and sighs happily.

JULIO (CONT'D) Ya know, I think this may be the key. Jennifer giggles as she speaks.

JENNIFER

The key to what?

JULIO To winning the election.

Jennifer becomes more serious.

JENNIFER

Oh.

JULIO (excitedly) Ya! We could get Bridget to stand in the audience and aggravate Gerlinger on stage. And then he might flip out.

JENNIFER I mean, maybe but he probably won't even see her.

Julio stands up and starts to pace around the room.

JULIO (excitedly) But he might. And then he wouldn't be able to look away.

JENNIFER But how would that even help me win?

JULIO

(excitedly) Well because everyone likes Gerlinger for his looks so if we take that away, people will realize that how incredibly ridiculous he is!

JENNIFER I mean that might work.

Julio stops in front of Jennifer and turns to face her.

JULIO (excitedly) It will work! He won't have any support once everyone sees him Gurl. 53. INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Julio, Bridget, and Jennifer sit at a coffee shop table. Julio and Bridget lean foreword in their chairs. Jennifer sits back and quietly sips her coffee.

BRIDGET

(excitedly) You're saying that we go to Chicago and I get to help out my best friend by pissing off Gary? I *really* like this idea.

JULIO Do you think you can do it?

BRIDGET Of course I can. I'm practiced.

Bridget leans back in her chair confidently.

JENNIFER Do you really think this will work? I don't want a repeat of Springfield.

BRIDGET No, I can do it.

JENNIFER Okay, well then we can try but if it doesn't work I think I want to drop out.

54. INT. CHICAGO CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Jennifer, Julio, Bridget, Amy, and Helen walk into the convention center. As they arrive, the people gathered there stop their conversations and stare at Jennifer and her campaign team.

MAN 2 steps to the front of the crowd.

MAN 2 (angrily) Drop out!

WOMAN 2 steps up to shout.

WOMAN 2

Yeah, we want Gerlinger!

Jennifer continues to walk through the crowd as they shout

at her angrily. Bridget leans in to whisper to Jennifer.

BRIDGET I'm going to the front of the audience.

Jennifer nods nervously. Julio grabs her hand. They get to the stage and Julio gives Jennifer a reassuring look. Jennifer lets go of Julio's hand to walk to her podium.

Jennifer stands at the podium, looking out at a crowd of unhappy spectators. She looks to Bridget who is standing in the front of the crowd. Bridget look back reassuredly.

Gary Gerlinger enters the convention center. The people turn to him and start to cheer. He steps up to Jennifer and reaches out for a handshake. Jennifer shakes his hand.

The moderator steps on stage and the crowd begins to chant "GER-LIN-GER! Gerlinger waves to the crowd.

GARY GERLINGER Thank you, thank you! I'm proud to serve you civilians of this state of Illinois as the governor of this state that is Illinois!

Jennifer leans into her microphone.

JENNIFER Not governor yet.

Gerlinger turns to Jennifer and addresses her quietly.

GARY GERLINGER (quietly) I don't think anyone's questioning the outcome of this election.

MODERATOR Alright, alright, let's get started.

Jennifer leans towards Gerlinger.

JENNIFER You're WRONG.

GARY GERLINGER Nice comeback.

MODERATOR (loudly) (MORE) Candidates!

Jennifer and Gary Gerlinger turn their attention to the moderator.

MODERATOR (CONT'D) Councilman Gerlinger: How are you.

GARY GERLINGER I'm great, Theresa. I'm great.

Gerlinger waves to the crowd of people and laughs.

MODERATOR And Ms. Lewis: Are you planning to drop out?

JENNIFER

What?

MODERATOR Are you planning to drop out?

JENNIFER

Well, no.

MODERATOR

Why not?

JENNIFER

I know that I could be a great governor of this state. Yes, I messed up. I got a fake fiance and that was a mistake, but everyone--

MODERATOR Time's up. Councilman Gerlinger: What will be your first action as governor?

Gary Gerlinger opens his mouth to speak, but Jennifer interrupts.

JENNIFER He's not going to be governor.

The crowd gasps.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) What?? I'm still in the running.

Gary Gerlinger laughs loudly and winks at the crowd. Jennifer looks at Bridget pointedly. Bridget nods at

Jennifer and tries casually to get Gary Gerlinger's attention.

MODERATOR So Councilman Gerlinger? Your first action as governor.

GARY GERLINGER My first action as governor. I think that my first action will be to do my very very best--and that's always the best you can do--to make the people of Illinois happy. That will be the thing that I do that will come first once I am the governor of this state of Illinois.

The crowd claps. Bridget tries harder to get Gerlinger's attention. Gerlinger glances at her, frowns, and then looks back up at the moderator.

MODERATOR Wow. That sounds wonderful, thank you Councilman Gerlinger.

Bridget whispers loudly towards Gerlinger.

BRIDGET

Gary!

Gary Gerlinger turns to Bridget and scowls at her, putting a finger to his lips angrily. Jennifer leans towards Gerlinger.

JENNIFER (quietly) Listen, to Bridget, Gerlinger.

Gary looks towards Bridget angrily. Bridget mouths her words dramatically towards Gerlinger.

BRIDGET You're a STUPID PIG.

Gerlinger clenches his jaw and tries to keep his composure.

MODERATOR Okay, next question. Ms. Lewis, why do--Councilman Gerlinger? Are you okay?

Gary Gerlinger clenches his fists and turns red as he watches bridget. Bridget stands in the crowd and pulls her

middle finger out of her purse, looks at it surprised, and then raises it to flip off Gerlinger.

GARY GERLINGER (loudly) You're stupid!

The crowd gasps.

MODERATOR

Excuse me?

Gary Gerlinger looks at the moderator surprised. He shakes his head quickly and then smiles sweetly at the moderator.

> GARY GERLINGER I'm sorry, I'm sorry I didn't mean that.

Gary Gerlinger winks at the moderator. The crowd murmurs.

MODERATOR Oh. Okay. Let's move on.

Gary Gerlinger nods and shoots Bridget a disappointed look. Bridget imitates a crying baby and then looks angrily at Gerlinger.

> MODERATOR (CONT'D) Ms. Lewis, many people have said that your position on education is ignorant and "stupid". How do you respond to that?

Bridget makes an angry punching gesture at Gerlinger. Gerlinger sees Bridget, scrunches up his face with anger and lashes out at Jennifer.

> GARY GERLINGER See? She's too stupid to run this great state of Illinois! That's what you get for having a female candidate!

The crowd gasps.

JENNIFER

What??

MODERATOR (offended) What do you mean by that, Councilman Gerlinger? Bridget pulls out a glamorous picture of Gerlinger and holds it up in front of her. She slowly starts to rip it down the middle and stares at Gerlinger smugly.

GARY GERLINGER

No!

# MODERATOR Councilman Gerlinger?

Jennifer smiles. Bridget rips the picture more. Gerlinger steps out from behind the podium and towards Bridget in the crowd.

> GARY GERLINGER (angrily) Don't even think about it.

MODERATOR (confused) Councilman Gerlinger, what are you talking about?

Jennifer quickly tears the picture in half. Gerlinger drops to his knees and makes an incredibly ugly face. His head shrinks towards his shoulders and his face scrunches up.

Gary Gerlinger sobs silently and his body heaves. The people in the crowd look scared and shocked.

> WOMAN 2 That is the ugliest thing I've ever seen.

Gerlinger starts to wail.

BRIDGET (loudly) You're such a baby!

WOMAN 3 is standing next to Bridget.

WOMAN 3 Ya you're like an ugly little kid!

Gary Gerlinger tries to talk as he wails on the ground.

GARY GERLINGER I'm not a little kid! I'm a man!

MAN 2 Aww, he's just a big baby! The crowd erupts with ridicule for Gary Gerlinger. Jennifer stands behind her podium looking surprised.

> **JENNIFER** (whispering) It's working.

Jennifer looks for Julio and finds him in the crowd. Julio is beaming at her excitedly. Jennifer smiles back at him. Julio mouths his words to Jennifer.

> JULIO (silently) It's working.

Gary Gerlinger continues to wail on the floor.

MODERATOR Alright well this debate is over. I don't know what's gonna happen next week but I just hope Illinois will have a governor.

Bridget looks up at Jennifer with a giant smile. Jennifer looks back at Bridget smiling slightly.

55. INT. JENNIFER'S APARTMENT - DAY

> Jennifer, Bridget, Julio, Amy, and Helen sit in Jennifer's living room staring at the speakerphone. Julio wears his poncho and baggy jeans. He is eating a kiwi with a spoon.

Jennifer leans back into the couch with her arms crossed.

JENNIFER How much longer till this is over?

Bridget looks at the clock.

BRIDGET Four minutes. But don't worry you're ahead by a little I think.

The voice of MARK comes through the speakerphone.

MARK (V.O.) The polls show Lewis at 51 percent and Gerlinger at 47 percent.

BRIDGET See? You're still ahead. And there's only 4 minutes left.

JENNIFER What happens if I don't win?

JULIO Then you go on with your life. Go back to your job, do something that you love! It'll be okay.

JENNIFER Well what will happen if I do?

BRIDGET If you win? If you win then you're the governor. And you'll be great at that too.

Jennifer leans foreword and puts her head in her hands.

JENNIFER (sharply) Mark? What are we polling at?

MARK (V.O.) Lewis at 50, Gerlinger at 48.

JENNIFER (loudly) It's even closer now!

Julio hands her his kiwi.

JULIO Here, have some kiwi.

Jennifer takes the kiwi and eats a giant spoonful.

JULIO (CONT'D) There ya go, feel better?

JENNIFER

Ya.

BRIDGET It made you feel better already?

JENNIFER I don't know why but it did.

BRIDGET Okay, well that's good I guess.

> AMY (seductively) (MORE)

AMY (CONT'D) Will that kiwi make me feel good? JENNIFER (exasperated) You just don't know when to stop, do you?! AMY What'd I do? JENNIFER You can't stop flirting with Julio! AMY Hey, why can't I have a shot? You don't even have to pretend to like him anymore. JENNIFER I...But...Still...It's a little inappropriate don't you think? BRIDGET I mean, Jen, he's not your boyfriend or anything. JENNIFER No, I know, I know, he's not. But this--Jennifer motions to Julio and then Amy. JENNIFER (CONT'D) --doesn't make sense! JULIO Ya know, Jen, she was just asking for some kiwi. Jennifer stands up exasperated. JENNIFER No! She was asking to get in your pants. BRIDGET Jen, I think you're overreacting. JULIO

Thank you Amy, but I'm not interested. Now lets wait for the results in peace.

Julio looks at Jennifer who is sitting on the couch with her arms crossed.

MARK Ms. Lewis?

Everyone leans foreword towards the speakerphone.

MARK (CONT'D) It looks like you've won the election.

Bridget and Julio jump up excitedly. Jennifer sits on the couch shocked.

BRIDGET (excitedly) Ahhhh! You did it!

Bridget flings herself towards Jennifer and hugs her tightly. Julio sits down next to Jennifer and grabs her hand, smiling excitedly.

> JULIO Jen! This is amazing!

Jennifer stares straight ahead of her, shocked.

JULIO (CONT'D) Why don't you look excited?

JENNIFER I am excited, it's just unexpected.

BRIDGET No, we knew you could do it!

JENNIFER Where's Amy and Helen?

Bridget, Julio, and Jennifer look around but Amy and Helen are gone.

BRIDGET Well, I only hired them till you won so I guess they left?

JENNIFER And what if I'd lost? They'd be here forever making sex jokes about Julio?

## BRIDGET Oh I'm sure he doesn't mind.

Jennifer looks foreword, concerned and then closes her eyes. After a few moments, Bridget pulls away.

> BRIDGET (CONT'D) Alright Jen well I haven't been home in weeks so I'm gonna go home and let you process a little. I am so *incredibly* proud of you.

## JENNIFER

Yeah, okay.

Bridget gathers her things and walks to the door shouting behind her as she leaves.

BRIDGET (O.C.) We did it! You deserve it!

Bridget shuts the door behind her. Jennifer continues to stare at the wall, shocked.

JULIO

Jen.

Jennifer breaks her trance and looks at Julio.

#### JENNIFER

Yeah?

JULIO We did it! This is exciting!

JENNIFER Oh, right I owe you.

Jennifer gets up and starts rummaging for her wallet.

#### JULIO

No, Jen, stop. Don't worry about it. Let me get you a glass of wine.

Julio goes to the kitchen and gets out two glasses of wine.

JENNIFER No, I have no problem keeping my promise.

JULIO Actually no, let's do champagne. It's an occasion. Julio puts away the wine glasses and takes out two champagne glasses and a bottle of champagne. Jennifer scribbles in a checkbook.

## JENNIFER

Here.

Jennifer hands the check to Julio. Julio hands the glass of champagne to Jennifer.

JULIO Take this. I don't need the money.

JENNIFER What are you talking about? Yes you do!

Julio puts the glass down in front of Jennifer.

#### JULIO

The plan didn't work. I didn't pass as your fiance and so I shouldn't get the money.

JENNIFER But your mother's house!

Julio takes the check out of Jennifer's hand and puts it on the counter. He then takes Jennifer's hands in his.

#### JULIO

Jen, I loved my mom. I still love my mom. But she doesn't live in the house anymore. She lives within me and that's it. So it doesn't matter where I go. And I didn't earn that money. So I don't want it.

JENNIFER I still want you to have it.

## JULIO

And I want you to have this glass of champagne and celebrate the fact that you are now the governor of Illinois.

Jennifer rolls her eyes and takes a sip of Champagne.

#### JENNIFER

I drank the champagne.

Now take my money.

Jennifer slides the check towards Julio and Julio rolls his eyes.

JENNIFER So what are you gonna do now?

JULIO Well, I should probably find a real job. But a fun one. I could work in a record store.

JENNIFER Ya know, you're always welcome to visit me in the *capitol*.

JULIO I appreciate that.

Julio brings Jennifer into a hug.

JULIO (CONT'D) Well I guess I'll see you...sometime.

JENNIFER Yeah. See you sometime.

#### 56.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

MAN 3 stands at a podium in front of the capitol building in Springfield. Jennifer stands behind him. Bridget stands next to Jennifer.

Man 3 taps the microphone.

MAN 3

After a long and confusing campaign, we have finally found a governor who is suited to govern Illinois!

There is loud applause from the audience.

MAN 3 (CONT'D) I know many of us were in favor of Gary Gerlinger. But as we all know, the incident in Chicago lost him the election and proved that he was not wholly fit for this position. A murmur goes through the crowd.

MAN 3 (CONT'D) As for Governor Lewis, she has worked hard, she is intelligent, and her mishaps are not as severe as those of her opponent's. It is my honor to introduce Governor Jennifer Lewis, the new governor of Illinois.

The crowd applauds. Man 3 raises his hand towards Jennifer and Jennifer walks towards the podium. The crowd stares at her silently.

JENNIFER

Thank you.

Jennifer searches the crowd absent-mindedly.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) Um thank you everyone for electing me...

Jennifer watches the people in the crowd as they stare up at her blankly.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I...

Man 3 steps foreword towards Jennifer.

MAN 3 Governor Lewis? Are you okay?

Jennifer continues to scan the crowd.

JENNIFER Yes, I'm alright thank you.

The people in the crowd look confused and murmur amongst themselves.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) (absent-mindedly) I...I can't do this.

BRIDGET (shocked) What?

JENNIFER I need to go. Jennifer hurries off the stage.

# MAN 3 Are you still governor?

Jennifer shouts loudly over her shoulder.

# JENNIFER (loudly)

Nope!

Bridget runs after Jennifer. Reporters flock to where Jennifer is running. Bridget helps Jennifer through the crowd of reporters and to the waiting limousine.

57. INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

Jennifer and Bridget get into the limo. The DRIVER looks at them through the rear view mirror.

DRIVER Where to, Governor Lewis?

JENNIFER Anyhow Lane?

DRIVER Where to on Anyhow?

JENNIFER I don't remember. Just go to Anyhow Lane.

The driver pulls away from the curb.

BRIDGET Jen! What was that?!

JENNIFER What was what?

BRIDGET That! You just walked away from your first speech as governor.

JENNIFER

Not anymore.

The driver eyes Jennifer and Bridget through the rear view mirror.

BRIDGET We spent to much time and energy and money on this campaign!

JENNIFER And it was great! I figured out what I want. BRIDGET You can't do this Jen. You can't resign on your first day. JENNIFER Why not? DRIVER Governor Lewis, are you still the Governor? JENNIFER No, I'm not I resigned! What's your name? The driver pulls over in a residential area. DRIVER I'm sorry miss. I can only drive the current governor. JENNIFER What?? I was the governor just a second ago. DRIVER I'm sorry miss. JENNIFER Alright, I understand. Let's go Bridge! EXT. STREET - DAY Jennifer hops out of the limo, dragging Bridget with her. The limo drives away. Jennifer walks quickly through the residential streets. Bridget runs beside her, trying to keep up. BRIDGET What are you doing, Jen? **JENNIFER** We have to find Julio. BRIDGET Why...?

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JENNIFER Cause I'm in love with him.

BRIDGET You're WHAT??

JENNIFER I'm in love with him.

BRIDGET Oh my god, Jen! You've never been in love before!

Bridget hugs Jennifer from the side as she runs along next to her.

Jennifer and Bridget come to an intersection.

JENNIFER Now the question is: Where is Anyhow Lane?

BRIDGET

I don't know.

JENNIFER We need GPS. Do you have your phone?

Bridget looks for her phone on her person and in her bag.

BRIDGET No, I think I left it in the limo.

JENNIFER

Yeah, same.

BRIDGET And you're not freaking out about that?

JENNIFER No, it's fine.

BRIDGET You haven't gone a day without your phone in your life though.

JENNIFER It's fine let's ask someone.

Jennifer tries to wave down a car. It drives away. She tries with another one. It drives away. She steps into the road in

front of the third car and the car comes to a halt. The CAR DRIVER leans out the window.

CAR DRIVER (angrily) Whatareya doing!?

Bridget steps up to the window.

BRIDGET We need directions. To Anyhow Street.

The car driver motions sharply with his hands in a line.

CAR DRIVER

I-D-K, Anyhow!

The car driver swerves to avoid Jennifer and drives away.

BRIDGET He was so rude and not helpful at all!

JENNIFER It's fine, Bridget. Let's go. This is Eye Street.

BRIDGET

What?

Jennifer walks quickly across Eye Street and continues walking down the street they're on.

Jennifer reaches an intersection and walks quickly across Dee Street. Jennifer quickly points to the street sign.

JENNIFER

Dee Street!

Bridget follows behind her trying to keep up.

BRIDGET

Okay?

Jennifer reaches Kay Street and crosses quickly. She points to the street sign.

JENNIFER

Kay Street!

BRIDGET

Oh.

Jennifer reaches the next intersection, stops, and smiles proudly.

#### JENNIFER

Anyhow Lane.

BRIDGET This is a weird part of town.

JENNIFER

Why's that?

Jennifer turns on Anyhow Lane and walks quickly down the street.

BRIDGET Well, because the street names have no pattern!

JENNIFER Oh, lighten up Bridget!

> BRIDGET (confused)

What?

Jennifer stops abruptly in front of Julio's house.

JENNIFER

Found it!

BRIDGET This is it?

JENNIFER

Yeah.

Jennifer walks up the steps to the front door.

BRIDGET

Wait, Jen.

Jennifer stops and turns around to look at Bridget.

JENNIFER

What?

BRIDGET This is big! Good luck.

JENNIFER You're not coming with? BRIDGET Of course not. This is all you. Go get him.

JENNIFER Okay. Thanks, Bridget.

Jennifer runs down the steps, gives Bridget a hug, and then runs back up the steps. Bridget walks away.

Jennifer knocks on Julio's door. There is no answer. She rings the doorbell. Again, there is no answer. She looks inside the small window next to the door and sees that the house is empty.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

No...

Jennifer walks down the steps sadly. She sits on the steps for a few moments, but then gets up and starts to walk through the residential streets.

Jennifer reaches a nearby park and sits down on the park bench.

JULIO

Now what is the governor of Illinois doing all by herself on an fine day like this?

Jennifer spins around to see Julio standing behind her. He is wearing his hippie poncho and holding a ukulele in one hand and a half eaten plum in the other.

JENNIFER

Julio!

Jennifer jumps up to hug Julio. Julio laughs.

JULIO Madame Governor!

#### JENNIFER

No, I quit.

Julio holds Jennifer at arms length and looks at her sceptically.

JULIO What do you mean?

JENNIFER I'm not governor! Jennifer laughs loudly.

JULIO (CONT'D)

What?

Julio begins to laugh.

# JENNIFER

I don't know...

Jennifer laughs even louder. After their laughter dies off Jennifer looks up at Julio.

JENNIFER (CONT'D) Will you go to California with me?

JULIO California? What would we do in California?

JENNIFER

I don't know...

FADE OUT