

A

PAIGE / DAVE [p. 11- 12]

PAIGE insists that DAVE set up another TV interview with Ned.

PAIGE: Listen to me, Dave, this is simple. If we're trying to convince people the man is their Governor, if we want him to look like a Governor, we put him in the Governor's office; that's politics one-oh-one. In fact, even better, we put him behind the Governor's desk.

DAVE: Paige –

PAIGE: Have you ever seen a more Governor's-desk-looking desk than this desk? No; it's perfect. We do the interview right here –

DAVE: Right, except for the part where we're not doing an interview.

PAIGE: We're doing an interview, Dave.

DAVE: I'm not putting him on television again today.

PAIGE: Okay, but you have to put him on television again today.

DAVE: I can't; not again.

PAIGE: Because the swearing-in ceremony didn't go well this morning –

DAVE: Okay, can we not talk about the swearing-in ceremony?

PAIGE: Dave, I think you asked me here for my advice.

DAVE: I asked you here because there's no one else here. I have no staff. I'm the Chief of Staff to a Governor who has no staff.

PAIGE: Why does he have no staff?

DAVE: Because until three hours ago he was only the *Lieutenant* Governor. And when he was Lieutenant Governor, I was his entire staff because –

PAIGE: Lieutenant Governors don't do anything.

DAVE: That's not entirely true. Though ... that is pretty much the job description. But then Larry Clarke was forced to resign as Governor because ...

PAIGE: Because he had sex with the runner-up in a beauty pageant.

DAVE: Yes – the idiot.

PAIGE: Do you think it was the infidelity that people objected to, or the fact that he didn't sleep with the *winner*?

B

PAIGE / ARTHUR [p.69-70]

PAIGE and ARTHUR discuss the launch of Lulu's campaign.

ARTHUR: Paige! What do you think about the room!

PAIGE: Oh, yes, sorry, I saw it earlier.

ARTHUR: Doesn't it get you excited? Don't you feel a rush? The launch of a campaign? What's better than this? Did you see Lulu? Did you talk to her?

PAIGE: Yeah, we were ... going over a few things.

ARTHUR: She's, like, *giddy* today. She's not nervous at all.

PAIGE: No.

ARTHUR: She's not even aware there's something to be nervous *about*.

PAIGE: Yeah, she's not aware of ... a lotta things.

ARTHUR: That's refreshing, isn't it?

PAIGE: Well, it's ... I mean, it's a little ...

ARTHUR: What?

PAIGE: Does it worry you at all that she's ... ?

ARTHUR: What?!

PAIGE: She just seems incapable of grasping ... basic concepts.

ARTHUR: Like what?

PAIGE: The three branches of government.

ARTHUR: Well ... that's a little complicated.

PAIGE: The idea of government?

ARTHUR: That's even *more* complicated.

PAIGE: The idea of branches?

ARTHUR: Paige, believe me, Lulu knows everything she needs to know.

PAIGE: Which is what? What does she know?

ARTHUR: She knows how to be Lulu. That's all she needs.

C

ARTHUR & PAIGE w/ DAVE [p.62-63]

ARTHUR and PAIGE describe to DAVE their strategy for saving Ned's job.

PAIGE: We've already looked at Ned's numbers. But I suggested let's keep the focus groups a little longer to get their reactions to *Lulu*.

ARTHUR: Isn't that *brilliant*?

PAIGE: And these people *identified* with her ... in ways I've never seen before. When asked if they could imagine inviting Lulu to their home for dinner, 36% said they could swear she'd already *been* there. It's like they were watching themselves on TV. They *loved* her.

ARTHUR: Well, Dave, I think you're right. I just found the politician I've been waiting for.

DAVE: This isn't happening. This is a nightmare. Tell me this is a nightmare.

ARTHUR: A nightmare? Dave, you poor, sad, confused man. This is a dream come true! What have you been fighting for since you got up this morning?: the chance for Ned Newley to keep his job. Well, guess what? Your wish is granted – thanks to the political power of Lulu Peakes. Nobody's gonna try to kick him out of office now that she's on his team.

PAIGE: Here's the plan: Ned will endorse Lulu in the race for the new Lieutenant Governor!

DAVE: Oh my god.

ARTHUR: She'll announce her candidacy – right here – and then: she's off on a campaign tour of the state.

PAIGE: With the Governor by her side, every step of the way.

ARTHUR: Yes! Every photo she's in, Ned's right there, next to her.

PAIGE: Or maybe ... behind her, in the background, a little out of focus.

ARTHUR: I like it. But the message is:

PAIGE and ARTHUR: They're a team.

ARTHUR: "A match made in heaven."

D

ARTHUR / NED / DAVE [p.29-32]

ARTHUR meets NED and explains his political vision to NED and DAVE.

ARTHUR: And here I am at last. In the room, with the man. The man who called to me this morning like a siren, who spoke to me through the screen of my laptop and said, Arthur Vance, whatever plans you had for this week, for this *year*, forget them. They can wait, the whole world can wait. There is only one thing for you now, one purpose. And it's name ... is Ned Newley.

NED: Um.

ARTHUR: Don't say a word. I don't need you to speak; I just need you to be real. All morning I've been traveling just to shake your hand, and ... it's thrilling; it's intoxicating. ... And this must be Dave, yes?

DAVE: Yes, sir.

ARTHUR: I already like you, Dave, 'cause you're the guy who believes in *that* guy. ... *(To Ned)* This is *your* moment, Governor. Until today, you were a common man. A nobody – content to be a nobody. And then because some clown named Clarke couldn't keep his Johnson in his trousers, suddenly you're the Governor. And you say to yourself: "I'm not sure I'm up for this." That sound about right?

NED: *(Mumbling)* Well, I was a bit trepidatious, I guess –

ARTHUR: Well, let me break it to you: Unprepared is where it's at. Unqualified is the new qualified. People today are looking for a new kind of leader. Not a career politician, but a common man, whose head is not clouded by too much knowledge. A humble citizen – someone absolutely, totally unprepared for elected office. And this morning, at a gloriously horrible swearing-in ceremony, America found that man: Ned Newley.

E

LOUISE / DAVE[p.36-38]

LOUISE gets instructions from DAVE on her new job responsibilities.

LOUISE: Hey there! Hi! Louise Peakes.

DAVE: Yes, I ... I remember your name.

LOUISE: Good job! ... Just came in to say I got the note you left at my desk. ... A reporter from Channel 1 will be here at three o'clock.

DAVE: Uh – a reporter from Channel 3 will be here at *one* o'clock

LOUISE: Okay. Are those two different reporters, or ... ?

DAVE: No, just the one. At one o'clock – which is in twenty minutes. And all I need you to do is let me know when she arrives, okay?

LOUISE: Just ... let you know when she arrives? That's it?

DAVE: That's it.

LOUISE: Well, I can do *that*. ... That's easy.

DAVE: Fantastic!

LOUISE: There is one other question, though, I wanted to ask.

DAVE: (*Cautiously*) Yes?

LOUISE: There's a bowl of candies on the coffee table out there. Would it be alright if I had some?

DAVE: Yes.

LOUISE: Would it be alright if I had some before I asked?

DAVE: Yes.

LOUISE: Would it be alright if there are no more candies in the bowl? And a follow-up question: where do you keep your candies?

DAVE: Can we work on that later?

LOUISE: Absolutely. ... I'll keep an eye out for the lady from Channel 1 at three o'clock, right –

DAVE: Channel 3 at *one* o'clock.

LOUISE: Okay.

F

LOUISE / NED / DAVE [p.26-28]

LOUISE confidently introduces herself to Ned and provides encouragement to him.

LOUISE: Hey there! Hi! Louise Peakes. And your name is?

NED: Ned. I'm, I'm Ned.

LOUISE: Well, it's nice to meet you, Ned.

DAVE: This is the Governor, Miss Peakes.

LOUISE: Oh my goodness, that's pretty dumb of me. You're the guy I'm *working* for –

NED: No, that's alright; I'm not really – I mean, I've only been Governor for a few hours.

LOUISE: Well, that doesn't mean you're not the Governor. Every job I've ever *had* I only had for a few hours. Just because it's your first day working here doesn't mean you shouldn't feel confident in what you're doing –

NED: Oh!

LOUISE: Even if you don't *know* what you're doing. I don't know what I'm doing. But that doesn't mean I'm not a valuable employee.

DAVE: Well, technically ...

LOUISE: There's nothing saying you can't be the Governor. I think you can be the Governor. *(To Dave)* Don't you?

DAVE: Actually, yes, I do.

LOUISE: See? Everybody here thinks you're doing great. Okay?

NED: Okay!

LOUISE: Okay. Glad we cleared that up, Ted.

DAVE: Ned.

LOUISE: Ned, sorry. Names I'm not always great with.

NED: Oh, that's alright.

LOUISE: But I keep working at 'em till I get 'em right. *(To Dave)* Speaking of which, I have *almost* figured out the phone at my desk; I'm very close. I'm not quite *answering* it, okay, but I am getting comfortable with just letting it ring.

G

RACHEL / DAVE [p.76-77]

RACHEL confronts DAVE about anonymously leaking papers to her. Her demeanor is a bit angry, but sparks begin to fly between them.

DAVE: So, did you look in the box?

RACHEL: We're not talking about the box, Dave. You don't get to "anonymously" drop off a bunch of documents and then quiz me on my reaction to them. And you don't get to steer me toward certain questions you want me to ask the Governor; that's not how this works. Last time I was here, I let Arthur Vance tell me what I couldn't ask. This time, maybe I'll ask whatever I want to ask.

DAVE: Okay. Great.

RACHEL: I'm not saying that's going to make your guy look *good*.

DAVE: No, I know.

RACHEL: And you're *okay* with that? You're the one person in politics who *wants* reporters to ask damaging questions.

DAVE: I'd have thought you'd *like* that.

RACHEL: Who says I don't like it.

DAVE: Well, you sound kinda *angry*.

RACHEL: Well, *you* sound kinda ... *nice*.

DAVE: And ... that's another thing you don't like about me?

RACHEL: No, it's another thing I *do* like about you.

DAVE: Why do you *yell* at me when there's something you *like* about me?

RACHEL: You're an idealist, Dave. You want me to be the kind of reporter *I* want me to be. But if I defy my boss, and just ask the Governor and Lulu Peakes what I *want* to ask them – what I *ought* to ask them ... I will lose my job. Or, worse, end up hosting the morning show, interviewing reality TV stars and celebrity chefs. Do you want that to happen?

DAVE: No.

RACHEL: Alright. ... How many reporters did you leak those papers to?

DAVE: Just you. You were the only one.

RACHEL: Okay, first of all, thank you. And second: (*angrily*) You're supposed to say "what papers?"!

DAVE: Right. Sorry. "I don't know what you're talking about."

RACHEL: Oh my God, you're the worst liar ever.

DAVE: And you like that about me?

RACHEL: Yes.

H

RACHEL / DAVE [p.94-95]

RACHEL and DAVE discuss the ethics of getting “friendly.”

DAVE: Are you in trouble with your boss?

RACHEL: Well, I was, but then he fired me.

DAVE: What?!

RACHEL: Yeah. Because Arthur Vance told him to. But then our station manager got wind of it, so he fired my boss, and gave me my job back. But then Arthur Vance got my ex-boss a job at CNN, so ... Television news is still a pillar of integrity. Speaking of which, when we first met, I went on a little rant about people in the news business not getting too friendly with the people we’re supposed to cover.

DAVE: Right.

RACHEL: Which ... would clearly include ... you and me.

DAVE: Right.

RACHEL: You seem not at all troubled by the suggestion that we shouldn’t be friendly.

DAVE: No, I’m just, I’m just trying to be agreeable.

RACHEL: This is one instance where you not being agreeable would be better.

DAVE: Okay, then, screw your journalistic code of ethics, Ms. Parsons. I like you, and ... I think you like me. And though I have never played poker, somehow the idea of seeing you at a poker table inexplicably turns me on, so ... I think we should get a drink sometime.

RACHEL: Okay. That can’t happen.

DAVE: I knew you were gonna say that.

RACHEL: And we never had this conversation.

DAVE: Okay, I’ll call you later.

RACHEL: You don’t have my number.

DAVE: You left me your card.

RACHEL: I have no idea what you’re talking about.

I**NED and DAVE [p.22-26]**

NED is frantic and has just embarrassed himself on television. DAVE must calm him down and encourage him to hire Arthur Vance to help to restore his image.

NED: Oh god.

DAVE: You're fine.

NED: I'm just all ...

DAVE: It's fine.

NED: This whole day has been ...

DAVE: It has.

NED: *Hasn't it?*... I was hoping I could sneak in here. When no one was looking.

DAVE: It's your office, Ned; you don't have to sneak in.

NED: I just ... I really want to get to work on the budget.

DAVE: I want you to work on the budget, Ned.

NED: Okay, good.

DAVE: I want you to work on all the important stuff – policy, and legislation, and, you know, doing your job, but ... Do you remember last night, when we first realized you might actually become governor?

NED: And I started to cry?

DAVE: Right, and we said, okay, if this happens, you and I are gonna need to spend more time thinking about ... politics*.

(NED physically reacts in pain to “politics” and to each of Dave’s suggestions)*

DAVE: Look, I know that campaigning* and giving speeches* and ... working the crowd* –

NED: Oh god!

DAVE: I know you hate all that stuff.

NED: It's not just that I *hate* it, it's ... I can't *do* that, Dave. I'm not build that way.

DAVE: And that's exactly why we need to hire Arthur Vance.

NED: Arthur Vance wants to work for me?

DAVE: Yes.

NED: But would I have to ... *talk* to him?

DAVE: Well, yeah.

NED: 'Cause talking to people ...**

*(NED reacts audibly by making noises to indicate his discomfort**)*

DAVE: I know.

NED: I mean I try to speak clearly but ...**

DAVE: I get it.

NED: And then I ...**

DAVE: Okay, now I don't actually know what you're saying.

J

NED and DAVE [p.66-67]

*NED regrets following Arthur's advice and is looking for a way out, literally.
DAVE shares his remorse but tries to calm Ned down.*

NED: (Frantic) Let's go, Dave.

DAVE: What?

NED: Let's go. Is there a back exit? Is there a secret passageway? ... We can sneak out the balcony! We can jump *off* the balcony! Let's can jump off the balcony, Dave.

DAVE: Ned –

NED: I can't go on with this. I, I don't even know what I've done. I was just trying to, I just wanted to keep my job. I wanted to be allowed to do my job. So I – god – I made a pact with the Devil.

DAVE: Yeah.

NED: I signed the Devil's book. I followed his instructions. I went on television and pretended I was an extra on *Hee-Haw*. I told the world I was a brainless, vacant man with no idea how to be Governor. And they *believed* me. Did Paige show you my results, from the focus groups?

DAVE: No –

NED: The public is convinced, Dave; they're absolutely convinced I'm an idiot. And they're okay with that. And they're okay with Lulu, who's very sweet, but knows nothing about government.

DAVE: Ned –

NED: How do you ... ? Where do you go from here? ... And *now* they want me to *campaign* for her.

DAVE: I know.

NED: Actually get her *elected*. As Lieutenant Governor. Which means, if I ever die, she becomes Governor. Which means ... I can never die.

DAVE: I don't think that's what it means.

NED: I want to die, Dave.

DAVE: You don't want to die.

NED: I want to at least have the option. (*Beat*) My god. Why the hell did we ever get involved in politics?

DAVE: That's a good question.