

Ethics

Written by
Daniel Varona

danvarona@gmail.com

(323) 610-4220

FADE IN:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

DAMIEN, 39, handsome, intelligent, and clearly influential, sits at the conference room table alongside 4 INVESTORS.

Damien is calm and patient. The investors seem antsy and restless. They can't seem to stop checking their watches.

KATRINA, 34, confident, brilliant, beautiful, and professional, enters the conference room. She is carrying a handful of reports.

KATRINA

Good morning, gentlemen.

Katrina gets no response or reaction. She can already sense this will be a difficult room.

Damien seems mildly amused by the dynamic in the room. Katrina begins handing out the reports to Damien and the investors.

KATRINA (cont'd)

My name is Katrina Hurley. I am the Director of Brand Strategy here at Corinthian Marketing.

The investors skim the reports, paying little attention to them. They quickly become disinterested in the reports, setting them aside.

Damien takes his time to read and analyze the report properly.

Katrina can tell that referencing the reports is not a good idea. She decides to improvise a little.

KATRINA (cont'd)

I'm here to talk to you about Admiralty Capital's prospective investment in Verdum Restaurant Group.

INVESTOR

We're aware.

Katrina gets a little tense. This room is unnecessarily difficult.

KATRINA

Okay... In any case, we performed a thorough market analysis and we looked at Verdum's potential core competencies. Given the fact that Admiralty is planning a corporate restructuring and a subsequent turn around following the acquisition, we have put together a brand strategy that leverages current market trends and optimizes the use of Verdum's current assets.

Still no reaction or engagement from the investors.

KATRINA (cont'd)

A restaurant is more than a place to buy food. It's an experience. A social hub. A respite from our hectic day. If executed properly, a restaurant can be a second home to many people. We have identified the optimal positioning for Verdum, alongside the key factors for success.

Katrina's phone starts vibrating. She's slightly thrown off and distracted by the call. She quickly reaches for her phone and silences it before continuing.

KATRINA (cont'd)

Cleanliness, consistency, and quality will be the three tenets that hold up Verdum's brand. Warmth, authenticity, and professionalism will be at the core of Verdum's workforce. These principles will be the starting point to create a lax and upscale environment. A casual fine-dining experience, if you will. These core competencies and unique positioning will allow Verdum to stand out from the competition, and earn the business of the most loyal and affluent segment of the market.

DAMIEN

Katrina, how capital intensive do you expect your proposal to be?

KATRINA

The capital intensity will be minimal.

(MORE)

KATRINA (cont'd)
Corinthian will work directly with Verдум's upper management to instill the new culture and brand identity. Since Admiralty is planning a turn around, we see this as the ideal opportunity to re-brand the company.

INVESTOR
That was very nice, Ms. Hurley. Thank you.

KATRINA
Did you have any questions?

INVESTOR
Thank you for your time today.

KATRINA
Oh... Okay... Thank you.

Katrina exits the conference room, unsure of what exactly happened in there.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

Katrina pulls out her phone and starts making a phone call. This is an unwelcome hassle that she has no time for.

KATRINA
What do you want?
(beat)
I'm with a client. I don't have time for this right now.
(beat)
I told you I was gonna be busy all day. I don't ha --
(beat)
Whatever. I'll talk to you at home. This is important and you're being impossible. Bye.

Katrina hangs up the phone. She's riled up so she takes a moment to close her eyes, breathe, and get her head back in the game.

Damien walks out of the conference room. He approaches Katrina.

DAMIEN
That was incredible. You really know how to hit it out of the park every time.

KATRINA

What are you talking about?

DAMIEN

What do you mean what am I talking about? Didn't you just give a presentation like two minutes ago?

KATRINA

I mean yeah, I know that. But it didn't feel like it went that well. Those guys weren't giving me anything. At a certain point it felt like they didn't even know I was in the room.

Damien chuckles. He glances at the investors in the conference room. They're talking among themselves.

DAMIEN

That's how those guys are. They think looking all stoic and unapproachable makes them seem more important. You can't go by their reaction.

KATRINA

Are you serious?

DAMIEN

I don't know what to tell you. Some people in my line of business are a little ridiculous. At the end of the day, your proposal was brilliant, and exactly what we're looking for.

Katrina's phone vibrates. She quickly glances at it. It's a text from Matt. She rolls her eyes, shakes her head, and puts the phone away.

DAMIEN (cont'd)

Bad news?

KATRINA

No. It's nothing. Anyway, you really think I can close this deal?

DAMIEN

Oh yeah, it's all but done. You're a superstar.

KATRINA

Thank you.

There's a brief pause. Damien slightly changes his demeanor so as to switch the topic.

DAMIEN
I've been meaning to ask you something.

KATRINA
What is it?

DAMIEN
You know I think you're the best.

KATRINA
Thank you.

DAMIEN
I have this friend that I want to introduce you to.

KATRINA
What's it about?

DAMIEN
Okay I guess I'll just throw it out there. Have you ever thought about running for office?

Katrina is surprised and taken aback.

KATRINA
What the fuck? No. Of course not. Where is this coming from?

DAMIEN
Okay yeah, probably a bad idea. But if you ever change your mind, I have a friend that I want to introduce you to. You're extremely talented, Katrina.

Damien leans in and lowers his voice.

DAMIEN (cont'd)
I don't wanna tell you how to live your life, but Corinthian is a dead end for someone like you. If you reconsider my offer, just call me.

Katrina is somewhere in between pensive and speechless. Damien turns around to leave.

KATRINA
Damien. Why me?

Damien smiles at Katrina. He turns back around and walks away.

INT. KATRINA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Katrina's apartment is modest, classy and cozy. MATT, Katrina's boyfriend, is in the kitchen making dinner.

Katrina opens the door. She's exhausted from work. She drops all her work stuff on the coffee table and throws herself on the couch.

MATT

Hey babe. Are you hungry?

KATRINA

Not really.

MATT

But I made you dinner.

KATRINA

I'm not hungry right now.

Matt steps out of the kitchen and into the living room.

MATT

I spent a lot of time cooking for you. You could at least be grateful...

KATRINA

Jesus Christ. What do you want from me, Matt?

MATT

Nothing. Just some common courtesy. I spent a long time doing this for you.

Katrina closes her eyes and starts rubbing her temples.

KATRINA

I'm not doing this right now. I'm not.

MATT

Okay. I hear you loud and clear.

There's an awkward pause and Matt goes back in the kitchen.

MATT (cont'd)

So, how was work today?

KATRINA

I had a pretty big presentation for Damien and his people. It's a pretty big deal for the agency.

MATT

You know I don't like you talking to that guy.

KATRINA

Who? Damien? How did we even get into this?

Matt steps back into the living room. He has a more assertive, almost controlling tone.

MATT

I'm just saying I don't like the guy. I don't trust him, and I don't like you being around him.

KATRINA

Let me set the record straight. First of all, this was a work thing. Second, Damien is really smart and he always has my back. I don't know what your problem is with him, but frankly I don't give a shit.

MATT

Babe. I love you. There's no need to get hostile.

Matt backs off and heads back to the kitchen. There's a pause and Katrina enjoys every second of it.

MATT (cont'd)

Is that why you weren't answering your phone? Is it 'cause you were with Damien?

Katrina gets up and heads to the kitchen to put an end to this.

KATRINA

What is your fucking problem? Seriously, what the fuck is it? I had a long day at work and I really don't wanna deal with this shit right now.

MATT

Babe. I'm your boyfriend and I love you. You have to answer my calls.

(MORE)

MATT (cont'd)
I need to know where you are. I get worried sometimes.

Katrina starts pacing in frustration. She's trying not to lose her temper, but she's losing that battle.

KATRINA
You need to know where I am?! It's a work day in the middle of work hours! Where the fuck could I possibly be?! Oh gee, I don't know... Perhaps, at WORK!

MATT
Calm down, crazy.

KATRINA
Excuse me?

MATT
I just feel that, as your boyfriend, I have the right to know what you're doing. I love you, babe. I just get worried sometimes. There's no need to fly off the handle.

KATRINA
I'm not doing this. I'm not doing this. I'm not doing this. I'm going to bed.

Katrina storms out of the kitchen and into the bedroom.

INT. KATRINA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Katrina is fuming. She jumps on the bed. She picks up a pillow and buries her head in it to muffle the screaming.

When she's done screaming she lies on the bed face up. She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

Katrina is walking around the makeup section of a large department store. She's perusing through all of the different makeup options and brands.

Katrina stops in front of a large display of lipsticks. The color options seem almost innumerable. She looks closely through the display paying special attention to the prices.

KATRINA
(mumbling to herself)
Why, why, why?

After a moment Katrina looks up and around the store. She spots a rather ostentatious and flamboyant MAKEUP ARTIST. Katrina approaches the makeup artist to talk to him.

KATRINA (cont'd)
Hi. Are you a makeup artist?

With a confused look on his face, the makeup artist slowly looks at himself and around his work area. After some thought he answers.

MAKEUP ARTIST
Umm. Yeah, I'm pretty sure that's what I do here.

KATRINA
Could you help me out for a moment?

The makeup artist walks up to Katrina to examine her face closely.

MAKEUP ARTIST
I'm afraid there's nothing I can do for you. Your face is literally perfect.

KATRINA
Thank you. That's very kind. But I actually wanted to ask you about your job?

MAKEUP ARTIST
What would you like to know?

KATRINA
Why do you work as a makeup artist?

MAKEUP ARTIST
You mean other than to have money for food and rent?

KATRINA
Yes.

MAKEUP ARTIST
Huh. I don't really think about that much... I make people happy, I guess?
(MORE)

MAKEUP ARTIST (cont'd)

(beat)

I'm pretty good at spotting women who look down and approaching them -- at work that is! -- from then I really don't have to do much. Most of those women seem to have a very low opinion of themselves. I just highlight their strengths with the makeup, hand them a mirror, and their lives seem to turn around right there and then. Then they buy everything I offer them.

KATRINA

Really?

MAKEUP ARTIST

I mean. I'm pretty good at what I do, it's something different for everyone. But just helping these women see themselves in a different light and using makeup as some sort of "beauty highlighter" pretty much does it.

(beat)

I think of it as a good karma job. The more women I leave better off, the more good karma I get. 'Cause heaven knows I don't do this for the money... Did you know we don't even get commission? -- don't tell my boss I said that.

KATRINA

This was very helpful. That's all I needed. Thank you so much. Have a great day.

MAKEUP ARTIST

No problem.

Katrina starts walking away towards the exit.

MAKEUP ARTIST (cont'd)

Goodbye woman with the perfect face!
I will never forget you!

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

VICTORIA, 33, an accountant and Katrina's best friend, sits at a table by herself.

Katrina walks up to the table looking a little disheveled and preoccupied. She gives Victoria a hug.

KATRINA

Hi. It's really nice to see you. You look amazing.

VICTORIA

Thank you, I try. Are you doing alright?

KATRINA

Yeah, I'm doing great.

They both take a seat. Katrina places her phone face up on the table.

VICTORIA

It's him again, isn't it?

KATRINA

I don't know what you're talking about.

VICTORIA

It's fine if you don't wanna talk about it.

KATRINA

I don't. How's your work?

VICTORIA

Same old. Same old. Crunching numbers and telling people they're spending too much money. You know how it is. In any case, my job doesn't define my identity.

KATRINA

I hear that.

VICTORIA

Do you? Katrina, your job is your life. I mean if I was as talented as you, I'd be doing the same. Since we're on the topic, how is your work?

Katrina's eyes light up a little. She's excited to talk about something that she finds fulfilling.

KATRINA

I'm putting a pitch together for this cosmetic company. I'm so fucking excited for this.

(MORE)

KATRINA (cont'd)
I got a super insightful take on their stuff. I can't say much else about it, but it's gonna be incredible.

VICTORIA
See what I'm talking about? You think I could get that excited about cost accounting?

Katrina looks around the restaurant. Almost as if she's checking if the coast is clear.

KATRINA
So I was talking to Damien the other day.

VICTORIA
Oh my god. I love Damien.

KATRINA
I know. Everyone loves Damien. Anyway, he asked me if I'd ever thought about running for office, and he told me there was a guy he wanted me to meet.

Victoria is pleasantly surprised with the news. She starts thinking about it and you can see the cogs turning in her head.

KATRINA (cont'd)
Of course I'm not considering it or anything. I just thought it was pretty weird. And random. That he would ask me that. You know?

VICTORIA
I mean. It's not a bad idea...

KATRINA
You're joking.

VICTORIA
Listen, I'm a smart girl and I do pretty well for myself, but I'm not you. You're super talented and you'll succeed at whatever you set your mind to. Might as well do something big.

KATRINA
You really think this is worth considering?

VICTORIA
Definitely. Besides, it sounds like
you'd be working with Damien and
that's always a plus.

Katrina's phone vibrates. It's a text from Matt. She looks
at the phone and she's visibly frustrated.

VICTORIA (cont'd)
You sure you don't wanna talk about
it?

KATRINA
I just -- I can't right now. Sorry.

VICTORIA
I'll be here whenever you need me.

Katrina looks at Victoria with an insincere smile. Katrina's
in pain, but she's not about to make it anybody else's
problem.

INT. TOM'S OFFICE - DAY

TOM, Corinthian's CEO, sits at his desk with Katrina.
Katrina has a binder full of documents sitting on the desk.

Tom's office is unnecessarily big.

TOM
I want to congratulate you on the
Verdum account.

KATRINA
Thank you.

TOM
That was a fairly large account and
Damien Luster had a lot of good
things to say about you.

KATRINA
Thank you. I worked really ha --

TOM
So now I want to talk about the Vita
Beauty account. As you should already
know this account is a huge deal.
They basically want to give us
complete control over the brand. That
means really high fees, but a lot of
room for error. Do you get what I'm
saying?

KATRINA

Yes! I'm really glad you brought this up. I actually have been working hard on this pitch.

Katrina opens her binder and starts pulling out some Vita Beauty brand sketches.

KATRINA (cont'd)

I feel like we really have an opportunity to bring something unique and trend-setting to the table.

Katrina starts handing out her sketches to Tom. He pretends to look at them. He becomes disinterested rather quickly and sets them aside.

KATRINA (cont'd)

Beauty and makeup have traditionally pushed an unrealistic standard of beauty. And they've also tried to capitalize on women's insecurities. However, the beauty industry has an underappreciated aspect that I think we can leverage. Vita Beauty will stand for self- confidence and empowerment. It will be a way for women to enhance the strengths they already possess in their own eyes and those of others.

Katrina is finished with her pitch. She smiles at Tom expecting praise. Tom is disinterested and dozing off.

TOM

Are you done?

KATRINA

Sorry?

TOM

Are you done talking?

KATRINA

Um... Yes. That's what I've --

TOM

Okay, so take everything you just told me and throw it in the trash. We're gonna go a completely different direction with this account.

KATRINA

What do you mean?

TOM

I want you to write me up a new brand strategy. The focus needs to be on perfection, delicateness and femininity.

KATRINA

That's what almost everyone is doing right now.

TOM

In other words, that's the tried and proven approach in the beauty industry.

KATRINA

Tom, I respectfully disagree with your course of action.

TOM

Katrina, I respectfully don't give a fuck.

Katrina is blindsided by Tom's comment. Tom gets up from his desk. He turns his back to Katrina and walks up to the window.

TOM (cont'd)

Take a look around you. Do you see this office? Is this office bigger than yours?

KATRINA

Umm --

TOM

That was rhetorical. Of course it's bigger than yours. I'm the CEO. That means I'm the one in charge. This is my company and you do what I say.

Tom turns around and walks back to his desk.

TOM (cont'd)

That means that if I tell you to make a certain pitch, you make it. Period. So now I'll kindly ask you to take that pretty little face out of my office and go make me the pitch I asked for.

Katrina is speechless trying to reconcile what just happened. She picks up her documents and leaves.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Tom is sitting at the conference room table alongside three EXECUTIVES. The mood is serious. The executives have high expectations.

Katrina hands out her report slowly, making sure that Tom is the last person to get a copy. The executives seem pleasantly surprised with the report they're skimming.

Tom starts reading the report. He frantically starts turning the pages in disbelief.

TOM

Excuse me, Katrina --

KATRINA

The beauty industry is a crowded market to say the least. There's an innumerable amount of offerings. It is overwhelming for the consumer. So how does a player in the industry stand out? How does a company develop a competitive advantage over its rivals in this market?

TOM

Katrina --

KATRINA

Well, I posit that we must re-frame what cosmetics really are and what they are for.

The executives are entranced with Katrina's presentation. They pay no mind to Tom's attempted interruptions.

Tom is livid. He reads the room and realizes that he has to let Katrina finish her presentation to save face.

KATRINA (cont'd)

Beauty goes beyond looks. It is a vessel for empowerment. Self-confidence and self-esteem are two of the main benefits of beauty, though these benefits are largely understated in the current market environment.

The executives are nodding. They like what they hear.

KATRINA (cont'd)

Vita Beauty will be synonymous with empowerment.

(MORE)

KATRINA (cont'd)

It is here to remind women who they've always been. It is a self-transformation tool to give us back our confidence. It enhances the strengths that we already possess. Vita Beauty is more than just looks. Vita Beauty is a movement for women to take back their power, and to remind the world that we're here and we will be heard. Thank you.

The executives quickly stand up and break out into applause. They are extremely delighted with Katrina's presentation. She hit it out of the park once again, and she is basking in their praise.

Tom is absolutely furious. He pretends that everything is fine. He gets up and stands next to Katrina.

TOM

Thank you everyone. I'm really glad that you are so receptive of our ideas. Katrina is without a doubt one of our very best.

The executives start talking among themselves. They are visibly excited about Katrina's presentation. Tom leans in to whisper into Katrina's ear.

TOM (cont'd)

(whispering)

My office. Now.

Katrina's eyes open wide. She can sense Tom's rage.

TOM (cont'd)

Katrina and I are going to step outside for a moment. We'll give you some time to discuss our proposal. Once again, thank you for the opportunity.

INT. TOM'S OFFICE - DAY

Tom storms into his office. Katrina anxiously follows him.

TOM

Take a seat.

Katrina quickly and quietly takes a seat. Tom walks up to his desk and sits down. He closes his eyes and is quiet for a moment.

Tom opens his eyes and he's suddenly friendly and calm.

TOM (cont'd)
So tell me, Katrina. How do you think
that went?

Katrina hesitates to answer. This could be rhetorical or a
trick question.

KATRINA
I think it went great. The Vita
Beauty executives really loved the
pitch.

TOM
You think it went great. What makes
you say that? Please. Elaborate.

KATRINA
I don't know. I mean they seemed very
happy. The resounding applause seemed
like a good sign. They also looked
excited about the project.

TOM
That's funny. You see, from over here
it didn't look like it went that
well.

Katrina gets tense. Tom is toning down the friendliness.

KATRINA
What do you mean?

TOM
Maybe I'm crazy. Who knows? But I
seem to recall asking you to make a
different pitch.

KATRINA
Um...

TOM
Am I crazy? Or did that actually
happen? Did I not ask you to make a
different pitch, Katrina?

KATRINA
You did.

TOM
But you didn't do that, did you?

KATRINA

I did not.

TOM

Do you want to tell me why not?

KATRINA

Um... I don't know. But it doesn't matter. They loved the pitch, we're gonna close this deal no problem.

TOM

We're gonna close this deal no problem...

Tom leans back on his chair. He has a condescending tone.

TOM (cont'd)

I don't care about closing shit. I gave you direct orders and you completely disregarded what I said. We actually have a term for that. We call it insubordination.

KATRINA

I'm sorry --

TOM

I'm talking. Do you know what we do with employees who are insubordinate?

Katrina is quiet, she has no idea if Tom is being rhetorical.

TOM (cont'd)

Katrina, how I will I know that this won't happen again?

KATRINA

I'm sorry. I promise this will never happen again. I didn't think --

TOM

Exactly. You didn't think. But, I have a way of guaranteeing this won't happen again. You're fired.

Katrina's eyes open wide. She starts having a panic attack, but she has to somewhat keep it together.

KATRINA

What?

TOM
Do you need me to say it again?

Katrina puts her head down in shame.

KATRINA
(shaking her head)
No.

Tom gets up. He walks up to the window turning his back to Katrina.

TOM
Go clear out your shit and get out of my building.

Katrina gets up and starts walking towards the door.

TOM (cont'd)
Oh, and Katrina. If there's anything to be learned from this, it's that you're not as smart as you think.

INT. KATRINA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Katrina opens the door. She looks and feels terrible. Matt walks up to the door to greet her.

MATT
Hi, babe. Is everything okay?

KATRINA
No.

MATT
Do you wanna talk about it?

KATRINA
No.

Katrina runs up to Matt and hugs him. She bursts into tears.

KATRINA (cont'd)
Tom fired me.

MATT
Oh my god. I'm so sorry. What happened?

Katrina is still crying and holding onto Matt.

MATT (cont'd)

Here, let's sit down so you can tell me what happened.

Matt walks Katrina to the couch and they both sit down.

KATRINA

We had a presentation for this client. I had been working so hard for so long on this. I promise I worked so fucking hard.

MATT

I'm sure you did, babe. You always do.

KATRINA

Tom told me to throw out my presentation. He asked me to do something completely different. But I just couldn't.

MATT

You couldn't do what your boss told you to do?

KATRINA

I couldn't it was just so patronizing and misogynistic. I couldn't go through with it. And I knew my idea was fucking amazing. And the people loved my presentation. They fucking loved it!

MATT

But, babe, your boss asked you to do something and you went against him.

Katrina stops crying. She shuts down emotionally and moves away from Matt.

KATRINA

Excuse me?

MATT

Babe, when your boss tells you to do something you have to do it.

KATRINA

No shit, Sherlock. What are you insinuating?

MATT

Don't shoot the messenger, but it sounds like this could be your fault.

KATRINA

What. The. Fuck.

Katrina gets up and steps away from the couch.

KATRINA (cont'd)

You're supposed to be on my side! What the fuck is this!? Do you not see how I'm fucking doing!?

MATT

Calm down. There's no need to get crazy.

KATRINA

That's it. I'm done. You're supposed to support me, but you sit there twisting the knife. I'm not doing this anymore.

MATT

You're not doing what?

KATRINA

I don't care how long I've known you. I don't give a shit about how many years I've wasted on this relationship. Get out.

MATT

Relax, babe. There's no need to overreact.

Katrina walks up to the door. She's calm and collected.

KATRINA

I'm breaking up with you. I'm gonna go for a drive. When I get back, you and all your shit are going to be out of my apartment. We're done, Matthew. Don't try to contact me ever again.

Katrina leaves the apartment.

INT. KATRINA'S CAR - DAY

Katrina sits in her car. She's holding onto the steering wheel as tight as she can. She closes her eyes.

Katrina lets out an extremely loud and long scream. Once she's done, she takes a deep breath and starts the engine.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Katrina and Victoria sit at a table. They both have drinks in front of them.

VICTORIA

Good. How do you feel about it?

KATRINA

I thought I'd be a lot more upset. I did put a lot of time into it. But now it feels like a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders.

VICTORIA

It was never your job to fix him.

KATRINA

I know. But I had to try.

(beat)

Can we get out of here? There's something I wanna talk to you about.

VICTORIA

Of course.

Victoria gestures a waiter for the check.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Katrina and Victoria walk along the sidewalk. Katrina is scared to open up again.

KATRINA

Tom fired me.

VICTORIA

What?! Fuck that guy.

KATRINA

Do you wanna know what happened?

VICTORIA

Do you wanna tell me what happened?

KATRINA

Not really.

VICTORIA

That's okay. All I know is, fuck that guy. Besides, if Corinthian is stupid enough to fire you, that means they didn't deserve you in the first place.

Katrina stops and hugs Victoria.

KATRINA

Thank you.

VICTORIA

I'm serious. Fuck that guy. I would take this as a sign, you're better off without them. If they didn't see your obvious talent, then I think they did you a favor by letting you go.

KATRINA

Thank you.

VICTORIA

So now what? Do you have any plans?

KATRINA

I've been thinking about Damien's offer. Do you think he knew this was gonna happen? Do you think that's why he was super cryptic about Corinthian being a dead end?

Katrina and Victoria continue walking down the sidewalk.

VICTORIA

I don't know, Katrina. But there's not much point in speculating.

KATRINA

You're right...

VICTORIA

So are you gonna do it?

KATRINA

You know what? Yeah, fuck it. Why not? What do I have to lose?

Katrina reaches for her phone and starts making a call.

VICTORIA

Wait, you're doing it right now?

KATRINA
(talking on the phone)
Hi, Damien?

INT. DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Damien, Katrina, and GARRETT, a charismatic and professional campaign manager, are sitting around Damien's desk.

KATRINA
What exactly is the plan here? I know next to nothing about politics.

DAMIEN
Garrett?

GARRETT
Just by looking at you, Katrina. I can already tell you're very electable.

KATRINA
What does that even mean?

GARRETT
You have this charisma and presence. You come off as intelligent, but also down to Earth. On top of that, Damien told me that you work on brand strategy at Corinthian Marketing.

KATRINA
Worked.

GARRETT
Oh... What happened? Nevermind, not important. During a campaign, you're the brand and the electorate are your customers. I presume you know how to reach people and understand their needs. This would just be in a slightly different context than what you're used to.

(beat)
You would be running for Washington's 7th Congressional District as a Democrat. If you win the primary, you're pretty much guaranteed a seat on Capitol Hill.

Katrina is slightly skeptical. She's eyeing Damien to try to read him.

KATRINA

Damien. What are your thoughts on this?

DAMIEN

Garrett has worked on a couple campaigns in the past. He's won every time. He knows the intricacies of the political process, and how to move the pieces effectively and efficiently. He would be the perfect complement to your strategic expertise.

KATRINA

That's really nice and all. Don't get me wrong, you're both very convincing. But I still don't understand one thing...

DAMIEN

What is it?

KATRINA

What's in it for you, Damien? Surely you have a horse in this race if you're investing your time, and presumably soon enough, your money.

Damien has a devious smile. He's quiet for a moment to build suspense in the room.

DAMIEN

Let me show you something. Come with me.

Damien gets up and walks towards the window. Damien's office has a fairly privileged view of the Seattle metropolitan area. Katrina follows suit.

DAMIEN (cont'd)

You see this whole city? By now I've met just about every relevant player in this area. And I've met a lot outside of it. Seriously, take this view in.

(beat)

This is just a small part of the world we live in. In context, Corinthian Marketing is just one building and one small group of people in this huge metropolis.

KATRINA

I still don't understand what's in it for you.

DAMIEN

As I've said, I've met most players in this area, and to tell you the truth, the overwhelming majority are a tasteless joke at best. I'm ready to shake this tree. This world needs a face like yours if it's ever going to wake up. Your presence on the Hill would shake the status quo. It would be the beginning of a much larger movement. You need to be a public figure, for everyone's sake.

KATRINA

You're not gonna tell me what's in it for you, are you?

Damien steps away from the window and walks back to his desk. Katrina stands there waiting for an answer.

After a moment she also goes back to her seat.

DAMIEN

I gotta leave something to the imagination. You know I like to be dramatic and build suspense. How else would I get you to finish this story? But what I can say, is that I've always got your back. I respect you, and no sane person would ever risk making an enemy out of you.

KATRINA

Okay. Let's do it. Let's run for Congress. But let me make one thing very clear. Once we win, I'm in charge. I call the shots and I have last say.

DAMIEN

I wouldn't have it any other way.

Garrett pulls out his phone and starts texting.

GARRETT

Perfect. I'll get the paperwork started, and I'll start rounding up the troops. Also, I'll get working on fundraising strategies.

DAMIEN

Don't put much time into fundraising.
I'm gonna call in some favors to get
us going.

Damien and Katrina look at each other and smile. Let the games begin.

EXT. CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Katrina is standing on the sidewalk looking pensive while staring at a door with a poster that says "Katrina Hurley for Congress".

She turns around to take in the surroundings. It's a busy street with moderate traffic and plenty of pedestrians walking by.

While surveying the area, Katrina notices a MYSTERIOUS MAN on the other side of the street. She doesn't think much of it, turns around, takes a deep breath and walks into her campaign headquarters.

INT. CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Katrina walks through the front door. The floor is rather hectic with STAFFERS talking on the phone and working on their computers. Katrina is surprised by all the movement in the building.

Garrett is talking to a few staffers. He notices Katrina at the front and rushes over.

GARRETT

Good morning! Everyone's been
expecting you! How do you like the
place?

KATRINA

Hi... This is... Umm...

GARRETT

What? Not what you expected?

A PHOTOGRAPHER approaches them.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Excuse me, Garrett. Is it okay if I
get a picture of you and Katrina?

GARRETT

Of course. Is here good?

PHOTOGRAPHER

Yeah. That's perfect. The busy background works great. Just act natural. Look like you're working.

KATRINA

What?

The photographer takes a couple shots in quick succession. Katrina looks like a deer in headlights. She seems completely out of her element.

The photographer takes a look at the pictures. He has a very apprehensive look on his face.

PHOTOGRAPHER

You know what? Maybe some other time would be better.

The photographer walks away. Katrina is looking around in disbelief.

KATRINA

Was this Damien?

GARRETT

Damien's place. My people. We have a lot we need to discuss. These things move much faster than you'd think. Do you wanna say something to everyone before we go in your office?

KATRINA

Do I? -- Wait. My office?

GARRETT

I think they'd all like to hear something from you. Everyone really likes you and they're very excited.

KATRINA

These people don't even know me.

GARRETT

What can I say, you have some pretty compelling champions.

KATRINA

Sure, I guess. I'll say something.
(addressing the floor)
Hey everyone! Could you all come over here for a second?

The staffers wrap up whatever they're doing fairly quickly and crowd around Katrina.

KATRINA (cont'd)

Hi. So I think everyone knows by now, but I'm Katrina. You all seem to be working very hard. I just wanna thank you for everything you're doing. I'm sure I'll find out what that is soon enough.

The crowd laughs. Katrina is pleasantly surprised at their reaction and engagement.

KATRINA (cont'd)

In all seriousness, it's incredible to see you all working this diligently from day one.

Garrett leans in to whisper into Katrina's ear.

GARRETT

It's not exactly day one.

KATRINA

(to Garrett)

What? What the hell have you people been doing? How long -- Nevermind.

(to the crowd)

So I just got some news that make me even more excited to be working with all of you than I was five seconds ago.

(beat)

Our opponent has been in Congress for almost 20 years. That's much longer than any person should hold any one elected office. I think it's very likely our opponent has gotten complacent and is underestimating us. Looking around this room, I can confidently say that the odds are in our favor.

(beat)

While my name may be on the poster, and my face on a lot of the pictures, winning this election is a team effort. This election will be won by your hard work and your hustle. Without you, there is no "Katrina Hurley for Congress". And it's because of you that I have no doubt we will win this election. Thank you, I think that's all for now...

The crowd breaks out into applause. Katrina has a huge grin on her face, and Garrett is extremely pleased with the situation.

The staffers get back to work. Garrett gestures Katrina to follow him to the office. Katrina keeps looking around at all the action while walking to her office.

GARRETT

This is it. Welcome to your war room.

INT. KATRINA'S CAMPAIGN OFFICE - DAY

Garrett and Katrina walk into her office. The office is relatively big. It has a seating area separate from Katrina's work desk. The interior has been professionally decorated.

Katrina walks around the office looking at everything and touching some of the decorations.

KATRINA

There's a lot going on in here. Did you do this?

GARRETT

Damien's place. He has these like business Feng Shui people that set up and arranged the entire place.

KATRINA

Figures...

GARRETT

Do you like it?

KATRINA

I definitely have a lot of feelings about it.

(beat)

So you said we have a lot to talk about?

GARRETT

Yeah. There's some hot button issues that we should have an articulate position on. We should also talk some campaign strategy.

KATRINA

Okay. Sounds good. I guess we should take a seat. In this living room. That is separate from my desk.

(MORE)

KATRINA (cont'd)
And is inside my campaign office. I
imagine that's what it's for.

Katrina and Garrett take a seat. Garrett takes out his binder and gets ready to take notes. Katrina takes a moment to take in the situation. She takes a deep breath to focus.

GARRETT
Ready?

KATRINA
Yeah. First order of business. What
the hell is going on out there?

GARRETT
The best way to explain it is,
they're laying down the groundwork
for name recognition. The very first
thing we need to do is get your name
out there. For now just your name and
the fact that you're running for
Congress is enough. Our people move
some pieces in the world of social
media here and there. They start
getting the word out to friends, and
friends of friends.

(beat)
Their goal right now is to get people
to ask "Who is Katrina Hurley?"

KATRINA
Okay. I get it. And just for my own
notes, who is Katrina Hurley?

GARRETT
That's what we're about to figure
out.

Garrett goes through some pages in his binder until he finds what he was looking for.

GARRETT (cont'd)
First thing I think we should talk
about is guns. Left or right this is
a huge political minefield.

KATRINA
Okay... So I've been thinking,
governing and campaigning are two
completely different beasts. And
politics is all about the swing vote,
right?

GARRETT

That's mostly true. But I'm not sure what you mean exactly.

KATRINA

Our district is super blue, right?

GARRETT

That's right.

KATRINA

So, in theory, we're on the same team as the opposition. The primary isn't like ideological warfare. We basically just need to be more exciting and compelling than the other guy, right?

GARRETT

I'd like to think there's a little more to it.

KATRINA

What I'm saying is that as long as our feet are reasonably well planted on the left, the primary should basically come down to charisma and name recognition. Don't you think?

GARRETT

Sounds reasonable, but I'm not sure I get where you're going with this.

KATRINA

I just don't want us to shoot ourselves in the foot by going too far to the left. Politics is all about the swing vote. All it takes to pass Republican legislation is a handful of Democrat swing votes, and vice versa.

(beat)

We're here to win. But if we can be framed as too far left once we're on the Hill, we won't be able to get any swing votes from the right, and then there's not much point to this whole ordeal.

Garrett sets down his binder. He leans back on the couch thinking.

GARRETT

Okay... Umm... Okay. I can see why Damien likes you so much.

(beat)

I'm gonna need a moment to think about this. This is not... Politicians don't talk like this. Don't get me wrong, I like it.

Garrett reaches for his binder. He rips out a few pages and crumbles them. He walks over to the trash can to throw them out. He slowly walks back and sits down again.

GARRETT (cont'd)

This is very different. It's very new. We're gonna have to be very careful and thoughtful.

KATRINA

What do you mean?

GARRETT

I don't know what I mean anymore. I'm gonna go for a walk and think.

KATRINA

What's wrong?

GARRETT

Nothing's wrong. This is just... It's bigger than I thought. Just give me a moment.

KATRINA

A moment for what?

GARRETT

I honestly don't know.

Garrett gets up and starts walking towards the door. He stops halfway and turns around.

GARRETT (cont'd)

We got you scheduled for a Podcast to talk about yourself. It's an influential and up and coming women type thing. No politics, it's just to get to know you as a person, what drives you, etc.

KATRINA

How should I prepare?

GARRETT

Don't worry about it. Just be yourself. Apparently I need to throw out the playbook for my entire life.

KATRINA

What?

GARRETT

I'll be back soon. Or later. I don't even know anymore.

Garrett turns back around and walks out of the office. Katrina is utterly mystified by what just happened.

INT. PODCAST STUDIO - DAY

Katrina and the PODCAST HOST, an energetic and overly enthusiastic woman, are sitting in the studio with microphones in front of them and wearing headphones.

PODCAST HOST

I've actually been excited to get to this question. You remind me of a few women in my life. You're obviously very smart, charming, and beautiful.

KATRINA

Thank you, that's really nice of you.

PODCAST HOST

No problem. So my question for you. These attributes, at least in my mind, aren't commonly associated with politicians. What made you want to run? How did you get in a headspace where you could actually see yourself in Congress?

KATRINA

That's actually an easy one. I'd have to say it was my support system. Friends and family. I'm extremely lucky in that I have quite a few people who are extremely supportive. They really believe in me, that's a privilege few people have. So that probably pushed me to step up and do more for my community. And hopefully the country...

PODCAST HOST

That's really inspiring. We covered the what. Could you tell us now your why?

KATRINA

Why... Now that's a hard one...

PODCAST HOST

Take your time, we have all day. Well, not ALL day. But you know what I mean.

KATRINA

Haha, yeah...

(beat)

I think it probably goes back to leadership. I had a corporate job, and I saw very clearly the differences between teams with and without leadership. And not just in like making money and accomplishing tasks. The teams with proper leadership, obviously always came out on top, but more importantly, I think, they just seemed much happier.

PODCAST HOST

I feel that. Having a great team makes things so much easier and actually fun.

KATRINA

Yes. And to me that started at the top. I feel like a lot of political incumbents, and this isn't just limited to my opponent, they don't seem to care very much. They probably do care. But they don't look like it, and that's what matters when you're a leader.

(beat)

I want to show people that it's cool to care. To be passionate about lifting up others. A friend told me that it's about time to shake the tree, and while he's definitely very out there personality wise, I see his point. I want to lead from the front, empower and inspire people to work towards a brighter future.

PODCAST HOST

That's amazing. And just to wrap up, I wanna ask you, what made you think or realize that you can actually win?

KATRINA

It was weird. One day it just hit me. Politicians are just people. They're not better or more than you or me. They're people. They have a particular title for now, but that's it. We make some of these public figures to be larger than life because they're on TV. But if someone sincerely feels like they could work and fight harder for their community they should one hundred percent put themselves out there. That's what democracy is, people electing people.

PODCAST HOST

Wow... You're absolutely right, Katrina.

KATRINA

And one last thing. The team I'm working with. I'm confident that if you met them, you would have no doubt that anything is possible.

PODCAST HOST

Now that's a politician I can get behind. This is Katrina Hurley and she is running for Congress here in Seattle. That's our show for today. We'll be back next week with more women on the rise.

KATRINA

Thank you for having me.

INT. DEBATE BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Katrina and Garrett are preparing for the debate backstage. There's a couple STAFFERS talking among themselves, and several CREW walking around working.

Garrett is visibly stressed, while Katrina is frighteningly calm.

GARRETT

Are you nervous?

KATRINA
Umm... Not really. No.

GARRETT
Good. At least that makes one of us.

KATRINA
You're not even going on stage...

GARRETT
I'm very aware of that.

Katrina puts her hands on Garrett's shoulders and calmly looks him in the eyes.

KATRINA
Relax. It's gonna be fine. We did our homework. We couldn't be more prepared.

GARRETT
Just... Please keep it light.

KATRINA
Are you kidding? I'm going to eviscerate this guy.

Katrina starts walking away towards the stage. Garrett seems hesitant and conflicted as he watches her leave.

GARRETT
No. Stop.

Katrina turns around. Garrett rushes to catch up to her.

GARRETT (cont'd)
It's really important that you keep it light.

Katrina looks at Garrett with her eyebrows raised, waiting for him to say something that makes sense to her.

GARRETT (cont'd)
You need to understand, Peter Miller has never been his own man. Okay? Miller is not the enemy, he's just in the way.

(beat)
I know you can butcher the guy. And it looks like you want to. But people don't need to see that. Today is not about destroying him. It's about raising you up.

KATRINA

Okay. Okay. I'll "keep it light".

GARRETT

Why am I having a hard time believing you?

KATRINA

Deep rooted trust issues? Probably dating back to early childhood?

GARRETT

You're hilarious. If only I had time to laugh.

(beat)

Why are you doing this?

KATRINA

The debate or this conversation?

Garrett takes a deep breath to calm down. He's sweating and it looks like he's having an anxiety attack.

GARRETT

Be here with me for a moment, Katrina. Please. Why are you running for Congress?

Katrina shrugs. Garrett stays silent waiting for a proper answer from her.

KATRINA

Is now the time for this conversation?

GARRETT

Nobody knows. Please answer me.

KATRINA

I don't know, man. It just made sense. I needed work. The offer was on the table. I figured I'd be good at it.

(beat)

Do I need more reasons?

GARRETT

Everyone has a good reason and a real reason for doing something. Why don't you give me the real reason?

KATRINA

I don't fucking know! It just made sense.

Garrett is clearly hitting nerve with Katrina.

KATRINA (cont'd)

Sometimes you just know. Okay?
Sometimes you just know. Sometimes
something happens, something gets put
in front of you and you just freaking
know.

(beat)

I don't have anything more for you --
or me -- other than my heart told me
this is something I *have* to see
through.

Garrett backs off. He seems somewhat satisfied with the
answer.

KATRINA (cont'd)

Why don't you tell me why Damien
wants me to run so bad, huh? Why
don't you riddle me that one,
Garrett?

GARRETT

You think I -- or for that matter
anyone on Earth -- knows what the
hell is going on in Damien Luster's
mind?

KATRINA

Why does he want me to be a
congresswoman?

GARRETT

I honestly don't know, Katrina.

KATRINA

Bullshit.

GARRETT

I don't. I swear.

(beat)

Let me tell you something about
Damien Luster... He might seem larger
than life and omniscient and the
whole thing.

KATRINA

Sure.

GARRETT

But Damien actually gets treated like shit by just about everyone he comes by. Whether it's using him for this or that, or outright disrespect.

(beat)

People seem to think he has some sort of nefarious ulterior motive for everything he does, but there's nobody out there who is more transparent about their motivations and incentives than Damien Luster.

KATRINA

You're a pretty good ass licker. He looks like he pays well.

GARRETT

He knows something. He has an idea.

(beat)

There's something in his head you can't put words to. But the basis for it is to just do the right thing. Always. No exceptions. No cost-benefit analysis.

(beat)

That's why I'll always do whatever he asks of me. I see that he sees where we're going. He has no bad intentions. And he doesn't need any more politicians in his pocket, if that's something you're worried about. They're all up for sale already, and he's got the money to go shopping freely.

KATRINA

Great story. You should tell it at parties. Now if you'll excuse me, I have to go debate Tutankhamun.

Katrina turns around and starts walking away towards the debate stage.

GARRETT

You should work on your aversion to emotional honesty!

INT. DEBATE STAGE - NIGHT

Katrina is on stage behind a podium. On the opposite side is PETER MILLER, 70s, a spineless cookie cutter politician, standing behind his podium.

MILLER

This isn't some sort of game. Governing is serious business, it's not something you take up just because you're bored. This woman has no experience. No track record. What in the world makes you think you can do this job properly, young lady?

Katrina does not take kindly to Miller's comment. With a fire in her eyes and a vicious intensity in her voice she goes in for the kill.

KATRINA

Look, old man.

Katrina takes a brief pause. She sees an extremely apparent terror and fragility in Miller's eyes. She redirects her attention to the audience and cools down.

KATRINA (cont'd)

Sorry, that was unbecoming. To touch on my opponent's point. I believe that governing is about leadership, which is a transferrable skill.

(beat)

I'm not going to pretend to know everything about government, and anyone who says they do is lying to you. I'm here to listen and understand the needs of my constituents, and to act in their best interest. A real leader understands what they know and what they don't. I'll never have all the answers, but I will always work tirelessly to find, listen to, and learn from the people who do. That's what governing means to me.

MODERATOR

Representative Miller, would you like to add anything?

Katrina looks at Garrett in the audience who seems extremely relieved. While looking at the audience she sees the mysterious man. Or maybe not. She starts scanning the audience unsure of what she's looking for.

MILLER

I would like to add that what the people need is stability. This constituency will be best served by a steady and experienced hand...

Katrina is still scanning the audience. She's in her own head completely spaced out and absent from the conversation.

MILLER (cont'd)

Voting for my opponent is a huge risk that is simply not worth it.

MODERATOR

Thank you, congressman.

(beat)

Ms. Hurley.

Katrina does not hear the moderator. She looks confused and distraught while still looking for something in the audience.

MODERATOR (cont'd)

Ms. Hurley?

KATRINA

Sorry, I didn't catch that. Could you please repeat the question?

MODERATOR

I haven't asked a question yet.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Katrina and Damien are sitting at a table in an upscale restaurant. The place is fancy, classy, and slightly busy. They're already done with their food, and are casually conversing with drinks in front of them.

Katrina and Damien are a little tipsy by now.

KATRINA

Did you know? And I just found this out, by the way. -- I personally can't believe it's real, like I'm still looking into it just to be sure because even though I know it's true by now, I still can't believe it.

DAMIEN

Feel free to tell me what we're talking about any time now.

KATRINA

Very funny... But seriously, did you know that members of Congress can trade stocks freely?

DAMIEN

Yeah, everyone knows that.

KATRINA

No I mean like freely freely. Like no restrictions whatsoever. None at all.

DAMIEN

I know... But I take it you didn't.

Katrina takes a big drink.

KATRINA

That's messed up.

DAMIEN

That's your opinion.

KATRINA

It is not. It is not my opinion. It is a factual and objective statement, sir.

DAMIEN

There's like 500 people in DC who would disagree with that sentiment.

KATRINA

Well, that's fucked up.

(beat)

Do you think it's fucked up?

DAMIEN

Doesn't matter what I think. You're the one in charge.

KATRINA

I know it doesn't matter what you think. But I wanna know anyway.

Damien slowly takes a drink while smiling at Katrina. He holds an unnecessarily dramatic pause. Katrina is staring at him wide eyed with a look that demands an answer.

DAMIEN

Of course I think it's fucked up, Katrina.

(beat)

Were you under the impression I thought otherwise?

KATRINA

No. I don't know. Whatever. It's messed up.

There's a brief pause, they both take a drink while Katrina sits with her righteous anger for a moment.

DAMIEN
How do you like your new life?

Katrina shrugs.

KATRINA
It's... It's a lot of pressure.

DAMIEN
And that's...

KATRINA
It's good. It's a good thing. I like it, but it's A LOT of pressure.

Katrina takes a beat, she leans in and lowers her voice as if she's telling Damien a secret.

KATRINA (cont'd)
A lot of these people treat me as if I was an actual superhero. It's insane.

DAMIEN
You are a superhero.

KATRINA
You don't get it. Some of these people literally worship me. What the hell am I supposed to do with that? It's a lot.
(beat)
How do you do it?

DAMIEN
I'm not a public figure. People don't think much of me.

KATRINA
I know. But you have this whole... You know... This whole Damien mystery man thing you do. Like you have a secret identity you're hiding or something. You know what I'm talking about.

DAMIEN
They look at you the way they do because they've never seen anyone like you. You're different.

KATRINA

Yeah. I know I'm different. Everyone keeps telling me that. Nobody cares to tell me what the hell that means, but they can all definitely agree that I'm different...

DAMIEN

If people thinking that you're better or greater than them -- even if it's not true -- inspires them to do more, what's the harm in that?

A WAITER approaches their table.

WAITER

Would you like another round?

DAMIEN

(to Katrina)

Would we like another round?

KATRINA

No. Let's go somewhere else. Could you please get us the check?

WAITER

Right away.

INT. DAMIEN'S PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

Katrina and Damien walk into his penthouse. The place is big, modern, leaning towards minimalist, and exactly what you'd expect from Damien.

Katrina sets her things down and starts looking around the place.

DAMIEN

Drinks?

KATRINA

Yes.

Damien walks up to the bar. He grabs a bottle, two glasses, and heads to the kitchen for ice.

With Damien in the kitchen, Katrina walks up to the bar and starts going through the bottles.

KATRINA (cont'd)

These look expensive...

DAMIEN
They also taste expensive.

KATRINA
You're really strange.

Damien walks towards Katrina holding two drinks. He hands Katrina her drink.

DAMIEN
I'm allergic to cheap and moderately priced liquor.

KATRINA
That doesn't sound very scientific.

DAMIEN
Cheers.

Katrina and Damien clink their glasses and take a drink.

KATRINA
Wow. This does taste expensive.
(beat)
I wanna ask you...

Katrina gestures at the entirety of the penthouse.

KATRINA (cont'd)
Why?

DAMIEN
What? The apartment?

KATRINA
And that! That too! You're supposed to raise your pinky and say "ooh, you mean my penthouse?" Or better yet, "my condo?". I don't get it. It's like you care so much about this stuff, but at the same time you don't care at all.

DAMIEN
It's just stuff.

KATRINA
It's not normal.

DAMIEN
They're just things. Cool at first, but you get used to it pretty quickly.

Damien walks over to the couch and takes a seat. Katrina follows him, and they set their drinks down on the coffee table.

Damien turns to face Katrina.

DAMIEN (cont'd)
So what's the plan for when you're on the Hill?

KATRINA
We haven't won yet...

DAMIEN
I've seen the polls, at this point election day is just a formality.

KATRINA
I love your faith in democracy.
(beat)
I'm thinking I'm gonna start doing that thing you do.

DAMIEN
What thing?

KATRINA
Being all enigmatic and never actually answering a question.

DAMIEN
That would be a good idea for a politician.

Katrina leans in closer.

KATRINA
Let's do this. You tell me what's actually on your mind for once, and I'll tell you my plans.

Katrina and Damien get closer to each other. The sexual tension is palpable.

DAMIEN
Wanna know a secret?

KATRINA
Yeah?

Katrina gets even closer to Damien. Their lips are almost touching.

DAMIEN

Truth is, not even I know what I'm thinking most of the time.

Katrina looks away and glances at her wrist, which very clearly does not have a watch.

KATRINA

Oh, would you look at that? It's past my bedtime, I should probably head out.

DAMIEN

What? No. What? No. What?

Katrina stands up and straightens herself out.

KATRINA

Damien, I think your software is glitching.

DAMIEN

What? No.

KATRINA

I had a great time tonight. We should do this again soon.

Katrina gives Damien a kiss on the cheek. She downs the rest of her drink.

DAMIEN

What?

Katrina turns around, grabs her things, and walks out the door.

INT. HOTEL CONVENTION ROOM - NIGHT

The convention room is large and it's packed with people, press, and photographers taking pictures nonstop.

The mood is celebratory, and Katrina is on stage wrapping up her victory speech.

KATRINA

I want to thank everyone who voted, for being part of the process. And I especially want to thank everyone who voted for me! None of this would've been possible without your unwavering support. I do not take this privilege lightly.

(MORE)

KATRINA (cont'd)

My team and I are extremely excited to go to DC to work and fight for you as hard as anybody possibly can. Thank you! And good night!

The crowd breaks out in applause. Katrina waves at everyone, she steps off the stage and into a jubilant crowd.

There's people everywhere taking pictures and dying to get a chance to congratulate her. Katrina shakes a few hands and acknowledges the support of the people around her.

While talking to some people she notices the mysterious man among the crowd, and makes eye contact with him. Katrina immediately drops what she's doing, and starts walking with purpose through the crowd towards the mysterious man to confront him.

Several people get in front of her to congratulate her and take pictures. Katrina politely and expeditiously engages them.

Once she's done, she looks around but the mysterious man is nowhere to be found. While looking around she sees Garrett with a drink at a standing table looking remiss. Katrina approaches him with a smile on her face.

KATRINA (cont'd)

Happy?

GARRETT

I'm a lot of things right now. I'm pretty sure happy is on the list.

KATRINA

Good! I've been doing some research on my own, and I wanna get your opinion on something.

GARRETT

Whatever you need.

KATRINA

What are you thoughts on the Ethics Committee?

GARRETT

It's a nothing committee. Complete waste of time. Don't even know why they have it.

KATRINA

That's what I'm hearing, but I don't get it. It sounds super important.

GARRETT

You know Congressional Ethics is an oxymoron, right?

KATRINA

I think I'm gonna push to be in it. It's important. If people don't get why, we'll just have to show them.

A WAITRESS walks up to them with a tray full of champagne glasses. Katrina grabs one and smiles at the waitress to thank her.

KATRINA (cont'd)

So... Are you excited!? We're going to DC!

GARRETT

You're going to DC. I'm going on sabbatical.

KATRINA

What!? We've come so far! You don't wanna see this through!?

GARRETT

All I wanna see is an unnecessarily long vacation.

Katrina gets suspicious and intensely inquisitive.

KATRINA

Why do I get the feeling that you're scared of me? Are you scared of me?

GARRETT

What?

Garrett raises his hand and nods as if he's acknowledging somebody far away.

GARRETT (cont'd)

Sorry, they need me over there.

KATRINA

Nobody is calling you. Answer the question.

Garrett takes a drink. He puts down his glass and takes a deep breath.

GARRETT

I'm gonna level with you here, and be real for a moment.

(MORE)

GARRETT (cont'd)

I'm not scared of you. I really like you. BUT. There's a lot of people out there who have legitimate reasons to be terrified of you. I'm scared of them.

KATRINA

Why would people be scared of me?

GARRETT

The fact that you don't see it makes it even worse.

(beat)

There's a song and dance you're supposed to do. And when I look at your face and hear you talk, sometimes I think you didn't even get the memo on the song and dance.

(beat)

All it takes is one person who refuses to do the song and dance, for everyone else to realize they don't have to do it either. And there's a lot of powerful people whose entire career and identity *is* the song and dance.

KATRINA

That's literally the strangest thing I've ever heard, and I'm friends with Damien Luster.

Garrett sighs in frustration.

GARRETT

Layman's terms. You're extremely talented, but right now I'm exhausted and I can't keep up. I'm going on sabbatical, and I'll see you again in about a year and half. Okay?

INT. KATRINA'S CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE - DAY

Katrina is sitting at her desk, she's preoccupied and slightly overwhelmed. BLAKE, 23, a Congressional Aide, is standing next to Katrina referencing and discussing some documents with her.

Damien walks through the door like he owns the place. He takes a look around to assess the office.

DAMIEN

I like it. It's very... Rustic.

Blake gets flustered and overly awkward at the sight of Damien.

KATRINA

Cashing in a favor already?

Damien quickly puts his hands on his chest as if he's just been shot. He slowly looks down at his hands in horror.

DAMIEN

Ow! Straight through the heart! If I wanted to talk to a politician who did whatever I told them to, I'd just walk across the hall.

KATRINA

Funny...

DAMIEN

(to Blake)

Who's this? Who are you?

Blake is absolutely petrified and seemingly unable to use words.

KATRINA

This is Blake. He just started here.

Katrina grabs the documents in front of her and hands them to Blake.

KATRINA (cont'd)

Here. Take these with you, we'll finish this later.

Blake grabs the documents and anxiously rushes out of the office.

KATRINA (cont'd)

What can I do for you?

Damien helps himself to a seat.

DAMIEN

I just wanted to say hi and see how you're settling in.

KATRINA

You flew all the way from Seattle to DC just to say hi?

DAMIEN
Hypothetically. If I had flown all the way from Seattle to DC just to say hi, would that be weird? Asking for a friend.

KATRINA
You should ask your therapist.

DAMIEN
I did wanna talk to you about something else. A while back you seemed really upset that it's legal for members of Congress to trade stocks with inside information.

KATRINA
I'm still upset about it.

DAMIEN
Now that you're here, you probably plan to do something about it. I'd imagine you're gonna go to the Speaker to try and get her on board.

KATRINA
You're pretty good at connecting the dots.

DAMIEN
It's a blessing and a curse... When the Speaker turns you down --

KATRINA
What makes you think she's gonna say no?

DAMIEN
What makes you think she's gonna say yes?

KATRINA
Uh, it's an important piece of legislation, it's the right thing to do, and it will increase the party's credibility and approval in the eyes of voters.

DAMIEN
Sure. So when the Speaker turns you down --

KATRINA
If she turns me down.

Damien pulls out a pen from his suit jacket. He grabs a random piece of paper on Katrina's desk.

DAMIEN
Can I write on this?

KATRINA
Sure. Why not.

Damien writes down a name on the piece of paper and hands it to Katrina.

DAMIEN
If the Speaker turns you down, you should reach out to this guy. He's a bit of a shadow player here in DC, and probably the closest thing to an ally you'll find in this city.

KATRINA
Thanks. I'll keep it in mind.
(beat)
This could've been a phone call or an email.

DAMIEN
This could've definitely been a phone call or an email.

Damien stands up and buttons his suit jacket.

DAMIEN (cont'd)
If I were you, I wouldn't give the kid that was just here much responsibility.

KATRINA
Why would you say that?

DAMIEN
In my experience, whenever people are terrified of me, it's because they're hiding something.

KATRINA
You don't think that's paranoid?

DAMIEN
No.

KATRINA

You don't think it's paranoid to think that a kid who just graduated college has some sort of deep dark secret?

DAMIEN

No. Do you?

KATRINA

Yes!

DAMIEN

Hmm. Sounds like another one for the therapist. Anyway, have fun.

Damien turns around and walks out the office.

INT. SPEAKER'S OFFICE RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Katrina is sitting patiently in the reception area with her binder on hand.

An overly friendly CONGRESSIONAL AIDE with an unsettling smile is sitting at the front desk. She's on the computer working very hard at looking busy and important.

Katrina is looking at the clock, waiting, and watching the time pass. A concerning amount of time passes.

KATRINA

Is everything okay? Does she know I'm here?

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE

She knows. She's just busy right now. I'll let you know when she's ready.

More and more time passes. After a while Katrina starts staring at the Congressional Aide trying to figure out what she could possibly be doing. While Katrina is staring at the Aide, the Aide suddenly looks up.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE (cont'd)

She's ready for you. You can go in now.

KATRINA

How do you know?

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE

You can go in now.

Katrina gets up from her seat. She takes a look around with an apprehensive look on her face, and walks into the Speaker's office.

INT. SPEAKER'S OFFICE - DAY

Katrina steps into the office. MEREDITH ARGON, a political matriarch and Speaker of the House, quickly gets up from her desk and walks up to Katrina to enthusiastically greet her and shake her hand.

ARGON
Good morning, Katrina!

KATRINA
Good morning.

ARGON
Would you like some water, or maybe some tea?

KATRINA
I'm fine, thank you. They already asked me a couple times while I was waiting.

ARGON
Good! I'm so sorry for the wait!

KATRINA
It's okay.

ARGON
Let me just say that I am really excited to finally meet you in person! I've heard so much about you!

Speaker Argon walks to her desk to take a seat.

ARGON (cont'd)
Let's take a seat, I'm sure there's a lot on your mind.

Katrina takes a seat.

KATRINA
You've heard a lot about me?

ARGON
Or course! You're quite the sensation around here. You're all over social media.

(MORE)

ARGON (cont'd)

The voters are over the moon with you, and I'm not just talking about your voters.

KATRINA

Thank you. I'm also glad it's going well.

ARGON

Now that we've finally had the chance to meet in person, I really want to get to know a little bit more about you. You're making waves here in DC. Do you have any big plans for the future? A smart and talented gal like you surely must be planning for a bright future.

KATRINA

I haven't given it much thought, really. I figured I'd just take it one term at a time.

ARGON

(chuckling)

One term at a time... I like you! Very witty!

KATRINA

I was just planning to get through this term, and if I felt like I did a good job, I'd run for reelection to see if the voters agree.

ARGON

That's very nice. If you ever need anything, I just want you to know that my door is always open.

KATRINA

There's actually something I wanted to talk to you about.

(beat)

My team and I put together a first draft for a small piece of legislation that I think could be really good for the party and all the voters.

ARGON

What is it?

KATRINA

Right now members of Congress can trade stocks with no restrictions. I think addressing this could make us look really good, especially given the worrisome approval rating Congress has right now. And a part of me feels like the way things are set up right now is perhaps a little unethical.

ARGON

As you know, ethics is a very broad and grey area, with A LOT of different, sometimes even conflicting interpretations.

KATRINA

Of course, but if you just take a look at this, I think you'll see this will be extremely beneficial for the party.

Katrina opens up her binder. She looks through for a moment and pulls out a small stack of documents. She hands them to Speaker Argon.

KATRINA (cont'd)

We put together this first draft...

Speaker Argon reaches for her phone and starts typing on it.

ARGON

Sorry.

Katrina is quiet, waiting for Speaker Argon to be done with her phone. Speaker Argon keeps typing and scrolling on her phone.

ARGON (cont'd)

Go on. I'm listening.

KATRINA

Umm, so we put together this first draft. It's just some seemly and common sense restrictions that we think would go a long way.

After Katrina is done speaking there's a moderate pause. Speaker Argon eventually puts down her phone. She goes through Katrina's draft way too quickly to have actually read or thought about anything on it.

ARGON

I really like your passion and initiative. We need more people like you here in DC.

(beat)

I'm actually putting together a Task Force to look into Financial Markets. See what would be some appropriate legislation in that area. You seem like you would be a great asset for the Task Force. Is that something that would interest you?

KATRINA

Umm, maybe. I'm not sure, I'd have to know more about it.

ARGON

Of course, of course. I'll put you in touch with some people. They'll answer any questions you may have.

KATRINA

Thank you. But what about the draft I just handed you?

ARGON

Oh that? I don't handle those types of things. I can't really help you here. You should take this to the Financial Services Committee. But your drive is really inspiring!

KATRINA

This isn't Financial Services. This is an Ethics legislation. And it's something that directly concerns the entire party, and perhaps the whole Congress. That's why I came to you.

ARGON

I'm sorry Katrina, but this is just not a legislative priority right now.

KATRINA

Congress's approval rating is dismal to say the least! How can this not be a priority?

ARGON

I'm sorry Katrina, but this is just not a legislative priority right now.

(MORE)

ARGON (cont'd)

(beat)

You should take all that energy and passion and put it towards our actual current agenda. Let me walk you out.

Speaker Argon gets up from her desk. Katrina follows suit. They walk to the door and Katrina stops there to say her peace.

KATRINA

Madam Speaker, I really think you're making a mistake here.

ARGON

I appreciate your feedback. But there's a lot of things you're simply too new to understand. There's a rhyme and reason to how we do things here in the Capitol. If you just put in the time like the rest of us, you'll understand with experience. Besides, if it ain't broke don't fix it, right?

Katrina is in mild shock. She uneasily walks out of the office.

INT. SPEAKER'S OFFICE RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Katrina walks through the reception area on her way out.

KATRINA

Thank you.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE

Mhmm.

Katrina continues out the door.

INT. CONGRESSIONAL HALLWAY - DAY

Katrina steps out into the hallway. She leans back against the wall, hugging her binder.

Katrina throws her head back against the wall with an exasperated sigh.

KATRINA

God dammit, Damien...

Katrina pulls out her phone and makes a call.

KATRINA (cont'd)

Yeah. Let's schedule a sit down with Representative Brewster. If they ask why, just say I want his advice and input on some legislation we're working on... Or something along those lines.

(beat)

Thanks.

EXT. WASHINGTON MONUMENT - DAY

Katrina and Victoria are walking around the park surrounding the Washington monument taking a look at all the landmarks.

Katrina is not shy about being in a foul mood. Victoria is just happy to be spending time with her friend and not taking anything personally.

KATRINA

And here we have George Washington's really big pointy stick. It is of major cultural significance. Something about Egypt and the one dollar bill, I think.

(pointing to the
White House)

If you look north, you will see the mansion where the President lives. There have been some appalling allegations that he has actually done some work there. -- Not to editorialize, but I believe those allegations to be categorically false. -- I mean... As if!

(pointing to the
Lincoln Memorial)

And if you look west, you will see the temple of Abraham Lincoln. Every year millions of Americans go on a holy pilgrimage to Lincoln's temple to pray to him and make wishes.

VICTORIA

If this Congress thing doesn't work out, tour guide seems like a great fallback.

KATRINA

Speaking of which! To the east, there is rumored to be a building called a "congress".

(MORE)

KATRINA (cont'd)

It said to be the home of a fringe and radical ideology called "democracy". I have personally never witnessed this mythical edifice, and I don't believe anyone who claims they have.

VICTORIA

So where do you work then?

KATRINA

A really old rinky dink building across the street from a courthouse and a really big library.

VICTORIA

You plan to tell me what's going on?

KATRINA

I hate everyone.

VICTORIA

Samesies.

Katrina and Victoria get to a bench and they both take a seat.

VICTORIA (cont'd)

If you just wanna have a pity party that's okay.

KATRINA

I don't know what to do.

VICTORIA

Yeah, I probably won't know what to do either.

KATRINA

Every little thing here is such a huge fight. This place is rotten. Nothing moves. Nobody does anything.

VICTORIA

I was right. I don't know what to do either.

KATRINA

There's this immigration bill.

VICTORIA

I heard.

KATRINA

The bill was written to fail. It's just a long spectacle. It's all been scripted ahead of time. And everyone here knows. Nobody in this town gives a single fuck about this country.

VICTORIA

Is that maybe hyperbole?

KATRINA

I wish.

VICTORIA

It's unlike you to be this defeatist.

KATRINA

You're all I got, Victoria. I literally can't stand anyone else. I have no life anymore -- not that I ever did -- and I'm stuck living alone in this rotting pile of shit they call a city.

VICTORIA

What about Damien?

KATRINA

What about Damien?

VICTORIA

Okay. Asked and answered.

KATRINA

I'm this close to telling everyone how I really feel.

VICTORIA

Oh this city is definitely not the place for that.

KATRINA

Heaven help me, 'cause I'm not known for helping myself.

There's a long and awkward introspective pause.

VICTORIA

So what's next on the tour?

KATRINA

That was pretty much the whole tour. I was thinking we just sit here feeling sorry for ourselves and hating our lives. Or just let me do that alone if you don't feel like joining.

VICTORIA

That's okay. I came here to see you. -- And the city -- but I guess we already saw the whole thing --

KATRINA

The whole thing.

VICTORIA

In any case, I don't mind. I'm happy to see you.

Katrina lies on her side and rests her head on Victoria's lap.

KATRINA

I'm really happy to see you, too. Don't ever leave.

(beat)

Do you ever get the feeling you're being watched or followed?

VICTORIA

No. I don't.

KATRINA

Yeah. Me neither.

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

Katrina is sitting at the anchor's desk next to a charming, yet vapid NEWS ANCHOR. They're both getting ready to go live on a prime time news show.

NEWS ANCHOR

So I'm just gonna ask you a few easy questions on the immigration legislation. Feel free to expand as you see fit.

KATRINA

Okay.

NEWS ANCHOR

First time?

KATRINA

Yeah.

NEWS ANCHOR

Nervous?

KATRINA

A little.

NEWS ANCHOR

Don't worry, you'll do great. It's pretty freeform around here. Speaking clearly is basically the only requirement.

The news anchor gets the signal from the executive producer that they're about to go live. The show's intro comes on the monitors.

NEWS ANCHOR (cont'd)

Welcome back. We have with us Congresswoman Katrina Hurley to comment on the immigration bill that has brought Congress to a standstill yet again. Congresswoman Hurley is the democratic representative for Washington State's 7th congressional district. Thank you for being here tonight, congresswoman.

KATRINA

Thanks for having me.

NEWS ANCHOR

Could you tell us where you stand on the bill as it is written today?

KATRINA

The bill as it is written today...?

Katrina takes a moment to think. Suddenly, she seems possessed by self-righteousness. Her eyes and voice are laser-focused as she takes on a visceral take-no-prisoners demeanor.

KATRINA (cont'd)

I hate it. It's absolutely terrible.

NEWS ANCHOR

Just to clarify for our viewers. This is a democratic immigration proposal. Why are you opposed to your own party's version of the bill.

KATRINA

Because it's an idiotic draft. I've read the important parts. I get what they're doing -- democratic leadership that is. This bill was written to start out at an impasse. It's a trap to kill time and to ultimately do nothing. Key parts of the bill were written to make sure it was dead on arrival.

(beat)

This draft does not have the votes to pass, and it will never have the votes to pass. This is why I think it's an idiotic waste of time, and why I am against it.

NEWS ANCHOR

Wow. Okay... Strong words.

KATRINA

Strong feelings towards my duty to my constituents and to the Congress of the United States of America.

NEWS ANCHOR

You seem rather disappointed with democratic leadership. What would be your solution to the current congressional impasse?

KATRINA

Negotiation. Bipartisan legislation.

NEWS ANCHOR

Negotiations have failed time and time again, hence the impasse.

KATRINA

You see, that's where we fundamentally disagree. Immigration is a bipartisan issue. It affects the whole country and obviously many people who aren't a part of the country. California and Texas are both border states. They both have huge inherent stakes when it comes to an immigration bill. California and Texas both see the upsides -- but especially the downsides of congressional negligence in regards to immigration. And when I say California and Texas, obviously I mean the people of those states.

(MORE)

KATRINA (cont'd)

Because their elected representatives are happy saying "we tried, we failed, too bad, everything sucks, elect us again please"

(beat)

An elected official acting in good faith would plain and simply not leave the table until a deal is struck. They would not stop working until common ground is found. These irreconcilable differences in issues that directly affect all of us are simply a myth. It is the patriotic duty of the elected officials to see beyond these myths and arrive at a bipartisan compromise. That would be the honest and American thing to do.

NEWS ANCHOR

(chuckling)

Tell us how you really feel, congresswoman.

KATRINA

These congressional impasses that have become the norm are a gigantic disrespect to Americans, the constitution, and the ideal of democracy.

(beat)

Congressional leadership on both sides has absolutely failed and they seem incapable of taking responsibility for their actions.

(beat)

So my advice to Americans today? Stop reelecting the people that caused all our problems through indifference towards their patriotic duties. Elect real Americans. --

NEWS ANCHOR

Excuse me, congresswoman. I hate to interrupt, but we need to go on break. We'll be right back after a brief commercial break to continue our coverage of the controversial immigration bill.

The show goes off the air, and Katrina and the anchor get the all clear. Katrina looks a little regretful.

KATRINA

Too much?

The news anchor nods with a disappointed and regretful look on their face.

KATRINA (cont'd)
So this is what happens when you
don't keep it light...

NEWS ANCHOR
Good luck, kid.

KATRINA
Couldn't have pulled me out sooner?

Katrina closes her eyes in resignation, slowly shakes her head, and takes a deep breath.

INT. REPRESENTATIVE BREWSTER'S OFFICE - DAY

Katrina and ROBERT BREWSTER, a career politician who's branded himself as a virtuous populist, are sitting at Brewster's desk.

BREWSTER
I still don't understand what you
want from me.

KATRINA
Help? Advice? Point me in the right
direction?

BREWSTER
Right. But the Speaker already said
no. I don't know what you think I can
do for you.

KATRINA
I just... There has to be something
that can be done. This is supposed to
be a democracy, this legislation
can't die just like that.

BREWSTER
Maybe you don't understand,
congresswoman. If the Speaker of the
House says no, that carries more
weight than a Presidential veto. It's
not like you might not get the votes.
Your legislation simply won't ever
see the light of day.

KATRINA

There has to be some recourse here. Is there maybe a way to compel or persuade the Speaker so that she changes her mind?

BREWSTER

Are you saying you want to bully the Speaker of the House of Representatives until she supports your legislation?

KATRINA

No. Of course not. I don't want to bully anyone. Isn't there... Can't we... I don't know, would it be possible to maybe create a set of circumstances that make this attractive to her? Get some backers? Count some votes? Press?

BREWSTER

The Speaker already said no, but your intention is to try to go over her head anyway?

KATRINA

Putting it like that makes it sound like I'm trying to do something bad. Please just take a look at this. I know you'll see this is in everyone's best interest.

Katrina hands Brewster the draft of her legislation. Brewster puts on his reading glasses.

Brewster starts carefully reading through the legislation. He sporadically looks up to glance at Katrina as if he's sizing her up and weighing the odds.

After reading through the front page, he puts down the draft and takes off his glasses. Brewster sits there thinking in silence for a moment.

BREWSTER

This looks promising.

KATRINA

You really think so?

BREWSTER

I do. It's a fine piece of legislation from what I've read so far.

(MORE)

BREWSTER (cont'd)

(beat)

Maybe, we can figure out something here.

(beat)

I'm gonna talk to some people, see if this can get any traction. I'll reach out to some friends across the aisle, maybe there's a bipartisan angle here.

KATRINA

Really!? That would be incredible!

BREWSTER

Sure. I'll co-sponsor this with you. But it's probably best we keep it quiet while I take the temperature around the Capitol. Definitely don't talk to any press about this yet.

KATRINA

Of course, whatever you say. Thank you so much, you won't regret this. I have no doubt this will be really good for everyone.

BREWSTER

I just want to be very clear. I'm not making any promises here. I'll do my best, but this is far from done, and these things fall apart all the time.

INT. VICTORIA'S CAR - DAY

Victoria is sitting in her car at a red light, waiting to make a left turn. The music is turned up loud and she's passionately singing along.

The light turns green. Victoria waits for the oncoming traffic to stop at their red light. She slowly starts turning left while still singing along rather passionately.

Suddenly and out of nowhere CRASH.

INT. VICTORIA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Victoria is lying down on her hospital bed. She's badly beat up and wearing a neck brace.

Katrina walks through the door. She sees Victoria and rushes towards her.

KATRINA

Oh my God!

Katrina gently and carefully hugs Victoria.

VICTORIA

Oh hi. Sorry I'm such a mess. I didn't have time to do my hair.

KATRINA

This is horrible! Are you okay!?

VICTORIA

Is that a trick question?

KATRINA

I'm sorry. I mean... How are you feeling?

VICTORIA

Marginally better than I look, but not by much.

KATRINA

What happened!?

VICTORIA

Car accident.

KATRINA

I know... I mean how? I don't get it. You're such a careful driver! It's so boring to be in the car with you!

VICTORIA

I was making a left turn.

(beat)

The police said that witnesses said -- wait, yeah that makes sense -- that this gigantic black SUV, that was apparently going full speed, used the right turn lane to swerve around the cars that were stopped at the light.

(beat)

I think you can fill in the rest.

KATRINA

What!? This makes no sense! Was the other driver drunk!?

VICTORIA

Apparently he was just in a really big rush. Sources tell me he didn't get there in time.

KATRINA

No! This isn't real! That doesn't happen!

VICTORIA

I think my hospital bills tell a different story.

Katrina hugs Victoria really tight and starts crying.

KATRINA

I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!

VICTORIA

Katrina... You're loving me a little too hard right now.

Katrina lets go and stands up straight. She starts wiping the tears off her face.

KATRINA

I'm really sorry, Victoria.

VICTORIA

It's probably the drugs, but I'm getting the feeling that you think this is your fault.

(beat)

You had nothing to do with this. Shit happens. It's not a big deal. I'm just thinking of this as a long paid vacation. An extremely painful vacation, but beggars can't be choosers.

KATRINA

Right. Of course. Freak accident. Shit happens. I don't know why I was feeling responsible. That's insane. Shit happens.

(beat)

Do you want me to stay here with you?

VICTORIA

Nah, don't worry about me. I'm probably about to pass out from all these drugs. You're a very important woman, I'm sure you're needed somewhere.

KATRINA

Okay... Please just take care. I know you always do. Just please be careful.

Katrina gives Victoria a gentle hug and a kiss good bye. Katrina turns around and starts walking towards the door.

VICTORIA

Bye, congresswoman!

INT. HOSPITAL PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Katrina is walking through the parking garage, pissed off and with a vengeance in her eyes.

Katrina's phone starts ringing. She answers it as she's walking.

KATRINA

Hello, Representative Brewster. It's a little late to be calling. Is everything okay?

BREWSTER (V.O.)

I'm afraid I have some bad news, congresswoman.

KATRINA

What is it? I'm sure we can figure it out.

BREWSTER (V.O.)

My office and I took a closer look at your legislation. I'm afraid we determined that co-sponsoring your legislation is not the best use of our resources at this time.

KATRINA

What do you mean? Where is this coming from? What changed?

BREWSTER (V.O.)

My office and I took a closer look at your legislation. I'm afraid we determined that co-sponsoring your legislation is not the best use of our resources at this time.

KATRINA

Why are you talking like that? Are you under duress? What the hell is going on over there?

BREWSTER (V.O.)

I want to assure you that this does not mean your legislation is without merit. It is just not the right fit for my office at this time.

KATRINA

Not without merit? Not the right fit? Are you lawyering me right now? Is this a fucking joke!?

BREWSTER (V.O.)

You sound unwell, congresswoman. You should talk to someone.

KATRINA

What the fuck!? Fuck you too, Brewster!

Katrina hangs up the phone and puts it away.

KATRINA (cont'd)

Fuck!

Katrina gets to her car and steps inside.

INT. KATRINA'S CAR - NIGHT

Katrina puts all her things on the passenger's seat and starts the engine.

She puts the car in reverse. The car starts beeping. She looks at the rear view camera, and there's a big traffic cone directly behind her car blocking the way.

KATRINA

What the fuck...

INT. HOSPITAL PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Katrina steps out of the car to move the traffic cone out of the way.

Out of nowhere, a HITMAN with a lethal intent in his eyes jumps in front of her.

Katrina is paralyzed in fear.

HITMAN

Good evening, congresswoman. It's a shame you never reached out for help with your drug problem.

The hitman pulls out a syringe.

The door of a nearby black SUV swings open. With a dutiful urgency the mysterious man rushes out of the car and draws his handgun.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Stand down!

The hitman looks back at the mysterious man. The hitman takes a quick look around and takes off running.

The mysterious man stands his ground, and keeps his gun drawn until the hitman is far away and out of sight.

The mysterious man puts his gun away and runs towards Katrina.

MYSTERIOUS MAN (cont'd)

Are you okay?

Katrina is in shock with an absent look on her face.

MYSTERIOUS MAN (cont'd)

Are you alright? Did he hurt you?

Katrina snaps out of it. She steps real close to the mysterious man, and seductively puts her hand on his chest.

KATRINA

Wow. You're my hero. You're so brave.

Katrina starts sliding her hand down slowly.

KATRINA (cont'd)

How could I ever thank you for this?

Katrina slides her hand inside the pants of the mysterious man. He's wide eyed and motionless.

Katrina grabs the mysterious man by the balls with a vicious death grip.

KATRINA (cont'd)

I know you've been fucking following me you fucking creep!

The mysterious man looks like he's screaming in pain, but no sound comes out.

KATRINA (cont'd)
Why are you stalking me!? Who the
fuck do you work for!?

The body language of the mysterious man tells us Katrina tightens her grip even more. He still can't seem to be able to make a sound.

KATRINA (cont'd)
Who the fuck do you work for!?
(beat)
I'm leaving this conversation with
the name of your employer or with
your balls in my pocket. Which one
makes little difference to me.

With a face full of rage Katrina tightens her grip even more. The mysterious man starts screaming in pain.

MYSTERIOUS MAN
Luster! Damien Luster!

Katrina suddenly pulls her hand out and takes a step back. Her face gets pale in disbelief.

The mysterious man very slowly and carefully takes a few steps back. He then quickly turns around and sprints back to his car.

Katrina stands there motionless for a seemingly long time. After a while, she transitions from disbelief to rage.

Katrina grabs the traffic cone and chucks it to the side. She gets back in her car, slams the door, and locks the car.

INT. KATRINA'S CAR - NIGHT

Katrina grabs her phone and calls Damien.

KATRINA
What the fuck is wrong with you!? I
know you've been spying on me, you
fucking creep!

DAMIEN (V.O.)
I can explain. Please, I promise I
can explain everything.

KATRINA
Fuck you! How can you fucking think
it's okay to spy on me!?

DAMIEN (V.O.)
I know this looks bad. I promise I
can explain.

KATRINA
Fuck off! I don't know what you think
this is! I don't want anything from
you! I don't fucking want you! Stay
the fuck away from me and leave me
alone!

DAMIEN (V.O.)
Okay... I'll leave you alone. I'm
sorry.

KATRINA
Fuck you!

Katrina hangs up the phone. She starts the engine and drives
away.

Katrina is driving through the street doing everything in
her power to keep it together.

She aggressively pulls into a gas station and parks her car.
Once she can no longer contain it, Katrina breaks down to
tears.

INT. KATRINA'S CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE - DAY

Katrina is sitting at her desk looking despondent and
dejected. She's aimlessly doodling on a piece of paper.

There's a knock on her door. Blake opens the door halfway
and pokes his head in.

BLAKE
Can I come in?

KATRINA
Huh? Yeah, yeah, come in.

Blake steps into the office and walks up to Katrina's desk
while carrying a small stack of documents.

BLAKE
Are you doing alright?

KATRINA
What? Yeah, I'm fine. Just working.

Blake takes a quick glance at the papers in front of Katrina
and sees all the nonsensical doodles.

BLAKE

I have some casework I need your help with.

KATRINA

That's fine. Just set it down. I'll take a look at it later.

Blake sets down the documents on Katrina's desk. He stands there for a moment wanting to leave, but wanting to say something.

BLAKE

I'm sorry the stock trading legislation fell through. I know you really cared about it.

KATRINA

It's whatever. You win some, you lose some...

BLAKE

Maybe it was for the best? There's a lot of cool things we can be working on. Things have been set up like this for a long time now. Maybe it's not that big a deal. There's probably a reason for it, right? Maybe it's a sign? What's the saying? If it ain't broke don't fix it?

Katrina immediately snaps out of her pity party.

KATRINA

What. Did you just say?

BLAKE

Maybe it's a sign we should focus on other, much bigger things? Immigration, healthcare reform, gun control legislation. There's a lot of stuff we can be working on right now, that can help a lot of people out there.

KATRINA

You know what. You're right. Get the team together, start putting together some ideas for what you think we should focus on now.

Katrina stands up and starts packing up her things.

BLAKE
Are you going somewhere?

KATRINA
I have to go to Seattle for a thing.

BLAKE
There's nothing scheduled in Seattle
for a while.

Katrina starts to head out of the office.

KATRINA
It's the thing at the place. It's not
a big deal. Don't worry about it. You
all have plenty to work on while I'm
gone anyway.

Katrina walks out the door.

INT. OUTSIDE DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Katrina is walking through the office towards Damien's door.

Damien's ASSISTANT is sitting at her desk just outside
Damien's office.

KATRINA
Is Damien in?

ASSISTANT
He's on a call right now. He'll --

KATRINA
It's okay, I'm a congresswoman.

Katrina storms through the door and into Damien's office.

INT. DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Katrina steps into the office. Damien looks up and sees
Katrina. With a blank look on his face, he immediately hangs
up the phone. He misses the first time, but gets it on the
second try.

Damien quickly stands up and walks around his desk towards
Katrina.

KATRINA
You said you can explain. Explain.

DAMIEN
I... Uhh... I, umm... Uhh...

KATRINA
You're not really living up to the
hype of a guy who can explain.

Damien just stands there speechless and in disbelief.

KATRINA (cont'd)
Feel free to start explaining any
time now.

DAMIEN
I thought I was never gonna see you
again.

KATRINA
Are your goons still spying on me?

DAMIEN
They're not spies. They're ex-
military undercover bodyguards who
follow you around without your
consent. But yes.

KATRINA
What the fuck, Damien. That's not
okay.

DAMIEN
I'm sorry.
(beat)
That's a lie. I'm not sorry. I don't
regret anything.

KATRINA
What the fuck, Damien!

DAMIEN
I don't know what to say. It's my
gift to you, whether you want it or
not doesn't matter. You're never
gonna have to worry about your
safety. You're too important.

KATRINA
Important to who? To your weird world
domination scheme you seem to have
working!? Important to who!?

DAMIEN
To the country. To government in
general. To the whole world.

KATRINA

Not buying it. Try again.

DAMIEN

Okay, you got me. To me. You're extremely important to me.

(beat)

Was getting you the security detail without asking selfish? Maybe. But I don't care. I'm never gonna risk anything happening to you. And if you don't ever wanna see me again because of it, I'll just have to learn to live with that. But you're never gonna have to worry about your safety for the rest of your life, whether you like it or not.

(beat)

You're the most important person in my life.

Katrina paces around the room for a moment with an extreme frustration.

KATRINA

How can you say that!? You're fucking insane! Nothing's happened between us!

DAMIEN

No! Bullshit! I'm not gonna tolerate that crap. I'm not gonna stand here and let you minimize or diminish this. Just because "nothing happened" does not mean nothing happened. I've given you more of myself than I've ever given anyone. And you know that!

(beat)

I've never asked anything from you other than for you to be yourself. Just because whatever the fuck this is didn't check some arbitrary boxes on a fucked up relationship checklist, does not mean nothing happened! And you acting like an idiot pretending that's not the case is almost worse than never seeing you again.

There's a long, tense pause.

KATRINA

You're right.

DAMIEN

What?

KATRINA

You're right, Damien.

(beat)

I don't know what you want from me, though. I'm not exactly in a good place right now.

DAMIEN

I don't care. I just want to be a part of your life. If you're ever busy, or you need time or space, that's normal.

(beat)

But the worst thing that could ever happen to me, is you telling me to stay away and leave you alone.

A tear starts rolling down Katrina's face.

KATRINA

I'm sorry. You never gave me a reason not to trust you. The way I treated you was fucked up.

(beat)

But why didn't you just tell me you were paying for security?

DAMIEN

I didn't want you to worry about stupid stuff.

KATRINA

Stupid stuff? You mean like the powers that be putting a hit on me.

DAMIEN

Yes. Dumb stuff like that. You're fighting an uphill battle over there. I didn't think there was any reason to distract you with the pitiful machinations of those bureaucrats.

KATRINA

You really are something else...

(beat)

That place is gonna need a pretty big shakeup if we're ever gonna get anything done.

DAMIEN

What do you have in mind?

KATRINA

To start off, let's bury that bitch.

DAMIEN

Literally? Cause that's a little tacky for me.

KATRINA

No. That would be too good for her. We need to make it hurt.

DAMIEN

I know just the guy. Let's call in the cavalry.

Damien dials the phone and puts it on speaker.

EXT. BEACH RESORT - DAY

Garrett is sunbathing by the pool. He's drinking a cocktail with a little umbrella on it. Garrett's phone starts ringing.

Garrett picks up his phone and sees Damien's name. Garrett looks up to the heavens.

GARRETT

What did I ever do to offend you?

Garrett answers the phone.

GARRETT (cont'd)

What do you want?

INT./EXT. DAMIEN'S OFFICE/BEACH RESORT - INTERCUT

DAMIEN

I'm doing great, Garrett! How are you doing?

GARRETT

I was doing great. Then your name popped up on my phone.

DAMIEN

I bet you're wondering why I'm calling.

GARRETT

I'm not. I'm really not.

DAMIEN

It turns out shit just got real.

GARRETT

Of course shit got real! That woman's insane!

KATRINA

I miss you too, Garrett!

GARRETT

It's common courtesy to tell people when they're on speaker.

DAMIEN

It is. We have a special forces level mission we need your help with.

There's an awkward pause.

GARRETT

Are you gonna tell me?

DAMIEN

How would you feel about taking your talents to San Jose?

GARRETT

San Jose!? Do you want me to die!?

DAMIEN

I do not. I'm a big fan of the alive version.

GARRETT

(sighing)

I'm gonna assume you already have a name...

DAMIEN

Whaaat? Only a crazy person would scheme that far in advance.

GARRETT

Just send me their information... I'm gonna need a few days to mourn my vacation and I'll head over.

KATRINA

Thank you, Garrett! We couldn't do this without you!

EXT. BEACH RESORT - DAY

Garrett hangs up the phone. He waves his hand to get a WAITER'S attention.

GARRETT

Can I please get another one? --
Actually, can I please get another
two?

INT. DAMIEN'S OFFICE - DAY

KATRINA

Who's this person you already found?

DAMIEN

She's a Silicon Valley executive. The
type of woman who does all the work
the CEO gets credit for.

(beat)

Everyone loves her over there. She
has a lot of friends, and all her
friends have even more friends. And
everyone involved also has a lot of
money.

(beat)

Wanna meet her?

KATRINA

Right now?

Damien gestures Katrina to follow him as he starts to head
towards the door. Katrina quickly catches up to Damien.

KATRINA (cont'd)

By the way, Brewster's a huge pussy.

DAMIEN

And that was your best shot.
Regrettable state of affairs, isn't
it?

They both walk out the office closing the door behind them.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

The restaurant is an upscale casual lunch cafe. Damien and
Katrina walk through the door.

Damien takes a quick look around the place. He spots LAURA,
40s, a high powered executive and a people person, sitting
by herself.

DAMIEN
That's her. Let's go.

KATRINA
Are we late?

Damien and Katrina start walking over to Laura's table.

DAMIEN
She probably got here early. I know I
would, if I was meeting you.

Damien and Katrina get to the table. With a huge smile on
her face, Laura gets up to shake Katrina's hand.

LAURA
Wow. I can't believe I'm actually
meeting the Katrina Hurley. I'm
honestly a little starstruck right
now.

KATRINA
Really? Me?

LAURA
Yes, you! Do you not know?
(to Damien)
Does she not know?

Damien shrugs. They all take their seats at the table.

LAURA (cont'd)
You're a bona fide celebrity.
Everyone's talking about you.

KATRINA
I don't get it.

DAMIEN
A while back I said you would start a
movement. You probably thought I was
just being cryptic for no reason.
This is the movement.

LAURA
You're all over DC just kicking ass
and taking names, Katrina. There's
535 members of Congress, you're on
your first term and you're in the top
ten most mentioned politicians. I
should know, I've seen the numbers.

KATRINA

I guess I didn't realize who, or how many people were watching.

LAURA

Oh, I've been watching.

(beat)

Your campaign got on my radar, then you started putting everyone in their place once you got to the Capitol.

(beat)

I'm sitting there watching videos of you, just thinking to myself, "I didn't know people were allowed to be like that". I was feeling a little jealous of you thinking about how cool it'd be to do what you do.

(beat)

Then, I'm sure you know about this guy already, he shows up out of nowhere offering me everything I've ever wanted.

KATRINA

Yeah, he likes to do that.

(beat)

So you're gonna run for Congress for sure?

LAURA

Absolutely.

KATRINA

What can I do? What should I do?

DAMIEN

Garrett will probably let you know when and how to go about endorsing her --

LAURA

Other than that, don't worry about me. I win, that's what I've gotten paid to do my whole life. How else would you explain the fact that people think Jeff Zimmer is a genius? The man is aggressively average at best.

(beat)

I guess I just never thought about politics as useful or important. That is, of course, until I saw you just doing your thing, your own way.

INT. SPEAKER ARGON'S HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

Speaker Argon's CAMPAIGN MANAGER and several CONGRESSIONAL AIDES are crowded around Speaker Argon in her suite.

Speaker Argon is livid. She's yelling at her campaign manager at the top of her lungs while flailing her arms like a crazy person.

ARGON

You said the polls were rock solid!

(beat)

You said I should just go back to business as usual!

(beat)

You said I had nothing to worry about! You said the election was in the fucking bag!

Argon's campaign manager is paralyzed in fear, and trying to speak.

ARGON (cont'd)

Get the fuck out of my face! And find a new line of work!

The campaign manager turns around and walks out of the room.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE

Madam Speaker?

Speaker Argon turns around and gives the Congressional Aide a death stare.

ARGON

What.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE

When would you like to give your concession speech?

ARGON

I'm not giving a fucking concession speech!

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE

But you have to...

ARGON

Look at my face right now. Do I look like the type of person who gives a shit about your opinion!?

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE
Would you like to at least look at
what we put together?

ARGON
You wrote a concession speech? Get.
Out. Of. Here. Get out of this
fucking room! You're fired!

The Congressional Aide turns around and starts walking
towards the door.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE
(mumbling)
You're the one who just got fired...

A second Congressional Aide is looking at her phone, she's
terrified to speak.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE #2
Madam Speaker?

ARGON
Stop calling me that! What!

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE #2
Umm, congresswoman Hurley just sent
you a message on social media. It
says, "I guess it finally broke" and
then it's a little shrug emoji.

ARGON
Let me see that!

Argon snatches the phone from the Congressional Aide. Argon
starts reading the post and her face slowly goes from rage
to sheer horror.

EXT. CAPITOL HILL - DAY

Katrina and Damien are walking down the steps of the
Capitol.

DAMIEN
And what's on the horizon for the
movement? Senator Hurley?
Pennsylvania Avenue?

KATRINA
That would be cool... But no. We're
heavily outnumbered and outgunned.
Priority number one right now is
recruitment.

Katrina and Damien reach the bottom of the steps. Katrina stops and turns to face Damien.

KATRINA (cont'd)
There is, however, a particular piece
of business that will require my full
attention during this recess.

Katrina leans in and kisses Damien. They look into each other's eyes and smile.

DAMIEN
What did I do to get this lucky?

KATRINA
A lot.

FADE OUT

THE END