

WASTE FRAUD AND ABUSE

**DAN KILIAN
DAVE BENJOYA
BRYNA KEARNEY**

Waste Fraud & Abuse
Dan Kilian/Dave Benjoya/Bryna Kearney

CHARACTERS

RON EDELMAN: Mid-fifties. Gambling Tycoon. Kinda thick and short-sighted, but smart like a weasel.

AUDREY DUPREE: Ron's wife. Lawyer. Mid thirties/forties? Soon to be ex.

DOUGIE: Ron's son from earlier marriage. Mid 20s.

WILLA: Audrey's daughter from earlier marriage. 21? 19? 19?

PETER TAGONICH: Works for the Edelmans. Loves Willa

BOBBIE CHE: Guy who radicalizes Willa

CONGRESSWOMAN MELANIE STROMBACH: Conservative! Candidate for President.

GOVERNOR HUBBARD HAMILTON PRUDBLOOD: Northeastern moderate Republican, presidential candidate.

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ: Develops a taste for enforcement

ELLIOT 'FATS' HOOVER: Corporate fat-cat

WANDA: Ron and Audrey's maid and Protean playing many of the other characters.

VERONICA: Ron and Audrey's maid and Protean playing many of the other characters.

IZABEL: Ron and Audrey's maid and Protean playing many of the other characters.

ACT I**SCENE I**

Lights up on RON in a bed with a luxurious headboard. Maids WANDA, VERONICA and IZABEL come to the sleeping man's bed.

VERONICA

We could kill him. Right now.

IZABEL

Yes! Kill him!

WANDA

And then what? We'd be covering up a murder and be out of a job! Think!

IZABEL

Yeah, think!

MAIDS

Wake up sir! Wake up sir!

RON

Good morning!

He throws open a window as WANDA hands him a cup of espresso.

RON (CONT.)

*There's a bright brown haze on the city!
It's great to be great when the world's doing shitty!*

He turns around with a flourish and throws the espresso cup behind him. WANDA dives to catch it

*And let me tell ya It's going to hell
In a handbasket I'd like to ask it*

Veronica hands him a martini.

RON (CONT.)

*To stop being so depressin'
But the world it won't listen*

RON (CONT.)

*The rich we get richer and...you've seen this picture
 But we don't have to watch it
 The powers that be have botched it for sure
 And I should know cause I'm a power that is
 And I just took a whiz on the world!
 And here comes my girl!*

Honey, where have you been?

AUDREY

SHOPPING!

RON

What have you been shopping for?

AUDREY

STUFF!

RON

Did you get enough stuff?

AUDREY

Baby, it's never enough!

RON

*When I see that light in your eyes
 After you've made some extravagant buy
 It warms my heart enough to part with the cash*

AUDREY

*Which isn't what life's all about
 But there are things one should not do without*

She hands him the receipt.

RON

Like a... pot bellied walrus?

AUDREY

For the Jacuzzi!

RON

And...curtain...curtain...

AUDREY

Curtain curtains! To protect our lovely curtains from dust! Also, I got us some new curtains.

RON

Well, the old ones were getting dusty I guess.

I suppose it's nothing too rash

AUDREY

We'll be fine until the next market crash

RON

When I see that light in your eyes

AUDREY

You know that you're quite the lucky guy!

RON & AUDREY

Cause you're the final one I want to waste my money with

RON

And when you waste it like this it's good to be rich!

Preacher said you're getting married for better or worse

AUDREY

We weren't worried

RON AND AUDREY

We said "whatever!"

RON

Now the whole world's gone to hell in a hearse

AUDREY

But you and me baby we've never been better!

RON

*It's good to be rich!
It's good to be rich!*

AUDREY

That's not what it is.

RON

Bullshit! It's good to be rich

AUDREY

*Back when you were cheating on your wife with me
I loved you but it wasn't for money
Sure it was easier to get me alone
When you whisked me away in your hot air balloon*

RON

*Which I haven't used since!
It's good to be rich*

AUDREY

That's just a convenience!

RON

*That's what it means to be rich!
I had to cheat on a wife or two*

AUDREY

It was two.

RON

*So I could learn how to be true to you!
I had to be able to afford those divorces
And still have something left for the one I want to be with!*

AUDREY

That's what it is!

RON

But it's good to be rich!

AUDREY

Well maybe just a bit.

RON

Shit yes it's good to be rich!

RON AND AUDREY

When I see that light in your eyes.

AUDREY

Don't mind the price because you are my prize!

RON AND AUDREY

*How lovely that is
How lovely that is
How lovely that is
but yes it's good to be rich.*

AUDREY

Oh baby, I love you more than a...caviar tiara!

RON

Caviar tiara?

AUDREY

The *idea* of it. Not literal.

RON

Well, that's smootchual!

AUDREY

You are *not* going to make that an expression.

RON

All right, here's what I brainstormed in the middle of the night. People love blackjack. So how about we build a casino with nothing but blackjack tables? And everything's painted black? And we only hire black dealers, and they're all named Jack?

AUDREY

Monochromatic! But...racist?

RON

I'm hiring black guys! Black guys named Jack! How is that racist?

AUDREY

All right, it's not racist. It's just...bananapuffs. Also, do you want to go all in on one game? Don't you want to catch the losers at the slot machines?

RON

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah.

AUDREY

So here's my idea!

RON

Schmoot!

AUDREY

Stop that.

RON

Okay.

AUDREY

Let's say I divert some of the money I made in my hedge fund...

RON

That fun fund I set up for you?

AUDREY

That kick ass fund that made us a crapload of money? Yeah! That one. What if I put it into a sports bar for foodies!

RON

Fancy nachos?

AUDREY

No not bar food, foodie food, sports bar style! Giant screens all playing different cooking networks, and whatever's on the TV is on the menu!

RON

Sold!

Takes out his phone and dials.

Fats! Nix *Black Jack's All Black Jacks Black Jack Shack* and let's make it a sports bar with all kinds of fancy foods! Calamari, the works!

AUDREY

No not...close enough!

Ron hangs up.

RON

That was a good days work! I'm exhausted. Honey, let's go to the island! We've got a couple weeks til the elections start up again, and it's tornado season. I'm not in the mood to ride it out. ...

AUDREY

Oh the senseless destruction!

RON

The tornados are pretty bad too! I just can't take Los Angeles this time of year.

AUDREY

Actually We're in Las Vegas today.

RON

Oh? The big house or the small one?

AUDREY

I think it's the small one!

RON

So cozy! Well, wherever we are let's get the hell out.

AUDREY

Yes, the island! I can finally try out my line of one piece bikinis!

Ron smiles.

RON

Also, remember how Sergio was serving that Kopi Luau coffee?

AUDREY

Where the monkey ferments the coffee beans in it's digestive system? Tasted like Starbucks!

RON

Well *now* you get to eat the monkey!

AUDREY

Have I ever expressed an interest in eating monkey?

RON

It's not really a monkey. It's like some kind of South American racoon.

AUDREY

And...the same thing with racoons? Skip the animal flesh.

RON

Speaking of animals, I'll have Peter make plans for Napoleon.

AUDREY

Ooh, can't he come with us? The last time we picked him up from the spa he gave me such a sad look!

RON

He always gives you a sad look! That's how he gets a treat! He thinks it's a trick!

AUDREY

That's not how dogs think! That's how you think. Dogs don't manipulate.

RON

Sure they do. Just not as good as me! The thing he does with the ears is killer though, I'll give him that. He's a crafty begger, but no, he can't come!

AUDREY

We could easily squeeze him into the ferret seat on the plane! You don't even want a dog because you want to *be* the dog!

RON

Everybody wants to be the dog. And no, I don't particularly need a dog, or the horses, the giraffe, or the octopi for the moat.

AUDREY

Octopusses. It's Greek, not Latin. And it's a BABY Jacuzzi walrus, you set them free once they've grown, and NO! Not everybody wants to be the dog. You're a sociopath!

RON

I'm a sociopath? What about you?

AUDREY

You have to have a social life to be a sociopath!

Ron gives her a sidelong glance.

RON

I'm taking you to a tropical island...

AUDREY

Without my dog! If he's not going then I'm not going. Anywhere!

RON

Oh, is THAT how it is?

AUDREY

Yes!

RON

Well then [long pause] FUCK NAPOLEON!

AUDREY

Fuck you! I want a divorce!

AUDREY & RON

*Let's get split, let's get unwed
Don't spell it out like Tammy Wynette
Let's get a divorce Let's get a divorce*

RON

I could sure do better...

AUDREY

And you sure couldn't be worse!

AUDREY & RON

*Let's get a divorce
Let's get a divorce*

AUDREY

*Let's change horses in midstream
And then let's shoot the horse!*

RON

Well giddy-up! Let's look at the pre-nup

AUDREY

*You forget, I never signed up
You said you trusted me!*

RON

*And oh God now you're busting me?
What was I thinking, I'm such a fool!*

AUDREY

*Love is stupid and so are you!
And so am I and so is life*

RON

*I was stupid for thinking
you'd make a good wife!*

AUDREY

Is that right?

RON

Yeah that's right!

AUDREY & RON

Let's get a divorce Let's get a divorce

AUDREY

*Let's split the difference
And split up everything, of course*

AUDREY & RON

*Let's get a divorce
Let's get a divorce*

RON

*So I didn't get lucky the third time
BOOM! Look out for the fourth!
We can keep it amicable...*

AUDREY

*Amica-BULLSHIT we can do better than that
I'll cite mental cruelty*

RON

*That's so unfair, and I'll sue you
For getting fat!*

AUDREY

You slept with Ginger Peters!

RON

That was back when we were swingers!

AUDREY

Oh yeah! Well you're a jerk and you're a liar!

RON

Speaking of liars, let's get some lawyers

AUDREY & RON

*Let's light a fire
Let's get a divorce*

RON

*Thaw out that frozen wedding cake
I'm going to squeeze you 'til you break*

AUDREY

I'm going to take you for half and more

RON

Don't forget I've done this before!

AUDREY

Oh, are you so sure?

RON

I'm sure I'm sure

AUDREY & RON

Are you so sure?

RON

Are you really sure?
We seem to be having mood swings this morning
We were getting on great before
Are we rushing into something?
Maybe, baby you should reconsider?

AUDREY

All right. I'll reconsider.
I'm reconsidering!
I'm reconsidering!
Hmmm...Hmmm...
Hmmmm!!!
OK. I've reconsidered.
And I STILL want a divorce!

RON

Well you've GOT a divorce!

AUDREY & RON

This fight's the appetizer
Let's get to the main course

RON

I still love you, I just don't like you

AUDREY

Well I don't like you and I fucking HATE you!

AUDREY & RON

I hate you! I hate you! I hate you!
Let's get a divorce!

Enter PETER carrying coffee and continental breakfast on a platter. Peter is impeccably dressed, though he already has a lock of hair out of place. He gets a phone call, but cancels it in his pocket without checking.

PETER

Ron! Audrey! So how's my favorite couple this morning! I've got breakfast and today's agenda!

RON

Today's agenda is a divorce.

AUDREY

Peter! I need you to find Willa!

PETER

Willa?

RON

Peter works for me! You get the dog! I get Peter!

AUDREY

Don't be small.

RON

Oh, the shit's gonna get microscopic!

AUDREY

I know you said you didn't know where Willa's run off to.

PETER

Trust me I want to find her as much as you do. Even more. She's just...

RON

Dougie! Is that you? I can't hear you!

Spotlight isolates Dougie, elsewhere, on the phone.

DOUGIE

Dad?

AUDREY

All right. Here, come with me.

She exits.

RON
You stay right here!

PETER
I'm staying right here!

Peter exits.

DOUGIE
Hello? Dad?

RON
Who is this?

DOUGIE
Dougie. Your son? You called me?

RON
Sure sure. Listen son. Brace yourself. Your mother and I have decided to engage in a...temporary separation...followed by a permanent split!

DOUGIE
Dad that...would be pretty shocking, except that *my* mother was two wives ago. I'm surprised that you and Audrey have lasted this long. I warned her not to marry you.

RON
Oh. Right. Well, I'm glad we got to get in some quality father son time, anyway. I'm going to be pretty busy for a while, and I've got the feeling we're in for a *long* drawn out courtroom drama!

ACT I

SCENE II

The Maids return and assemble a cardboard judges bench. Wanda dons a black robe, while Veronica dons glasses and suit jacket.

WANDA (JUDGE)
I find for the plaintiff, Audrey Dupree.

Audrey and her friends celebrate, exiting.

RON

That's it? That was neither long nor drawn out. It's all drawn in! You've got to be the worst lawyer in the world!

VERONICA (LAWYER)

In cases without a pre-nuptial agreement, this is the usual outcome.

RON

There should be a law! Mandatory pre-nups for everyone getting married. Wait! There SHOULD be a law.

VERONICA (LAWYER)

You're absolutely right. There should.

RON

Don't patronize me! I'm not saying "There should be a *law*." I'm saying "There *should* be a law."

DOUGIE

Tough luck Dad. Maybe take a break before wife number four?

RON

I don't need your pity, kid. How's work going with the...Just a minute... Hey you!

Ron pulls out a wad of cash and gives it to the lawyer.

RON (CONT.)

Here, give me the courtroom for the next 20 minutes.

The Lawyer splits the money with the Judge and they exit.

RON (CONT.)

How's work going with the Congresswoman? Senator Stormfront?

DOUGIE

Strombach.

RON

Yeah. You know who got you that job?

DOUGIE

Myself, based on my merits?

RON

Kid, this is America.

DOUGIE

You're saying you pulled strings on my behalf?

RON

I don't have to *pull* strings. I *am* the strings. So tell me about Senator Crumbag.

DOUGIE

What are you saying?

RON

Did I have a stroke? I'm saying tell me about the Senator. What's she like?

DOUGIE

Oh! Um...she, she really believes in her causes.

RON

So she's crazy?

DOUGIE

Yeah, she's a little crazy.

RON

Not...brzzbrzztbrbit crazy?

DOUGIE

Well, she's very professional and effective, just In the service of crazy.

RON

Think she'd make a good President?

DOUGIE

Yeah right! Oh. No! Wrong! Dad don't!

RON

I'll do what I want!

DOUGIE

Dad, she's not presidential material!

RON

They're all material. Clay I can shape. How's her clay?

DOUGIE

The kind of clay you'd find at an art show in a mental institution?

RON

Dougie, the last president who wasn't a delusional psychopath was Eisenhower, and look what that got us.

DOUGIE

Peace and prosperity?

RON

No, we want crazy bastards to run this country. The question is, do we want a crazy broad? Peter! Crunch me something!

Peter enters.

PETER

Hey guys, Hey Dougie.

DOUGIE

Hi Peter.

PETER

Sorry about the court's decision Mr. Adelman.

Ron waves the sentiment off.

PETER (CONT.)

Dougie. How's the campaign? Drafting any legislation? Where's Willa.

DOUGIE

You need to get over her Petey.

PETER

Oh I'm totally over Willa. I'm looking for her for Aud...odd reasons.

RON

Peter! We're working here, Tell me, is our core ready for a female President?

Peter scrolls through some data on his phone as he answers.

PETER

They're still pretty sexist as well as subconsciously and, let's face it, consciously racist, but their appetite for novelty candidates has grown in recent years. We've had the sacrificial lambs, the numbers say we could get away with running a woman.

DOUGIE

But Dad, not...this woman. She's nuts!

RON

As long as the top two voices she's hearing are God and Reagan, we're in business.

DOUGIE

Have you seen her in action?

RON

Good point! Peter! Do you have that hologram app on your phone?

DOUGIE

That is a good app.

RON

Play us some of Strombach's greatest hits.

PETER

Okay...

STROMBACH "appears" as a "hologram."

STROMBACH

Why is it called America? What is that, a Spanish thing? Why can't it just be *Amerik*? God bless *Amerik*!

RON

Wow, it's just like she's standing right there! Play another!

STROMBACH

...that is why I'm proposing this legislation, enacting an investigation of all Senators who don't support this legislation!

RON

That has a very clean, circular logic to it. There is something powerfully sexy about that woman...

STROMBACH

We just don't have the money to educate all these children, and pave our highways. This bill does both! These intern-Americans will be learning *life* lessons!

She "disappears" by exiting.

DOUGIE

You see what I mean?

RON

You mean it's not weird that I'm turned on?

DOUGIE

No! I mean she's a loose cannon!

RON

I don't think it's weird.

DOUGIE

She doesn't believe in climate change.

RON

A conspiracy of greedy scientists. From China.

DOUGIE

She doesn't believe in evolution. She thinks men hunted dinosaurs.

RON

You think the birds killed them? The fish? Come on!

DOUGIE

She thinks she can balance the budget by charging prisoners for lunch!

RON

Tough on crime!

DOUGIE

Dad she's crazy

RON

Crazy like Fox!

DOUGIE

Her logic is lazy

RON

That's called thinking outside of the box.

DOUGIE

She don't know fact from fiction

RON

But she's gung ho on religion?

DOUGIE

She wants to use the Bible to teach US History

RON

Like when Moses came down Mt. Rushmore with the constitution!

DOUGIE

She's crazy

RON

Crazy like Fox!

DOUGIE

*She thinks life begins when people conceive of having sex!
She wants to put pregnant woman on 24 hour watch*

RON

Healthcare!

DOUGIE

Her plan for homeless vets is a bottle of scotch!

RON

Compassion!

DOUGIE

The entire New Deal, she wants it all undealt

RON

Deal me in!

DOUGIE

She'd save the steel industry by bringing back the chastity belt!

RON

They can make those from plastic now.

DOUGIE

She's crazy

RON

*Crazy like Fox!
Crazy like Fox!
When Rupert Murdoch and Roger Ailes
Came up with their network for angry white males
They fought liberal bias with right wing defiance*

RON (CONT.)

*A little propaganda, now everything's balanced!
 Now we're right of right of center abiding no dissenters
 The right's all right and the left is in splinters
 But they didn't guess the price of success
 Because the truth is it's harder to go righter than this
 This kind of outrage only flows in one direction
 We need angrier, orn'rier, crazier politicians*

DOUGIE

That's where Strombach comes in?

RON

*Indeed she does!
 She's just what we need The woman's one of us!
 She's more of us than most of us will ever be!
 I don't see a problem*

DOUGIE

*I could think of two or three!
 She is crazy!*

RON

Crazy like FOX!

DOUGIE

Her logic is lazy

RON

That's called thinking outside the norm.

Bet you thought I was gonna say box again didn't you? That's cause you're thinking *inside* the norm.

DOUGIE

She'd make Canada a national homeland for the gays.

RON

What about the Canadians?

DOUGIE

She says they're already "that way"

She wants to build a wall between The US and Ecuador!

RON

Shovel ready jobs!

DOUGIE

She wants all Latinos to wear this symbol.

He holds up a picture of two semi-circles, overlapping.

RON

What is it?

DOUGIE

It's a taco.

She's loco!

RON

All politics is loco!

DOUGIE

She's a psycho!

RON

These things do run in psychos.

DOUGIE

*She's got marbles in her attic!
She's fucking schizophrenic!*

RON

*Amerischizophrenican!
If anyone will do, she can!
Son don't be a jerk!
She's no more nuts than our network!
Don't make me do more legwork!
What I need is a can do candidate
Anyone will do, don't make me wait
I'm a hard working man but don't forget I'm lazy.
So she's crazy?*

DOUGIE

She's crazy!

DOUGIE AND RON

She's crazy like FOX!

They exit.

PETER

Of course there are plenty of factors which preclude the possibility of Strombach ever winning, and if you were still here...

Enter Audrey

AUDREY

Peter!

PETER

Oh hi, um, congratulations on the result of the...proceeding...

AUDREY

Yes. Congratulations and victory! Another failed marriage. How was Ron taking it? He pissed?

PETER

Um...not exactly...

AUDREY

Not, plotting his revenge, or...swearing or...crying?

PETER

Actually he was fairly preoccupied with Congresswoman Strombach.

AUDREY

That son of a bitch! And THAT bitch!

PETER

I think he wants her to run for President.

AUDREY

President of his pants?

PETER

Of the United States.

AUDREY

He's just gotten a divorce, from me, the love of his life, and all he's thinking about is politics?

PETER

Maybe to cope with the...

AUDREY

I want to divorce him again! I want a double-divorce! Is there such a thing? Can I get a double-divorce?

PETER

I...don't think there *is* such a thing.

AUDREY

I want three fourths! I want a double divorce! I want Willa! Peter you've got to get me my Willa! I'm all alone now! Wait! You say he's throwing himself into politics? Buying himself a sexy new candidate? Well I've just got fresh divorce money. I can get my own candidate! How do I do that?

PETER

You know, Ron might consider it a conflict of interest if I'm working on a rival political campaign run by his ex-wife.

AUDREY

You're right. You focus on finding Willa, right after you show me how to run a presidential campaign!

PETER

Well, I probably do have a half an hour.

They exit.

ACT I**SCENE III**

The Maids display a "Fat Cat Enterprises" sign. Wanda puts on a necktie. CORPORATE FAT-CAT enters with an inside out umbrella.

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

I am sick and tired of all these damned tornados! Take me up to fucking Oz. Oz, what bullshit. Yeah, have you ever seen a rainbow after a fucking tornado? Also, flying monkeys? Makes no sense. They say it's Global Warming but they've been crying wolf on that shit for years. Oh it's getting hotter! Global warming! Oh now the oceans are rising! Global Warming! Fires! Hurricanes! Tornados! Global Warming! I mean make up your mind! It's all a fanasy, a leprechaun riding a unicorn to the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. The non-existent fucking tornado rainbow with dwarves and flying fucking monkeys.

CORPORATE FAT-CAT (CONT.)

It's all an allegory for the gold standard you know, which we went off during the great depression so...mission accomplished Dorothy! Anyway, where was I? Where am I? And more importantly where is everybody else?

WANDA (OFFICE TOADY)

It's 4:15.

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

So what does that mean?

WANDA (OFFICE TOADY)

Most of your employees are taking part in the Four O'clock movement.

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

What the fuck does that mean? I don't like that word, "movement." Sounds like taking a dump. Usually is. Sorry about saying fuck. I'm trying to swear less, but shit is so fucked up and bullshit, what with all the tornadoes and employees doing whatever the fuck you're talking about I can't be a God damned gentleman. Speaking of bowel movements, interesting fact about me. I didn't realize that BM was an acronym until well into my forties. I just thought it was a word. Biem. Like jism. Holy shit! Is JISM an acronym? What the fuck does it stand for? Never mind that, I don't want to know. What the fuck were you just talking about and what the fuck does it fucking mean?

WANDA (OFFICE TOADY)

Lack of job security has caused lower class employees to make common cause with the unemployed, and they're lashing back at a system they see as rigged towards the rich.

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

How?

WANDA (OFFICE TOADY)

By taking over four o'clock. They feel that since management has benefited from "increased worker productivity" and they see "increased worker productivity" as just...well...

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

More work for less pay?

WANDA (OFFICE TOADY)

They see their best bet as a worker slow-down, timed for maximum impact, while they take part in demonstrations in the streets.

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

So the whole office is...

Taking a late lunch.

WANDA (OFFICE TOADY)

So why aren't you?

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

I'm a corporate toady.

WANDA (OFFICE TOADY)

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

Well good for you! You know what side of the fence your bread is buttered on! But screw the rest of these guys! Got to nip this in the bud! Get me the Mayor on the phone! No Wait, make it the Governor.

She dials, hands him a phone then exits. Republican Governor HUBBARD HAMILTON PRUDBLOOD enters.

PRUDBLOOD

Fats! How's the golf swing!

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

It sucks! You know anything about this four o'clock thing? Why is it called o'clock anyway? What, is time Irish? Anyway, these bullshit protests are screwing up my office. I want you to outlaw late lunches! And I want a public curfew from four to five o'clock.

PRUDBLOOD

How can I possibly do that?

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

State emergency! Business interests are being threatened by wanton protests and subterfugitous illegal unionizing!

Prudblood's Secretary enters, followed quickly by Audrey.

VERONICA (PRUDBLOOD'S SECRETARY)

Please Ms. Dupree!

AUDREY

I'm making an appointment for right now.

Prudblood sees Audrey and indicates that it's okay. Veronica exits.

PRUDBLOOD

Fats, people do have rights to free speech and assembly.

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

You think I don't know that? It's what makes this country great. Within reason!

PRUDBLOOD

Great within reason?

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

Rights within reason! At the proper time and in the proper place!

PRUDBLOOD

Which are?

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

Never and nowhere! Now get this done! I'm so angry I'm just going to swear silently to myself while my toady dims the lights.

He swears in silence.

PRUDBLOOD

I understand. Yes, yes I see. I'll definitely see what I can do with the...actually I can't hear you anymore so...I'm just going to hang up. But I'll take care of this, I assure you...so...goodbye.

Fatcat and Wanda exit.

AUDREY

Sounds like you've got quite the crisis!

PRUDBLOOD

Yes, it looks like I've got to suspend the constitution, or risk upsetting a special interest.

AUDREY

But you're not beholden to special interests.

PRUDBLOOD

Of course not. I've just got to do what's right for the state of Wisconsin.

AUDREY

I still can't get over how you guys merged like that!

PRUDBLOOD

And didn't lose any senators! We're the double state!

AUDREY

I'd like to do the same thing for divorce. Tell me, you got any plans for after you protect the constitution from itself for the sake of the double state?

PRUDBLOOD

What do you have in mind?

AUDREY

How would you like to be President of the United States?

PRUDBLOOD

Oh, I'm just focusing on being Governor. A tax cutting, job creating governor who can reach across party lines and enact bold common sense solutions.

AUDREY

*I'll bet you're focused
And all that hocus pocus
Well train your lens on this
I'm stalking horses for the oval office
And you're at the top of my list
Hell hath no fury like a woman ignored
When we're done with this game you won't be bored*

PRUDBLOOD

Are you still talking to me?

AUDREY

*Shh! I'm laying plans, playing big stakes here
If I can't be a queen then I'll be the kingmaker
It's me pulling the strings and I'm not knitting a hat
Look out world cause this is my second act!*

PRUDBLOOD

So you're interested in a Prudblood candidacy?

AUDREY

*Oh it's already done and it's already won
Watch Ron twist in the wind will be fun*

PRUDBLOOD

Who's Ron?

AUDREY

*Nobody. Nothing, and soon less than that
A head on a platter I can feed to the rats
Look out you bastard! Cause this is my second act!*

PRUDBLOOD

Are you asking me to run for president so you can get back at some fella?

AUDREY

*So we can get back America from the thieves and the creeps
The takers and lay-about who steal your pillow while you sleep!
Do you want to be a governor all your career?
What about the kids? And what about me here?
You should be reaching for the prize, and that's a fact*

Have you got the cojones?

PRUDBLOOD

I believe I do!

AUDREY

Then get ready! Because this is your second act!

PRUDBLOOD

This is my second act!

PRUDBLOOD & AUDREY

This is our second act!

AUDREY

This is my second act!

ACT I**SCENE IV**

Maids change the Logo to one saying "Police Precinct One. The judge box becomes a cabinet with pepper spray. They put on police hats. Wanda becomes SERGEANT TATUM, talking on the phone.

WANDA (SERGEANT TATUM)

Lonkee! Wojciehowicz!

Veronica becomes OFFICER LONKEE and joins OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ, as she enters, and they line up together.

WANDA (SGT. TATUM) (CONT.)

Just got word from upstairs. They're sick of these soap-deprived hipster protests, and they want us to bring down the boot! He said, quote: Use restraint. Unquote. You know what that means.

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

What does that mean?

VERONICA (OFFICER LONKEE)

Pepper spray!

WANDA (SGT. TATUM)

Break out the juice gals! We're busting them up!

VERONICA (OFFICER LONKEE)

Stupid stupids, with their protests.

ACT I**SCENE V**

Wanda and Izabel take down the police precinct logo and pick up signs as they enter as protestors JUSTINE and SUMMER.

PROTESTORS

What about the jobs? What about the jobs? What about the God-damned jobs you damned slobs?

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

All right folks, keep it on the sidewalk.

Officer Lonkee sprays a protester in the face. The protester falls prostrate in pain.

VERONICA (OFFICER LONKEE)

Yeah! Back it up!

Lonkee sprays the same protester again.

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

Come on! Is that really necessary?

VERONICA (OFFICER LONKEE)

Is an *orgasm* really necessary?

Another protester, Wanda, as JUSTINE comes to the aid of her fallen friend.

Back off! I'm warning you!
VERONICA (OFFICER LONKEE) (CONT.)

Hey man!
WANDA (JUSTINE)

Now that's assault!
VERONICA (OFFICER LONKEE)

Lonkee peppers her.

THAT was assault?
OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

She said "hey man!" That's like a hippie rattlesnake rattle!
VERONICA (OFFICER LONKEE)

This is excessive!
OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

Look, just be glad Wisconsin is 99.2 percent white, otherwise we'd be pulling out the bazookas!
VERONICA (OFFICER LONKEE)

All right, why don't we split up. You take your...methods across the street, and I'll try and see what a little diplomacy can do.
OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

You've got it! Clear the way!
VERONICA (OFFICER LONKEE)

She cuts a swath in the crowd, spraying left and right.
Screams all around.

Okay people! Let's keep it behind the yellow tape.
OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

IZABEL (SUMMER)
FUCK the yellow tape, and fuck you! You sprayed that girl for no good reason!

The crowd crowds Officer Wojciehowicz.

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

Actually, that was my partner who sprayed your friend. She's a little...

IZABEL (SUMMER)

She's a little shit!

WANDA (JUSTINE)

Bullshit! YOU sprayed me!

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

No, no, you can see my pepper spray bottle has yet to be...

She shows them her pepper spray bottle. In doing so, she accidentally triggers it, spraying Summer.

IZABEL (SUMMER)

Ahh!

WANDA (JUSTINE)

She's macing Summer!

As the crowd closes in Officer Wojciehowicz, she accidentally sprays Wanda/Justine.

WANDA (JUSTINE) (CONT.)

Ahh! You MACED me!

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

Hey at least I'm not *killing* you! Things are improving! This is a step in the right direction!

The crowd rushes her.

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

Those are steps in the wrong direction! Get back!

Officer WOJCIEHOWICZ sprays them and they collapse.

PROTESTORS (CONT.)

AAGH!!

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

*What have I done?
And what am I doing?*

She sprays some more protestors.

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ (CONT.)

*Once this genie's out the bottle
 How it likes to keep on spewing!
 What am I doing?
 And what have I done?
 It was a deadly mob
 I was just doing my job
 How could I know how things would run?
 How could I know it would be so much...fun?
 Could I offer you some pepper?
 Help your tofu go down a little better?
 I've got a little hunch
 That I could spice up your lunch
 You protesting rascals
 Could use some Tabasco
 Put some thrill into your chili
 And have you met my good friend Billy?*

She billy clubs a protestor.

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ (CONT.)

*Isn't that a whole lot better?
 Can I offer you some pepper?*

Protestors crowd the front of the stage.

PROTESTORS

*Budget Battles ad nauseum
 Economic self sabotaging scum
 Uncompromising ideologues
 A bunch of barking dogs, stuck in a bog*

*What about the jobs?
 What about the jobs?
 What about the God damn jobs you damn slobs?
 What about the jobs?
 What about the jobs?
 What about the God damn jobs you damn slobs?
 God-damned slobs*

*White house says "hey look at these polls!
 We give them everything they want but people know they're assholes!"
 Congress says it will all pay off
 Once we've had another round of government layoffs!*

PROTESTORS (CONT.)

What about the jobs?

What about the jobs?

What about the God damn jobs you damn slobs?

Wojciehowicz comes to the fore, spraying people indiscriminately.

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

Could I offer you some pepper?

Give your protest a little picker-upper

You kids are really the salt of the earth

Now you're gonna see what a little pepper is worth

PROTESTORS

What about the jobs?

What about the jobs?

What about the God damn jobs you damn slobs?

Biting our entitlements in one big gulp

THAT'S NOT A FUCKING JOB! THAT'S NOT A FUCKING JOB!

Making it harder for people to vote

THAT'S NOT A FUCKING JOB! THAT'S NOT A FUCKING JOB!

NOW you wanna fix the deficit?

THAT'S NOT A FUCKING JOB! THAT'S NOT A FUCKING JOB!

Clusterfucking other shit

What about the jobs?

What about the jobs?

What about the God damn jobs you damn slobs?

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

Some people like Paprika, but I think that's much too bland

Oregano and curry can't match what's in my hand

It'll bring a tear to your eye and it sinks in deep

Turns a sandwich into a man-which and melts a man into a heap!

ALL

What about the jobs?

What about the jobs?

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

(Clubbing protestors)

Not feeling the love?

Then join the club!

WILLA runs to the aid of one of the victims.

WILLA

Leave her alone!

Peter emerges from the crowd.

PETER

Willa!

Peter gets between Willa and Officer Wojciehowicz.

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

You're sticking your neck out for her, and he's sticking his neck out for you! This place is lousy with necks! Where to begin? Eenie...meenie...No! Call me old fashioned, but I say let the gentleman take the hit!

Wojciehowicz sprays Peter.

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ (CONT.)

Actually as a woman I'm feeling quite empowered! It's funny how I went from being really conflicted about all this pepper-spray to really being into it. What can I say? I contain multitudes.

She exits, spraying.

WILLA

Peter!

Willa picks up Peter and cradles his head in her lap.

PETER

There's someone else here? I thought I was all alone in a tiny red world of pain.

WILLA

It's Willa! You're going to be all right...eventually.

PETER

Willa! You're nice! I've been looking for you.

WILLA

Well, here I am. Why were you looking for me?

PETER

Your mother...

She drops him to the ground.

WILLA

Oh God! So you're just here for Audrey?

PETER

Actually I'm working for Ron. I'm just volunteering for Audrey.

WILLA

Aren't they one and the same?

PETER

Not anymore.

WILLA

What? What's going on?

PETER

They just got a divorce.

WILLA

THAT lasted longer than I thought it would.

PETER

It's always been a love/hate relationship, but hate's in block caps these days. You're mom's distraught.

WILLA

Audrey has never been distraught. She's the most...straight woman I've ever seen. How does this...distress...manifest itself?

PETER

She's started an exploratory superpac and is shopping around for someone to beat Ron's candidate in the Republican primary.

WILLA

Wow. We really aren't like other families are we? Whatever happened to fighting over the house, visitation rights...the dog?

PETER

Ron really doesn't like the dog.

WILLA

And Audrey? I've been off her radar for three years, and now, when she needs a campaign buddy, she sends her...her...you, to get me.

PETER

You've been on *all* our radars, but we haven't seen a blip. And I'm not just Audrey's...me. I'm my me too.

WILLA

You're your you? But you're working for Ron. And Audrey.

PETER

Working, helping...

WILLA

Don't you ever get tired of being a pawn on a rich couple's chessboard?

PETER

We're all chess pieces. At least I get to talk to the players. I like to think I'm a little more than a pawn. Maybe a...knight?

WILLA

You do seem to have a little trouble going in a straight line. How long have you been finessing Audrey and Ron's every whim? Don't *you* have whims? Are you whimless? All those years we...hung out, if that's what it was, were you my friend, or were you just...doing your job?

PETER

I don't really think of you as a...friend...

WILLA

That's good to know.

PETER

I don't mean...

WILLA

Oh I get it. I *got* it. Until I'd had it. I couldn't live in that bubble, a rat in a maze, a hamster in a wheel, just another tool on the monopoly board.

Peter scratches his head.

WILLA (CONT.)

And once I figured out *what* Audrey and Ron were doing to this country, let alone themselves and everyone around them, I got out. When I saw you here I thought you did too, but...you're not your you.

PETER

What do you know about my me?

WILLA

*I'm sorry, that was mean.
 Let me tell you what I really mean
 I'm just let down you're coming around
 working for the old Machine
 I don't want to go back
 Though there are things that I miss
 You and I had some laughs
 And there are some feelings that I might have*

*But it's all about Audrey and Ron
 There's no getting beyond it
 When I saw you just now I thought you'd got out somehow
 I thought you came for yourself
 But you're just here to "help"*

*You play on my feelings
 Cause you know how I trust you
 But it's all in the family dealings
 Why couldn't it just be you?*

*No it's all about Audrey and Ron
 There's no getting beyond it
 I thought you'd gotten free
 I thought you came here for me
 Why couldn't I see?
 What was I dreaming on?
 Something that could never be
 Cause it can only be Audrey and Ron.*

You've got to get out! You're better than this!

PETER

When people say "you're better than this" they mean you're worse. Audrey's looking for you. I've got to go do better.

WILLA

I really mean that. You can do better. I see it when you get pissed off. That's the Peter I...that's better!

PETER

So I'll be great as long as you're dumping on me. You really know how to push my buttons.

WILLA

We've both got a lot of buttons, levers, pulleys. I didn't mean to yank your chain.

PETER

Well, you sure yanked something. Wait! I mean...I didn't mean...

WILLA

Don't finish that thought. I'll come see Audrey! That's why you came, right?

PETER

I came for a lot of reasons, but that'll do. Come on.

He leaves. Willa follows, him then stops.

WILLA

*What was that all about?
Why am I crazy with doubt?
I tried to be such a rebel,
But I'm reeling and troubled
Those old feeling of mine
After all of this time
Are they really returning?
Is that ember still burning?
I've been a fool all along
Now I'm thinking of him
But he's pulling me in
Now here we go back to Audrey and Ron*

She leaves.

ACT II**SCENE I**

The stage is split between scenes at Strombach and Prudblood's offices where Ron is meeting Strombach and Dougie while simultaneously Audrey is introducing Prudblood and WANDA (DANIELLE STEPHENSON) and Peter and Willa. Izabel and Veronica will flip signs when the dialogue switches between.

RON

Senator Kertumpkin!

DOUGIE

Strombach.

RON

Sternbroke! It's nice to meet you in the flesh!

AUDREY

Governer Prudblood! I want you to meet my daughter, Willa! You remember Peter.

RON

Been watching your videos with Dougie on the Youtube.

STROMBACH

(Aghast)

They're on Youtube?

DOUGIE

Your political speeches.

STROMBACH

Oh, my speeches! I'm very proud of my speeches!

PRUDBLOOD

Hello Peter. This is my personal assistant, Danielle Mitchelson. Willa! So nice to meet you. Family is so important. Here's a portrait of my father, Senator Thornton Prudblood, and my grandfather, the first Governor Prudblood. I've never relied on my lineage, but I'm a strong believer in family!

WILLA

I'm here to get my mother through her divorce.

PRUDBLOOD

Yes, I was sorry to hear about that.

AUDREY

I'm not sorry at all. I want you to make it legal for me to double divorce Ron. Peter, how is Ron doing?

PETER

He's very much of the opinion that he doesn't know where the hell I've been or what he's paying me for.

RON

Where the hell is Peter? What the hell am I paying him for?

AUDREY

Leave him and work for me! That's what I did.

PETER

I'm just here because I have feelings for both...all of you...I'm just trying to make everybody happy.

WILLA

Doing a bang up job!

PRUDBLOOD

Speaking of keeping everybody happy, I've formed an exploratory committee...

STROMBACH

I formed an unannounced pre-committee...

PRUDBLOOD

...to see if I want to run forPresident!

STROMBACH

...to make sure I don't need to run for president.

RON & WILLA

Who's the committee?

DOUGIE & DANIELLE

That would be me.

DOUGIE

Unfortunately, you might have to accept the mantle of...

STROMBACH

Freedom.

DOUGIE

Freedom. There might be a crisis of freedom if you don't run.

STROMBACH

Well! If *freedom* is at stake, then...

**RON AUDREY STROMBACH &
PRUDBLOOD**

We're getting in bed together

RON & AUDREY

Yeah let's get naked

**RON AUDREY STROMBACH &
PRUDBLOOD**

*Let's try and figure whether
We've got what it takes to make it*

**STROMBACH DOUGIE PRUDBLOOD
DANIELLE**

We've got the chemistry

RON & AUDREY

We've got the money too.

**RON AUDREY STROMBACH &
PRUDBLOOD**

You seem agreeable

WILLA & PETER

And completely fungible

**RON AUDREY STROMBACH &
PRUDBLOOD**

*I want to take the plunge with you
So we're getting in bed together...*

AUDREY

So...we want the double divorce.

PETER

I think Audrey means that punitive measures to protect matrimony resonates with the American people. No need to address it in public, but it is a sleeper issue.

AUDREY

Which could bundle huge donations for its cause. We do that, right? Bundle things?

RON

My prepack might see you as an unavoidable freedom mantled battler for constitutional whatnot and justice. Provided you don't come across as too...

RON & DOUGIE

Extreme.

STROMBACH

Liberty in the defense of extremism is not a vice!

RON

I couldn't have put it any better, which is why we'll hire some writers.

WANDA (DANIELLE MITCHELSON)

If you're concerned about the PR just say it's all about Israel.

AUDREY

Well, I am very concerned about Israel.

PRUDBLOOD

Israel would have no greater friend than a Prudblood administration.

RON AUDREY STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD

*We're getting in bed together (We're getting in bed)
Now you know what we expect*

STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD

Get it on with me!

RON

You look so sweet walking the street

RON & AUDREY & PETER

If you're walking the line we're writing the check!

STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD

We've been flirting long enough

RON & AUDREY

*It's time to see if you've got the right stuff
By now you ought to know your trade*

DOUGIE DANIELLE PETER & WILLA

If you're getting laid and getting paid

EVERYONE

*When the constitution
Hooks up with the oldest profession
It's a match made in heaven
Money is speech; let's have a conversation
SHH!*

RON & AUDREY

We're getting in bed together

STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD

We're getting in bed

<i>We're getting in bed</i>	RON & AUDREY
<i>Get it on with me!</i>	STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD
<i>We're getting in bed together</i>	RON & AUDREY
<i>We're getting in bed</i>	STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD
<i>We're getting in bed</i>	RON & AUDREY
<i>Get it on with your money!</i>	STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD
<i>We're getting in bed together</i>	RON & AUDREY
<i>We're getting in bed</i>	STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD
<i>We're getting in bed</i>	RON & AUDREY
<i>Get it on with me!</i>	STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD
<i>We're getting in bed together</i>	RON & AUDREY
<i>We're getting in bed</i>	STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD
<i>We're getting in bed</i>	RON & AUDREY
<i>Get it on with your money!</i>	STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD
<i>We're getting in bed together</i>	RON & AUDREY

We're getting in bed

STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD

This can't be good for my back!

PRUDBLOOD

Get it on with me!

STROMBACH RON AND AUDREY

We're getting in bed together

RON & AUDREY

We're getting in bed

STROMBACH & PRUDBLOOD

*We're getting in bed
Let's hit the sack!*

EVERYONE

RON

So what's your position on mandatory pre-nups?

STROMBACH

That sounds like big government intruding on a sacred institution.

RON

What if it's a family values issue?

STROMBACH

Oh, well then family has to come first. We need the freedom to force our values on every family. Family Freedom!

RON

That's what we're thinking of calling the possible definitely about to happen superpac. Family freedom for families america! FFFF america!

WANDA (DANIELLE MITCHELSON)

For our campaign slogan we're thinking of going with "A Better America For Better Americans." So...double divorce? Aren't you guys into gambling? Don't you want a loophole for casinos?

AUDREY

That's my husband. Ex-husband. I'm all about double divorce and Israel.

PETER

(Pulling a cell phone out of his pocket.)

Speaking of Ron, that's a rather angry text from him. I've got to go.

WILLA

And it's four o'clock. I've got to go take lunch.

AUDREY

We're *at* lunch.

WILLA

It's a working lunch, and I don't work between for four and five o'clock.

PRUDBLOOD

Why *do* they call it **O**'clock?

AUDREY

You don't mean you're...

WILLA

That's right! I'm a four o-clocker!

AUDREY

Oh my God!

Willa and Peter leave.

WANDA (DANIELLE MITCHELSON)

It's not the end of the world. Most young people start out liberal.

AUDREY

If you're saying my daughter has loose morals...

WANDA (DANIELLE MITCHELSON)

No, she's a protestor!

AUDREY

You mean it's a political thing?

PRUDBLOOD

Yeah, they're angry about...I don't know. Life is unfair or something.

AUDREY

So she's not pregnant?

WANDA (DANIELLE MITCHELSON)

You assumed that meant she was pregnant?

AUDREY

Well you know these kids today and their...jive.

They exit.

RON

Senator, freedom is on dialysis and you're the new kidney. I can assure you that money will not be an issue.

STROMBACH

Money is never an issue. It's a cause!

RON

Excellent! I'm going to go do...what? Write a check I guess.

He exits.

DOUGIE

And I should go draft some non-committal announcement of our commitment to this cause.

STROMBACH

Not so fast, sailor.

DOUGIE

I haven't been on a sailboat for years.

STROMBACH

Well you're about to jib my rudder.

DOUGIE

I don't think that makes sense, nautically.

STROMBACH

It's about to get VERY nautical.

DOUGIE

Maybe we should emphasize the "not."

STROMBACH

You sailors with your knots. You want to tie me up?

DOUGIE

Melanie, you know how I feel. Crazy, enamored, guilty. We've been stupid lucky. You're a married woman...

STROMBACH

That explains the strange toothbrush in my bathroom.

DOUGIE

As a Senator, this has been dangerous. As a presidential candidate, it's insane!

STROMBACH

Dougie, I'm a big girl. If you're going to tell me I'm being bad, then you'd damn well better be spanking me. Remember, I'm the one who's gotten us this far. As for being a Senator, let me tell you about my legislative body.

*Let's congress You can lobby me right out of this dress
 Okay, it's a pantsuit the point is that you and I
 Could soon be wearing much less
 Let's reassess Table it right here on this desk
 I'm not talking about what happens next
 Until and unless we congress
 Let's congress Let's play house Let's make a mess
 I want a closed door session with your lips
 No reaching across the aisle unless
 I'm be the speaker and you've get the whip
 But no deals until we congress*

They canoodle.

ACT II**SCENE III**

Wanda enters with a revolutionary T-shirt as CHANDLER and leading a crew of 4 O'clockers who form a drum circle, with a guitar. They place some protest signs about. BOBBY CHE enters, trailed by Izabel as journalist GWEN VANDERBELTWAY and her cameraman, Veronica as BRIANA MCLAIRE.

IZABEL (GWEN)

An hour in the life of Bobby Che, a prominent voice in the "Four O'clockers," a leader for a movement purportedly without leaders. Let's see what makes this "clock watcher" tick!

BOBBY CHE

Chandler, let's get a T-shirt that say's "Time To Strike." Or should it be "Strike To Time"?

WANDA (CHANDLER)

I'll make one of each.

BOBBY CHE

How much would it cost to get clocks that only run from 4 to 5 O'clock?

IZABEL (GWEN)

How did you come up with that time window?

BOBBY CHE

Well, it's a late time for lunch, and it's close to the end of the "traditional" 9 to 5 workday. Of course, so many people are working longer hours that we wanted to highlight just how NOT the end of the day it is.

IZABEL (GWEN)

Why a time of day and not say, some location to hold your protests?

BOBBY CHE

You hold locations, you get kicked out. So it all becomes about the locations, the conflicts and not the cause.

IZABEL (GWEN)

Now it isn't all about the time?

BOBBY CHE

You can't kick someone out of time, can you?

IZABEL (GWEN)

But they can wait you out.

BOBBY CHE

And then we'll wait THEM out! There's always another four o'clock coming! We've got a saying in The Movement. Even a broken clock revolts twice a day! Chandler, make some T-shirts with that slogan. Get one of the unemployed graphic designers to make us an awesome looking broken clock, lots of cracks and springs and stuff.

IZABEL (GWEN)

You have protests at four in the morning as well?

BOBBY CHE

We could! It's an option. For the third shift. Chandler, look into when the third shift ends. By the way, do you see how that "broken clock revolts" is a play on revolution? Because a clock revolves? Revolution?

IZABEL (GWEN)

Except a broken clock doesn't. Revolve.

BOBBY CHE

Sure, literally it's bullshit, but philosophically it's brilliant. Chandler, what if the shirt says "A broken clock doesn't revolve, it revolts!" Wait. Actually the clock doesn't revolt, the hands of the clock revolve. "A revolution of revolving hands, handing us the revolution!" Will that all fit on a shirt? Or is that starting to get too far away from the original point?

WANDA (CHANDLER)

I'll make one of each.

BOBBY CHE

Excellent!

Willa and Peter enter.

BOBBY CHE (CONT.)

Willa! Good! You'll add some...color to this story...with your...shirt. Here. Come into the frame.

He hugs her.

WILLA

Hello Bobby! Um, let me introduce my...friend Peter.

BOBBY CHE

Oh! Great! We need new recruits! Recruit. Or is a single recruit just a..."cruit"?

PETER

I'm just observing.

BOBBY CHE

(Pointing to the camera)

The whole world is observing! Willa, turn a tick to the right. Could you look into getting me some cheap clocks?

WANDA (CHANDLER)

I thought I was doing that!

BOBBY CHE

You coordinate with Willa. Come on, let's walk and talk!

He puts his arm around Willa and starts walking.

BOBBY CHE (CONT.)

So...these clocks, do you remember...

VERONICA (BRIANA MCLAIRE)

You're walking out of my shot.

Bobby starts escorting Willa back in the other direction.

BOBBY CHE

So, these clocks...do you remember Flava Flav?

WILLA

The Senator?

PETER

You should get his endorsement!

BOBBY CHE

That's a nice "observation" from the "observer." But we don't do "endorsements." We don't do "politicians."

IZABEL (GWEN)

And why *don't* you support any candidates, or draft a manifesto?

BOBBY CHE

Politics is corrupt. Power corrupts. Our movement is pure. In order to keep from being corrupted, it's important that we remain as powerless as possible. Impotence is our goal!

PETER

You may have achieved it!

BOBBY CHE

Who is this guy? You wouldn't be talking about putting a leash on Wall Street if it weren't for us. The American people are lazy, and their outrage is quickly exhausted. The Four O'clock Movement allows us to parcel our outrage, dole it out in spurts, and thus keep it alive! Politics is 24/7/366. We're just an hour a day. Enough time to make love! Enough time to change the world!

BOBBY CHE (CONT.)

*This is our time!
From 4 oclock until 4:59
We're punching out and fighting back
Against the corporate stooges and political hacks*

*They buy campaigns and when they've won
We guarantee their risky loans
They're too big to fail too big to jail
They've taken this country which should be yours and mine*

But this is our time!

PETER

So the 99 percent get one 24th of the day and that's it?

WILLA

Can you give it *half* a chance?

BOBBY CHE

*The seconds are ticking
But the money's not trickling down
No it's in a rich man's mansion
Coming out of your pension*

It's wrong!

FOUR O'CLOCKERS

It's wrong!

BOBBY CHE

And it should be a crime!

WANDA (CHANDLER)

You mean it's not?

BOBBY CHE

*Instead they're strung along
On the public dime!*

FOUR O'CLOCKERS

Our God-damned Dime!

BOBBY CHE

But we are strong

FOUR O'CLOCKERS

We're strong!

BOBBY CHE AND THE FOUR O'CLOCKERS

And this is our time!

WILLA

Tell me you weren't mildly aroused!

PETER

It's a good show.

BOBBY CHE

Okay, now Willa, you get to work on those T-shirts. Remember, a T-shirt is like a bumper sticker you wear on your heart. Chandler, you work on the bumper stickers. Now let's get to our agenda.

He turns to Willa.

BOBBY CHE (CONT.)

Can you take notes?

WILLA

I'd need something to write on.

BOBBY CHE

Chandler, you're in charge of pads *and* notebooks. We need pens, too. What about pens with clocks? Broken clocks that write twice a day? I'm just spitballing here. All right, now that that's out of the way...Hey! It's five o'clock. Those of you with jobs better get back to them. For the rest of us, it's the happy hour buffet at O'McFlynn's!

PETER

That could be a momentum killer.

WILLA

The struggle...struggles.

BOBBY CHE

*In 23 hours the world will be ours
The time is now by which I mean tomorrow
When we return barricades will burn
Just after 3:59*

P.M. I'm useless before noon.

BOBBY CHE AND THE FOUR O'CLOCKERS

Until the next time it's our time!

All exit

ACT II**SCENE IV**

The Maids shed their T-shirts to reveal neckties. Veronica also puts on a Nazi armband. Strombach, Prudblood and FAT CAT join them. Izabel has become Gwen and all the candidates have their hands up. All but Strombach take them down.

IZABEL (GWEN)

We are down to four candidates from twenty-seven. This campaign has had sixteen different front-runners. The field has been culled following the revelations of fish-gate, orgy-gate, mastur-gate, fencegate and a tornado which carried off three contenders. Now we bring you the 57th Republican debate already in progress. Where were we? Oh yeah! I just asked something about the environment. Senator Strombach, you can put your hand down.

STROMBACH

We all know Global Warming's a hoax. When you don't believe in *weather* you keep your hand up longer.

IZABEL (GWEN)

You don't believe in weather?

STROMBACH

We have warm days in quote unquote "winter." How do you explain that?

IZABEL (GWEN)

Global warming?

STROMBACH

More like global lying!

Wild applause.

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

It's all an excuse for the lazy and shiftless to skip out of work! Ooh! The road was washed out! My house collapsed!

PRUDBLOOD

I think that may be borderline extreme.

STROMBACH

You mean like quote unquote “extreme weather?”

They all freeze bowing heads and dropping arms.

ACT II**SCENE V**

Audrey and Peter enter. Audrey had a remote control in her hand which she has just used to freeze the candidates.

AUDREY

That is suck-sauce. Creamed suck from a dumpster. It’s a primary, and he’s painting in beige!

PETER

He needs primary numbers, but he’s talking in fractions!

AUDREY

You’re hilarious. Our guy is dying, and we can’t speak to him. These stupid election laws!

PETER

We don’t need to speak to him. We speak *for* him!

AUDREY

What are you, a sphinx?

PETER

We don’t talk to him, we put words in his mouth. I anticipated that the Governor’s moderate tendencies might require a revamped media strategy, so I hired a talking gorilla. Franco!

Wanda enters as FRANCO, in a gorilla mask. Peter films with his phone.

PETER (CONT.)

Got your lines?

WANDA (FRANCO)

(Nodding)

Senator Strombach says she doesn't believe in the weather! But look at this picture, and this one and this one.

PETER

She's carrying an umbrella! And it's sunny!

WANDA (FRANCO)

What's with the umbrella? It looks pretty sunny to me! Who is Strombach listening to? A weatherman? You call that conservative?

PETER

"You call that conservative?" That's the tag.

AUDREY

That's the stupidest thing I've ever witnessed.

PETER

It's so stupid it's moronic.

AUDREY

You want me to buy up valuable airtime so a talking monkey can send secret messages to Prudblood?

PETER

That's the beauty of it. I just stick it on our website. It barely costs anything, and the press will eat it up.

AUDREY

Because it's stupid?

PETER

And they're bored. Presto: Message!

AUDREY

How do we know Prudblood will pick up the ball?

PETER

Because we're putting it in his glove. Once he's got an ad saying crazy shit, he's got to stick with it, or he's inconsistent, which is worse than crazy.

AUDREY

It all seems very...juvenile and horrible, but I trust you.

PETER

You trust me.

AUDREY

You know how to play this game.

PETER

The game. You know, there's another way we could go.

AUDREY

Oh?

PETER

You could let Prudblood's *ideas* influence *our* campaign.

AUDREY

That seems backwards.

PETER

What if we tried to be the sensible campaign? Still conservative, but accepting basic science and economics. Instead of parroting talk radio, try to educate the public. You know, lead?

AUDREY

Lead? Does leading win?

PETER

Um...no. No, Winning leads.

AUDREY

So if we want to get anything done, we've got to win. If the smart thing is to be stupid, let's not outsmart ourselves. I don't want to change the world. I just want to take it over so I can crush my ex. Maybe my priorities are out of whack, but this is personal. Unleash the monkey.

PETER

All right Franco. Let's have at it. Do the one on the military.

WANDA (FRANCO)

Let God sort em out? Doesn't He have enough work? You call that conservative?

PETER

Beautiful. Contemptible, but beautiful. Let's go.

They exit.

ACT II**SCENE VI**

The frozen candidates come back to life! Strombach puts her hand up.

IZABEL (GWEN)

You can put your hands down. This feels like our last debate, which was similar to this one, but a week ago. And yet you're all still wearing the same clothes!

STROMBACH

Not only do shouldn't we teach about Jefferson, but including slavery in the curriculum just reinforces negative stereotypes.

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

It's treating the slaves like victims!

PRUDBLOOD

With all due respect, do you really call that conservative? Why do we teach history at all? Isn't that backwards looking? We need to go forward and forget the mistakes of the past to better defeat them!

STROMBACH

Well, with all due respect to you, Governor, but isn't *all* public education just federal brainwashing? You call that conservative?

PRUDBLOOD

*You call that conservative?
Imagine the nerve of it!
You don't deserve to be a feather
On the right wing of the bird of it!
Combine our schools with prisons
Educarceration, give every K through 12 5 to ten!*

IZABEL (GWEN)

That's very interesting, so let's move on. Where do you stand on foreign policy?

VERONICA (NAZI)

America's got to lead!

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

I'll stand up to the Military Industrial Complex while fortifying the Corporate Defense Matrix!

STROMBACH

We don't want to police the world, but we've got to control it.

PRUDBLOOD

*You call that conservative?
You're just being derivative
Yes we all love to militate
Agitate to obliterate!
Sure we're all in favor
Of rattling our sabers
But your rattles just prattle
I'll battle your rattle and win*

*And yes, we all want to go back
And re-liberate Iraq, Lybia and Syria
But really I'm the only one who gives a damn
I think that we could still win Vietnam!*

*There's a war we could re-live!
That's what I call conservative!*

STROMBACH

Gwen, don't our time limits hold us to a single verse and chorus?

PRUDBLOOD

*You call that conservative?
I think it's my prerogative
To sing and bloviate until I find a bridge!
Our trusted moderator can ask her questions later
The limits on my time don't matter a smidge!*

STROMBACH

Gwen, "smidge" isn't even a word. They made that up for *Annie!*

IZABEL (GWEN)

Please everybody we all agreed to rules or something. Can we talk about the environment?

STROMBACH

That's an excellent question! Why are our aquifers off-limits for drilling?

CORPORATE FAT-CAT

What about the pollution in our MINDS?

PRUDBLOOD

*You call that conservative?
 When a seabird still lives?
 Oh we'll drill the bays for oil,
 and frack the fracking shale
 And when all that fuel is burned
 I know where to turn
 I say we go back to harvesting the whales!*

STROMBACH

I don't think this song even has a bridge! Where's the confounded bridge?

PRUDBLOOD

*And once we've bled the oceans dry
 We'll shoot sulfur clouds up into the sky
 To fight climate change that doesn't exist
 That's what I call conservative!
 Jail the gays, give guns to kids
 That's what I call conservative!
 Raise the retirement age to 86
 That's what I call conservative!
 Civil rights for sperms and eggs
 That's what I call
 That's what I call
 I hear the call and I call it as it is
 That's what I call conservative!*

ACT II**SCENE VII**

All the candidates put their T-shirts back on. Lecturns become protest signs again. Willa and Bobby Che join them watching the debate on some handheld screen.

WILLA

That is some creamed suck, in a dirty bowl with a plastic spoon!

BOBBY CHE

I kind of like it. We need a song like that! (Singsonging) You call that four o'clock? My second hand...something something...socks. What do socks symbolize? What about smocks?

WILLA

Oh Bobby, give it a rest.

BOBBY CHE

Smocks with clocks on them! Oh! I could just rhyme o'clock with clock! Is that cheating?

Peter enters.

BOBBY CHE (CONT.)

Oh hey! It's the observer! We were just observing the debate...discussing smock messaging...and revolution.

WILLA

What the hell happened to Prudblood? He used to be palatable, now he's got three heads! Three *stupid* heads! Are you responsible for that?

PETER

I've got nothing to do with Prudblood. I just came up with stuff for him to say.

WILLA

Stuff for him to say?

PETER

Someone else writes the music.

WILLA

Peter, what are politicians besides what they say?

PETER

Well, there's what they privately think...

WILLA

It's *nutballs* stuff! Nutball people are going to hold him to it! What happens if he gets the nomination?

PETER

He'll pivot in the general.

WILLA

The whole country is pivoting, the wrong way. No, not pivoting, it's pole vaulting...the wrong way!

BOBBY CHE

Sounds like you're part of the problem, suit and tie.

PETER

It's just politics. Gamesmanship. It's my job! Sort of.

WILLA

Politics is how we get things done in this country.

BOBBY CHE

That and...revolution!

PETER

I'm just trying to help Audrey.

WILLA

Playing both sides in an ugly divorce is no excuse for selling moron juice. It's the...evil of banality!

PETER

I'm just...

WILLA

You're just this, you're just that...

BOBBY CHE

Less just, more justice!

PETER

I'm trying to make everyone happy.

WILLA

Well take a look, Peter. Is everybody happy?

PETER

Less so than I'd hoped.

WILLA

While you're spreading rainbows I'm fighting for the miserable people. The malcontents, the grumblers, the irked. Let's meet up when we're both done.

She exits.

BOBBY CHE

Sorry, Wall Street. Guess it just wasn't your time!

Bobby exits.

PETER

Shit in a hammock! Ballfuck! Asstasstrophy! Nuts! Nuts! Nuts!

Craptastic

Fucking fantastic

I tried to stretch myself but I snapped the elastic

Every time I think I help I'm only shooting myself in the foot

And I'm running out of feet, toot suite!

Fucknab it

I just can't grab it

I got the girl back but I fell back on old habits

I keep telling myself when she sees the real me then she'll know

But when will the real me show?

Oh no!

I just can't figure it out

And don't it figure?

Oh!

I keep out-thinking myself

And my problems get bigger

Got to turn in it around

But I'm turning around 'til I'm dizzy

And my time's running out

I try to grab a moment but I'm too damned busy

Playing both sides

And I can't hide

At least I've got my pride!

Craptastic

The shit is just drastic

I tried to be a lover man but I was too spastic

I've got to come through just once before she's done with me once and for all

Got to stop thinking small

Cause I'm up against the wall

Yeah I'm up against the wall

And I can't get past it

No I can't get past it

I can't get past it

Craptastic

He exits.

ACT III**SCENE I**

The Maids return with some Strombach for president signs then exit. Ron enters with WANDA (FRANCO) wearing the Gorilla suit.

RON

Let's fight fire with fire, and monkeys with monkeys!

WANDA (FRANCO)

"Governor" Prudblood has endorsed red state secession. Yet here he is shaking hands with the president. If your right hand offends you Governor, why don't you cut it off? (pauses) Does that even make sense?

RON

It's Bible talk. The snake handlers will eat it up. Peter! You squeezed us in!

Peter enters.

PETER

Hello. Hey, Franco! Glad to see you. What's it been?

WANDA (FRANCO)

What *has* it been?

RON

Oh, you guys know each other?

WANDA (FRANCO)

We...do?

RON

What I meant to say was oh, you guys know each other!

WANDA (FRANCO)

Oh! We do!

PETER

We do.

WANDA (FRANCO)

What's it been?

RON

When did you guys shoot Audrey's commercial? That's what it's been.

PETER

Ron, I'm so sorry. I got caught up in...

RON

A soap opera, when you should have been focusing on your job.

PETER

I just...am I getting fired?

RON

Fired? No, I knew you were helping Audrey. I wanted you to. Don't forget, I'm the puppet master.

PETER

Well, you can't not fire me because I quit.

RON

You can't not quit because you're not fired!

PETER

No, you didn't hear me right. I'm not not quitting. I'm quitting.

RON

I heard you fine. I was just trying to confuse you back in. Not like you do anything for me, but you still can't quit!

PETER

I'm sorry.

RON

You're leaving me to work for Audrey?

PETER

No, actually I've got to go do my own thing.

RON

You have your own thing? But you've got to do my things!

PETER

I've done enough damage.

RON

But what about Audrey? She *actually* needs you! How is she, anyway?

PETER

She's...good. She's thrown herself into this campaign.

RON

So is she banging Prudblood?

PETER

She's running his superpac.

RON

I'll bet she is.

PETER

She's not allowed to talk to him, just think for him.

RON

These freedom fucking campaign laws! Once we're done our mandatory pre-nups, we'll finally make our elections fair! How's she gonna navigate that maze? She doesn't know the first thing about politics. She thinks superdelegates are something you wash in cold water.

PETER

She's figuring it out. You might want to give her more credit.

RON

Credit! I gave her a line of credit, she turned into Greece! I gave her a hedge fund, she turned into Warren Buffet! She's kind of a genius, but the girl's got blind spots. Case in point. You might have heard this whole whoopy dooptie started with an argument over our dog? Noodles?

PETER

Napoleon.

RON

The *dog*. So tell me, when was the last time you actually *saw*...Napoleon?

PETER

Um? Oh. So Napoleon is...

RON

I don't know! No one knows! At some forgotten pet spa running up a monster tab? Or...the side of the highway...splat!?

PETER

Poor Napoleon! Poor Audrey!

RON
So who is she banging?

PETER
What?

RON
That's why you're quitting! She's banging a whole slew of guys and you're too disgusted to stay!

PETER
It's nothing like that!

RON
Are you banging her?

PETER
Ron! No!

RON
Who the hell is she banging? What the hell is going on?

PETER
You...You're still in love with her!

RON
Could I hate her this much if I didn't still love her? Would I be trying to put a madwoman in charge of the free world if I wasn't in love?

WANDA (FRANCO)
So this commercial isn't really character assassination. It's about your divorce! It's art!

RON
It was art the minute you put on that monkey suit. That's why Peter can't quit! I need a man on the inside!

PETER
I am quitting and it's an ape. Monkeys have tails. Maybe instead of all this you should try to get her back?

RON
People like me don't *try* to do anything. We build worlds, and see who wants to live in them. I've been trying to get her back since before I even met her.

PETER
You can build worlds, but you can't write a love letter?

RON

This whole country is a love letter from a bunch of rich guys to the first girls who ever broke their hearts. U.S.A. stands for "You should kiss my ass!"

WANDA (FRANCO)

That's heartfelt *and* patriotic!

RON

*History was written
By winners who were smitten
Victors who were scorned
They lost at love but won the war
From J. P. Morgan to Steve Jobs
A bunch of poor rich love-sick slobs
You've just got to read between the lines*

*The message of America is baby I'm doing fine
E Pluribus Unum stands for "Fuck you baby I got mine!"*

The maids come in carrying flags and hand him a cane.

RON (CONT.)

*George Washington was the richest son of the colonies
So can you guess why he turned his bayonets on George the three?*

MAIDS

*Someone British bird broke his heart!
That's how revolutions start!*

RON

*Henry Ford wasn't bored but he was romantically ignored
So he set up the assembly just to say "I'm doing fine even though I can't score!"*

MAIDS

*Someone broke his heart!
So he automated parts!*

PETER

I'm not sure either of those examples is historically accurate.

MAIDS

E Pluribus Unum!

RON

*All those women, screw them!
Fuck you baby I got mine!*

MAIDS

He got his!

RON

I got mine!

He collapses crying. Maids exit.

PETER

Ron, are you all right?

RON

I'm better than all right! I'm rich! You take the monkey and make me an attack add. THEN you can quit. Me, I don't quit! I'm going to curl up here on the floor and be great!

PETER

If you say so...

WANDA (FRANCO)

Are you sure?

RON

GET OUT!

They leave.

RON (CONT.)

America! The beautiful! Fuck you baby I got mine.

ACT III

SCENE II

The Maids return and change the Strombach signs into Prudblood signs as well as the protrait of Prudblood's Grandfather then exit. A wobbly Prudblood enters, with a tie around his head like a bandana, and flips the portrait around to reveal a Bruce Springsteen poster.

PRUDBLOOD

Bruce! I'm doing it Bruce! I'm pulling out of here to win!

He takes off his jacket underneath which is a frayed DENIM VEST.

a-ONE, a-TWO, ONE TWO THREE FOUR!

*I started out born to win
Slept through law school then I stepped in
To my daddy's shoes and my daddy's seat
With other stepping stones laid at my feet.
No one cared if I was qualified
I had my daddy's name, hell I hardly tried
Still when I beat 'em 49 to 45*

*I couldn't believe it!
How could it be true?
I couldn't believe it!
It didn't sink through*

*Soon enough, they put me in charge
I couldn't wrap my head around something so large
The size of the job it made me queasy
I never realized it would be so easy!
My caretakers, they kept me on track
If I said something stupid, they walked it right back
They gave me my opinions and my own set of facts*

*And I didn't believe it!
But I said it anyway
Then I came to see it
It just made sense that way*

PRUDBLOOD (CONT.)

*A great establishment established me
Lining up my donors and writing my speeches
It's not hypocrisy it's destiny
Cause this democracy's about dynasty*

*Now I'm actually starting to believe it!
Yeah I'm actually starting to believe it!
I don't understand the math but it doesn't even matter
Cause as a matter of fact the fact of the matter is
I'm actually starting to believe it!*

*And now they're telling me that I could be the President
I don't know where my reservations went
That oval office view, yeah, I can see it
I can smell it If I can sell it, then I can be it
If I suspend my disbelief well I know that I could be the commander in chief
It's unbelievable but I'm actually starting to believe it!*

*You better believe it!
You better believe it! I'm starting to believe it!*

Wanda returns, dressed as Danielle Mitchelson.

WANDA (DANIELLE MITCHELSON)

You're not going to believe it. The Handshake issue has legs. You shook the presidents hand, and they don't like it. You're losing.

PRUDBLOOD

I don't believe it!

WANDA (DANIELLE MITCHELSON)

You better believe it. The bible thumpers are saying if your hand offends you you should cut it off. They're calling you "Two Hand Prudblood"

PRUDBLOOD

Most people have two hands! It comes in...it's practical! We had eight tornados. The feds gave us a hundred billion dollars. I'm supposed to not shake his hand?

WANDA (DANIELLE MITCHELSON)

You're supposed to wave your finger in his face. Blame him for the tornados. We've got to arrange a meeting with The President, so you can refuse to meet with him.

PRUDBLOOD

Will that work?

WANDA (DANIELLE MITCHELSON)

Probably not. You're not willing to undergo an operation?

PRUDBLOOD

I'm keeping both hands.

WANDA (DANIELLE MITCHELSON)

Good for you. It'll help us in the general, provided we make it that far. Don't worry. We'll find some dirt on Strombach. Have faith!

PRUDBLOOD

Oh I have faith. I might have lost all decency, but I have faith. You dig up some dirt, I'm going to Strombach's campaign and telling them what I think of their tactics.

WANDA (DANIELLE MITCHELSON)

That's exactly the wrong thing to do.

PRUDBLOOD

Sometimes leadership means doing the exact wrong thing.

He exits.

WANDA (DANIELLE MITCHELSON)

We'll put that in the book.

ACT III

SCENE III

The Maids switch the signs back to Strombach then exit. Strombach and Dougie position themselves backstage and begin making sexual sounds.

STROMBACH

Let's congress...

You can lobby...lobby lobby lobby lobby LOBBY!

DOUGIE

Point of order! Point of...ORDER!

STROMBACH

The motion carries!

PRUDBLOOD enters.

PRUDBLOOD

Get me Strombach! I've got a bone to pick! Get me...anyone? Is there anybody here? I've got a bone to pick!

STROMBACH

Oh shit, is the staff back?

DOUGIE

Give me ten minutes.

Prudblood opens the closet, and spilling out with a pile of campaign posters and pamphlets, is Strombach and Dougie, *in flagrante*.

PRUDBLOOD

What the hell is this? Wait a minute! I know exactly what the hell this is.

STROMBACH

And THAT's how the ad will go, only it'll be a...donkey?

PRUDBLOOD

That's not going to help.

DOUGIE

This is not what it looks like. It doesn't even look like this.

PRUDBLOOD

It *looks* to me like you, Mrs. "Family Values" Strombach, are in quite a bit more of a *fuck* with your younger staffer than one might expect.

Prudblood pulls out his phone.

DOUGIE

You don't have to...

STROMBACH

You do not have to...

PRUDBLOOD

And yet I'm doing it!

He takes the picture.

PRUDBLOOD (CONT.)

And it's done! Now some kid in Somalia with an old white lady fetish can start spanking it! Well. Let's consider this bone picked. Thank you Senator, young staff-fuck. This has been most satisfying.

He exits.

STROMBACH

Upon reflection, maybe doing it in the campaign office was indiscreet.

DOUGIE

I'm so sorry, Melanie. I thought we were alone.

STROMBACH

Politicians are never alone.

DOUGIE

We were such fools.

What a mess. What a mess

STROMBACH

I don't care! I don't care!

DOUGIE

What a mess. What a mess

STROMBACH

I don't care! I don't care!

DOUGIE

*What a mess I knew no good would ever come of this
But when you took me in your arms I just couldn't resist
Now there's no way to win it, there's no way to spin it
I can feel that feeding frenzy it's already beginning*

What a mess.

STROMBACH

Let it go

DOUGIE

What a mess.

STROMBACH

It's over and done

DOUGIE

*What a mess.
What a mess!*

STROMBACH

*I don't care!
We had a good run*

*I don't care let them take away all I ever had
I let down the cause, the campaign and your dad
But I can't feel bad, let the worst come to pass
Because I got what I wanted and that's your sweet young ass*

DOUGIE

What a mess.

STROMBACH

I love that ass!

DOUGIE

Don't you care?

STROMBACH

I still don't care!

DOUGIE

Well I do care. I'll resign. I'll say I was obsessed with you...

STROMBACH

There's a picture of us in a fuck pile. It's over.

DOUGIE

Politicians survive this kind of thing all the...

STROMBACH

I'm a woman. It's over.

DOUGIE

You're right. Let's face facts. You still have a great future as a...news analyst.

STROMBACH

Right!

DOUGIE

This is going to be good for you!

STROMBACH

That's where it's going.

DOUGIE

You wanted to raise your profile and this, this scandal is going to raise it big time!

STROMBACH

The scandal...

DOUGIE

Your Q factor's going to be astronomical. Radioactive!

STROMBACH

My friends! My family! Oh my God!

DOUGIE

You can write your own ticket. Books, television, maybe even a movie!

STROMBACH

What a mess! What a mess!

DOUGIE

I don't care! I don't care!

STROMBACH

What a mess!

DOUGIE

I don't care!

STROMBACH

What a mess!

DOUGIE

I don't care!

STROMBACH

I don't care!

DOUGIE

I don't care!

STROMBACH & DOUGIE

I don't care! What a beautiful mess! What a beautiful mess! What a beautiful mess! What a beautiful mess! What a beautiful mess! What a beautiful mess!

They exit.

Peter enters, carrying a banker's box.

PETER

What a mess. Six years of being a stooge for the man...and the woman...and the dog.

Willa enters.

WILLA

What's with the box?

PETER

I got the idea that I could do better. What's with...why are you here?

WILLA

We left things kind of harsh.

PETER

You did blame me for all the political bile in America today, but...don't apologize.

WILLA

I'm not apologizing. I was right! I just want to...acknowledge that I may have been a little rough on you.

PETER

Well I am a hack.

WILLA

A hard working hack! A hack with a heart! A human hack! A hack...

PETER

That's plenty. I accept your...acknowledgement.

WILLA

I know I can sometimes take the serious stuff too seriously, and beat up on people who care about me.

WILLA

I know you care more about the people around you than "the people" and I shouldn't dismiss that. And sometimes people fighting the power have their own power trips, and sometimes the way we fight is freaking pointless, and we're never going to get anything done.

PETER
So...you're embracing nihilism?

WILLA
I'm...a nihilist...for you.

PETER
Thank you. But don't give up the cause.

WILLA
I've got a lot of causes and I lost sight of one. That was dumb of me.

PETER
No no no! I'm an idiot.

I was stupid

WILLA
I was stupider

PETER
I was dumber than a post

WILLA
I would make a post look smart

PETER
I would make a post look brilliant

WILLA
I would make a post look like a quantum physics scientist

PETER
That would be a smart post but let me tell you I'm the stupidest

WILLA
I was so self-righteous

PETER
But you were right just the same

WILLA
I should have put things in perspective instead of placing the blame

PETER
But I was wrong

I was wronger **WILLA**

I was wretched **PETER**

I was a fool **WILLA**

PETER AND WILLA

*I might have been wrong my whole life but I've never been wrong about you
If there's one thing I know is that you're the one for me
But if we both know that, how stupid can we be?*

Pretty stupid

I'm even stupider **PETER**

I'm an idiot **WILLA**

I'm a dunce **PETER**

I'm a dolt **WILLA**

I'm a nincompoop **PETER**

I'm the nincompoopiest! **WILLA**

I'm a putz **PETER**

PETER AND WILLA

*Maybe neither one of us is all that bright
Maybe just once we can get one thing right*

PETER
No more Audrey and Ron. From now on it's Peter and Willa.

WILLA

No more presidential campaigns.

PETER

No more trying to change the world.

WILLA

Actually, I still want to change the world. It's pretty messed up.

PETER

Well, no more 4 o'clock.

WILLA

You've got to try something!

PETER

Wait for the next thing.

WILLA

Then we're supposed to curl up in domestic bliss until someone else comes up with the solutions?

PETER

That sounds pretty sweet to me.

WILLA

To me it sounds like a recipe for complacency.

PETER

There's that self-righteous tone again.

WILLA

Excuse me?

PETER

You're going through mood swings this afternoon. You remind me of...

WILLA

Don't you DARE say Audrey!

PETER

I was going to say Ron.

WILLA

*That was stupid. Yeah that's the stupidest!
I think I've dodged a bullet and it's all for the best*

PETER AND WILLA

*That's it! All right I'm gone
This might be the smartest thing that I've ever done!*

Peter exits

WILLA

*No wait, it's...stupid.
How stupid can you get?
Being the last one singing alone in a love duet
How stupid can you get?*

She exits

ACT III**SCENE IV**

The Maids (back in maid's outfits) clear out the campaign signs (perhaps with the aid of other cast members), put the window back up, and throw some fake poop on the ground, which Veronica starts pickup up with a pooper scooper. The box becomes a couch with some throw pillows on it.

VERONICA

Filthy walrus!

Enter a very dishevelled Ron on the phone.

RON

Fats! It's been too long. We've got to get together and...

He taks a hit off his drink.

RON (CONT.)

Drink I guess. So tell me, what Marxist sodomite are the Dems running this year? I've been busy! Really? Does he have a position on mandatory pre-nups? Call me back. Hey, have you guys have been here this whole time?

WANDA

In and out.

RON

I've been away for months! It would probably make sense to hire you on an as-needed basis. Lucky for you I'm horribly wasteful.

VERONICA

(Holding up the Walrus poop)

You're not the only one!

WANDA

We've been gathering your ex-wife's belongings.

RON

You spoke to Audrey?

IZABEL

She's actually...

Enter Audrey. Maids exit.

AUDREY

I'm here.

RON

Oh! Well, good! Because I want the...

He grabs a couch pillow.

RON (CONT.)

This!

AUDREY

That's your pillow. The lawyers were very meticulous.

RON

Great! Makes it easier to get on with our lives. Now we can...look back and laugh! Ha ha!

AUDREY

Ha.

RON

You look...well.

AUDREY

You look...nice shoes!

RON

So we're both on average...splendid! I'm glad we've both moved on so gracefully.

RON (CONT.)

*I think we're past the ugly phase.
The lawyering up and the parting of the ways
Now we've landed in a better place
Yeah I think we're past the ugly phase.*

AUDREY

*We're running rival campaigns out of spite
And you're grasping at pillows
You know I think we might still be working on the ugly phase.*

RON & AUDREY

*The campaigns are winding down
And we've both lost it's true*

RON

*I'd jump to another one of these clowns to screw the front runner
But I'm just trying to screw you
I think we're past the ugly phase*

AUDREY

How is THAT getting past the ugly phase?

RON

Yeah I think we're past the ugly phase

AUDREY

Ron you're crazy

RON

Kill me for being optimistic.

AUDREY

Oh I'll kill you! I really thought I was going to get my double divorce.

RON

You're giving up that easily?

AUDREY

Prudblood's bolted the party! He's running as an independent!

RON

That always works! Keep cutting him checks, just to be safe. But we're not really running candidates, we're running money. The horses aren't the riders.

AUDREY

Spare me the gambling analogies.

RON

Let me put it this way. Politics is like fashion week.

The maids start a runway show.

MAIDS

Fashion week! So chic!

AUDREY

Are you patronizing me?

RON

Absolutely.

AUDREY

So...it's not about the models...

RON

Sure, they look good; you can drape any crap on them and they'll work it for you. Abortion is...linen say ...

AUDREY

The issues are fabric. Okay, so you've got the runway shows...

RON

Lots of parties. Someone's in, someone's out.

AUDREY

Meanwhile the fashion industry is cashing in, slapping the merchandise on the mannequins.

RON

Better metaphor! Make the candidates mannequins!

AUDREY

It doesn't matter who wins, because...we're the industry, we're calling the shots.

RON

If the horse...if the mannequin you bet on doesn't win...

AUDREY

Just bet on another? Wait do you mean the Democrats?

RON

Politics makes for strange bedfellows. And speaking of strange bedfellows...

We could be getting in bed together

AUDREY

That's a different song!

RON

We could be getting in bed together

AUDREY

Ron we are in the middle of an ugly divorce

RON

Yeah but...

I think we're past the ugly phase.

AUDREY

We're in the honeymoon of our divorce.

RON

Exactly!

Yeah we're past the ugly phase.

AUDREY

We are not past the ugly phase!

RON

Yeah I think we're past the ugly phase.

AUDREY

The breakdown of democracy is no excuse to start having sex again!

RON

I don't need an excuse!

AUDREY

There are other ways we could fight.

RON

What about celebrity chefs?

AUDREY

All you eat is hamburgers. What about baseball teams, or newspapers...

RON

See! We're brainstorming! What a great team we are!

I think we're past the ugly phase.

AUDREY

No we're not! No we're not past the ugly phase!

RON

I think we're past the ugly phase.

AUDREY

No! Definitely not! Look up some other ex-wife if you're feeling lonely!

RON

I'm not lonely. I'm just feeling...vital. I want to share my vitality.

AUDREY

Why don't you share your vitality with our next Democrat President. Ugh! I still can't believe it.

RON

Good luck trying to figure out the Democrat machine.

AUDREY

I'll just ask Nancy. See, you know a lot, Ron, but you don't know as many people as me.

RON

I really don't give you enough credit, do I?

AUDREY

Light bulb!

RON

Then you've probably figured out that double divorces and mandatory pre-nups...

AUDREY

...aren't mutually exclusive. And now you want to team up.

RON

I want to do more than that.

AUDREY

Forget it. The world may be ending, but not even then.

RON

This is hardly the end of the world. We're going to get what WE want, and that's about it. Right now we're everyone's hot and bothered cause it's election season, but this time next year we'll have another incompetent caretaker president — Republican, Democrat, hell Prudblood even — gridlock, corruption, mediocre stability and stable mediocrity, the way the founding fathers envisioned. Next year we'll all be arguing because some white guy won the rap Grammy. The magic eight ball says we can look forward to a whole lot of nothing!

They exit.

ACT III**SCENE V**

The Maids break down the house, as soldiers run in and out shooting their guns off. Izabel as Gwen enters with her mic.

IZABEL (GWEN)

And it's civil war! Breaking news! Red states vs. blue states! Exurbs vs. cities! Breaking news! President Prudblood's family freedom package final straw! Conservatives up in arms about double divorces and mandatory pre-nups! Also: Tornadoes! Here's footage! Breaking news! Our reporter Briana is in the field!

CIVILIAN SOLDIERS are marching carrying guns and flags, saying "Don't Wed On Me!"; "USA, not NUP!" and "Get your government fingers out of my wedding ring!" Veronica as BRIANA MCLAIRE is holding up a mic. WANDA is a civilian soldier.

WANDA (CIVILIAN SOLDIER)

Mandatory prenups and double divorces aren't even compatible! You've got to pick a side! This is WAR! Liberty over freedom!

SOLDIERS

LIBERTY OVER FREEDOM!

Officer Wojciehowicz enters.

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

It's pepper time!

She sprays some of the rebels.

VERONICA (BRIANA MCLAIRE)

Officer! Do you believe this rebellion can be policed?

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

Let me answer that question with a question! And that question is...how do you like this!

She sprays Briana Mclaire.

VERONICA (BRIANA MCLAIRE)

Agh! That only raises more questions!

WANDA (CIVILIAN SOLDIER)

It's a police state! Liberty over freedom!

SOLDIERS

LIBERTY OVER FREEDOM!

They begin shooting.

SOLDIERS (CONT.)

Let's get a divorce!

Let's get a divorce!

Who needs negotiation

When we've got brute force?

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

It's all been leading up to this

WANDA

For a good long while we've been so pissed

IZABEL (GWEN)

There's no room for compromise

VERONICA

When the opposition's been demonized

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

This is gridlock supersized

WANDA

Now our troops are mobilized

IZABEL (GWEN)

There's no time for civil discourse

EVERYBODY

Get a divorce!

Bobby Che enters, leading 4 O'clockers carrying bows and arrows.

IZABEL (GWEN)

Breaking news! Four O'Clockers forming "Sixty-Minute Men" brigades! Guerrilla war! Breaking news!

BOBBY CHE

*This is our time this is the dream
The revolution will be live-streamed.
Don't shoot 'til you see the whites of their eyes!
And don't stop shooting until 4:59
In twenty three hours the world will be ours
We've got the time so seize the power
Lay low awhile, guerrilla style
To the mountains we shall climb!
Revolution! It's our time!*

IZABEL (GWEN)

Breaking news! Fighting erupts outside Cincinnati. Let's go back to Briana live on the scene! Briana, how is it?

BRIANA is staggering from bullet wounds.

VERONICA (BRIANA MCLAIRE)

Gwen, it is raining bullets! I am badly wounded.

Bleeding!

Dying.

She dies.

EVERYBODY

Let's get a divorce!

VERONICA

Send you yahoos to your grave

IZABEL (GWEN)

In a fratricidal tidal wave

I'll kill you and you kill me

WANDA

It'll be good for Democracy

OFFICER WOJCIEHOWICZ

The body count will be obscene

VERONICA

It's politics by another means

IZABEL (GWEN)

Fire up the war machine

WANDA

*Break it off clean
Let's get a divorce!
Splitty split, blow it up
Get a divorce!*

EVERYBODY

Fighting and mayhem. "Pyew pyew" sounds please!

ACT III

SCENE VI

Shooters disperse. Wanda returns as Chandler, with Bobby Che and Willa.

WILLA

They're cutting us to pieces!

WANDA (CHANDLER)

Who knew these guys would be so good with guns? Our bows and arrows are no match for them!

BOBBY CHE

I did a lot of deer hunting before I went vegan. I'll show those pricks, once they get in range! We probably should have done more drilling on this, but there wasn't enough time!

WANDA (CHANDLER)

I don't want to die!

BOBBY CHE

Well, fortunately it's almost five o'clock!

WILLA

Maybe we should rethink the whole four o'clock window in light of the war.

BOBBY CHE

No, fading into the populace is the best part! That's insurgency 101!

WANDA (CHANDLER)

There isn't any populace left in this town. I think they're killing everyone under sixty!

BOBBY CHE

That's why I got this!

He pulls out a white wig, beard and eyebrows.

BOBBY CHE (CONT.)

It's from the Christmas barn!

WANDA (CHANDLER)

Can I have one?

BOBBY CHE

Yeah, I got a lot of them!

They all put on Santa hair. Chandler puts on a Santa hat as well.

Enter a squadron of Rebels, old men including Corporate Fat Cat, Izabel as LINDSEY. They carry guns and are wearing camo and Confederate icons. They see the Santas, and point their guns at them.

IZABEL (LINDSEY)

In the name of True America, drop your weapons and put your hands on your heads!

WANDA (CHANDLER)

Don't shoot! We're with you!

IZABEL (LINDSEY)

Then give the rebel password!

WANDA (CHANDLER)

America! Liberty! Freedom!...Jesus!

IZABEL (LINDSEY)

Okay these guys check out.

CORPORATE FAT CAT

I don't know...

Enter Veronica as CUSSLER. She has PETER with a bag over his head,
She's all yee haw and shooting into the air.

VERONICA (CUSSLER)

We caught another socialist!

She unmasks PETER.

WILLA

PETER!

IZABEL (LINDSEY)

What was that?

WILLA

I mean...Holy Saint Peter! You got 'im!

VERONICA (CUSSLER)

Sneaking into town from the City!

IZABEL (LINDSEY)

What for?

WILLA

He was trying to rescue...another socialist.

IZABEL (LINDSEY)

I knew we missed some! Now we've been infiltrated!

BOBBY CHE

He's probably trying to join up with the Four O'clockers, those brave bastards!

PETER

I'm not infiltrating anything. But if I were trying to rescue someone, it wouldn't be a socialist. It would be someone very special.

IZABEL (LINDSEY)

We've got a word for refugees. Loiterers.

Vagrants!
VERONICA (CUSSLER)

Hoboes!
IZABEL (LINDSEY)

PETER
I'm not a spy, I'm not a soldier. I just want peace.

VERONICA (CUSSLER)
PEACE! Sounds like a socialist to me!

IZABEL (LINDSEY)
So what's it going to be boys, firing squad or the noose?

VERONICA (CUSSLER)
Back in my tent I've got a portable generator if we want an electric chair!

PETER
What? You're just going to execute me with no trial? Is this what we've been reduced to?

IZABEL (LINDSEY)
I say we go with firing squad. Let's light it up!

ALL REBELS
Light it up!

They line up to shoot while Cussler ties Peter to a fence.

IZABEL (LINDSEY)
Ready...aim...

VERONICA (CUSSLER)
Wait! Wait!

She gets out of the line of fire.

IZABEL (LINDSEY)
Sorry! Ready...aim...

VERONICA (CUSSLER)
What the hell is that?

**IZABEL (LINDSEY) AND VERONICA
(CUSSLER) & CORPORATE FAT CAT**

Agh!

They run off, as Ron and Audrey enter, riding a walrus.

RON

Ho Wally!

WILLA

Mom!

AUDREY

Baby!

PETER

Ron! Audrey!

WILLA

You guys are...

AUDREY

Yeah, we're back together now. It's a happy ending!

PETER

Except for all the dead people.

AUDREY

How did everyone get so worked up?

PETER

One could argue that ratcheting up the paranoia, panic and hostility in our campaign rhetoric has made people paranoid, panicked and hostile!

AUDREY

I almost feel responsible.

RON

Those are just the underlying causes.

WILLA

How do you mean?

RON

It's...underlying. The real culprit is...the breakdown of the family unit, let's say. Regardless, we've got to get out of here before the population goes insurgent.

BOBBY CHE

That was *my* plan!

RON

I don't know who you are, but *we're* going to the island to ride this thing out.

WILLA

I feel conflicted.

PETER

Me too.

AUDREY

It's a civil war. Everyone feels conflicted. Let's go to the island.

BOBBY CHE

Boy the island sounds nice!

WILLA

Does this...whatever we are...

AUDREY

It's a family.

WILLA

...freakshow really deserve to ride out the aftermath of its own creation?

RON

No one ever gets what they deserve. They get what they earn.

PETER

There's that fine line between earning and luck.

RON

Yeah, well get lucky. You can stay with clock boy here or ride a private balloon to an even more private island. What's it going to be?

BOBBY CHE

I vote for the island!

PETER

I've got to admit, it does seem like the sensible move.

WILLA

Have you given up on playing hero?

PETER

Should we do something heroic? Chart our own course? Roll the dice?

WILLA

The dice are loaded.

RON

So am I!

WILLA

And so are the guns. I can't tell how this is going to end up, but I'd like to live to find out. Let's go to the island.

The Maids lead them to a platform with a balloon overhead then exit.

AUDREY

The balloon! It looks smaller than I remember.

RON

That's perspective.

PETER

*Let's get the hell out of Dodge before the last dog dies
Now's a good time to ride into the sunrise*

WILLA

*I'm so glad that we can ride out together
And frankly I could go for some more tropical weather.*

AUDREY

*Reunited and it's so romantic
Watching the east coast slide on into the Atlantic*

The Maids return wearing grass skirts and leis. They serve Ron a Mai Tai.

RON

*That's collateral damage at a manageable burn
In a couple more years we can make our return*

AUDREY

*When I see that light in your eyes
When you're about to pass out from too many Mai Tais*

RON

*You know I'm your girl and you're my guy
 Wait. Reverse that and switch
 How lovely that is
 Leave America flat in the ditch
 It's good to be rich!*

Strombach and Dougie arrive

STROMBACH & DOUGIE

*What a mess! What a national morass!
 We don't care cause we're up to our asses in ass!*

DOUGIE

*We don't care cause we're over here and not over there!
 Where the civil war has everyone scared*

STROMBACH

*All the crazies and the cranks who helped us out for a while
 Have finally risen up and so we're living in exile!*

STROMBACH & DOUGIE

*What a bite! What a bitch!
 We don't care, because it's good to be rich!*

ALL

*When the shouting turns to screams
 We fall apart at the seams
 Pulling out stich by stich
 It's good to be rich*

Bobby Che enters in a grass skirt, carrying drinks.

BOBBY CHE

*It's good to have friends, friends who are rich
 They've got the connects to all the good gigs
 It's under the table
 And I'm off the grid
 Hey, what time is it?*

WILLA & PETER

*It's time to get back what we once left behind
 And try to get to know an old friend of mine
 When your home's overrun
 and you're romantically inclined*

It's good to have parents

WILLA

It's good to have friends

BOBBY CHE

It's good to have bosses

PETER

It's good to have husbands

AUDREY

It's good to be the actual rich motherfucker

RON

*Let the world boil over, keep it under the lid
We'll be well provisioned and well hid
If there's money left over we can leave it for the kids*

ALL

I guess...

AUDREY

It's good to be rich! It's good to be rich!

ALL