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THE WEST WING

"The Crackpots and These Women"

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THE WEST WING

"The Crackpots and These Women"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

WHITE HOUSE

The West Wing
Bullpen Area
Corridors
Lobby *
Oval Office
Outer Office
Roosevelt Room
Leo's Office
Sam's Office
Press Briefing Room
Toby's Office
C.J.'s Office
Josh's Office
Family Room
Kitchen

THERAPIST'S OFFICE

EXTERIORS

WASHINGTON, D.C./SMALL STREET-
NIGHT

THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY (EST)
BASKETBALL COURT - NIGHT
MEDICAL BUILDING - DAY (EST)
WASHINGTON, D.C. - NIGHT (EST)

These changes do not reflect the full extent of rewrites being done on this episode. This is Act One. Acts Two, Three and Four will follow.

--A.S.

Please hold on to your white/blue TEASER/ACT ONE pages. Acts Two, Three, Four will be PINK on Monday.

--Denise

"The Crackpots and These Women"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. WASHINGTON D.C./SMALL STREET - NIGHT 1

A couple of police barricades block the entrance to a street that wouldn't be used that much at this time of night anyway. Several police cars, police motorcycles and an unmarked sedan are also in the area. Several uniformed and plainclothes OFFICERS and SECRET SERVICE are there to make sure that no one gets within a thousand yards of whatever it is they're guarding.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. A BASKETBALL COURT - SAME TIME 2

More SECRET SERVICE AGENTS patrol this area. It's a crisp, cold, late Autumn night as TOBY, JOSH and SAM play BARTLET and two STAFFERS in a game of three-on-three. A few other PLAYERS sit on the ground off to the side, including RODNEY, who we'll get to know in a minute. *

The ball is passed around a few times and moves up and down the court, all to the accompaniment of the appropriate trash-talk. TOBY beats BARTLET up the middle for a basket and the President rests on all fours, gasping for breath as SAM and JOSH give TOBY high-fives.

TOBY

Game point.

BARTLET

It is not game point.

TOBY

It's game point, now get up and lose like a man.

BARTLET

Game's not over yet.

SAM

Sir, you look pretty winded.

BARTLET

I'm fine.

JOSH

Maybe you want to sit out for a minute.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Toby--

BARTLET

(calling over)

Mr. Grant!

*

JOSH

Whoa, whoa, what's this?

BARTLET

I'm making a substitution.

TOBY

Who is this guy?

BARTLET

A member of my team.

TOBY

A ringer perhaps?

BARTLET

Mr. Grant is a Federal employee.

*

TOBY

You know the thing about you, Mr. President, isn't so much that you cheat, it's how brazenly bad you are at it.

BARTLET

I beg your pardon?

JOSH

Toby's got a point, sir.

BARTLET

When have I ever--

TOBY

How 'bout in Florida playing mixed doubles with me and C.J., you tried to tell us your partner worked at the American Consulate in Vienna.

BARTLET

She did.

TOBY

It was Steffi Graf!

BARTLET

(beat)

I will admit the woman bore a striking
resemblance to--

TOBY

It was Steffi Graf, you crazy lunatic.
Did you think I wasn't gonna recognize
Steffi Graf when she was serving a
tennis ball at me?

SAM

Steffi Graf has won quite a few
championships, sir. We've had many
opportunities to see photographs.

BARTLET

Be that as it may: Toby Ziegler, Sam
Seaborn, Joshua Lyman, I would like you
to meet Rodney Grant, Associate
Director of the President's Council on
Physical Fitness. Game point, your
ball.

*
*
*

TOBY

Whoa, not so fast.

BARTLET

What's the problem?

TOBY

Mr. Grant, I consider myself a
connoisseur of amateur athletics in
this country and your name sounds
awfully familiar. May I ask you,
sir, is it possible that before
you joined up with the President's
Council on Physical Fitness, a council
I might add that President would do
well to avail himself of, is it
possible you played some organized
ball?

*

*
*
*
*
*

RODNEY

Nah. I used to play a little with
my friends.

*

TOBY

And where was that?

RODNEY

I'm sorry?

*

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

Where were these friends that you
played with?

(CONTINUED)

RODNEY

School.

TOBY

What school would that be?

RODNEY

Duke.

TOBY

YEEEEESSSS! This guy was in the Final
Four!

RODNEY

Yeah, but we didn't win or anything.

BARTLET

Take the ball out, Toby.

TOBY

Fine. Let's go. I'm takin' you to
the hole.

The ball gets taken out, passed around a couple of times and goes back to TOBY who drives the lane and puts up a little three-foot jumper. The ball doesn't travel far from TOBY's hand before--

--**BOOSH!** RODNEY has left his feet and sends the ball flying in the other direction where it crashes into the chain-link fence.

There's nothing for TOBY, JOSH and SAM to do but stand in dumb admiration.

BARTLET gives TOBY a pat...

BARTLET

Let the poets write that there, Byron.

TOBY

(beat)

All right. Sam. Guard the new guy.

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

END OF TEASER

ACT I

FADE IN:

4 EXT./EST. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY 4

CUT TO:

5 INT. WEST WING BULLPEN/CORRIDORS - DAY 5

JOSH comes out of his office and heads down the hall.

DONNA
You have a staff meeting.

JOSH
That's where I'm going.

DONNA
I'm just telling you.

JOSH
Yes, but you see that that's obviously
where I'm going, and yet you tell me
anyway.

DONNA
And you don't find that adorable?

JOSH
That you seek to control me?

DONNA
Yeah.

JOSH
Love it. *

DONNA
Donald hasn't called me yet.

JOSH
Who's Donald?

DONNA
Donald.

JOSH
Yes. *

DONNA
From the thing. *

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Right. Can we clear up a few things
about my level of interest in the
revolving door of local Gomers you
see in the spare time you create by
not working very hard at your job?

(CONTINUED)

DONNA

Excuse me?

JOSH

You work hard at your job.

DONNA

How hard?

JOSH

Very hard.

DONNA

And I am...?

JOSH

Not at all controlling.

DONNA

Thank you. You have a staff meeting.

JOSH

On my way.

DONNA

Wait, you also have another thing.

DONNA starts looking for something on her desk.

JOSH

What?

DONNA

Hang on.

JOSH

Donna--

DONNA

Hang on, here it is. Leo wants you to meet somebody named Lacey from the National Security Council in his office after staff.

JOSH

Thank you.

DONNA

What do you think it's about?

JOSH

Well, this is the White House, so it's probably not that important. See ya.

(CONTINUED)

Josh heads out as C.J. comes out of her office--

*

C.J.

Josh--

JOSH

Ma'am.

*

C.J. starts walking with JOSH as they cross.

*

INT. LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

*

C.J.

There's an article I want you to read
in the *New Yorker*.

*

*

*

JOSH

About what?

*

C.J.

It's about small pox.

*

*

JOSH

The disease?

*

*

C.J.

No, the dessert topping, Josh.

*

*

JOSH

Hey--

*

*

C.J.

Yes, the disease.

*

*

CUT TO:

*

7-9 OMITTED

7-9

10 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - DAY

10

TOBY, SAM, MANDY, CATHY, MARGARET and many other STAFFERS are sitting or standing around the room, waiting for the meeting to get underway.

*

MARGARET

We do it the first of every month.

CATHY

We've missed a few months.

SAM

But generally, we try and do it the first of every month.

TOBY

We've done it twice in twelve months.

SAM

We're a little behind.

MANDY

I still don't know what we're talking about.

TOBY

It's "Throw open our office doors to people who want to discuss things we could care less about" day.

MANDY

Sounds a little goofy, doesn't it?

SAM

It's not bad. You talk to 'em for a minute. You give 'em a souvenir pen with the seal of the President.

MANDY

It's not a waste of time?

(CONTINUED)

MARGARET

Oh it's definitely a waste of time, but
it's one of Leo's pet office policies.

MANDY

Why?

LEO enters--

TOBY

Sadly, you're about to find out.

LEO

Good morning. Andrew Jackson, in the
main foyer of his White House, had a
big block of cheese.

There are a few stifled GIGGLES.

LEO

I am making a mental list of those who
are snickering, and even as I speak I
am preparing appropriate retribution.
The block of cheese was huge. Over
two tons. And it was there for
any and all who might be hungry.

TOBY

Leo? Wouldn't this time be better used
to plot a war against a country that
can't possibly defend itself against
us?

LEO

We can do that later, Toby, right now
I'm talking about President Andrew
Jackson.

SAM

Actually, right now you're talkin'
about a big block of cheese.

LEO

And Sam goes on my list.

SAM

What about Toby?

LEO

I'm unpredictable. Jackson wanted the
White House to belong to the people.
And so from time to time he opened

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LEO (cont'd)
his doors to those who wished an
audience.

MANDY
Then he locked the doors behind them
and made them eat two tons of cheese.

LEO
It is in that spirit--

SAM
Hang on, Mandy's not on the list?

LEO
Mandy's new.

SAM
So I'm just all by myself on this
list.

LEO
Yes. It is in the spirit of Andrew
Jackson that I, from time to time, ask
senior staff to have face-to-face
meetings with those people representing
organizations who have a difficult time
getting our attention. I know that the
more jaded among you see this as
something rather beneath you, but I
assure you that listening to the
voices of passionate Americans is
beneath no one, and surely not the
People's servants.

*
*

JOSH and C.J. enter--

JOSH
Sorry we're late. Is it Total
Crackpot Day again?

LEO
Yes, it is.

SAM
And let's notice please that Josh
does not go on the list.

LEO
(to JOSH)
Actually, you've got a thing right now.

*

JOSH
Yeah, Donna told me.

*

(CONTINUED)

10

CONTINUED: (3)

10

LEO
 Margaret, hand out the appointments,
 would you?
 (to JOSH)
 Come with me.

*

MANDY
 Is there gonna be more on cheese?

*

*

LEO
 Quite a bit more, yes.

*

*

They exit into:

11

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

11

JOSH
 What's up?

LEO
 First of all--

LEO gives JOSH a smack on the back of the head--

JOSH
 Ow.

LEO
 That's for Total Crackpot Day.

JOSH
 Yeah, yeah.

They're now into:

12

INT. LEO'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

12

LACEY, a CIVILIAN around JOSH's age, is waiting.

LEO
 Second of all, this is Jonathan Lacey.

JOSH
 Josh Lyman.

LACEY
 Good to meet you. Mr. McGarry, would
 you mind--

LEO closes the door.

LACEY

Thanks. I only have a few moments
and I know you're busy, too.

LACEY has been opening an envelope and removing a small
laminated card the size of a bus pass.

JOSH

What can I do for you?

LACEY

I'd like you to keep this card on
your person at all times. If you
keep it in your wallet and you
lose your wallet, your first call
isn't to American Express, it's
to us.

JOSH

Who's us?

LACEY

I'm sorry. I thought you knew what
this was about. I'm with the NSC.

JOSH

They told me that. I meant what's the
card do? *

LACEY

It tells you where to go in the event
of a nuclear attack.

JOSH

You're kidding me.

JOSH takes the card.

LACEY

Obviously there's a need to get
everyone up on Air Force One or
in one of the underground command
centers as quickly as possible.

JOSH

Sure.

(beat)

Well...

(beat)

Okay.

(beat)

I really don't know what to say.

(CONTINUED)

LEO

I guess that's it, then.

LACEY

(to JOSH)

Should you have any questions, you
should feel free to call.

JOSH

Sure.

(beat)

Sure.

(beat)

And my staff comes with me, or they
have separate--

LACEY shakes his head "no."

JOSH

Oh, God. Sorry. You know what? I
just got it.

(beat)

Sorry...

(beat)

Sure...

(beat)

I'll just--I'm gonna stick this
right here... next to my video
club membership... and there's no
reason, I guess, why my staff ever
has to know about it.

(beat)

So there it is, and I think the
best thing to do is forget all
about it.

(beat)

I'll go now.

JOSH exits as we:

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

12A INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY (FORMERLY SC. 7)

12A

BARTLET is preparing for a press conference by going through some mock questions from TOBY, SAM, MANDY and LEO.

SAM

"Mr. President, last week's rise in in the Producer's Price Index coupled with the increasingly tight labor market has sparked growing concern over future inflation. Do you share that concern, sir?"

BARTLET

"No, Helen, I don't. I think--"

SAM

I wasn't Helen there, sir, I was actually Sandy King.

BARTLET

From the *Miami Herald*?

SAM

She moved to the *Sun-Times*.

BARTLET

Your voice sounded the same as when you did Helen.

SAM

I was--

LEO

(urging)

Sam--

SAM

Right. "Do you share that concern, Mr. President?"

BARTLET

"No, not at all. The U.S. economy remains fundamentally strong as the steady decline in unemployment reflects--which I consider a cause for satisfaction, not gloom. A solitary aberrant spike in the PPI is not cause for over-reaction."

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Good, Sir. You might also want to point out that there's been no corresponding increase in wholesale prices.

MANDY

Yes, Mr. President, and if you could further see your way clear to not answer that question like an economics professor with a big ol' stick up his butt, that'd be good, too.

BARTLET

I am an economics professor with a big ol' stick up his butt, but I'll do my best for you there, Mandy.

MANDY

Thank you, sir.

SAM

That's it for the economy.

TOBY

Move to guns.

BARTLET

We don't need to do guns.

TOBY

Sir, they're absolutely gonna ask about guns.

BARTLET

I'm not saying they're not gonna ask about 'em, Toby, I'm saying I'm all set.

TOBY

How 'bout one or two questions, Mr. President.

BARTLET

Is it time for my ten a.m. scolding?

LEO

Are we gonna have this fight again?

TOBY

Mr. President--

BARTLET
Let's do guns.

TOBY
Sir--

BARTLET
Let's do guns, Sam.

SAM
"Mr. President, is there any reason to believe this victory--this weapons ban bill, will in any significant way reduce violent crime?"

BARTLET
"Yes. Next question."

TOBY
(frustrated)
Mr. President--

BARTLET
(calling on him)
"Toby Ziegler of the *Coney Island Killjoy*, you have a follow-up?"

TOBY
You're gonna take that question--we're lucky enough to get that question and you're gonna take it and blow it off?

BARTLET
Yes.

TOBY
Due respect, sir, may I ask why?

BARTLET
'Cause I'm weak-willed and stupid.

LEO
Let's do this another time.

TOBY
Four days ago we talked this over.

BARTLET
And then I talked it over with other people.

TOBY
Which people?

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET
I have many people.

TOBY
Sir, I believe we're missing an opportunity.

BARTLET
I have many opportunities.

TOBY
Mr. President--

BARTLET
Toby, what the hell do you want from me? We shot up eight points after that win.

TOBY
Well, let's keep our fingers crossed that none of our new fans are among the 30,000 people this bill won't protect from a gun this year.

LEO
Listen--

CUT TO:

12B INT. OUTER OFFICE - SAME TIME (FORMERLY SC. 8) 12B

JOSH is sitting in a chair and lost in thought. We STAY there for a moment before C.J. walks in--

C.J.
What's going on?

JOSH
(snapping out of it)
Hm?

C.J.
What's going on?

JOSH
We're doing the thing.

C.J.
Why aren't you in there?

JOSH
I was just going in.

(CONTINUED)

C.J.
How are you, Mrs. Landingham?

MRS. LANDINGHAM
I'm fine, C.J.

C.J.
And where are we in the continuing saga
of Toby and the President?

MRS. LANDINGHAM
They seem to be having a disagreement.

C.J.
A disagreement or a fight?

MRS. LANDINGHAM
It certainly has the potential for a
fight.

BARTLET (OS)
Oh, for God's sake, Toby!

MRS. LANDINGHAM
There we go.

C.J.
Let's go in.
(beat)
Josh?

JOSH
Yeah.

C.J.
Let's go in.

C.J. and TOBY walk into--

12C INT. OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (FORMERLY SC. 9)

12C

TOBY
Sir--

BARTLET
I'm not coming out and saying that the
bill we passed is worthless.

TOBY
Why not?

(CONTINUED)

MANDY

It'll infuriate the left, it'll energize the right, and everyone in the middle's gonna feel like we just yanked 'em around. I'm sorry, Mr. President, did you want to answer that?

BARTLET

Yeah, my answer was gonna be, "'Cause I said so," but you did pretty good.

MANDY

To say nothing of taking a victory and declaring defeat.

SAM

Yes.

MANDY

Look, Toby, by changing some words--

TOBY

By changing some words, by changing some words... the whole world can move or not by changing some words.

CATHY comes in and whispers something to SAM.

BARTLET

What's your point?

TOBY

I have many points, sir, I choose not to make them right now.

BARTLET

On behalf of everyone in the West Wing, Toby, let me say that that's a relief.

SAM

Excuse me, Leo?

LEO

Yes.

SAM

Cathy tells me my first cheese appointment is here, but I think preparing the President for this press conference should be a priority.

C.J.

I agree.

(CONTINUED)

LEO
No.

C.J.
Leo--

LEO
No.

SAM
But--

LEO
You're not getting out of these
appointments.

C.J.
This is a very important press
conference.

LEO
This is a thoroughly unimportant press
conference.

SAM
I think this press conference is about
our future.

BARTLET
I think this press conference is about
we haven't had a press conference in a
while.

LEO
Sam. Go.

CHARLIE'S standing in the doorway.

CHARLIE
Mr. President...

BARTLET
We're going, too.

LEO
We'll pick this up this afternoon.

TOBY
Sir--

BARTLET
We'll pick it up this afternoon.

(CONTINUED)

They exit as we STAY on Toby a moment before we:

CUT TO:

13 INT. SAM'S OFFICE - DAY 13

SAM's at his desk as CATHY comes in--

CATHY
Robert Engler is here.

SAM
Have we figured out what it means?

CATHY
The thing?

SAM
(trying to pronounce it)
Us-spac-om.

CATHY
I don't think it's a word.

SAM
It's not a word, it's an abbreviation.

CATHY
I don't know what it means.

SAM
And you can't find out?

CATHY
This guy works there. Maybe he can tell you.

SAM
I'm sure he can tell me, my hope was--never mind, send him in.

CATHY motions for ENGLER and shows him in--

SAM
Mr. Engler?

ENGLER
Bob.

SAM
Sam.

ENGLER

Hi.

(CONTINUED)

SAM
You are from--
(suddenly getting it)
United States Space Command!

ENGLER
Yes.

SAM
Not uspacom. It's U.S. Space Command.

ENGLER
17 years.

SAM
Excuse me.

SAM goes to the door and calls--

SAM
(calling)
Cathy. U.S. Space Command.
(back to ENGLER)
Figured it out.

ENGLER
Not a lot of people know about us.

SAM
This is my first time.

ENGLER
We're a little nerdy, I'll admit.

SAM
You camouflage it well with your
clothing.

ENGLER
I'm used to that, Sam.

SAM
What can I do for you, Bob?

ENGLER
In a nutshell?

SAM
So to speak.

ENGLER
We'd like the White House to pay a
little more attention to UFOs.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

(beat)

Um... Are we paying any attention at all right now?

ENGLER

No.

SAM

Thank God. Like we didn't have enough trouble with the First Lady's Ouija board.

ENGLER

I would like you to show the President some data we've collected on possible extra-terrestrial contact.

SAM

I really can't do that, Bob.

ENGLER

May I ask why not?

SAM

Because the President will either laugh at me or yell at me. Either way it's not gonna work out well for me.

ENGLER

Sam, this morning at 6:35 a.m. local time, Air Traffic Control in Honolulu picked up an unidentified object moving East across the Pacific toward California. Air Force and Navy jets have been in the area for hours and have been unable to establish visual contact. These things happen and go unexplained. You don't think this is something you should take to the President?

SAM

No.

ENGLER

Again, may I ask--

SAM

Because there are levels and an order within our Air Defense Command.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SAM (cont'd)
To jump from a radar officer to the
Commander in Chief would skip several
of those levels.

ENGLER
Like what?

SAM
Like the Pentagon. And, you know,
possibly therapy.

ENGLER
(getting up)
Well, I can see--

SAM
Bob, c'mon, no hard feelings, but I
can't walk into the Cabinet Room and
ask the President to put down the
budget surplus because there's a
flying saucer over Maui.

ENGLER
Something's heading East in the sky
over the Pacific. It's in and out of
our radar. We can't see it. And it's
up there right now. I leave you with
that thought.

SAM
It was good meeting you, Bob. I hope
you don't feel you've wasted your time.
I leave you with this pen.

ENGLER
Thank you.

SAM
(calling out)
Who's next?

CUT TO:

14 INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - DAY

14

JOSH is sitting and reading some papers when there's a KNOCK
at the door. DONNA steps in. JOSH doesn't look up...

DONNA
What're you doin'?

JOSH
Hm?

(CONTINUED)

DONNA
What're you doin'?

JOSH
I'm reading about small pox.

DONNA
Why?

JOSH
It's a deadly and highly contagious
disease.

DONNA
Didn't we get rid of it in the '50s?

JOSH
Yeah. We did. The virus was only
supposed to be living in two freezers.
The U.S. and Russia.

DONNA
Supposed to be?

JOSH
The CIA says it might be in a few more
places than that.

DONNA
Where?

JOSH
Iraq, Syria, Korea, China... really
good friends of ours. Anyway...

DONNA
Josh, are you okay?

JOSH
Yeah.

DONNA
You sound funny.

JOSH
Yeah, I'm having an allergy... thing,
an allergic...

DONNA
Thing?

JOSH

Yeah. Listen, I'm gonna read this,
okay?

*
*

DONNA

Yeah.

*
*

DONNA steps out of office and closes the door:

*

CUT TO:

INT. PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

The room is empty as C.J. comes in and retrieves a file from
the podium. MANDY walks in from the back.

MANDY
(calling)
C.J.--

C.J.
Hey.

MANDY
I was just looking for you.

C.J.
Walk with me.

MANDY and C.J. head out of the Press Briefing Room and into--

INT. CORRIDORS - CONTINUOUS

As they head toward the Oval Office.

MANDY
I know the President's not gonna be wild about the Larry Posner fund-raiser on the California trip, but I think we can't pass, I wanted to know where you were on this?

C.J.
You don't have to worry about me on Hollywood fund-raisers, you have to worry about Toby.

MANDY
I know, that's why I'm shoring up support.

C.J.
I'm in.

MANDY
They sent me pictures of his Malibu place, it's great.

C.J.
This wasn't the one we used during the primary?

MANDY
He bought a new place.

They turn onto--

17 INT. A DIFFERENT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

17

C.J.

Where was the one where Roberto Benigni pushed me into the swimming pool?

MANDY

That was Larry Posner's house, but it was the old place. And C.J., if it gets a vote then isn't it worth it?

C.J.

Which would be fine if Roberto Benigni could vote in our elections, but since he's Italian, that makes me a six foot wet girl in a Donna Karan dress.

MANDY

But you're on board.

C.J.

Yes.

They turn into the outer office as we:

CUT TO:

18 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - DAY

18

*

BARTLET is sitting with LEO and a few ECONOMISTS around the table. Some papers and files are spread out in front of them.

*

LEO

Look, I'm the only one in the room who isn't an economist, but it seems to me that the annual budget for the new fiscal year is found either in balance, in deficit, or in surplus. I don't know how I can sell Congress, to say nothing of people who graduated eighth grade, on the idea that there's anything in between.

CHARLIE steps into the room with a note, but stands off to the side.

BARTLET

Leo's not talking about the portion being accounted for as "off-budget" and particularly not the long-term capital outlays.

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Here's where you lose me.

CHARLIE steps over and hands the President the note, then steps off to the side. BARTLET will read the note while talking.

BARTLET

Ten years ago the Federal budget was 22-billion dollars in deficit, but the national debt rose from 5.2 trillion to 5.4 trillion in the same fiscal year, or a 188 billion dollar debt increase off a 22-billion dollar deficit.

(re: Charlie's note)

This is great news.

ECONOMIST

You knew those numbers in your head?

LEO

The President's startingly freakish that way.

*
*

BARTLET

Zoey's coming for dinner.

LEO

She's in town?

BARTLET

Yeah.

(to the ECONOMISTS)

Guys, we're done. I'm sorry, but some of the staff is waiting and they haven't bothered me in a couple of hours and they get antsy. Charlie'll show you out.

*
*

CHARLIE shows the ECONOMISTS out as BARTLET and LEO head across the hall into--

*
*

18A INT. OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

18A

BARTLET

I'm gonna make chili.

*
*

LEO

Yeah?

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

I'll make it for everybody.

(calling)

Charlie!

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Sir--

BARTLET

My friends, my daughter, my chili
and some beer.

LEO

And you're gonna be the one to, you
know, cook this food?

CHARLIE comes back in--

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

My youngest daughter, Zoey, came down
from Hanover. She's starting
Georgetown after the 1st and she's
scouting off-campus housing. I'm gonna
make chili tonight, it's her favorite.

CHARLIE

Sir, the First Lady--

BARTLET

The First Lady is in Pakistan and I
can eat whatever I want.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

I'll need some ingredients.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir. Like what?

LEO

Well, he'll need some chili.

BARTLET

Don't ever listen to him. Mrs.
Landingham's got it written down
somewhere and you can tell her to
give it to the Steward's office.

CHARLIE

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

And send everyone in.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE exits--

LEO

How could you possibly remember that ten years ago there was a 188 billion dollar debt increase off a 22 billion dollar deficit?

BARTLET

God, I was right?

JOSH, C.J., SAM, TOBY and MANDY have filed in--

LEO

That's what I thought.

BARTLET

Listen. Everybody. Zoey's down from Hanover tonight. I'm making chili for everybody.

There's a less than enthusiastic response from the group...

BARTLET

All right, you know what? Let's do this: Everybody look at the big seal in the middle of my carpet. Now everybody look at me. Zoey's coming down from Hanover tonight and I'm making chili for everybody.

A considerably more enthusiastic response...

BARTLET

There. See how benevolent I can be when everybody just does what I tell 'em to do?

LEO

I would like this meeting to last no more than three minutes. I will allow it to last no more than five. Speak, Mandy.

MANDY

We're going to California in a few weeks.

LEO

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

MANDY

Larry Posner would like to host a fund-raiser.

TOBY

No.

MANDY

Why?

TOBY

'Cause 24 hours earlier, the President's gonna give a speech to the entertainment industry on violence in film and television.

SAM

A speech I don't think he should be giving.

TOBY

That's beside the point.

MANDY

What's the point?

TOBY

Larry Posner's movies are incredibly violent.

SAM

So's the *The Godfather*. What you mean to say is that Larry Posner's movies are incredibly bad.

TOBY

Either way, I don't see how we can admonish Hollywood on a Tuesday, then cash their check on a Wednesday. How can we do that?

*
*

BARTLET

Because it's Hollywood, who gives a damn?

TOBY

Now hang on a second, Mr. President. You have me drafting a speech for the entertainment industry where we more than suggest--we come right out and say that much of their product is corruptive.

(CONTINUED)

TOBY (CONT'D) *

Are we doing this because we believe it's time for them to take moral leadership seriously or are we doing it 'cause nobody ever lost an election attacking Hollywood?

BARTLET

Why can't we do both?

TOBY

It's not hypocritical? *

BARTLET

No.

TOBY

Why not?

BARTLET

Because Sam's right. It's not that Larry's Posner's movies have gratuitous violence or gratuitous sex, it's that they suck. They're terrible. But people go anyway 'cause they have gratuitous violence and gratuitous sex. Now if we can get people to stop going to see crappy movies, Posner'll stop makin' 'em, I guarantee.

TOBY

How's that strategy workin' for us in the war on drugs?

MANDY

Toby, we give a speech that quiets down the right, doesn't bother the middle, and the left ends up giving us 1.2 million at a cocktail party. That sounds like a successful trip to me.

TOBY

Really? 'Cause to me it sounds like a hose job.

LEO

Toby--

TOBY

If we want to go out there and implore these people to step up to the plate and not be quite so casual with the awesome influence they have, that's fantastic. But everytime someone makes headlines by blowing thunder at this ridiculous target, it only serves as a criminal distraction in the pursuit of actual solutions. And I'll tell you what else. If I were an actor or a writer or a director or a producer in Hollywood, and someone started coming at me with lists of things that were American and un-American, I'd start to think this was all sounding eerily familiar.

BARTLET

Do I look like Joe McCarthy to you, Toby?

TOBY

Nobody ever looks like Joe McCarthy, Mr. President, that's how they get in the door in the first place.

C.J.

We seem to have wandered off the point a little.

LEO

Yeah, time's up. We'll revisit this again later today.

ALL

Thank you , Mr. President... Thank you... Thank you, sir.

BARTLET

Chili tonight.

Everyone tries to muster enthusiasm on their way out--

JOSH

(to SAM)

Sam, you got a second?

SAM

Yeah.

They head into:

19 INT. OUTER OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

19

JOSH
Can we go in your office?

SAM
Sure.

JOSH
Thanks.

They continue into--

20 INT. CORRIDOR/BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

20

SAM
You okay?

JOSH
Yeah.

SAM
You look a little--

JOSH
Nah.

CATHY intercepts them--

SAM
Hey, Cathy.

CATHY
You know that donut sitting on your desk?

SAM
You ate it?

CATHY
But that was predictable, wasn't it?

SAM
Is there any word yet?

CATHY
The thing's still out there.

SAM
I had a guy in this morning, he'd like us to spend more time working on UFOs.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH
Are we spending any time working on
UFOs?

They've made it to:

21 INT. SAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

21

SAM
That's what I asked.

JOSH
'Cause right on the heels of
Mrs. Bartlet's Ouija board--

SAM
I hear ya.

JOSH
I'm closing the door.

SAM
It's just that--

JOSH
What?

SAM
Well Central Pacific Command has been
picking up this thing on radar all
day long--

JOSH
Sam.

SAM
Right.

JOSH
Listen... You're close with Cathy,
right?

SAM
(pause)
I haven't seen her naked if that's what
you're asking.

JOSH
No. Sam. That's not what I'm asking.

SAM
She's like my younger sister. Except
she gets paid.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

Right.

SAM

And she frightens me.

JOSH

Yes.

SAM

But I love her.

JOSH

Yeah.

SAM

Like you and Donna.

JOSH

Right. When they gave you the card,
and they told you it was just you
and not Cathy, how did you--I mean
how do you feel about that?

SAM

When they gave me what card?

JOSH

The NSC guy. The card with the
directions.

SAM

The directions to what?

JOSH

You, C.J., Toby, I'm saying when
the NSC guy gave you your cards...

It suddenly dawns on JOSH... there's nothing he can do but
stare at SAM as the blood leaves his face...

SAM

(after a long moment)

Josh?

(beat)

What card?

JOSH

(pause)

Nothing.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

38.
21

JOSH (cont'd)
I was thinking of a different...
nothing.

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

22 EXT./EST. - THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY 22

LOOMIS (VO)
C.J., we'd like to tell you the story
of Pluie.

23 INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - SAME TIME 23

LOOMIS and two of his helpers, JERRY and MARGE are pitching
to C.J. He's got an easel set up on which he shows large
photos and charts.

C.J.
Who's Pluie?

LOOMIS
I'm glad you asked.

The cover on the first photo gets flipped over and we SEE a
large, sweet looking wolf.

C.J.
That's Pluie?

LOOMIS
Yes.

C.J.
Pluie's a wolf.

LOOMIS
Yes she is.

C.J.
And you're gonna tell me her story.

LOOMIS
Jerry?

JERRY
For four years scientists have tracked
Pluie as she made her way from Banff
National Park in Alberta, up and down
the Rockies. In that time, she's made
three round trips between Canada and
Wyoming, covering 40,000 square miles.

(CONTINUED)

LOOMIS

We think you'd admit it was an impressive performance for Pluie, especially when you consider the impediments of modern life she had to conquer: Highways, housing, forests denuded of trees--

MARGE

To say nothing of the U.S-Canadian border.

C.J.

Sure, 'cause no photo I.D.

MARGE

I'm sorry?

C.J.

It was a joke.

LOOMIS

Why does Pluie make the trek? Because wolves have to breed with many packs in order to keep from becoming extinct.

C.J.

Really?

LOOMIS

If they breed among themselves, they'll eventually produce off-spring that are genetically weaker, thus endangering their long-term survival.

C.J.

That helps explain Buckingham Palace.

JERRY

May we tell you what we propose?

C.J.

Sure.

A photo gets flipped over, revealing a diagram.

LOOMIS

The wolves-only roadway.

C.J.

The wolves-only roadway?

(CONTINUED)

LOOMIS

1800 miles from Yellowstone to the
Yukon Territory, complete with
highway overpasses and no cattle
grazing.

C.J.

An 1800 mile wolves-only roadway?

MARGE

Pluie, you'll recall--

C.J.

Hang on. How are you gonna teach the
wolves to follow road signs?

JERRY

Our scientists are working on a plan. *

C.J.

Yeah, but in the meantime, Pluie's
gonna get drunk, wander off the
wolves-only road and end up eating
my cat. *

LOOMIS

(laughing patronizingly)
Heh, heh... we don't think that'll
happen.

C.J.

Heh, heh... I don't think this is
gonna happen either.

JERRY

Perhaps--

C.J.

First of all, ranchers don't want
wolves returned to the West.

LOOMIS

Ranchers are killers.

C.J.

No, they're not, and anyone who says
it should take it back. Ranchers face
the following conditions: Falling
stock prices, rising taxes, prolonged
drought and a country that's eating
less beef.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

C.J. (cont'd)

Ranchers want to blame something and because they're ranchers, they want to fight something. I'd rather it be a wolf than us, so unless Pluie registers to vote--

MARGE

Pluie was shot and killed by a rancher in British Columbia last month.

C.J.

I'm sorry to hear that.

MARGE

I'm not sure you are.

C.J.

I'll have to live with your doubts. Just out of curiosity, how much would this cost?

LOOMIS

That's the beauty part. With contributions and corporate sponsorship, it would only cost the taxpayers 900-million dollars.

C.J.

(pause)

No, seriously, how much would it cost?

JERRY

C.J., if we're gonna do it, why not do it right?

C.J.

We're not gonna do it.

LOOMIS

Sure, there are other things we could spend the money on--

C.J.

You think?

MARGE

I'd like to hear what you think? What's a better way to spend this money?

C.J.

900-million dollars?

(CONTINUED)

MARGE
Another war-plane? Another S&L
bailout?

C.J.
How 'bout we build the nine best
schools in the world?

LOOMIS
Let's move on to the grizzly bear.

CUT TO:

24 INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - DAY

24

There's a tap on the door and MANDY sticks her head in.

MANDY
Hi.

TOBY
Hi.

MANDY
Can I talk to you?

TOBY
Whadja get him a spot on Hollywood
Squares?

MANDY
Posner's a huge supporter, Toby, I
don't have to tell you that.

TOBY
No, you don't.

MANDY
Sinatra pulled all his support when
Kennedy snubbed him on the California
thing and--

TOBY
Sinatra was a hood.

MANDY
Nonetheless--

TOBY
Look, get Sinatra to throw us a
party and I'm there.

(CONTINUED)

MANDY

I came in to be nice to you, Toby.

TOBY

Go ahead.

MANDY

I don't like going up against you.

TOBY

I don't like going up against you.

MANDY

Okay.

TOBY

That's you being nice?

MANDY

I'm glad David Rosen passed on the
Communications job. They couldn't have
done better than you.

*
*

TOBY

(beat)
Excuse me?

MANDY

I'm saying I think you turned out to
be a better Communications Director
than David Rosen ever would've been.
That's me being nice.

TOBY

Excuse me.

TOBY walks out of the room--

CUT TO:

INT. ROOSEVELT ROOM - DAY

C.J. is still with LOOMIS, JERRY and MARGE.

LOOMIS

In terms of the grizzly's mating needs,
Yellowstone is the size of a postage
stamp.

(CONTINUED)

MARGE

Remember that there a lot of people
who think Federal funding for the
arts is crazy.

C.J.
Not as crazy as 450-million dollars
so that bears can have better sex.
If we're gonna start doling out
money for better sex, the line forms
behind me.

TOBY busts into the room--

TOBY
Excuse me, C.J.?

C.J.
(to LOOMIS)
Are we done? The President's got a
press conference in just a few
minutes.

LOOMIS
Well, there's the issue of the Moose.

TOBY
You're done. Grab some pens on your
way out.
(to C.J.)
Come 'ere.

C.J. follows TOBY out into:

26 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

26

As they head toward C.J.'s office.

C.J.
I mean honestly, couldn't we just set
out a big block of cheese?

TOBY
Remember a few months ago when I
asked you if I was the President's
first choice?

C.J.
We're back to this?

TOBY
You called me paranoid.

C.J.
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

TOBY

And a noodnik. You called me a
paranoid noodnik.

They cross into:

INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

C.J.

Toby, you were not, for the 48th
time, the President's second choice.

TOBY

What about David Rosen?

C.J.

What about David Rosen?

TOBY

Mandy was just in my office and said
she's happy Rosen passed on the job.

CAROL passes by--

C.J.

Carol, we're gonna start in just a
minute.

CAROL

Should I bring 'em in?

C.J.

Give 'em fair warning.

TOBY

David Rosen?

They walk into--

INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

C.J.

Toby I don't know anything about
David Rosen and I don't know where
this is coming from.

TOBY

He's about to do this press conference.
Help me talk to him about the gun
thing, we'll leave Hollywood for later.

C.J.:

Since when do you need help talking
to the President?

TOBY

Since somehow or other I became the
kid in the class with his hand raised
that nobody wants the teacher to call
on.

C.J.

That's silly.

TOBY

No it's not.

C.J.

Toby--

TOBY

Help me.

C.J.

(resigned)

Gimme the bullet points. Briefly.
Neatly. Please remember that not
everyone has read the complete works of
Aristotle and Sophocles.

TOBY

So I've discovered in my life.

C.J.

Toby--

TOBY

Here it is:

BARTLET (OS)

C.J.! Let's go!

C.J. looks out the doorway to see BARTLET, LEO, SAM, MANDY,
DONNA and a few STAFFERS clipping down the hallway toward the
Press Briefing Room.

C.J.

(calling out)

Right there!

(to TOBY)

Sorry.

C.J. and TOBY go out into--

29 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

29

Where they join the moving entourage. BARTLET's peppered with questions on the run.

BARTLET
Gimme another.

SAM
"Mr. President--"

BARTLET
Are you Helen right now?

SAM
Doesn't matter. "Mr. President, what would be your reaction to the Fed raising interest rates?"

BARTLET
"I'll place the Chairman under arrest."

SAM
Sir--

BARTLET
"The Federal Reserve is an independent yada yada yada." Where's Josh?

DONNA
He's at the dentist.

BARTLET
He's at the dentist?

DONNA
Yes, sir, he said he chipped a tooth.

BARTLET
But he's still coming for chili tonight.

DONNA
Yes, sir.

They've arrived at--

30 INT. CORRIDOR/PRESS BRIEFING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

30

C.J.
Let's do it.

(CONTINUED)

MANDY
(to BARTLET)
That's the tie you're wearing?

BARTLET
Stop it with my neckties. Anything
else?

TOBY
"Mr. President, how do you respond to
those like Congressman Richardson who
say the Assault Ban was just a feel-
good placebo?"

BARTLET
I say I disagree. The Assault
Ban is far from perfect but it's an
important step in a long, long
journey. And I suggest that anyone
who thinks we could've done more
at this moment in time is simply
being unrealistic.
(beat)
Anything else, Toby?

TOBY
No, sir. Good luck. I'll watch from
the back.

TOBY goes into the Press Briefing Room--

BARTLET
(to C.J.)
Let's go.

VOICE (VO)
Ladies and gentlemen, the President
of the United States.

The PRESS CORPS stands as BARTLET takes the podium. LEO,
MANDY, C.J., SAM and DONNA slip up the side...

BARTLET
Good afternoon. I'd like to start off
with a brief statement before I make
a couple of jokes and then go into
my musical numbers.

MANDY
(whispering to C.J.)
He's hard not to love.

(CONTINUED)

C.J.
(whispering to MANDY)
Did you have to tell Toby about
David Rosen?

MANDY
(whispering back)
I know, I'm sorry, it slipped out.

C.J. shakes her head and goes back to paying attention to
BARTLET before turn to DONNA--

C.J.
He's at the dentist?

DONNA
Yeah.

BARTLET
...with an 88 billion dollar surplus
for the coming fiscal year.

CUT TO:

31 EXT./EST. MEDICAL BUILDING - DAY

31

CUT TO:

32 INT. A THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

32

Nothing fancy. A couch, a chair and a coffee table with a
box of Kleenex. JOSH is sitting on the couch, still wearing
his coat. STANLEY MAXWELL is sitting in the chair.

JOSH
So--And like I said, I appreciate
you squeezing me in like this.

STANLEY
I was able to cancel someone when
you called.

JOSH
I wish you hadn't gone to that
trouble, Stanley, it's not a big
deal.

STANLEY
What's not a big deal?

JOSH doesn't say anything for a moment...

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY

Hm?

JOSH

I'm out of practice.

STANLEY

That's what comes from not seeing me for ten months.

JOSH

I think the idea would make some of the people I work for nervous.

STANLEY

Why are you here now?

JOSH

This is gonna sound silly.

STANLEY

Okay.

JOSH

There's a magazine article--a magazine article came out and said that several countries, some of them our enemies, have stored in freezers, the small pox virus.

STANLEY

Are you afraid you might have small pox?

JOSH

No, I mean--no.

(pause)

Don't laugh.

STANLEY

Okay.

JOSH

I can't get Ave Maria out of my mind.

STANLEY

The Schubert?

JOSH

Yeah, I swear. I've been humming it to myself all day, it's the strangest thing.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOSH (cont'd)

(beat)

Why do you think the *Ave Maria*?

STANLEY

Why do you think the *Ave Maria*?

JOSH

I don't know. My sister used to play it over and over again in her room, but that was I don't know how many years ago.

STANLEY

Your sister who died?

JOSH

Joanie.

STANLEY

Why did Joanie play the *Ave Maria* in her room?

JOSH

She was--you know I don't really remember a lot of--she was--she liked music. She--a lot, she liked it a lot. She wanted to be an orchestra conductor. She would pretend she was conducting to the music.

(pause)

Anyway, there's that. Plus, I have to tell you, I was thrown off a little bit when I got this card this morning. And it turns out I was the only one who got one. I mean of my friends. I was surprised. Joanie and Toby and C.J. and Sam were--

STANLEY

Joanie?

JOSH

What?

STANLEY

You named Joanie in there. You said you got some kind of card and Joanie didn't get one.

JOSH

I meant--no, 'cause we were just talking about her.

STANLEY
What kind of card?

(CONTINUED)

JOSH

It was--there are things I'm really not allowed to tell you. I assure you, I'm not holding back anything I'm supposed to be emotionally available for.

STANLEY

Okay.

JOSH

Thanks.

STANLEY

Can you talk about the card without talking about the card?

JOSH

You know what? I've gotta go.

STANLEY

Josh--

JOSH

No, really, it's not a big deal. I'm sorry I had you cancel an appointment.

STANLEY

But I did cancel it, so why don't you take your coat off and siddown.

JOSH

I really don't--it was an impulse and I wasted your time.

STANLEY

Josh, do you think it's strange that you've never told me how Joanie died?

JOSH

I've told you.

STANLEY

No, you haven't.

JOSH

I'm sure I have.

STANLEY

No.

JOSH

It's not a big deal.

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY

Okay.

JOSH

She was babysitting for me and there was a fire.

STANLEY

How did it start?

JOSH

I honestly don't remember. Something about a popcorn maker.

STANLEY

The house caught fire?

JOSH

Yeah.

STANLEY

While your sister Joanie was babysitting for you?

JOSH

Yeah.

STANLEY

Why aren't you dead?

JOSH

I ran out of the house.

(beat)

I was--you know, I just ran out of the house.

(beat)

I ran out of the house.

STANLEY

You were just a little boy, Josh. That's what you were supposed to do.

JOSH

Yeah.

(beat)

Of course.

(pause)

So there it is.

(pause)

Thanks again, Stanley. I'll call you soon.

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY

I hope you do, Josh. 'Cause between you
and me? This is not not a big deal.

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

FADE IN:

33 EXT./EST. WASHINGTON D.C. - NIGHT

33

We HEAR Franz Schubert's Ave Maria. It's a sad and haunting version. The music continues as we:

CUT TO:

34 INT. JOSH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

34

The music is coming from Josh's compact stereo. JOSH sits at his desk mindlessly holding an empty CD case.

There's a knock at the door and C.J. steps in...

C.J.
(quietly)
Josh?...

JOSH looks up...

C.J.
I was knocking but you didn't answer.

JOSH
I didn't hear the door.

C.J.
What're you doing?

JOSH
I think I'm ready to brief the President on the small pox article.

C.J.
Why don't you forget about that for tonight and come have some chili. Everyone's there.

JOSH
C.J., an NSC staffer gave me a card with instructions on it for what I'm supposed to do in the event of a nuclear attack. They want me up in the plane or down in a bunker. They don't want you. Or Sam or Toby for that matter. I didn't want to be friends with you and have you not know.

(CONTINUED)

C.J.:

Josh, have you been upset about this?

JOSH

Yes.

C.J.:

You're very sweet sometimes, you really are.

JOSH

C.J.--

C.J.:

Of course they don't want me, Josh, I'm a press secretary. I don't think they're gonna be issuing a whole lotta releases. Sam and Toby are communications, and my guess is that speech-writing won't be a priority either.

(beat)

Come have some fun.

JOSH

This is a beautiful piece of music. Do you know it?

C.J.:

I'm Catholic.

JOSH

I mean listen--right there--that's --it's miraculous.

(beat)

Schubert was crazy, you know.

C.J.:

Yes.

JOSH

You think you have to be crazy to create something powerful?

C.J.:

Josh, the cold war's over, there isn't gonna be a nuclear--

JOSH

Oh God, C.J., it's not gonna be like that. It's not gonna be the red phone and nuclear bombs.

(CONTINUED)

C.J.

What's it gonna be?

JOSH

It's gonna be this! It's gonna be something like this. Small pox has been gone for 50 years, no one has an acquired immunity, it travels through the air. You get it and you carry a ten foot cloud with you. One in three people die. If one-hundred people in New York City got it, you'd have to encircle them with one-hundred million vaccinated people to contain it. You know how many doses of small pox vaccine exist in the country? Seven. A hundred people in New York City get it, there's gonna be a global medical emergency that's gonna make HIV look like cold and flu season. That's how it's gonna happen. A little test tube with a rubber cap that's deteriorating. Guy comes out of the Times Square station and smashes it against the sidewalk. That's a World War. Right there.

C.J.

We'll make more vaccine.

JOSH

Well hurry up. 'Cause right now I'm the only one with one of these cards.

C.J.

Come have chili. The President's asking for you.

JOSH

I'll be right there.

C.J.

You're really very sweet sometimes.

C.J. exits, closing the door behind her. JOSH sits and listens to the music as we:

CUT TO:

35

INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

35

This is a room in the residence. There's a trough filled with ice, beer and wine. Thirty or so guests, including LEO, TOBY, SAM, C.J., MANDY, DONNA, CATHY, MRS. LANDINGHAM, GRANT, MARGARET, and the rest are enjoying hors oeuvres. Music PLAYS on the stereo (possibly "Moonlight in Vermont") Everyone is having a good time, and the size of the room allows for private conversations.

BARTLET is talking to SAM and GRANT...

BARTLET

See, Sam, it's all about mastering the fundamentals. Defense, keep your hands up, keep your feet moving, moving without the ball, following your shot... I'm a master of the fundamentals, and I really believe that's why my team so thoroughly conquered your team.

SAM

Right. And having a two-time ACC Player of the Week on your team probably didn't hurt that much either, sir.

BARTLET

(to GRANT)

The kids don't understand fundamentals.

GRANT

No appreciation for the game, Mr. President.

BARTLET

(calling over)

Mrs. Landingham!

MRS. LANDINGHAM

Yes, sir.

BARTLET

Are you drunk?

MRS. LANDINGHAM

No, sir. Why would you--

BARTLET

I just like asking.

(CONTINUED)

MRS. LANDINGHAM
I should say--

BARTLET
Oh, give it up. Have you seen Zoey?

MRS. LANDINGHAM
She's in the kitchen.

BARTLET
The kitchen?!

MRS. LANDINGHAM
I tried to--

BARTLET heads toward the kitchen as we:

CUT TO:

36 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

36

A very small room with a sink, stove, refrigerator and
butcher-block counter.

There are two huge pots of chili brewing, and ZOEY BARTLET,
19, is tasting one of them and adding something as BARTLET
comes in--

BARTLET
Drop it!

ZOEY
Dad, you scared me.

BARTLET
Drop the spoon right now and slowly
back away from the chili.

ZOEY
You never use enough cumin.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

I used the exact right amount of cumin.
No more, no less. Put the spoon down.

ZOEY does as she's told.

BARTLET

Atta girl. It's time for the onions,
would you like to chop?

ZOEY

Yes.

BARTLET

You know how to do it?

ZOEY

Yes.

BARTLET

You know how to do it right?

ZOEY

Yes.

BARTLET

I'll observe you.

ZOEY

Wouldn't you think the White House
kitchen would be a little bigger
than this? I mean, what happens when
you throw one of your 400-person
black-tie dinners for people, who,
like, the last thing they need is
free food?

BARTLET

Good to have you back, pumkin.

ZOEY

Seriously.

BARTLET

This isn't the White House kitchen,
twerp. The White House kitchen is
downstairs. Tell me your classes.

ZOEY

No.

BARTLET

Why?

(CONTINUED)

ZOEY
'Cause you'll meddle. Also, you're not coming on parents' weekend and embarrassing me.

BARTLET
Of course I am.

ZOEY
Dad--

BARTLET
Honey, if I don't come to parents' weekend and Embarras you, what the hell did I have kids for?

ZOEY
You know--

BARTLET
I embarrassed your sisters, and by God, I'm gonna embarrass you.

ZOEY
What if--

BARTLET
Chop the onions.

CUT TO:

37 INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

37

C.J., TOBY, DONNA and CATHY are talking to a few people.

C.J.
Wolves don't kill people. That's a myth.

TOBY
(to DONNA)
Where along the way did she turn into a wolf person?

C.J.
More people get killed each year getting change out of vending machines than get killed by a wolf attack.

TOBY sees BARTLET come out of the kitchen...

CATHY
Are you serious?

(CONTINUED)

C.J.
Number of people killed last year
retrieving change from a vending
machine: 4, number of people killed
in a wolf attack: 0.

TOBY
Excuse me a second.

TOBY heads over to BARTLET.

DONNA
How do people die from a vending
machine?

C.J.
I honestly don't know.

ANGLE: TOBY AND BARTLET.

TOBY
So I guess we haven't been getting
along too well lately, have we, sir.

BARTLET
No, I guess not.

TOBY
I've been irritating you.

BARTLET
Yes.

TOBY
Was David Rosen your first choice
for my job?

BARTLET
Yes.

TOBY
(pause)
Well I'm glad talked, sir, I feel
a lot better.

BARTLET
Oh, we were up all night on that one.
Me and Leo and Josh. They were
screaming at me "Governor, for
God's sake, it's gotta be Toby,
it's gotta be Toby."

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET (cont'd)

I held my ground and we went to David Rosen and Rosen said he wanted to take a partnership Salomon Brothers. Thank God. I couldn't live without you, Toby, I'd be in the tall grass, I'd be in the weeds. I know I disappoint you sometimes. I mean I sense your disappointment and I get mad 'cause I know a lot of times you're right. You're not the kid in the class with his hand raised and whatever it was you said to C.J. You're a wise and brilliant man, Toby. Don't ever wait for me to call on you.

TOBY

I didn't intend to, sir.

BARTLET

Good.

(pause)

Toby, the other night, playing basketball, did you mean what you said? That my demons are shouting down my better angels?

*
*
*

TOBY

(beat)

Yes, sir, I did.

BARTLET

And you think that's what's gonna stop me from greatness?

*

TOBY

It's what stops most people from greatness.

*

BARTLET

I suppose you're right.

TOBY

I'll tell you what, though, sir. In a battle between a president's demons and his better angels, for the first time in a long while I think we might just have ourselves a fair fight.

BARTLET

Thank you, Toby.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

It's a pleasure to meet you, ma'am,
I'm Charlie Young.

JOSH

Okay, hang on, let's back this up
for a moment and give it a second
chance. Charlie, this is a girl.
You don't have to call her ma'am.

CHARLIE

I beg your pardon, did I--

ZOEY

Zoey.

CHARLIE

I should call you Zoey?

ZOEY

Can I call you Charlie?

CHARLIE

Yes.

ZOEY

Then we're all set.

CHARLIE

I have a message from the President.

JOSH

That would be her father.

CHARLIE

You're forbidden from adding additional
cumin to the chili.

ZOEY

Charlie, check the door to see if my
father's nearby.

CHARLIE

Ma-am--

JOSH

(correcting him)
Ah-ah-ah.

CHARLIE

Zoey, I had certain instructions and I
don't want to--

(CONTINUED)

JOSH has checked the door and--

JOSH
You're fine.

ZOEY holds up the spoon with some chili...

ZOEY
(to CHARLIE)
Taste this.

CHARLIE doesn't have a choice since ZOEY's pretty much shoved the spoon down his throat.

ZOEY
Doesn't it need cumin?

CHARLIE
It needs oregano.

ZOEY
Let's get to work.

JOSH
See you guys.

JOSH exits as we:

CUT TO:

39 INT. FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

39

LEO and BARTLET are in a corner with C.J.

C.J.
I don't know, maybe the vending machines fell on them while they were trying to get their change, my point is, can't we build schools and protect wildlife at the same time? We must be able to do that.

LEO
Pluie really got to you, huh?

C.J.
She did seem awfully sweet, Leo.

JOSH has joined them...

JOSH
Hey.

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET

Hey, Josh, we were lookin' for you.
How's your tooth.

JOSH

It's good, thank you, sir.

C.J.

(to JOSH)

I'll be over there.

C.J. goes to a different part of the party.

BARTLET

Look at this, would you?

JOSH

At what, sir?

BARTLET

I don't know why, but there's nothing
that makes me feel quite so good as
the sight of colleagues enjoying
each other outside work. That's a
family. That's a team.

JOSH

That reminds me, Mr. President, there's
a big black man in the kitchen hitting
on your youngest daughter.

BARTLET

(calling)

Zoey! Charlie! Get out here!

JOSH

What were you guys talking about?

BARTLET and LEO sit back and begin taking JOSH through it...

BARTLET

We were talking about these women.

JOSH

Yeah?

LEO

We can't get over these women.

BARTLET

Look at C.J. She's like a '50s movie
star. She's so capable. So loving
and energetic.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET (cont'd)

In this room, only Leo and I understand what a father's pride in a woman like that must be.

LEO

Look at Mandy over there, going punch for punch with Toby in a world that tells women to siddown and shut up. Mandy's already won her battle with the President, the game's over, but she's not done, she wants Toby.

BARTLET

There's Mrs. Landingham. She lost two boys in Vietnam. What would make her want to serve her country is beyond me. But in 14 years she's never missed a day of work, not one. Donna, Cathy, Margaret, Zoey...

JOSH

Mr. President, there's something that's been troubling me for most of the day, and while I know this is an inappropriate time...

LEO

(beat)

What's on your mind, Josh?

JOSH

I serve at the pleasure of the President. And it's a great privilege that I'll never forget.

JOSH takes out his wallet and takes out the card...

JOSH

I can't keep this. I think it's a white flag of surrender. And moreover, I want to be a comfort to my friends in tragedy, and I want to be able to celebrate with them in triumph, and for all the times in between I just want to be able to look them in the eye. Leo, this card just isn't for me. I want to be with my friends. And my family. And these women.

(beat)

I hope you're not too angry with me, Mr. President.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET (cont'd)
go to college and beyond, regardless
of their economic status.

As BARTLET continues, we hear the *Ave Maria*. This time, though, it doesn't seem sad and haunting. The orchestration has given it a moving, powerful, and upward-looking feeling.

BARTLET
I understand that today was one of
Leo's Big-Block-of-Cheese days. You
all start out cynical but it never
fails, by the end of the day there's
always one or two converts.

The music continues...

BARTLET
C.J. Cregg is gonna be up all night
writing a position paper for the
Interior Department on the necessity
of wildlife protection. C.J., I don't
mind the cost of the wolves-only highway,
it's the segregation. The ACLU's gonna
petition on behalf of some reindeer
and then we're all screwed.

Everyone LAUGHS. The music continues...

BARTLET
Sam Seaborn had a guy spotted a UFO
this morning. Sam laughed him outa the
office, but he's been thinking about
it ever since. Well, Sam, you can rest
easy, it wasn't a spaceship from
another planet, just another time. A
long-since abandoned Soviet satellite.
One of its booster rockets never fired
and couldn't escape Earth-orbit. A
sad reminder of how two powerful nations
challenged each other and raced each
other into space.

The music continues...

BARTLET
What'll be the next thing that challenges
us, Toby, that makes us do better and
go farther? When small pox was wiped
out, it was called the single greatest
humanitarian achievement of the century.
Surely we can do it again, as we did
in a time when our eyes looked to the
heavens, and with outstretched fingers,
we touched the face of God.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARTLET (cont'd)

(beat)

God bless this planet. Here's to absent
friends and the ones who are with us
now. Let's eat.

The music continues as we:

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW