
Side # 1: Dave / Paige

DAVE. Okay, so Ned is—just so you know—Ned's not comfortable... having a lot of people around.

PAIGE. What does that mean?

DAVE. He's just a... quiet guy, who likes things to be... quiet. He just kinda... works best by himself, mostly.

PAIGE. This is the man who just became Governor.

DAVE. Yes, but, trust me, he's perfect for the job: he's incredibly smart, and he understands government better than anyone I've ever met. Believe me, once you get to know him, you're gonna love him.

PAIGE. I'm gonna *love* him? (*Remembering:*) Oh god. *Now* I remember; now I remember why we didn't work well together: you're the guy who *admires* the guy. You're the guy who says, "Hey—our candidate? —I like him, I'd vote for him, so let's not *worry* about how the *campaign* is going, or what the *polls* are saying, or what a disaster his swearing-in ceremony was—"

DAVE. Okay, we weren't gonna—

PAIGE. No, we're talking about the swearing-in, Dave—

DAVE. It was five minutes, on local television, at eight o'clock in the morning. Who even saw it?

PAIGE. The swearing-in?

DAVE. Yes!

PAIGE. It's online.

DAVE. Right, sure, but who's gonna—?

PAIGE. I've watched it, like, nine times. I shared it on Facebook.

DAVE. What?! Why would you—?

PAIGE. 'Cause it's that kind of video, Dave—the kind you have to watch.

DAVE. Ned taking the oath of office?

PAIGE. Yes! — *Dave*— Ned Newley taking the oath of office is the most amazingly, excruciatingly painful five minutes of live television I have ever seen. This is a man who *just* became Governor,

in his first appearance on TV, and all he has to do is repeat back what the judge says—

DAVE. Yeah—

PAIGE. Just repeat the words—

DAVE. Okay, I don't need to—

PAIGE. But instead—

DAVE. I don't need to *relive* this—

PAIGE. He just stands there, with this look of fear in his eyes—this look of absolute terror frozen on his face—

DAVE. Paige? —

PAIGE. And does nothing, for five minutes, but tremble, uncontrollably, from head to toe. (DAVE *has given up on interjections.*) I mean, it is impressive, Dave.

DAVE. See, I didn't... get that much enjoyment out of it.

PAIGE. Honestly, in the history of politicians failing on TV, you can't do better than Ned Newley being sworn-in. If he *was* sworn-in. I mean, can he claim to have taken an oath if he didn't say anything?

DAVE. He said *something*—

PAIGE. He didn't say anything. He was just making noises.

DAVE. No, at the end, when he's supposed to say "so help me god," I definitely heard the words "help me."

PAIGE. I'm not sure that makes him the Governor.

DAVE. Ned's just not comfortable in front of... people. And cameras.

PAIGE. So politics was a good career choice.

DAVE. No, listen: Ned was an amazing Lieutenant Governor.

PAIGE. Because Lieutenant Governors don't do anything.

DAVE. No, that's the point; Ned did everything. (*Referencing the portrait:*) Larry Clarke is genuinely as vacant as he looks. Every good idea he had came from Ned: his education policy, his energy plan, his annual budgets—it was all Ned. Ned Newley's basically been running this state since Larry was elected. I'm telling you: he's ready to be Governor—

PAIGE. *Is* he?—

DAVE. Yes—

PAIGE. Then you have to get him back on television today.