

Side # 5:

Scene 2

Arthur / Paige

ARTHUR. Paige! What do you think? What do you think?!

PAIGE. About?

ARTHUR. The *room*, Paige, look at the room!

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

ARTHUR. Doesn't it get you excited? Don't you feel a rush? The launch of a campaign? What's better than this? (*Indicating out the Reception door:*) Did you see Lulu? Did you talk to her?

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

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

PAIGE. No.

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

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

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

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

ARTHUR. What?

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

ARTHUR. What?!

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

ARTHUR. Like what?

PAIGE. The three branches of government?

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

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PAIGE. The idea of government?

ARTHUR. That's even *more* complicated.

PAIGE. The idea of branches?

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

PAIGE. Which is what? What does she know?

ARTHUR. She knows how to be Lulu. That's all she needs. That's what people respond to. I tell you, I've been working with her, what?, a day and a half?, and... I've never seen such raw talent. Her facility with language—I mean, not the *English* language, maybe, but *political* language—is amazing. Those index cards we used with Ned?; she doesn't need 'em. There's not a carefully calibrated, poll-tested phrase in the world that can compete with whatever words come tumbling out of her mouth.

PAIGE. But that's just *show*, Arthur.

ARTHUR. *Show?*

PAIGE. That's just artifice.

ARTHUR. No, it's real. That's the magic of it. The things she says—even when you know they make no sense—when she says them?, you believe them. (*He opens the door, and calls out:*) Miss Peakes? (*To PAIGE:*) The only thing I can't figure out—I mean, the truly crazy part—is that no one ever realized this before. The woman's a born politician. (*LOUISE enters through the Reception door.*)