

CARSON

27.

Sunny tries to control her anger. She closes her eyes for a moment, focuses her breathing. This doesn't work; she bites the soft part of her hand, between her thumb and pointer.

Girl #1 laughs as Sunny self-soothes. Girl #2 hits the sketchbook off the sink. Girl #3 picks up the baby and rips its arm off.

SUNNY

That was my mother's!

Sunny can no longer restrain herself. She punches GIRL #2 in the nose. The girl's nose gashes blood.

GIRL #1

What in the hell did you do?

GIRL #3

Oh my god! You're so dead!

Girl #1 grabs a handful of toilet paper and shoves it at Girl #2. The three bullies then rush out of the bathroom. Sunny throws her sketch book at the bathroom door with all her might.

SUNNY

Leave me alone! Leave me alone!

Sunny picks up her wounded stuffy and holds it to her chest.

15

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY - SAME TIME

Start 1

15

It's a perfect spring day. Elizabeth, sitting at a table outside a coffee shop, looks far more poised than a few nights ago. She is in a crisp suit and heels--no stains, blemishes, or wrinkles in sight--but she's nervous.

CARSON

Ms. Howard?

Elizabeth turns sharply to find Carson standing behind her. For a moment, they just look at each other.

CARSON (CONT'D)

I called your campaign office?
Thank you for meeting with me.

Carson blushes at the intensity of Elizabeth's expression and averts her gaze. Elizabeth smooths her skirt and a flyaway strand of hair. She clears her throat, drawing Carson's eyes back to her face.

con't

1/12

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CARSON

28.

ELIZABETH

You must be the toddler who wooed me?

She falters for a moment, cocking her head, curious.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

We meet...a third time? Weren't you at the fundraiser?

Carson laughs, momentarily relieved.

CARSON

Yes. I walked in on you...

ELIZABETH

Changing!

CARSON

...changing. Clearly my game has gone downhill since childhood.

She reaches out her hand, which Elizabeth shakes firmly.

CARSON (CONT'D)

Carson Lee. It's nice to meet you...formally.

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth Howard.

(beat)

Do you want to sit?

It's a small table. Carson attempts to scoot her chair away from Elizabeth's, but the two women still bump knees.

Elizabeth is visibly affected by the light touch. Carson unconsciously turns on the charm.

CARSON

I always thought Mandy in fifth grade was my first kiss, but video evidence proves otherwise.

ELIZABETH

I hope you don't think I make a habit of kissing girls in public parks?

CARSON

Only private ones, then?

Elizabeth is trying her best to be professional, but it's difficult with Carson smirking at her.

#votelove

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con't

2/12

CARSON

29.

ELIZABETH

Can I buy you a coffee, Ms. Lee?

Carson takes the hint, leaning back to give Elizabeth space.

CARSON

Carson. I'm good, thanks.

ELIZABETH

So, where have you been the last thirty years?

CARSON

Did you just ask me where I've been all your life?

More flirtatious than she intended, Elizabeth reels it in.

ELIZABETH

That's not quite what I said.

CARSON

It's basically what you said.

(beat)

Do your constituents know about your bad pickup lines?

ELIZABETH

Do you think it would help or hurt me in the polls?

CARSON

I think Blanc would lose his shit.

ELIZABETH

Then it'd be worth it. Hey, I'll make a video of all the worst lines I can think of. Maybe that will go viral, too.

Both women laugh, but Carson sobers quickly. They begin to speak at the same time.

CARSON

That video wasn't meant for public consumption.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

I should post a selfie of us.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

We can beat the news hounds to the scoop about my "mystery admirer."

Already pulling out her phone, Elizabeth stops mid-motion.

#votelove

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con't

3/12

CARSON

30.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Wait. What did you say?

CARSON

It's not your fault, but that video wasn't really meant for...everyone. My friend, Kevin-- I mean, my co-worker-- was trying to impress this guy and we thought we'd contained it, but, obviously not. My niece--

Carson pauses, thinking better of sharing her personal life.

CARSON (CONT'D)

I just don't need any publicity right now. Perhaps your campaign could take it down from the website?

ELIZABETH

It's just a childhood video. It's cute.

CARSON

I know. It may seem like nothing to you.

Elizabeth looks at Carson, then chooses her words carefully.

ELIZABETH

I'm happy to discuss it with my new campaign manager. When I get one.

CARSON

It's important I stay out of the limelight right now.

ELIZABETH

I understand. But, if I win...

CARSON

(deep breath)

I have custody of my niece. She's...sensitive. And her biological father has finally decided to--

(beat)

Why am I telling you all this? It feels like we've known each other forever. Or is it just me?

Carson and Elizabeth look at each other for a long moment. Elizabeth responds quietly.

con't

4/12

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CARSON

31.

ELIZABETH
It's not just you.

Carson's phone begins to RING, interrupting the moment.
Carson takes it out of her back pocket. The screen reads,
"Baldwin School."

~~I'm so sorry. I have to go this.~~

~~Of course.~~

Carson takes a few steps away. While she speaks with hushed urgency, Elizabeth looks up her campaign page on her phone. She watches the video's view counter ticking up, up, up.

Carson returns to the table, gathering her things rapidly.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)
I'm willing to compromise. Maybe--

CARSON
Sorry. I have to go. My niece...
(beat)
I swear it's not you.

Carson takes a business card out of her wallet and hands it to Elizabeth, who looks it over, then up at Carson.

CARSON (CONT'D)
Hopefully, we can continue this conversation soon?

End 1

~~Before Elizabeth can say anything, Carson is gone.~~

ELIZABETH
(to herself)
I mean, sure. Why not? You've already seen my underwear.

16 INT. CARSON'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - TWO DAYS LATER

Carson, Sunny and Ricky sit on the couch sorting through DVDs. There's an edge to Carson and Ricky's interactions; Sunny seems oblivious. The mended beanie baby, stitches visible on its reattached arm, oversees their selections.

CARSON
No. He can't watch *Die Hard* again.

SUNNY
Why not?

#voteLOVE

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

5/12

CARSON

74.

SUNNY

I don't watch the--

ELIZABETH

Previews. I remember.

As the feature presentation theme music begins, Carson meets Elizabeth's gaze over Sunny's head. She mouths, "I love you." Elizabeth looks astounded and moved; teary-eyed, she reaches an arm behind Sunny to squeeze Carson's shoulder.

43

INT. CARSON'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - LATER

43

The movie over, Sunny is asleep in the middle of the couch, her head on Elizabeth's legs, her feet on Carson's lap.

Elizabeth gently removes Sunny's glasses and sets them on the coffee table. She stands carefully and walks around to Carson's side of the couch, leaning on the arm.

ELIZABETH

So, um...

Start 2

CARSON

Yes.

ELIZABETH

Yes?

CARSON

Yes, I am sure.

(beat)

I love you.

ELIZABETH

I think...I love you, too.

CARSON

You *think*?

ELIZABETH

Ok, ok. I *know* I love you, too.

CARSON

Then I have a very important question for you.

ELIZABETH

Okay.

con't

6/12

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#votelove

CARSON

75.

CARSON

First of all, I'm not a U-hauling kind of lesbian, so it's important you know I'm not proposing. But your answer to this question could make or break our relationship.

ELIZABETH

Okaaay.

Carson suddenly becomes extremely serious.

CARSON

What's your stance on...

(beat)

...food trucks at weddings? Because I've always wanted a gourmet French fry truck.

In on the joke now, Elizabeth furrows her brow.

ELIZABETH

I don't know. I've always favored ice cream.

CARSON

Damn. I guess we should call the whole thing off?

While speaking, Elizabeth gently moves Sunny's feet and pulls Carson to stand next to her.

ELIZABETH

We've put in so much effort already. Maybe...two food trucks?

CARSON

My brilliant negotiator.

End 2

~~Carson and Elizabeth kiss. As they begin to get heated, they're interrupted by a loud KNOCK on the door.~~

~~CARSON (CONT'D)~~

~~What the hell?~~

~~Carson walks quickly to the door to avoid another knock waking Sunny. She looks through the peephole.~~

~~CARSON (CONT'D)~~

~~Looks like a delivery person got the wrong address.~~

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Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

7/12

CARSON

78.

46

INT. CARSON'S OFFICE / COPY ROOM - DAY

Start 3

Elizabeth stands on the threshold of the copy room. She takes a deep, calming breath and straightens her jacket. Carson is bent over the Xerox machine.

ELIZABETH

Carson?

Startled, Carson turns around. Her eyes are wet. She tries to wipe her eyes with her sleeve and drops her stack of papers.

CARSON

Dammit!

Elizabeth hurries to help collect all the fallen pages. Both women retrieve papers for a minute.

ELIZABETH

I--I'm sorry if I startled you.

They stand. Carson backs away from Elizabeth a few steps.

CARSON

No. It's fine. I'm just having a shitty day. Week.

(beat)

I saw the press conference.

ELIZABETH

How did you--

Carson is too beside herself to feel embarrassed.

CARSON

I have you on a Google alert.

ELIZABETH

Oh.

CARSON

I know you have to do it.

Carson sinks down onto a chair next to a small table. She begins trying, futilely, to sort her papers.

ELIZABETH

Carson...

CARSON

No. I knew what I was getting into when we started... I mean, I knew you'd need to make certain choices.

con't

8/12

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CARSON

79.

She sighs ruefully and gives up on the copies.

CARSON (CONT'D)
I feel like I've failed her,
Elizabeth.

Carson begins to cry.

ELIZABETH
Oh, hon. You haven't failed Sunny.
She's thriving because of you.

CARSON
Not Sunny. Lynn. My sister. I
promised her I'd never let anything
happen to her girl.
(beat)
I can't lose her now.

ELIZABETH
You won't.

Carson looks up sharply, her sadness shifting to frustration
and then anger.

CARSON
You don't know that. Ricky won't
talk to me. Sunny's worried she'll
have to leave the only school she's
ever liked. You can't even do what
you said you would...

Elizabeth's posture turns defensive.

ELIZABETH
You said you understood.

CARSON
It's just me, like always. Me and
Sunny against the world.

ELIZABETH
I'm not against you. I can't change
that Blanc's a jerk or that I have
to be at that debate.

CARSON
Did you at least think about it?

ELIZABETH
Think about what?

CARSON
About saying "No."

con't

9/12

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Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

CARSON

80.

ELIZABETH

I know you can't understand. You aren't--

CARSON

I'm not what? Smart enough? I don't rub elbows with the right people?

(beat)

You sound just like Greg.

ELIZABETH

What the hell?

(beat)

Just to be clear, I never promised I would tank my campaign for you. I said I would go to the school board meeting if there was any way possible--

CARSON

That is not what you said and you know it.

(beat)

Look, I don't expect you to sacrifice anything. People like you don't do that. I get it.

(beat)

It would have been nice, though, to know you'd thought about it.

ELIZABETH

I think about you and Sunny all the time! I come home early from the office for you, I bring dinner over, I support you in every--

CARSON

You said you fucking loved me!

ELIZABETH

That is not fair. I'm trying...I'm trying to get my dream job. A job that will help all of us in the long run! How can you possibly hold that against me?

CARSON

And I'm just trying to keep my kid! Jesus. You don't get it.

(beat)

Look, I'll make it easy for you. You don't have to come. In fact, I...I don't want you there.

can't

10/12

#voteLOVE

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CARSON

81.

ELIZABETH

Can you calm down? If it means that much to you, I'll...I'll call Ellie. See if there's any way--

CARSON

I'm done, Elizabeth. I'm out.

ELIZABETH

What? If you push me away now...

CARSON

If I push you away, what?

(beat)

What else can you possibly take from me?

Elizabeth stands over Carson, still sitting at the table.

ELIZABETH

I don't need this before the biggest night of my life.

CARSON

And I don't need yet another person letting me and Sunny down.

ELIZABETH

Wow.

(beat)

You clearly want me to go.

CARSON

I didn't invite you in! Your rich boyfriend's bit-on-the-side stole my father's video.

ELIZABETH

So much for gratitude. All I ever tried to do--

CARSON

Gratitude? For fuck's sake, Elizabeth!

ELIZABETH

Fine. I get it. You don't want me to come, I won't come. I guess love isn't enough, huh? Because you said you loved me, too.

Elizabeth pulls her jacket tightly over her chest. She moves a stray hair out of her face. She turns toward the door.

con't

11/12

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Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

CARSON

82.

CARSON

And don't you dare use Sunny as part of your "educational platform" anymore. She is not a fucking prop!

Elizabeth stops for a moment, contemplating a response. Finally, she takes a deep breath and silently walks away.

As soon as Elizabeth has left the room, Carson begins to cry in earnest.

End 3

47

~~Exit: Dog Park - Exit - A Blind Dog~~

A beautiful fall day finds Elizabeth and Renee in the dog park sitting on a bench. They watch Poe sniff at grass nearby, then bump into another small dog.

Elizabeth is dressed as if she could give a press conference at any moment, but she's clearly exhausted.

ELIZABETH

Okay. We came. Can we go now? It's not like he needs the exercise.

RENEE

You're the one who insists he be treated like any other dog.

Elizabeth sighs.

ELIZABETH

Girl. I'm terrible, I know. But I have had to be "on" all day, it's been the worst week ever, and I don't think I can stand this bra for one more minute.

RENEE

Take out?

ELIZABETH

Hell yes. But only if there's wine.

RENEE

Who do you take me for?

Renee looks around, her brow furrowing.

RENEE (CONT'D)

Where'd your blind dog go?

The two women stand to look, but are startled by a voice from the street just outside the park.

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12/12