

Adult M/F

THE WEST WING

INT. RITZ-CARLTON BAR - NIGHT

JOSH

[to WOMAN as he passes] Hey, Kim. How are you? [to AMY] Hello.

AMY

Hi.

JOSH

How was the ballet?

AMY

It was wonderful.

JOSH

Which one was it?

AMY

Do you know ballet?

JOSH

I know The Nutcracker although I've never been.

AMY

There are others.

JOSH

But I should start with The Nutcracker, right?

AMY

You don't like the ballet.

JOSH

No.

AMY

And you've reached that conclusion without ever having been to one.

JOSH

Well, I've never been to Bosnia either, Amy, and I don't think I'm going to go.

AMY

You don't mind sending Marines though, do you?

JOSH

Not a bit.

WAITRESS

Hey, can I get you something?

JOSH

Uh, Absolut martini on the rocks. Two olives, please.

AMY

What do you want, J?

JOSH
I'm sorry?

AMY
What did you want to talk to me about?

JOSH
Paid family leave.

AMY
What about it?

JOSH
It's not going to happen.

AMY
I know.

JOSH
At least not this year.

AMY
I know.

JOSH
I mean, we can't even go for it.

AMY
We asked you not to go for it.

JOSH
We can't.

AMY
Josh, our lobbyists sat with Legislative Affairs and everybody decided it would cost too much in political capital.

JOSH
Who was the date?

AMY
Excuse me?

JOSH
At the ballet?

AMY
A guy I've been seeing.

JOSH
And he likes the ballet?

AMY
He likes me.

JOSH

I think he likes the ballet.

AMY

What the hell is that supposed to mean?

JOSH

Thank you. Thank you for the extra olive.

WAITRESS

Sure.

AMY

"Sure." That's your type, isn't it?

JOSH

Won't catch her at the ballet.

AMY

Or in a library either.

JOSH

She seemed smart to me.

AMY

What do you want?

JOSH

How can you be blase about this?

AMY

About what?

JOSH

The United States is one of only six other countries out of 152 that has no national policy regarding paid maternal leave.

AMY

Neither does Papua New Guinea, so we're fine.

JOSH

Really?

AMY

What are you talking to me for? Get it for us.

JOSH

Can't do it.

AMY

I know.

JOSH

But money has been put aside for a study.

AMY

And that's great.

JOSH
The thing is...and here's the bad news.

AMY
Yeah?

JOSH
You guys wanted \$21 million?

AMY
Yeah?

JOSH
It's going to be \$20 million 500,000. You want to take my head off, go ahead.

AMY
What the hell's going on?

JOSH
Things are tight all over.

AMY
Is it possible that you are so addled that you've constructed some nonsense problem so that you'd have an excuse to see me?

JOSH
I mean, i-is it possible? I suppose you can say...

AMY
I don't believe you.

JOSH
Hey, you threw a water balloon at me.

AMY
And?

JOSH
I don't know, I was just throwing that out there.

AMY
Look...

JOSH
Like there's not a reason you're here right now?

AMY
I'm here because I thought there was a problem.

JOSH
All I know is you're here, I'm here and Nijinsky's home watching Leno.

AMY
Oh, by all means, make fun of my boyfriend seeing as how you've never met him.

JOSH
Your boyfriend?

AMY
Why can't you pick up a phone and say, "Would you like to go out sometime?" Why? Look... I'll tell you why.

JOSH
Do you need me in this conversation or are you okay by yourself?

AMY
Because this is what you like, this. Not anything else. This is the fun part.

JOSH
That's not true.

AMY
Yes, it is. We're not in the dorm anymore. I get paid a lot of money to do an important job and I'm not into getting diddled around by guys like you.

JOSH
Okay, that's like the fifth time you've said "guys like you."

AMY
It is not.

JOSH
It's the second time.

AMY
Fine.

JOSH
What's with guys like me?

AMY
If this thing went five minutes longer than you wanted it to go you'd run for the hills. You're "Hit-and-Run Josh."

JOSH
That's not true. [phone ringing] Excuse me. Hello. Donna, I'm kind of in the middle of something. What were you doing talking to...? Okay, tell him yeah. I have to go.

AMY
Yes, indeed.

JOSH
I'm sorry. I-I can't explain. [clears throat] I have to go.