

Scanned  
2/10

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

TITLE:

Thursday

24 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - DAY

LEO's at his desk as MARGARET comes in.

MARGARET

Leo?

LEO

Yeah.

MARGARET

She's here.

LEO

Good.

MARGARET

Should I send her in?

LEO

Yeah.

MARGARET

You want me to stay here?

LEO

Why?

MARGARET

In case something should happen?

LEO

(pause)

What would that be exactly?

MARGARET

I'll bring her in.

LEO

Thank you.

MARGARET steps out. A moment later AINSLEY enters. She will do her best throughout this scene to cover the fact that this is the most exciting, puzzling and terrifying moment of her life. It will manifest itself mostly in terribly formal and unwieldy sentences.

(CONTINUED)

LEO  
Ainsley?

AINSLEY  
Mr. McGarry.

LEO  
Leo's fine.

AINSLEY  
Yes sir.

LEO  
Were you offered coffee or something to drink?

AINSLEY  
Yes, the woman who works out there who I imagine is your secretary offered me coffee or a soft drink.

LEO  
Okay--

AINSLEY  
She was also kind enough to take my coat.

LEO  
Excellent.

AINSLEY  
She seems to be a very good secretary.

LEO  
Well she'll be happy to hear that, she's standing right outside the door.

And LEO bangs the door with his fist.

MARGARET (O.S.)  
Ow!

LEO  
So I have to tell you, I've never seen Sam Seaborn get beat the way you beat him last Sunday.

AINSLEY  
Yes, well, Mr. McGarry--

LEO  
Leo.

(CONTINUED)

AINSLEY

Yes sir. I've been thinking about that ever since your office called me on Tuesday, and I have this to say on my own behalf if you'll permit me a moment to say it and if you won't I certainly understand but I'd appreciate it if you would.

LEO

(beat)

I didn't really follow that, but...whatever.

AINSLEY

I think it's wrong for a man in your position to have someone summoned to the White House to be reprimanded for voicing opposition. I think it's wrong, and I think it's inappropriate. It's inappropriate, and I'll tell you what else:

LEO

It's wrong?

AINSLEY

Yes.

LEO

That's fine, except you weren't summoned here to be reprimanded.

AINSLEY

Then if you'll permit me, why was I summoned?

LEO

You have an interesting conversational style, you know that?

AINSLEY

It's a nervous condition.

LEO

I used to have a nervous condition.

AINSLEY

And how did your's manifest itself?

LEO

I drank a lot of scotch.

(CONTINUED)

AINSLEY

I get sick when I drink too much.

LEO

I get drunk when I drink too much.

AINSLEY

Well, Mr. McGarry--

LEO

Leo.

AINSLEY

Yes sir, I'll ask you again. For what purpose was I asked here today?

LEO

So I could offer you a job.

AINSLEY

I'm asking because I don't think it's fair that I be expected to play the role of mouse to the White House's cat in a game of...you know the game?

LEO

Cat and mouse?

AINSLEY

Yes. It's not like I'm not, you know, and the fact that maybe I don't look the same as some of the other Republicans who've crossed your path, doesn't mean that I'm any less inclined toward--

It catches up to her...LEO's pleased by this.

LEO

Here. it comes.

AINSLEY

Did you say "offer me a job?"

LEO

Yes. Associate White House Counsel. You'd report to the Deputy White House Counsel, who reports to the White House Counsel, who reports to me.

AINSLEY

(pause)

I'm sorry, a job in this White House?

(CONTINUED)

LEO

You want a glass of scotch?

AINSLEY

Yes, please.

CUT TO:

25 INT. WHITE HOUSE MESS - DAY

25

~~TOBY is buying a danish and some coffee.~~

JOSH

I think you're not listening to me.

TOBY

I am.

JOSH

Toby--

TOBY

Josh. Enough.

STEWARD

I'm out of the cheese, Mr. Ziegler, how 'bout boysenberry?

TOBY

A boysenberry danish?

STEWARD

It's new.

TOBY

Sure.

TOBY takes the danish and the coffee and starts walking--

JOSH

No, you're listening to me, but you're not understanding me.

TOBY

No, I'm disagreeing with you. That doesn't mean I'm not listening to you or understanding what you're saying. I'm doing all three at the same time.

JOSH

You gotta get outa their face, Toby, they can get up anytime they want, we don't have anything they need.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH follows TOBY into--

28 INT. TOBY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

28

JOSH

Tell me about Nimbala.

TOBY

(pause)

He's a good President, Josh. He was a great soldier, a brilliant commander. He's led his people for 28 years, he can't get ahead of the curve. He's cursed by geography. You know what, if the ground won't grow anything, you don't have an economy. But still he stands in a room and talks about Norman Borlaug. He came here himself, Josh. He didn't send delegates. I think it's 'cause he doesn't have any.

(beat)

I think he's holding his country together with both hands..

JOSH

(beat)

Then let's make sure we send him back with something.

GINGER comes in--

GINGER

Fellas?

TOBY

Yeah.

GINGER

They're ready.

TOBY

Yeah.

TOBY and JOSH walk out the door as we

CUT TO:

29 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - DAY

29

AINSLEY

I've always been a Republican.

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Yes.

AINSLEY

My father is a Republican.

LEO

Yes.

AINSLEY

His father was State Chairman of the Minnesota Republican Party.

LEO

Yes.

AINSLEY

When I was young?

LEO

Yes?

AINSLEY

I was a Young Republican.

LEO

Yeah, Ainsley, even if you hadn't already told me all this, you know, many many times, I would know it anyway 'cause I have this FBI file.

AINSLEY

You have my FBI file?

LEO

Yes.

AINSLEY

I can't believe--you have my FBI file?

LEO

Yes.

AINSLEY

I have an FBI file?

LEO

Ainsley--

AINSLEY

(standing up)

Mr. McGarry, I loathe most everything you believe in.

(CONTINUED)

LEO

Where are you going?

AINSLEY

I'm not going anywhere, I'm standing up, which is how one speaks in opposition in a civilized world.

LEO

Well you go, girl.

AINSLEY

I find this administration smug and patronizing and under the impression that those who disagree with them are less than they are and with colder hearts.

LEO

I don't think that's true.

AINSLEY

How many people on your staff assumed I was ambitious, mean and stupid because of the way I look in contrast to my place on the ideological spectrum?

LEO

None.

(beat)

C.J. Cregg thinks you kill your pets.

(beat)

You don't do that, do you?

AINSLEY

No, I don't kill my pets. I don't have pets.

(beat)

I've been thinking about getting a pet 'cause--it doesn't matter, the point is--

LEO

Ainsley.

AINSLEY

Yes sir.

LEO

Don't you want to work in the White House?

AINSLEY

Oh only since I was two.

(CONTINUED)

LEO  
Okay then.

AINSLEY  
(beat)  
It has to be this White House?

LEO  
Ainsley--

AINSLEY  
Mr. McGarry--

LEO  
The President likes smart people who disagree with him. He wants to hear from you. The President's asking you to serve.  
(beat)  
And everything else is crap.

LEO gets up--

LEO --  
Think about it overnight. Come back here at six tomorrow and gimme your answer.  
(shouting)  
Margaret!

LEO opens the door and she's standing right there.

LEO  
(to MARGARET)  
How you doin'. Show Miss Hayes out, would you please.

LEO exits...AINSLEY sits there for a moment until...

MARGARET  
This way.

AINSLEY follows MARGARET out as we

CUT TO:

30 INT. C.J.'S OFFICE - DAY

30

The room has been darkened and C.J. is lying on her couch with a cold wash cloth covering her face.

SAM steps in the door.

SAM  
C.J.?

(CONTINUED)