FADE IN:

MATT (V.O.)

Most people think Washington D.C. is run by older, distinguished-looking people like this...

CUT TO:

INT. "MEET THE PRESS" TYPE SHOW - DAY (DAY 1)

WE SEE TWO SENATORS IN A TELEVISED DEBATE. THEY'RE IDENTIFIED BY CHYRONS -- SENATOR TRENT ROGERS (R-ARIZONA) -- AN IMPOSING EX-ASTRONAUT AND SENATOR BRYCE LOWELL (D-NEW YORK) -- A HANDSOME BUT STIFF CANDICE BERGEN TYPE.

SENATOR ROGERS

This bill is about basic second amendment rights.

SENATOR LOWELL

I disagree! What about the native population of ptarmigan that could be potentially endangered if this hunting bill goes through?

(MORE)
SENATOR LOWELL (cont'd)

It seems to me that Republicans are against "big government" except when it allows them to kill cute little animals.

HER REMARK SCORES WITH THE AUDIENCE. THE TAPE FREEZES.

MATT (V.O.)

But those words she just said? I wrote them. And I'm twenty four years old.

WE SEE MATT O'BRIEN, ATTRACTIVE AND INTELLIGENT (AN ADAM BRODY TYPE) STRIDING INTO AN OFFICE. JASON SNYDER, A PLUGGED-IN AND ENERGETIC GUY APPROACHES AND GIVES HIM A CONGRATULATORY PAT ON THE BACK.

MATT (V.O.) (cont'd)

See, that's the big secret about Washington D.C. It's actually run by young people. Maybe it's because we're the only ones who can tolerate working crazy hours for no money.

WE SEE MATT AND JASON AT AN OFFICIAL FUNCTION SURREPTITIOUSLY STUFFING THEIR POCKETS WITH FOOD.

MATT (V.O.) (cont'd)

Or maybe it's because we're the only ones who can take the uncertainty that with every election you might be out of a job. And even between elections -- if your boss squeezes somebody's ass, twenty people have to update their resumes.
WE SEE A TELEVISION. ON IT A PENITENT CONGRESSMAN MAKES A STATEMENT AS HIS WIFE GLARES AT HIM. PULL BACK TO REVEAL MATT AND UPSET CO-WORKERS PACKING BOXES.

MATT (V.O.) (cont'd)

We put up with the poverty and the instability because the upside is we get to run the country. But don't worry, it doesn't go to our heads.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER (NIGHT 1)
AT THE BAR MATT AND JASON WATCH A REPLAY OF THE DEBATE.

MATT

(HANDS UP IN VICTORY) Yes! Yes! Damn I'm good!

JASON

(ORDERING) Another beer for our future President.

THE BARTENDER SETS DOWN A BEER.

MATT

(TO BARTENDER) That came fast! I'm gonna make you an ambassador.

JASON

(CLINKS GLASSES) To a great day. Today, Lowell's quoting you. Tomorrow it's you up there. Which reminds me -- I think it's time to start building some name recognition.

(MORE)
JASON (cont'd)

"Capitol Beat" magazine is running
a "Fifty Hottest on the Hill" contest
where they pick the best-looking
people in DC. I want you to enter. *

MATT

Do you ever wonder what your life
would be like if you took all this
energy that you invest in me and
put it into yourself?

JASON

Pfft. I could never win an election.
Too many skeletons.

MATT

What skeletons?

JASON

I don't have them yet. (GESTURES
TO THE BAR) That's why I'm here.
(NOTICES AN APPROACHING WOMAN) Now
there's a candidate for "Hottest on
the Hill."

MATT

Wow. Yeah, don't tell her about
the contest, she'd kick my ass.
How do I look?
JASON

(RE: TIE) You got sauce all over it. How does this always happen?
When you run for office we are gonna seriously have to think about bibs.

HE SWITCHES HIS TIE WITH MATT'S. THEY MAKE THE TRANSFER JUST BEFORE THE WOMAN APPROACHES. THIS IS MAGGIE, AN ATTRACTIVE AND INTELLIGENT WOMAN (AN ANNE HATHAWAY TYPE).

MAGGIE

(TO MATT) Do you mind moving over?
You're kinda hogging the hotwings.

MATT

Sure. (MAKES ROOM) Hey, I'm Matt.

HE SHAKES HER HAND WITH A TWO-HANDED GRIP.

MAGGIE

Wow. Somebody's planning on running for something. You've got that two-handed, "can I count on your vote?", handshake down pat.

JASON

We've been practicing it. Do you think it's too much thumb? *

MATT

Jason? Go away. *

JASON TURNS AWAY TO GIVE THEM SOME PRIVACY. MAGGIE REACHES FOR A HOTWING.

MATT (cont'd)

So, you like hotwings, huh?
MAGGIE

Wow. You're not good at this.

MATT

I admit I may be a little off my game. I've just been slammed at work. See, I'm a legislative aide for -- (SEEING HER FACE) What?!

MAGGIE

I just hate how all the guys in DC can't wait to namedrop their jobs. They'll find a way to fit it into any conversation. "You like jazz? That's so funny because I work at the Defense Department."

MATT

Yeah, everybody does that, even people who don't report directly to a Senator like I do.

SHE SMILES AND REACHES FOR ANOTHER HOTWING.

MATT (cont'd)

Don't eat that. Let me take you to dinner. I know a great burger place down the block.

MAGGIE

I'm here with a friend.

MATT

Bring her. The burgers are cheap.

(MORE)
MATT (cont'd)

I can buy three. I'm serious, I
wish they cost more. They're like
eighty cents. It's scary.

MAGGIE LAUGHS AND CROSSES TO HER FRIEND CHEYENNE AT A
NEARBY TABLE. CHEYENNE IS CUTE AND FUN BUT A BIT WILD.

CHEYENNE

Hey, I got you a beer. *

MAGGIE

I asked for a club soda. *

CHEYENNE

And then I rolled my eyes and got *
you a beer. *

MAGGIE

That guy at the bar wants to take
us to dinner.

CHEYENNE

(LOOKS) Ooh, he's cute.

MAGGIE

Not him.

CHEYENNE

(LOOKS AT ANOTHER) Ooh, he's cute.

MAGGIE

Yeah, not him either. This may go
quicker if I just point him out.

SHE DISCREETLY POINTS MATT OUT.

CHEYENNE

(SINCERE) He's the best one! *
MAGGIE

I think I might be interested so

I'm pretending to invite you along

but I need you to shake your head

like you can't come.

CHEYENNE SHAKES HER HEAD.

MAGGIE (cont'd)

And that's how it feels to say "no"

to a man. (THEN) Okay, bye.

CHEYENNE

I have never been more proud of

you!

MAGGIE RETURNS TO MATT.

MAGGIE

Yeah, she can't make it. Too bad.

MATT

Then it's just us. You ready?

MAGGIE

I don't know... I feel like you

should have to work a little harder.

(THINKS) I'll go if you can name

all fourteen cabinet posts.

MATT

There are fifteen.

MAGGIE

You just moved past phase one.
MATT

Okay, I can do this. Defense, State, Treasury -- the only real ones. Next... Justice, Agriculture, Energy, Commerce -- the snazziest dressers. Labor -- the worst dressers. Then the H's -- Health and Human Services, Homeland Security and HUD. Transportation and Education, or as I like to call them -- the "a-tions". And finally, the last in the chain of command, if the head of this becomes President something has gone seriously wrong -- Veteran's Affairs! Tah Dah!

MAGGIE

You're missing one.

MATT

Really?!

JASON TRIES TO HELP BY MIMING.

MATT (cont'd)

I have no idea what you are doing!

(JASON MIMES SOME MORE) Department of Crazy?

MAGGIE

Too bad. I was really looking forward to having dinner inside somewhere. Not in an exterior place.
MATT
Department of Interior!

JASON
Finally!

MAGGIE
(SMILES) Darn, now I guess I have to go.

MATT
Shall we, Miss...?

MAGGIE
It's Maggie.

MATT
Hey, Maggie.

HE SHAKES HER HAND WITH TWO HANDS BUT IN A SOFTER WAY.

MAGGIE
Now that handshake could get you some votes.

THERE'S A MOMENT OF ATTRACTION.

MAGGIE (cont'd)

(NOTICES) You got sauce on your tie.

MATT
(LOOKS DOWN) How?! I didn't even touch the plate!

AND WE... FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

SCENE B

INT. SENATOR LOWELL'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 2)
(ELLIOIT, ERIC, JASON, LOLLY, MATT, MAGGIE, SENATOR
LOWELL, WOMAN)

MATT ENTERS, UPBEAT. A NERDY CONGRESSIONAL PAGE,
ELLIOIT, SITS IN THE RECEPTION ANTEROOM. MATT PICKS UP
MAIL AND VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS AND RUFFLES ELLIOIT'S HAIR.

MATT

Great to see ya, buddy.

ELLIOIT

(CONFUSED) You hate me. Every day
you come in here, point to my blazer,
call me a stewardess and tell me
you want a bloody Mary.

MATT

I guess I'm just in a good mood.

Today, make it a mimosa.

MATT ENTERS THE MAIN OFFICE AND IS APPROACHED BY JASON
WHO IS HOLDING AN OLD COPY OF "CAPITOL BEAT" MAGAZINE.

JASON

You wanna know something weird?

After you left, I actually hooked
up with a girl from the Department
of Interior. She thought my miming
was excellent. How was your night?
MATT

The best. Maggie's so cool and fun to talk to -- it's like talking to you. And she's gorgeous. (REALIZES) I may never need to talk to you again.

ERIC, THE CHIEF OF STAFF, LATE THIRTIES, BALDING APPROACHES. ERIC HAS STAYED TOO LONG IN THIS JOB. AS A RESULT, HE'S A LITTLE BEATEN DOWN AND BITTER.

ERIC

Staff meeting in the Senator's office. (OFF MAGAZINE) Hey, "Fifty hottest on the Hill". You know I made that list in ninety-five.

JASON AND MATT SHARE INCREDULOUS LOOKS. TIME HAS NOT BEEN KIND TO ERIC. THEY START TO GATHER THEIR THINGS.

JASON

Well, great. You're finally moving on. This is the first time in five years I have heard you talk about a girl other than Kate. I was gonna speak to you about getting a first lady. (LEANS IN) I heard someone in the office thought you were gay.

MATT

Wonder if it's 'cause you're always whispering in my ear!

THEY ENTER THE SENATOR'S OFFICE AND TAKE THEIR SEATS NEXT TO LOLLY, A DIM CO-WORKER.
MATT (cont'd)

Hey Lolly, how was your weekend?

LOLLY

Only okay. I had guests in town and they wanted to see the National Mall -- which as it turns out is not actually a mall, but a bunch of buildings and museums, did you know that? Such a disappointment.

MATT

I know what you mean. Every time I see the Washington Monument I think, "What a waste. This could be a Panda Express!"

JASON

(SOTTO) How much money did her Dad give to the Senator's campaign again?

MATT

Not enough.

SENATOR LOWELL (SEEN IN THE EARLIER DEBATE) ENTERS.

SENATOR LOWELL

Okay, everyone. The Senate's in session in twenty minutes so let's move quickly. Matt, where are we on the Ethics reform resolution?
MATT
Collins is willing to co-sponsor it but he wants your support for his highway bill or your beach house for the month of August.

SENATOR LOWELL
Go back to them with September and we'll see where we are. Next?

ERIC
Did everybody see that Former House Speaker Stevens died? (THE GROUP "AWW"S) Yeah, it's sad. (THEN, TOUGH) Now I want the Senator to get a good seat at the funeral. Jason, I don't care if you have to trade a vote for it -- that spiteful old bastard screwed us in life -- it's not gonna happen in death.

SENATOR LOWELL
Anything else?

ERIC
Yeah, we got back the latest poll numbers and they're generally good but there's one area I'm concerned about -- the numbers were low for the question, "Is the Senator someone you would want to share a beer with?"
SENATOR LOWELL

Oh, this is nonsense. I'm very
much one of the people. I mean,
don't you all agree? Wouldn't you
want to have a beer with me?

THERE IS A LONG SILENT BEAT.

SENATOR LOWELL (cont'd)

Hypothetically.

JASON/ERIC/MATT

Oh, yeah. Definitely. I'm in!

SENATOR LOWELL

(BITTER) You know this is probably
the kind of thing that Senator Rogers
scores really high on. Because he
actually has had a beer with
everyone. I swear he became an
Astronaut because he thought Tang
had alcohol.

ERIC

Any ideas on how to fix this, people?

JASON

Well, we can try and get you on the
late night shows. Have you tell a
couple of jokes or a funny story.
Do you have any of those?

SENATOR LOWELL

(EXCITED) Ooo, I know! I can recite
a poem by Emily Dickinson.
ERIC
Senator, we want people to want to
drink a beer with you not because
of you.

LOLLY
What about inviting a magazine to
photograph you and your husband at
home?

IT GETS AWKWARDLY QUIET.

LOLLY (cont'd)
What? Why does this always happen
when I talk?

SENATOR LOWELL
(VERY BUSINESS LIKE) Now is not a
good time. Mr. Lowell is currently
in "the dog house" for a certain...
indiscretion that was too flagrant
to be overlooked. You will also
notice Cathy is no longer with us.

ERIC
Okay, moving on! I think we still
need a solution to this beer issue.

MATT
What about a baseball game? The
Senator goes back to New York for a
game. She wears a baseball hat and
jeans. She can even drink an actual
beer.
ERIC
Let's keep thinking.

SENATOR LOWELL
I'm intrigued by Matt's idea.

ERIC
(STUNG) Okay, then.

MATT
We could also surround you with people who look like they're having a good time, make it seem like the place to be -- Lolly, can you find some fun people to put in the box with the Senator?

LOLLY
You mean like clowns?

MATT
You know what? I'll take care of the people -- just find me a hat.

ELLIO Worker POKES HIS HEAD IN.

ELLIO Worker (TO MATT) Some constituents are here for their tour.

MATT GETS UP TO GO.

SENATOR LOWELL
Smart idea, Matt.

MATT REACTS, PLEASED. JASON MIMES "YOU ARE ON FIRE." * MATT IGNORES HIM AND ENTERS THE RECEPTION ANTeroom.
(TO THE TOUR) Hey, I'm Matt O'Brien, one of Senator Lowell's aides. If you'll follow me... (LEADS THEM DOWN A HALLWAY) we are currently in the Russell Senate building, named after the legendary Celtics Center Bill Russell. (BEAT) Ah, just a test to see if you were listening. The building is actually named after Senator Richard Russell of Georgia. (NOTICES A RAISED HAND) Yes, Ma'am?

WOMAN

(POINTING) What do they do?

MATT

Those are Congressional pages...

THE GROUP SHIFTS AND MATT SPOTS MAGGIE IN A PAGE UNIFORM. SHE'S IN A CONVERSATION AND DOESN'T SEE HIM.

MATT (cont'd)

(SHOCKED) They're high school students who deliver the mail.

HE TURNS BACK TO THE TOUR GROUP BUT HE'S STILL REELING.

MATT (cont'd)

Uh... and that's how a bill becomes a law. Thanks! Bye!

HE ABANDONS THE TOUR AND RUNS DOWN THE HALL.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

SCENE C

INT. SENATOR LOWELL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER
(ELLIOt, MATT)

MATT RUSHES IN. HE GRABS ELLIOT BY THE SHOULDERS.

MATT

(WITH URGENCY) How old are you?!

ELLIOt

(NERVOUS) Uh...

MATT

What's the oldest you can be?!

ELLIOt

Uh, if I talk in a (FAKE DEEP VOICE) deep voice like this (NORMAL VOICE) people usually let me buy beer.

MATT

No, the pages. How old are the pages?

ELLIOt

Oh. Usually eighteen.

MATT

Well, could be worse.
ELLiot

(THINKS) But I think Charlie's like sixteen.

MATT

(PANICKED) What?!

ELLiot

(BACKING DOWN) Eighteen! We're all eighteen!

MATT RUSHES OUT. AND WE...

* CUT TO:
SCENE D

INT. SENATE BUILDING HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 2)  
(MATT, MAGGIE)

MATT RUNS DOWN THE HALLWAY AND FINDS MAGGIE.

MAGGIE

(LIGHTING UP)  Hey!

MATT

We need to talk. Uh, you weren't totally honest with me last night.

MAGGIE

Oh.

MATT

Yeah. (POINTS TO HER UNIFORM AND NAME TAG) How could you not tell me?

MAGGIE

I'm sorry... it's just so hard to figure out a good way to do it. People usually treat me differently after they find out I'm Senator Rogers' daughter.

MATT

You're what?!
MAGGIE

(POINTS AT NAME TAG) Rogers, the Republican Senator from Arizona, used to be an Astronaut--

MATT

I know who he is! I didn't know you were related to him! I was just freaked out that you were a page! This is really bad!

MAGGIE

So what are you more upset about -- that I'm a page or that I'm a Republican?

MATT

I don't know! They're both so terrible!

MAGGIE

Well, you can relax, I'm eighteen.

MATT

Oh good, so it's not illegal, just reprehensible. I don't understand why you didn't tell me you were a page?! That seems like pretty important information.

MAGGIE

Why would I tell you? I'm of legal age. I'm a page for the summer and then I'm going to Georgetown.
MATT

You got into Georgetown? Those bastards wait-listed me. (BACK TO PANIC) I can't believe you're Senator Rogers' daughter. Mr. Ultra-Conservative Space-man. You know, we've sent a lot of people up there. It's not that special anymore!

MAGGIE

I don't see what this has to do with the fact that we had an amazing time last night. (FLIRTY) And we could have an amazing time again tonight. Maybe we should duck behind this statue of Henry Clay right now so I can show you --

MATT

First of all, that's Daniel Webster. Second, what time tonight -- wait what am I saying? We can't see each other again -- your Dad is one of my boss' biggest enemies. They were on just on TV debating each other.

MAGGIE

You work for Bryce Lowell? Ew.
MATT
Ew? What are you "ewing"? Health care for the forty seven million who are uninsured? A living wage for the working poor?

MAGGIE
You're as self-righteous as she is. She seems like a real fun gal.

MATT
(DEFENSIVE) Hey, we're working on that!

MAGGIE
And that debate was ridiculous. Who was the idiot who thought it was a good idea to bring up the hunting of ptarmigan as this huge problem?

MATT
You didn't think he was an idiot a second ago when you wanted to duck behind Daniel Webster over here.

MAGGIE
The ptarmigan population is flourishing -- they reached record highs in 2006. Do you even know what a ptarmigan is?

MATT
Of course. (BLUFFS) It's a dog.
MAGGIE

It's a bird.

MATT

A bird-like dog.

MAGGIE

How perfectly knee-jerk liberal that you don't even know what you're rallying to save. If you're curious I have a stuffed one I can show you some time.

MATT

See, they're cute. You have a stuffed one. (REALIZING) Oh, you mean a stuffed one?! Like with the insides missing and the glass eyes?

MAGGIE

(PROUD) Yep. I've been a hunter since I was nine.

MATT

So you're eighteen and a Republican and a hunter. Fan-tastic.

MAGGIE

You keep harping on my age. I really don't understand what the big deal is. I've always been mature for my age --
MATT
Well, sure, you grow up fast when you have to protect the prairie with your shotgun.

MAGGIE
And I've always dated older men.

MATT
Well not this one. I have a political future and this is a scandal waiting to happen. Plus, I disagree with pretty much everything you believe in and oh yeah, I think your dad is the devil.

MAGGIE LOOKS HURT.

MATT (cont'd)
Sorry, I guess I'm just thrown by this. Last night we seemed so...

MAGGIE
Yeah, well, I guess that was last night. So... goodbye.

MATT
Yeah, I guess I'll see you... never.

MAGGIE
Wow, that's dramatic and appropriately hysterical for someone in your party.

AND WE...
SCENE E

INT. SENATE CLOAKROOM - LATER (DAY 2)  
(CHEYENNE, MAGGIE, SENATOR ROGERS, SENATOR FURMAN)  

WE'RE IN AN IMPOSING WOOD-PANELED ROOM OFF THE SENATE  
FLOOR. AN ANCIENT SENATOR IS SITTING, STARING STRAIGHT  
AHEAD, NOT TOTALLY PRESENT. MAGGIE HANDS HIM A WATER.  

MAGGIE  
Can I get you anything else Senator Furman?  

HE CONTINUES TO STARE STRAIGHT AHEAD.  

MAGGIE (cont'd)  
Okay, then.  

HER DAD, SENATOR TRENT ROGERS (SEEN IN THE EARLIER  
DEBATE) APPROACHES HER.  

SENATOR ROGERS  
(RE: FURMAN) I know. It's scary that he gets to vote.  

MAGGIE  
It's scary that he gets to drive.  

(THEN) You look nice.  

SENATOR ROGERS  
I'm delivering the eulogy at Speaker Stevens funeral. Sad day. Although I do love watching the Democrats squirm in their bad seats.  

(MORE)
SENATOR ROGERS (cont'd)

(BIG SMILE) I called in a few favors

to make sure that Lowell was put in
Siberia. Can you believe that cheap
shot she got off about ptarmigans
actually scored some points? We
got a fight on our hands. You know
what this reminds me of?

MAGGIE

(KNOWS WHERE THIS IS GOING) Space.

SENATOR ROGERS

(DOESN'T HEAR HER) Space. It's

not easy to get there. It involves
a lot of man-hours, training, blood,
sweat, and tears. But we go because

it's the right thing to do.

MAGGIE

(HEARD IT BEFORE) Yeah, Dad, I

know.

SENATOR ROGERS

Well, I'd better get back to work.

See ya at home, Pumpkin.

HE KISSES HER CHEEK. SOMEONE PASSES BY AND SEES.

SENATOR ROGERS (cont'd)

(CLARIFYING) Father-daughter.

Can't be too careful these days.

HE CROSSES AWAY. CHEYENNE APPROACHES WITH A MAGAZINE.
MAGGIE
(SHOCKED) Is that "Hustler"?

CHEYENNE
Yeah, Larry Flynt sends it free to every member of Congress. And someone keeps leaving their copy in here. I'm dying to find out who it is so I can vote for him! (THEN)

Hey, I was thinking, if you see that guy again do you want to borrow that shirt of mine that I always wear as a dress?

MAGGIE
First of all, that comes up to (INDICATES BELT HEIGHT) here and it doesn't matter. It's over.

CHEYENNE
What? Why?

MAGGIE
Uh, let's see, I'm too young, I'm too Republican, I hunt...

CHEYENNE
I thought guys found the hunting sexy.

MAGGIE
They do but the repressed ones can't admit it.

(MORE)
MAGGIE (cont'd)

Basically, he found out about my job and my dad and flipped. See, he works for Senator Lowell.

CHEYENNE

Ew.

MAGGIE

That's what I said! Anyway, he doesn't want to have anything to do with me.

CHEYENNE

(SQUEEZING HER HAND) Aww, Maggie.

MAGGIE

It's so frustrating sometimes. I feel like I've been thirty since I was ten and I just wish the rest of me would catch up. I'm tired of waiting to do all the things I want to do, do you know what I mean?

CHEYENNE

(BEAT, SINCERE) No. I've never waited to do anything in my life.

MAGGIE

It's true. You have like no impulse control.

CHEYENNE

It's because I'm from Alaska.

(MORE)
CHEYENNE (cont'd)
There's not a lot of sunlight. You gotta make your own fun. Hey, want to hit Bullfeathers tonight? Should * be a lot of cute guys...

MAGGIE
You are dedicated.

CHEYENNE
Look, I gotta find a man or a job before this is done -- because I won't go back there. There's like no sunlight!

MAGGIE
Sorry. I'm not up for it.

CHEYENNE
(BEAT) You liked him, huh? *

MAGGIE NODS SADLY. *

CHEYENNE (cont'd)
So why you can't be together? Who cares about the age difference? * And being on opposite sides just * makes it more exciting! Like with * that bald Cajun guy who worked for * Clinton and that angry lady!

MAGGIE
You didn't see his face. It's done.

CHEYENNE
(HAS AN IDEA) We'll see about that.
MAGGIE

Whatever you're thinking, don't!

CHEYENNE EXITS.

MAGGIE (cont'd)

(CALLING) I'm not kidding! I can have you sent back to Alaska!

HER VOICE STARTLES SENATOR FURMAN.

MAGGIE (cont'd)

Oh, I'm sorry, sir, go back to staring straight ahead.

AND WE...

CUT TO:
SCENE H

INT. SENATOR LOWELL'S OFFICE - LATER (DAY 2)
(ERIC, JASON, LOLLY, MATT, MAGGIE)

MATT ENTERS, STILL UPSET FROM HIS CONVERSATION WITH MAGGIE. LOLLY RUNS UP TO HIM WITH TWO BASEBALL HATS.

LOLLY
Which hat do you want the Senator to wear?

MATT
What?

LOLLY
For the baseball game tonight? Do you want her to wear a Yankees hat or a Mets hat?

MATT
Oooh no! Oh no, oh no, oh no!

LOLLY
(CRINGING) Did I mess up again? Do I need my Dad to send a check?

MATT
No. This is my fault. By sending her to a game, I'm making her choose a favorite home town team.

(MORE)
MATT (cont'd)

People have really strong feelings about this -- no matter who she picks, she's gonna piss off half of her constituents.

LOLLY

Really? People care that much?

MATT

(DEMONSTRATING, CALLING) Hey Jason, what do you think of the Mets?

JASON

The Mets suck!

ERIC

(OVERHEARING) "The Mets suck"? The Yankees suck!

MATT

Thank you, gentleman. You've proved my point.

JASON

(STILL UPSET) Yeah, the Yankees have sucked their way to twenty six world championships, bitch!

ERIC

(EQUALLY UPSET) Just like your mother --

MATT

Whoa, that devolved fast! See the point is people feel strongly.
LOLLY

So we won't put her in a hat.

MATT

No, we already told the press she was gonna be at the game. They're gonna ask who she prefers. Look, don't do anything yet -- I gotta figure this out.

JASON APPROACHES WITH AN OLD COPY OF "CAPITOL BEAT".

LOLLY

Ooh. "The Hottest on the Hill."

(OFF PHOTO) Who's that? He's cute.

MATT

That's the President, Lolly.

LOLLY

(DEFENSIVE) I've just never seen him from that angle.

SHE CROSSES AWAY.

MATT

Listen, I need to talk to you about something.

JASON

Yeah, me, too. What about (HOLDS UP A CANDID) this photo of you for the "Hottest on the Hill" contest?
MATT

Maggie - that girl from last night --
is a Congressional page and Senator Rogers' daughter.

THERE'S A BEAT AND THEN JASON TEARS UP THE PHOTOGRAPH.

JASON

Won't be needing this 'cause you
won't be running for anything ever.

MATT

I didn't know! She just told me a
few hours ago in the hall. But
don't worry, she's eighteen and I ended it right away.

JASON

(PACING) So she never disclosed* who she was. We'll say you were
too dumb to know better. That defense always works.

MATT

(BEAT) It's just too bad -- She* was... (WITH AFFECTION) feisty.
She didn't let me get away with
anything. (TESTING THE WATERS) I keep wondering... maybe there's
some way... I mean she *is* eighteen.
She's technically legal.
JASON

Well I think we have our campaign slogan -- I went out with a teenager who was technically legal! (THEN)

Look, this is simple. You're a staffer, she's a page -- it sounds bad. You make a problem and there are a million other guys just dying to step in and do your job. Think of all the things you've given up to be here. When people were going crazy at a party in college, what did you do?

MATT

I'd leave the party so there would be no photos of me drinking underage.

JASON

And when it was Spring Break and we were all going to Cancun for a wild orgy, what did you do?

MATT

I volunteered for the Red Cross.

JASON

And when a bunch of us got your dog high, what did you do?

MATT

I didn't know you did that.
JASON

(UNFAZED) Because I protect you from stuff like that. I look out for you. Like I'm doing right now.

MATT

(DISTURBED) You got Roxie high?

JASON

This isn't just about you. You screw this up and I gotta go find another guy. You know how hard it is to find a good guy?

A CO-WORKER PASSES BY AND OVERHEARS THIS.

MATT

You won't be satisfied until everyone thinks I'm gay.

JASON

I'm telling you -- avoid this girl.

MATT

You're right. You're right. I know you're right.

ERIC BRINGS AN UNCOMFORTABLE MAGGIE INTO THE OFFICE.

ERIC

Hey, everybody, I'd like you to meet our new page.

OFF MATT AND JASON'S REACTIONS, WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

SCENE J

INT. SENATOR LOWELL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER (DAY 2)
(JASON, LOLLY, MATT, MAGGIE)

MATT AND JASON PULL MAGGIE ASIDE.

MATT
You've been assigned to this office?

JASON
Yeah, what's your game, missy?

MAGGIE
"Missy"? Really? (THEN) Look, all I know is my supervisor told me that someone put in paperwork and marked it urgent.

MATT
Well, I didn't put the request in so I can't imagine who did.

MAGGIE
Wait. I think I know. Uch, I am gonna kill her! I don't know how she did it but she is gonna be on the next boat back to Anchorage so fast--
MATT
So you're gonna be working here every day? Like coming to this office every day? Like when I walk in, you'll be here, every day?

MAGGIE
I'm starting to see why they wait-listed you at Georgetown.

MATT
I just don't understand how that's gonna work.

JASON
It's not. Listen, Maggie, you don't want to work here, right?

MAGGIE
Not particularly.

JASON
So what if we put in paperwork for a transfer?

MAGGIE
Well, I'd have to give a reason.

JASON
Fine. Use me. (BRAINSTORMING) Say I was condescending and rude.

MAGGIE
You actually are condescending and rude.
JASON

Even better! If I filled out the forms, would you send them in?

MAGGIE

I guess --

JASON

(SPRINGING INTO ACTION) I'm on it!

HE LEAVES. MAGGIE AND MATT ARE LEFT ALONE. IT'S AWKWARD AND QUIET.

MAGGIE

You got something on your tie again.

SHE REACHES OUT TO TOUCH HIS TIE.

MATT

(TORTURED) Just leave it!

LOLLY APPROACHES.

LOLLY

Hey, you're our new page? I'm Lolly. You're Senator Rogers daughter aren't you?

MATT

This you know?! You can't recognize the left side of the President's face but this you know! Unbelievable!

AND WE...

CUT TO:
SCENE K

INT. SENATOR ROGER'S HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY (DAY 3)
(KATERINA, MAGGIE, SENATOR ROGERS)

SENATOR ROGERS AND HIS WIFE, KATERINA, A HANDSOME EUROPEAN-BORN WOMAN, ARE EATING IN THE BREAKFAST AREA OF A GEORGETOWN HOUSE. MAGGIE ENTERS IN UNIFORM.

SENATOR ROGERS

Hello, Pumpkin. Want some toast?

MAGGIE

That'd be great.

KATERINA

(EUROPEAN ACCENT) I'll get you some more buh-tah, dear.

SHE EXITS.

SENATOR ROGERS

How many years has she lived here?
How can she still have an accent?!

MAGGIE

The voters don't care about stuff like that.

SENATOR ROGERS

Yeah, but they don't want their first lady to sound like the Count from "Sesame Street" either.

(MORE)
SENATOR ROGERS (cont'd)

(THEN) So where are you gonna be working today? The cloakroom again?

MAGGIE
Uh, no. Actually, I've been assigned to Bryce Lowell's office.

SENATOR ROGERS
What?!

MAGGIE
It's temporary--

SENATOR ROGERS
You know she's the enemy! She's trying to sabotage the hunting bill. She filibustered against my Insurance Protection Act. And when we served on the Intelligence Committee she tried to kill the mission I sent to Syria!

MAGGIE
We were in Syria?

SENATOR ROGERS
(BEAT) No. (THEN) I do not want you working there!

MAGGIE
It's for a few days until my transfer goes through. Isn't there a chance I could learn something?
SENATOR ROGERS

No.

MAGGIE

(TAKEN ABACK) Just no? How can we be certain we're right if we don't even listen to the other side?

SENATOR ROGERS

Just trust me. I happen to know a lot more about this than you do!

KATERINA REAPPEARS.

KATERINA

The two of you with your tempers. Please don't holler (PRONOUNCED "HOLL-AH").

SENATOR ROGERS/MAGGIE

(CORRECTING HER) Holler! Holler!

AND WE...

CUT TO:
MATT STOPS BY JASON'S CUBICLE AND FINDS HIM ON THE PHONE.

JASON

(INTO PHONE) So can we count on your support for Matt in the "Fifty Hottest on the Hill" contest? Jack in Veterans' Affairs? Listen, if you want to vote for Jack over my guy, fine. But do me one favor -- just come over and look at my guy's skin. Thank you. (HANGS UP) This contest is not going to be a cake walk.

MATT

Well, let me make this easier for you -- stop. It's silly and frivolous and I don't want you to enter me under any circumstances.

JASON

Or what? You gonna have your girlfriend shoot me?
MATT

You know I saw her out on the balcony
before -- smoking a cigar!

JASON

So she's a Republican who hunts and
smokes cigars. Basically, you're
attracted to an eighty year old
guy.

ERIC APPROACHES.

ERIC

The Senator is getting ready to
leave for her (EYE ROLL)
revolutionary "politician at a
baseball game" photo op. You guys
wanna prep her?

MATT NODS AND GETS UP. MAGGIE ENTERS WITH A PACKAGE.

MAGGIE

Hey, I need the Senator's signature.

MATT

We're just heading in there now.

THEY ENTER SENATOR LOWELL'S OFFICE. SHE'S THERE.

MATT (cont'd)

Hello Senator. You ready for the

* game?

* 

SENATOR LOWELL

Do you know if Derek Jeter is seeing

* anyone?

*
MATT
I'm sorry?

SENATOR LOWELL
I've always found him attractive and Mr. Lowell owes me one. What do you think?

MATT
I think my job just got a lot weirder.

JASON
Uh, Senator, we don't want you to be late, we should move this along -- we have this New York Yankees jersey that we want you to wear.

THE SENATOR PUTS THE JERSEY ON OVER HER CLOTHES.

MATT
And this is the New York Mets jacket that we want you to wear over that.

SHE PUTS IT ON OVER HER JERSEY. MATT TOSSES HER A HAT.

MATT (cont'd)
And here's a Mets cap to wear. With a Yankees helmet to go with it. Each inning I want you to change things around so that no one article of clothing gets more air time.
SENATOR LOWELL

Would you also like to drape me in
the tarp they use to cover the field
when it rains?

MAGGIE CAN'T HELP IT AND GIVES A DERISIVE SNORT.

MATT

Something funny?

MAGGIE

You're trying have it both ways and
please everybody but it's not gonna
work. No one will believe she's a
real fan of either team.

JASON

Why is she talking?

MATT

(BEAT) She's right. She's totally
right.

JASON

So what are we supposed to do?

MATT

Senator, which team do you really
like?

SENATOR LOWELL

Well, don't tell Derek but neither.
I've been a Cubs fan since I was a
little girl.

MATT

Then you should wear a Cubs hat.
JASON

Then we piss off fans of both teams.

MATT

I don't know. I think what that "who would you want to have a beer with" question is really saying is -- who seems genuine? This is the kind of thing that can't be faked.

SENATOR LOWELL

I think you're right. (TO MAGGIE)

Good instincts, Miss...

MAGGIE

Maggie Rogers, Senator. (THEY SHAKE)

I'm sorry, I know I was out of line --

SENATOR LOWELL

Not at all. I think you felt comfortable because you know I'm just an everyday human like yourself.

In fact, I bet you'd like to have a beer with me.

MAGGIE

I'd love to but I'm underage.

MATT

(SOTTO) Sure, you tell her. (TO MAGGIE) Can I see you outside?

THEY EXIT THE SENATOR'S OFFICE AND GO TO MATT'S CUBICLE.
MATT (cont'd)

What are you doing? You just gotta stay under the radar until we can get you out of here.

MAGGIE

(DEEP BREATH) I think I want to stay.

MATT

What?! No. This is a bad idea. Why would you even want to work here?

MAGGIE

I feel like I could participate. People on my side just think of me as Trent's daughter. They don't listen to me.

MATT

(TENDER) That's not because you're his daughter. That's because they're all Nascar-loving idiots.

MAGGIE

It was just so cool. Having her agree with what I said.

MATT

It took me two years to experience it and you about five minutes but I know what you mean. It's a rush.

(MORE)
MATT (cont'd)

(THEN) Well, I guess I can't stop *
you. But if you're going to be *
working here we should establish *
some rules. I am Mr. O'Brien, you're *
Ms. Rogers. When you bring me my *
coffee, do it carefully -- no grazing *
of the arm as you pass by --

MAGGIE

You mean like this? *

SHE TOUCHES HIS ARM.

MATT

(BIG GULP) Yes, that is exactly *
what we are trying to avoid. *

MAGGIE

(MOVES IN CLOSER) And I probably *
shouldn't lean in to say good morning *
like this...

SHE LEANS IN. THEY ARE ALMOST KISSING. JASON ENTERS *
AND THEY JUMP APART.

JASON

Matt, the Senator asked for you.

MATT

Excuse me. (TO JASON, SOTTO) Don't *
ever leave me alone with her.

MATT EXITS AND HEADS FOR THE SENATOR'S OFFICE.
SENATOR LOWELL

Matt, I just figured it out -- Maggie Rogers -- she's Trent's daughter.
Don't ever leave her alone.

MATT

What?

SENATOR LOWELL

I do not trust that man. He's not right -- something happened to him in space. So don't let her out of your sight.

MATT

("PERFECT") Of course not.

MATT EXITS THE SENATOR'S OFFICE. A GUY APPROACHES AND GETS VERY CLOSE TO MATT'S FACE.

GUY

(BEGRUDGINGLY) That's some nice skin.

AND WE...

CUT TO:
TAG

INT. SENATOR LOWELL'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY
(JASON, MATT, MAGGIE)

JASON ENTERS, TRIUMPHANTLY HOLDING UP "CAPITOL BEAT"
* MAGAZINE.

JASON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have in my
hands, the "Fifty Hottest on the
Hill" which features our very own
Matt O'Brien.

THERE ARE WOLF WHISTLES FROM THE OFFICE STAFF.

MATT

(TO JASON) I told you I didn't
want to do this. It makes me look
vain and -- (NOTICING, NOT HAPPY)
I'm number thirty-eight? What,
does Brad Pitt work here without my
knowing?

JASON

I'm telling you, this is gonna be
good for you. A little exposure
and it's a great way to meet girls,
get your mind off of...

MAGGIE APPROACHES HOLDING ANOTHER COPY OF "CAPITOL BEAT"
MAGAZINE.
MAGGIE
What is this?

MATT
What?

MAGGIE
This is such a cheesy way to try and meet girls.

MATT
Excuse me but it is a legitimate way to raise your profile and build some name recognition for a possible future candidacy.

MAGGIE
Do they know you couldn't get into Georgetown?

MATT
You know, for today, I'd like for you to work the phones and take messages in case any interested girls call.

OFF MAGGIE'S OUTRAGED EXPRESSION, WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW