

# THE HILL

“Pilot”

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\*

TEASER

SCENE A

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.

\*  
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\*

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.

\*  
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\*

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)  
(ELLIOT, ERIC, JASON, LOLLY, MATT, MAGGIE, SENATOR  
LOWELL, WOMAN)

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

\*  
\*

MATT

Great to see ya, buddy.

ELLIOT

(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.

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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.

\*  
\*  
\*  
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\*

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.

ELLIOT THE PAGE POKES HIS HEAD IN.

ELLIOT

(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.

\*

MATT

(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 --

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\*

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...

CUT TO:

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:

SCENE M

INT. SENATOR LOWELL'S OFFICE - LATER (DAY 3)  
(ERIC, GUY, JASON, MATT, MAGGIE, SENATOR LOWELL)

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