

the clintons

three plays for radio

by jonathan myerson

1

HECK, DON'T VOTE FOR HIM

first broadcast 6.8.16

2

THE COUP

first broadcast 13.8.16

3

THE MAN SCALE

first broadcast 20.8.16

broadcast on BBC Radio 4

the clintons

part one

HECK, DON'T VOTE FOR HIM

by jonathan myerson

studio draft

cast

**HILLARY RODHAM
BILL CLINTON**

STEVE KROFT

interviewer for *60 Minutes*

and

**BETSEY WRIGHT
JAMES CARVILLE
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS
DICK MORRIS**

sometime Chief of Staff
Campaign Manager
Director of Communications
political pollster

and

**LAW SCHOOL SECRETARY
CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS
REPORTERS**

at Yale

SCENE 1. CBS: 60 MINUTES.

**THE 60 MINUTES STOPWATCH TICKS ROUND: TICK-TICK-TICK-TICK-TICK-TICK
AND THEN THE PRESENTER:**

KROFT Good evening and welcome to Sixty Minutes.

**THE INTERVIEW – IN BOLD THROUGHOUT - IS TO BE REVOICED
BY THE CAST**

It's been quite a week for Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton. On Monday his picture was on the cover of Time magazine, anointed by the press as the frontrunner for the Democratic Presidential Nomination. Six days later he's trying to salvage his campaign. His problem: long-rumoured allegations of marital infidelity finally surfaced in a supermarket tabloid and last week they were picked up and reprinted, unsubstantiated, by the mainstream press. Since then for better or for worse, Governor Clinton's private life has become the over-riding issue in the Democratic presidential campaign.

AND INTO:

SCENE 2. LITTLE ROCK: GOVERNOR'S MANSION: LATE. JANUARY
1992.

IN THE ROOM, IN VARIOUS STATES OF EXHAUSTION: BILL, HILLARY,
CARVILLE, BETSEY.

CARVILLE He's just talking to them.

HILLARY He shouldn't even be talking.

CARVILLE Hillary, the network called him.

JAMES CARVILLE IS FEISTY, DETERMINED, BAFFLED BY DISAGREEMENT
AND HAS A VERY STRONG CAJUN ACCENT.

HILLARY We talked about all this when NBC offered us a slot – didn't
we? We decided no. We don't dignify it.

BILL George is here to handle communications. Let him pursue
the options, honey.

HILLARY These stories – they're tabloid. It's cash for trash. Money for
sluts.

CARVILLE We're twenty-three days out from the New Hampshire
Primary and we're dropping like a turd in a well - we can't
take another bimb –

HE STOPS HIMSELF

HILLARY We know – we know what you call them.

CARVILLE Right.

BILL I don't know.

WHO'S GOING TO TELL HIM?
THEN:

CARVILLE Bimbo...

BILL What?

HILLARY (GET ON WITH IT) Bimbo Eruptions.

CARVILLE They burst on us like volcanos, Governor. They cover us in molten doo-dah. And it all comes from...starts with a....

BILL 'Bimbo'. That's not a good word.

HILLARY This last one? Some wannabe lounge singer who can't even spell her own name?

BILL She was a news reporter. That time I met her, I mean. Local news.

WALKING IN, ENERGY:

GEORGE They want to do a special.

HILLARY No way.

GEORGE A *60 Minutes* Special. Straight after the Superbowl.

CARVILLE For real?

GEORGE That's an audience of one hundred million.

GEORGE IS YOUNGER, EAGER, GENTLER, AND EAST COAST.

HILLARY Have you thought about Chelsea? She's eleven, for Christ's sake. Have you thought about us?

BILL We did this. We covered this – before - said I regretted, I had caused pain in my marriage.

CARVILLE You did, Governor. Except it hasn't stopped this stuff. It's coming at us, almost daily.

GEORGE We have to take the charges head on.

HILLARY And if it goes wrong? If we come out looking worse?

GEORGE It's – you're right – it's like experimental chemotherapy. It cures us if it works....

CARVILLE Kills us if it doesn't.

A TINY MOMENT

CARVILLE We're that sick, folks, we haven't got a choice.

GEORGE Polls dropped another four points =

BURSTING – ALMOST OUT OF NOWHERE - ACROSS THIS LAST SPEECH.
HE IS INCANDESCENT (HIS FAMOUS TEMPER):

BILL I'll tell you what's sick. The whole press corps, the whole asswipe media, and what they're doing to politics in this country. Just going down there, paying money for this lurid shit, this "We Made Love All Over My Apartment". That's what they want us talking about, not how to heal this country, not health care, not education reform, not anything about the real issues facing this great country.

CARVILLE } (JUST TO PACIFY) We need a strategy.

GEORGE } We can handle it, sir.

BILL Do not – do not try to minimise how horrible I feel. I've worked all my life to stand for things, I have busted my butt for months out here on the road, and the American people don't want to know crap about it, and that's after I have poured ten million dollars' worth of information into their heads! All the policies, all the insight, and this is what they care about!

HE IS BLOWN OUT.

A MOMENT'S SILENCE, THEN:

GEORGE So, that's agreed, you'll do *60 Minutes*. I'll set it up?

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

TITLES

AND THEN OUT TO:

THROUGHOUT, BOLD IS USED TO MARK THE 60 MINUTES INTERVIEW. THEY ARE NOT MARKED AS SEPARATE SCENES.

KROFT **Keep in mind, as we said earlier, all of the allegations are unsubstantiated, all have been denied by everyone involved, except for the case of Gennifer Flowers. A former television reporter and cabaret singer, Gennifer Flowers in a tabloid interview for which she was paid, said she carried on a long-term affair with Governor Clinton from the late 1970s to the end of 1989. Earlier today Governor Clinton and his wife Hillary sat down with me to try to put the issue to rest.**

KROFT **Governor, who is Gennifer Flowers? Do you know her?**

BILL **Oh, yes –**

KROFT **How do you know her? How would you describe your relationship?**

BILL **Very limited, but until this, you know, friendly but limited. I met her in the late Seventies when I was Attorney General in Arkansas.**

KROFT **Was she a friend, an acquaintance? Does your wife know her?**

HILLARY **Oh, sure. That's always how it's been in our marriage. Right from the very start.**

AND SUDDENLY ACROSS THIS:

BETSEY *Please, please, please anything but marry him.*

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 3.WASHINGTON: DAY. 1973

BETSEY WRIGHT IS LEVEL-HEADED, ORGANISED AND ORIGINALLY FROM TEXAS. THE TWO WOMEN ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF A PRETTY HEATED EXCHANGE. THEY ARE BOTH SAYING THINGS NEAR THE KNUCKLE.

BETSEY Please, please, please anything but marry him.

HILLARY Betsey, how can you say that to me?

BETSEY I'm saying it for you, Hillary. Because I admire you probably more than anyone else I have ever met.

HILLARY P – lease.

BETSEY You're our big star. Ever since Yale. You're twenty-five and on House Judiciary already. You've been in Time magazine.

HILLARY Stop now.

BETSEY Bill's a great guy. But you don't have to marry him. Even if you do, you do not have to move to Arkansas.

HILLARY Bill's going to be President one day.

BETSEY Let's keep this conversation based on Planet Earth, shall we?

HILLARY (ABSOLUTE) You don't know him.

BETSEY I do know him! I so do!

HILLARY You have no idea how little you understand that man's potential.

BETSEY You – yes, you, Hillary – you can be the first woman President of the United States. You don't need to be his...helpmeet. This isn't the Old freaking Testament.

HILLARY (SIMPLE BUT NOT WITHOUT PAIN) I love him.

BETSEY Hillary, stop burying your own ambition.

HILLARY He's running for Congress. He's twenty-eight. [*only*]

BETSEY Sure, help out on the campaign.

HILLARY He's already won the Congressional Primary. Total sweep.

BETSEY Be his Number One Supporter. You work well together.

HILLARY It isn't about just some kind of partnership. Some kind of arrangement. He's totally the one for me.

BETSEY How did this ever - the unlikeliest relationship on this whole campus.

HILLARY I knew the moment I saw him.

CUT STRAIGHT TO:

SCENE 4. YALE LAW SCHOOL: LIBRARY. 1971.

HILLARY STRIDES UP TO BILL WHERE HE IS 'WORKING'

HILLARY If you're going to keep staring at me, I reckon I might as well introduce myself.

BILL Sorry, I –

HILLARY This is a library. I've got work to do, you know.

BILL If I -

HILLARY You stare at me every time I come in here.

BILL I – I know.

HILLARY Hillary Rodham. What else do you need to know?

BILL I didn't... 'Need'?

HILLARY (LOOKING DOWN AT HIS WORK) Brandenburg v Ohio.
You're having trouble with criminal syndicalism?

BILL I think I got it taped.

HILLARY Then what? What is it?

BILL Would you – would you like to go to that art exhibition with me? Guy called Rothko.

HILLARY I'm going steady, you know. With someone.

BILL I only thought you might like to see some art.

HILLARY Where are you from? (ACCENT?) Georgia, is that?

BILL Arkansas. Biggest watermelons in the world.

HILLARY That's an achievement.

BILL Thank you, Ma'am.

HILLARY You keep your eyes down. I'll do my casework.

BILL Sure. Sure thing.

SHE WALKS AWAY

MIX HER FOOTSTEPS INTO:

SCENE 5. YALE LAW SCHOOL: QUADRANGLE: MID-MORNING.
1971.

HILLARY IS STRIDING – SHE OFTEN STRIDES – ACROSS THE QUAD. BILL RUNS TO CATCH UP WITH HER.

BILL Hi there.

HILLARY It's the Viking again.

BILL Sorry.

HILLARY Don't tell me – it's what we call you in the Library.

BILL Viking?

HILLARY The hair. The beard. The overall....bigness.

BILL There's worse comparisons.

HILLARY The looting and pillage? And rape? You're good with that?

BILL Where you headed, Miss Rodham?

HILLARY Got to register. Next semester's classes.

BILL (GREAT IDEA) Me too. Walk with you?

HILLARY Sure.

THEY WALK IN SILENCE A WHILE, THEN:

HILLARY You starting the interview round? New York? DC?

BILL I'm...I'm going back to Arkansas and I'm going to be governor.

HILLARY State Governor?

BILL I don't mean the dog pound.

HILLARY All great accomplishments are achieved by the age of twenty-five - you heard that?

BILL Sure?

HILLARY 'Swhat they say.

BILL But I look under twenty-five, right?

THEY MEANWHILE PUSH THROUGH DOORS AND ARRIVE AT THE RECEPTION COUNTER.

HILLARY Hi, I'd like to -

SECRETARY (THE MILLIONTH TIME) Name?

HILLARY Hillary Rodham.

SECRETARY (QUICK LOOK DOWN THE LIST) Juris Doctor - for next semester?

HILLARY Please.

SECRETARY And Mister Clinton? What can I do for you?

BILL Um...

SECRETARY How can I help you?

HILLARY He needs to register too.

SECRETARY You registered yesterday, Mister Clinton...You forgot?

BILL That's right. So I did.

A MOMENT, THEN:

BILL Thought maybe I could...do them twice...

HILLARY You're a terrible liar.

BILL My only mistake was getting caught.

HILLARY Do liars get to run for Governor?

BILL (LAUGHING) OK, Congress, I'll run for Congress first

SECRETARY Classes. Miss Rodham? Next semester?

HILLARY Right. Yes, I'd like to take Law of Tort, Jurisprudential....

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 6. FAYETTEVILLE: CAMPAIGN OFFICE: 1974: AFTERNOON.

A BUSY OFFICE: TYPEWRITERS, TELEPHONES, PEOPLE SHOUTING AT EACH OTHER.

OVER THIS, CALLING THROUGH FROM THE FRONT OF THE ROOM:

VOLUNTEER Taxi! Airport taxi incoming! It's an airport taxi! Incoming!

BILL (CHARGING FORWARDS, FALSE ENTHUSIASM) Hillary!
Is that you! Hill?

AS HILLARY IS STRIDING THROUGH THE ROOM

HILLARY I saw you. Both of you.

BILL You're early, that's just wonderful.

HILLARY I saw you talking to her.

BILL Who?

HILLARY Whoever - College Girl.

BILL I was just speaking with several volunteers.

HILLARY Maisie, Mary, Martha, whatever.

BILL Honey.

HILLARY I told you I was coming.

BILL Thursday.

HILLARY It is Thursday.

BILL This campaign – they tell me what to do, where to go, they just never tell me what freaking day it is.

HILLARY Uh-huh.

BILL Thursday? For real?

HILLARY All day.

BILL Wow.

HILLARY Is the rest of this campaign just as chaotic?

BILL Hillary, I've got to – don't talk like that to the guys. They're working flat out.

HILLARY But maybe not enough to get you elected.

BILL Five hundred yard signs in Fort Smith yesterday. (CALLING OUT) Jim, was it five hundred or was it six hu - ?

HILLARY (UNDER THIS, SUBDUED) I failed the Bar Exam.

BILL What?

HILLARY I failed the DC Bar Exam.

BILL Honey, come in. Let's go in here.

HE OPENS THE DOOR INTO A PHOTOCOPYING ROOM.
THERE IS A VOLUNTEER IN THERE.

BILL Hi, there. Could you give us a moment?

VOLUNTEER Sure thing, Bill.

SHE SALLIES OUT.

HILLARY 'Bill'?

BILL It's my name.

HILLARY Why can't you just...? [*leave them alone*]

BILL Look, you passed the Bar Exam here.

HILLARY I thought it might be a sign. About us.

BILL You said – the other day - you said you were lonely.

HILLARY And then I come here and see you with some college girl, some –

BILL I was doing a team talk. To a whole bunch of volunteers.

HILLARY I ought to go back to Washington and get into bed with someone.

BILL Honey, please.

HILLARY You think there aren't men there? You think I don't get offers?

BILL (VOICE CRACKING) Please, you don't know how – I couldn't take that. That would make me –

HILLARY How do you think I feel?

BILL I'm busting my ass here just so I can get elected to Congress and come back to Washington to be with you and –

HILLARY (AND NOW THERE'S THIS:) They're saying he might resign.

BILL What?

HILLARY Nixon might resign. Since we got the tapes. So I'll be out of a job.

BILL (GOING WITH THE POLITICAL GOSSIP) The President? Resign?

HILLARY I'm on the House Judiciary Committee. My whole job is to get ready for impeachment. That lying bastard's going to screw me out of a job.

BILL We can make a life here. You can practise, or teach at the college.

HILLARY (DEFLATED) How do I live here? Your mother loathes me. I'm just some Yankee with coke bottle glasses.

BILL Women here. They do – they tend to – they like outfits.

HILLARY I'll never belong here.

BILL From here, from right here, we can go to the top.

HILLARY You can.

BETSEY (SUDDENLY ACROSS THIS) Teaching law at some hillbilly school?

AND WE ARE SLAMMED BACK TO:

SCENE 7. WASHINGTON: DAY. 1973

AS PREVIOUSLY:

BETSEY (SUDDENLY ACROSS THIS) Teaching law at some hillbilly school? You?

HILLARY He loves me.

BETSEY You want to throw away your future? Everything you've said about women's emancipation?

HILLARY I know, Betsey, I know, but I love him.

BETSEY And he won't stop dating other women. I mean, not ever. He's one of the handsomest men I have ever seen.

HILLARY Shit, Betsey.

BETSEY And the higher up the ladder he goes, the handsomer, he'll get.

HILLARY I realise – I am aware it's going to be a high-wire operation.

BETSEY They'll keep throwing themselves at him and he'll keep saying, 'Hey, this one's cute' and 'This one's even cuter' and 'It's all OK because I love Hillary'.

HILLARY There are worse things than infidelity.

BETSEY (GOBSMACKED) I'm sorry?

HILLARY He doesn't mean it. Any of them. I am going to go to Arkansas. He's going to be Governor and then he's going to be President.

SLAM ACROSS THIS, ABRUPT SHIFT OF ATMOS:

KROFT **Gennifer Flowers is alleging and has described in some detail in a supermarket tabloid what she calls a twelve-year affair with you.**

BILL **It – that allegation is false.**

HILLARY **When this woman first got caught up in these charges, I felt as I've felt about all of these women that, you know, that they had just been minding their own business and they got hit by a meteor and it was no fault of their own. They were friends of ours. I felt terrible about what was happening to them.**

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 8. LITTLE ROCK: GOVERNOR'S MANSION: SITTING ROOM:
AFTERNOON. 1979.

HILLARY NOW HAS A SERVICEABLE ARKANSAS ACCENT.
BILL IS OLDER, MORE SELF-ASSURED.

HILLARY And if I can't ever have children?

BILL We've made the appointment. They say this guy's the best.

HILLARY What the hell difference is that going to make?

AND ANYWAY:

BILL We've got so much.

HILLARY Do not mention my career.

BILL Your practice is already –

HILLARY You're the State Governor. The youngest governor in the country. Star of the Democratic Leadership Council. I am a Little Rock attorney and (MERELY) the Governor's Wife. I am nothing if I lose you.

BILL What is this? Who's losing anyone?

HILLARY You'll never stay with me if I can't give you a family. Then I'll have nothing. All the work I've done. All for you.

BILL What?

HILLARY I know I'm not one of your girls with her bleached hair piled up here and her clip-clop heels and her air-bag breasts.

BILL Wait a minute here.

HILLARY I never will be, Bill. I can never be one of them.

BILL What you talking about?

HILLARY I'm talking about your people trying to get me to change my clothes. [BILL: What?] I don't care about clothes. Screw what I wear. Glasses! I happen to need glasses to see. Would you rather I was blind, walked into things?

BILL What the heck, we were talking about our family.

HILLARY Which we haven't got. And never will.

BILL We go on holiday. Then we go see this doctor in Palo Alto.

HILLARY Endometriosis, Bill, it's not curable. Forty percent infertility.

BILL That's sixty percent fertile. Better than even chance.

HILLARY Really? You really think?

BILL (HUGGING HER) Everything's going to be – I can already hear little bitty feet running round the mansion. Already.

HILLARY We reached out to these women, to reassure them they were friends of ours. You know, Bill talked to this woman every time she called, distraught, saying her life was going to be ruined, and you know, he'd get off the phone and tell me that she said sort of wacky things, which we thought were attributable to the fact that she was terrified.

AND MIX INTO 'I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO KILL MYSELF OR GO BOWLING':

SCENE 9. LITTLE ROCK: GOVERNOR'S MANSION: AFTERNOON.
NOVEMBER 1980.

A SCRATCHY *I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO KILL MYSELF OR GO BOWLING*
IS ON THE HI-FI.

BILL IS LYING ON THE CARPET, FACE DOWN.

HILLARY STRIDES IN:

HILLARY You promised you'd look after Chelsea.

NO REPLY FROM BILL

SHE LIFTS THE NEEDLE UP, FIERCELY:

HILLARY How long is this going to go on, Governor Clinton?

BILL (HOARSE, RECENTLY TEARFUL) I like it.

HILLARY I don't mean the song.

BILL I...

HILLARY Where did you get this anyway?

BILL It was on the jukebox. At Hungry's.

HILLARY What's it doing here?

BILL I asked if I could...they gave it to me.

HILLARY You told everyone in the diner that you want to kill yourself?

BILL Or go bowling.

HILLARY You lose one election and you want to die? What kind of
message is that? To the people of this state? You've still got
two months as Governor.

BILL And then I'll be the youngest ex-governor in U.S. history. For the rest of my life.

HILLARY And in two years' time, you'll be the youngest re-elected governor in the country.

BILL Cute.

HILLARY For God's sake, Bill, who told you this was going to be easy?

BILL Everything I did for them and they shafted me.

HILLARY Irritatingly, the American people get to vote for who they want. They voted for the other guy this time.

BILL I mean Carter, his people. The support I gave him and what does he do? Dumps a whole lot of Cuban refugees in my state.

HILLARY Wait. We wait for the day we walk into the White House and all those shit-licking Carter people are writing in for jobs. Not one of them, I'm telling you, not a single one.

BILL Nice idea.

HILLARY But first we've got to get you re-elected here. (CALLING OUT) OK, Dick. Come in.

BILL What?

MORRIS Hi there, Governor.

BILL Hillary?

HILLARY You need someone to look after you, Bill. Someone to exert some control.

MORRIS Didn't I warn you about the car tag? Car tax is no-go zone.

DICK MORRIS, POLLSTER, POLITICAL OPERATIVE, IS THE WORD 'REBARBATIVE' MADE FLESH. THE NASAL NEW YORK ACCENT DOESN'T HELP. OR HIS UNSHAKEABLE SENSE OF HIS OWN INFALLIBILITY.

HILLARY Dick here's re-joining the team. He's going to fly in every month until you get re-elected Governor of Arkansas.

BILL Hillary – and I'm sorry, Dick – but there were compatibility issues. On the team.

HILLARY They don't like it, they can ship out. You're a softie, Bill, you love everyone, you feel for everyone, you'll sign anything. You need someone like Dick to read the contract for you first.

BILL No-one gets re-elected after just two years. People remember.

MORRIS So apologise.

BILL What?

MORRIS You hiked the car tag and it tanked. Buy some air time, admit you got it wrong.

BILL We spent thirty-eight million improving the roads. It was the correct policy.

MORRIS Sure, you did great things in rural health care too. Child welfare is on the up. But that's diddly when they're standing in line at the DMV to Pay More Money.

HILLARY Bill, no-one notices the road accident they didn't have.

MORRIS You weren't pragmatic.

BILL (OUTRAGED) What?

HILLARY Listen to this.

MORRIS I do polling. I tell you what people think. When you lead in an idealistic direction – all those policy things you and Miss

Rodham have been talking about for years - the most important thing to do is to be highly pragmatic about it.

BILL
HILLARY What's 'pragmatic'?
 (TAMING HIM) Bill. We've been talking. (WE = DICK AND HER)

MORRIS (CONTINUING) But when necessity forces upon you a problem of pragmatism, that's when you need your idealism. To generate the solution.

BILL (AGAIN) What does 'pragmatic' mean?

HILLARY Think of it like a Permanent Campaign. Once we're back in office, I mean. We suggest a measure, Dick polls it, sees what the people will take. If we get a No, we prime them, we shift them beforehand. Long before we go public with the policy.

MORRIS You have to schizz them up. Ready them.

HILLARY Next time, I want us to do something about public schools.

BILL The teachers' union is too strong.

MORRIS That's perfect.

BILL Sorry?

MORRIS We need an enemy. They'll fight your reforms, every inch of the way. And every time they block you, it'll give you a point in the polls.

BILL (TO HILLARY) This is why people don't like him.

HILLARY This is why he's the best.

BILL And because he works for the Republicans too. He is a freaking Republican!

MORRIS I'm still in the room.

HILLARY I'm getting Betsey back too.

BILL What?

HILLARY She's going to move into the cottage here. She'll get your files in order, get everything ready for Eighty-Two. Campaign to Re-Elect.

BILL What do we do about – we don't have a home? Chelsea, she'll need –

HILLARY We'll cope.

BILL (SLUMPING) I can't. I can't do it again.

MORRIS (SARCASTIC AND HAPPY FOR BILL TO HEAR HIM) Wow. What a fighter.

HILLARY (WALKING OVER TO BILL) Bill, look at me.

BILL (FACE IN THE CARPET) No.

HILLARY Look at me.

BILL (CARPET) Can't.

HILLARY (OK) Don't say I didn't warn you.

HILLARY REMOVES HER GLASSES, DROPS THEM TO THE FLOOR AND BRINGS HER HEEL DOWN SHARPLY ON THEM. SHE GRINDS THE GLASS INTO THE CARPET AS:

BILL What the - ?

HILLARY I can change too.

BILL You don't have to –

HILLARY New glasses. Contacts maybe. Betsey'll take me shopping. New hair. And I'll change my name.

BILL } What?
 MORRIS } Thank you.

HILLARY They killed you for it. "Governor Clinton and Miss Rodham."

BILL It's not what made the difference.

HILLARY Let's not take a chance. (IT STILL ISN'T EASY TO SAY:) The Governor and Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton, that sound OK?

AND INTO:

BILL **It was only when money came out, when the tabloid went down there offering people money to say that they had been involved with me, that she changed her story. There's a recession on. Times are tough.**

KROFT **I'm assuming from your answer that you're categorically denying that you ever had an affair with Gennifer Flowers.**

BILL **I said that before. And so has she.**

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 10. LITTLE ROCK: GOVERNOR'S MANSION: CLINTONS'
BEDROOM. NIGHT. JULY 1987.

BILL IS SITTING ON THE EDGE OF THE BED

HILLARY This is nerves, right?

BILL Hon. I went up to Chelsea's room tonight, She was lying on her back, you know, how she does, with her arms up, like she's surrendering. And I thought, if I do this, it will never be the same again.

HILLARY She'll grow up in the White House. This is your chance. Gary Hart's pulled out, the field's clear. Who's left, Dukakis, Gep – [*hardt, Gore?*]

BILL Betsey says it's too early.

HILLARY Betsey? Why Betsey?

CUT STRAIGHT TO:

SCENE 11.LITTLE ROCK: OFFICE: AFTERNOON. 1987.

BETSEY So tell me. I want to make a list.

BILL What?

BETSEY We are going to evaluate the threat. How many? When? How long?

BILL How 'long'?

BETSEY Women, Bill, the women.

BILL Hey now, let's slow this down.

BETSEY I take my share of the blame. I've been watching you slip out the office for 'meetings'. Meetings not in any diary. I hear about you being seen in hotels and motels and bars –

BILL Betsey!

BETSEY I've been your enabler. I've enabled this whole thing of yours.

BILL Betsey!

BETSEY (CONTINUING) Sometimes your drivers gave me the nod. Said it would be an hour. Or two. Or half. I'm hoping that was only down to the distance travelled.

BILL Do you – have you - do you talk to Hillary about this?

BETSEY Are you crazy?

BILL She mustn't know.

BETSEY She knows.

BILL What?

BETSEY She knows that – she knows they aren't what you really want. She knows that.

BILL Yes. Yes.

BETSEY So ...

BILL These are people.

BETSEY You've got to give me the names. I have to be able to give you the right advice.

BILL The names? What does that matter?

BETSEY I need a full list – Jesus, this is some conversation – so we can evaluate who will stay loyal, who might be got at, who's going to go to the press.

BILL Is that what it's come to? We trusted Kennedy. We trusted Roosevelt. They both had -

BETSEY The press didn't report their women. Now everything is up for grabs. They found Gary Hart's mistress on a boat in a heartbeat – on a boat called 'Monkey Business'. You bet they're looking for the next dumass.

A MOMENT

BILL How far back do I go?

BETSEY Any and all still breathing.

AND STRAIGHT BACK TO:

SCENE 12. LITTLE ROCK: GOVERNOR'S MANSION: CLINTONS'
BEDROOM. NIGHT. JULY 1987.

BILL She told me – it's her advice, I shouldn't run. She and I spoke. We evaluated. You know, the threat.

HILLARY (TEARS COMING) We've been polling in Iowa, New Hampshire. Super Tuesday states.

BILL (COMFORTING HER) Honey. The time's not right.

THEY BOTH KNOW WHAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT.

HILLARY (NOW COMES THE FURY) You're such a fool. Such a damn
–

BILL Now, now.

HILLARY (PUMMELLING HIM, HALF-SERIOUSLY) I hate you. I hate you. How could you – how could you ruin everything like this?

BILL We're going to watch Chelsea grow up. She's only seven. She won't be asking who her parents are, when she's going to see them next.

HILLARY I hate you. I really hate you.

BILL (FENDING HER OFF) Honey!

HILLARY You couldn't just stop. You couldn't – why did you have to ruin it?

SHE BURNS OUT.

THEN, SHE STARTS HER RECOVERY:

HILLARY We're – we're going to do something about this. We're going to have to do something about this.

KROFT **You've said that your marriage has had problems, that you've had difficulties. What do you mean by that? What does that mean? Is that some kind of – help us break the code. I mean, does –**

BILL **I mean –**

KROFT **– that mean that you were separated? Does that mean that you had communication problems? Does that mean you contemplated divorce? Does it mean adultery?**

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 13. LITTLE ROCK: ROSE LAW FIRM: HILLARY'S OFFICE.
1990

HILLARY We don't wait for them to come to us. Any serious candidate knows about all the shit before it hits. We've got two years to prepare for Ninety-Two, we get ready for absolutely everything.

MORRIS Meaning?

BETSEY Going against Bush after one term, they're going to work us over. Anything they throw at us, we have a rebuttal ready.

HILLARY It's getting crazy out there – the rumours. Orgies in the State House. There's that murder we covered up so nobody'd find out about our cocaine trafficking out of Mena. And let's never forget I'm a lesbian.

BETSEY Which would obviously disqualify you from public office.

HILLARY And there's the time Bill “disappeared” in Moscow, when he was over there.

MORRIS Why was he there?

HILLARY Dick! It was a student exchange program. But this is what I mean. We need all these answers ready. Names, dates, facts, documents.

BETSEY OK, drugs trafficking, I've got Moscow, Anti-war protests. Anything else?

A MOMENT

HILLARY Yes, this chickenshit story that Bill dodged the draft. That's going to keep coming back.

MORRIS Who didn't?

HILLARY In two years' time he's going to run to be Commander in Chief. And we will need - (SHE LOOKS A FOR A WORD) - affidavits.

BETSEY From?

HILLARY Anyone they think they can accuse my husband about. Anyone with whom he is alleged to –

MORRIS The women, right? (CORRECTING:) The rumours about the women.

HILLARY We need these women to sign affidavits. Denying it. Entirely.

MORRIS And if they won't?

HILLARY Why wouldn't they?

BETSEY You want us to send people?

HILLARY It's just sensible. They don't want reporters hiding in the trees outside, ringing them twenty times a day. If the women have signed sworn denials, it kills the story on Day One.

BETSEY You want us to visit these people?

HILLARY Investigators. Send Private Investigators. The campaign can't afford to have lawyers billing us for this kind of work. Or bring them in here. Vince'll talk to them. Or me.

BETSEY You'll talk to them?

HILLARY What's the problem? They're being exploited by Bill's enemies. We have to explain that to them. Work with them.

KROFT **Are you prepared tonight to say that you've never had an extramarital affair?**

BILL **I'm not prepared tonight to say that any married couple should ever discuss that with anyone but**

themselves. I'm not prepared to say that about anybody. I think that the –

KROFT

Governor, that's what – Excuse me – That's what you've been saying essentially for the last couple of months.

BILL

Look, Steve, you go back and listen to what I've said. You know, I have acknowledged wrongdoing. I have acknowledged causing pain in my marriage.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 14. LITTLE ROCK: GOVERNOR'S MANSION. OFFICE. 1990

THEY ARE TALKING

BILL (READING OUT) "Like nearly anybody who has been together for twenty years, our relationship has not been perfect or free from difficulties, but we feel good about where we are and we believe in our obligation to each other, and we intend to be together thirty or forty years from now, whether I run for president or not." Who wrote this?

HILLARY We did. The team.

BILL What team?

HILLARY The Defense Team.

BILL We have one?

HILLARY We have so much to – the real policies. But the air's just going to be full of the other crap.

BILL Four years' time. Ninety-six. The Republicans'll be tired.

HILLARY They never get tired.

BILL Bush just clocked ninety percent popularity. He rescued Kuwait, whipped Saddam's ass.

HILLARY (CONTINUING) Do Republicans ever get tired, Bill?

BILL No.

HILLARY Ninety-two. It's your time. You have to do it. The party, the nation, they're waiting.

BILL Tell me why?

HILLARY Again?

BILL Tell me.

HILLARY You are absolutely the right person to make these arguments. To revitalise the economy – the American people deserve that. Racial justice, we need to continue what LBJ started. Twenty of the last twenty-four years have been Republican. The country's ready for its first post-war President.

BILL We don't have to do anything we don't want to do.

HILLARY If we don't, what's our excuse?

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 15. CAMPAIGN AIRPLANE: 1992

IN MID-FLIGHT. THE MEN ARE NAPPING. KEEPING THE VOLUME LOW:

HILLARY (PAPERS) "Mrs. Clinton. Media Strategy Review. We would advise a lower political profile for the rest of the campaign....press opportunities might be generated where the couple can behave with greater affection toward each other...moments where Hillary is a more traditional, maternal figure." Can't wait. My life's purpose.

BETSEY Trouble is...Jim's right, you're giving them everything they want.

HILLARY Such as?

BETSEY "The Lady Macbeth of Arkansas." "The Yuppie Wife from Hell." "Hillary Clinton in an apron is Michael Dukakis in a tank."

HILLARY LAUGHS.

(ON ITS RARE APPEARANCES, IT IS A DEEP, COMMITTED LAUGH)

HILLARY That's good.

BETSEY Lee Atwater.

HILLARY Bush is lucky to have him.

BETSEY Forgive me – right now, you're a rallying cry for the Right. "Leftist feminazi." It gets their people out.

HILLARY (SWITCH TO COLD) I don't want to hear that word again.

BETSEY It's out there, Hillary.

HILLARY I don't want it in here.

BETSEY I don't want it out there either. We have to stop feeding it. Bill's whole 'Buy One Get One Free'. It plays straight into their hands. Says it's going to be a Joint Presidency.

HILLARY (PAPER) "The absence of affection, children and family and the preoccupation with career and power only reinforces the political problem evident from the beginning." Because I can handle policy and statistics, because I'm not a failed movie star, because I'm not a ditsy do-nothing, I'm scary?

BETSEY To the right, yes.

HILLARY Eleanor Roosevelt?

BETSEY Back then, she was a freak. No conceivable threat that their wife, their daughter was going to end up like her. (BUT:) Now...

HILLARY So I'm supposed to stand alongside my man, demure, smiling, wifely?

BETSEY (DARING) And...

HILLARY Yes?

BETSEY Shall we lose the headbands?

GEORGE IS MAKING HIS WAY UP THE AISLE

GEORGE (APPROACHING) Guys. Everyone? I'm sorry.

CARVILLE (WAKING) Here comes George, Prince of the Dark-off.

GEORGE I just had word. Before take-off.

CARVILLE See?

HILLARY Shhh.

GEORGE *Penthouse* magazine. They've got a spread coming up with a woman called (NOTEPAD) Connie Hamzy. Some kind of rock groupie.

HILLARY So she's taking off her clothes for money? Is that it?

GEORGE And she's saying that – um – the Governor propositioned her.

BETSEY That's it? 'Propositioned'?

GEORGE She says it took place...(NOTES)...in a hotel lobby in Little Rock.

CARVILLE Why are you telling us this? This campaign does not – this is chickenshit.

GEORGE My guy heard it on a local radio affiliate. If it runs on CNN, that gives the *Washington Post* the right to pick it up. It could go national.

CARVILLE It's pick-ass. There's nothing here.

HILLARY (IMPLACABLE) We have to destroy her story before it breathes. George, destroy it.

BILL (OPENING AN EYE) Grand Funk Railroad.

CARVILLE Sorry?

BILL They wrote a song about her.

A MOMENT OF DREAD.
THEN, TOGETHER:

GEORGE } You know this woman?
CARVILLE } You've met her?
HILLARY } Bill?

BILL I'd been doing a speech - give me five and I can tell you what it was about - I was walking out the hotel. Not alone. She was

by the pool, I reckon, sunbathing, she runs up to me, flips down her bikini top, and “What do you think of these?”

BILL LAUGHS. HE LOVES THINGS LIKE THIS.

HILLARY It's not funny.

BILL We all laughed.

HILLARY (TO GEORGE) No official denials. Nothing quotable. Nothing they can hang a story on.

CARVILLE Who was with you, Governor? We're going to need affidavits.

BILL That's a bit heavy-handed, isn't it?

KROFT And I agree with you that everyone wants to put this behind you. And the reason it hasn't gone away is that your answer is not a denial. Is it?

BILL But interestingly – let's assume –

KROFT But it's not a denial.

BILL You know that you can cut this round and you can cut this flat. I mean, if you deny, then you have a whole 'nother horde of people going down there, offering more money, trying to prove that you lied. And if you say Yes, you have, "Oh good, now we can go play Gotcha and find out who it is."

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 16. CAMPAIGN BUS: AFTERNOON: JANUARY 1992.

THEY ARE DRIVING

HILLARY Five women? They're saying they've got interviews with five?

GEORGE Typical tabloid. Drown you first, ask questions later.

HILLARY This one, Gennifer Flowers – you don't forget someone who spells Jennifer with a G – she signed an affidavit.

GEORGE She's renounced it. Or whatever the verb is for affidavits.

HILLARY So she's a liar.

GEORGE One way or the other.

HILLARY (SHARP) Which way do you think?

GEORGE I was talking about the public perception.

HILLARY They will throw anything at us, anything, to stop us talking about the real issues.

GEORGE They're paying her.

HILLARY You mean the Republicans?

GEORGE I meant the *Star*.

HILLARY You bet Atwater dug this out, all five of them. Someone has been sniggling around, dug out these crappy old allegations.

GEORGE They were flattened then, we'll – [*flatten them again*]

HILLARY They think we're soft, everyone thinks Democrats don't fight back.

GEORGE No-one would ever say – [*you're soft*]

HILLARY So let's hit Bush. If this is how they want to play it.

GEORGE Now hold on.

HILLARY We've got her name, his woman, we've got enough stuff.

GEORGE If anyone found out it came from us...

HILLARY So George Bush gets to have an affair and no-one reports it?
Not even tabloids.

GEORGE We cannot be the source.

HILLARY But they can throw this trailer trash at us? When do we get to
the fun bit?

GEORGE Fun bit?

HILLARY When do we start biting them?

THE BUS HAS MEANWHILE BEEN SLOWING

GEORGE I think we're here.

HILLARY What the...? What are they all doing here? This is just a
factory grip-and-grin. Every network?

GEORGE This, Hillary, is our very first clusterfu -

HILLARY Right. They want to do it this way. I'm ready.

GEORGE But nothing about President Bush? Yes?

HILLARY (AS IF) George.

THE DOORS OPEN AND THERE IS A BARRAGE OF QUESTIONS AND
CAMERAS [TEXT TO FOLLOW]

**KROFT According to the latest CBS News poll, taken over
the weekend, 14 percent of the registered voters in**

America said they wouldn't vote for a candidate who's had an affair.

BILL

That means that 86 percent of the American people look at whether a person, looking at all the facts, is the best person to serve.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 17. NEW HAMPSHIRE: HOTEL ROOM: LATE.

GEORGE She's scheduled a press conference.

HILLARY Some slut gets to do a 'press conference'?

GEORGE It's what the *Star's* calling it.

CARVILLE When?

GEORGE Monday.

BETSEY Seventy-two hours.

GEORGE She says she has tapes. You two talking.

BILL That's not possible. Simply not.

GEORGE I've got a message from *60 Minutes*. I got to call them back.

HILLARY Sixty Minutes!?! Far too big.

CARVILLE We have to own this story before she opens her mouth.

BILL (ACROSS EVERYONE) Do it, George. Ring them back. See what they're offering.

GEORGE Good.

BILL We can do it Sunday.

GEORGE That's cutting it mighty fi –

BILL Got a thing on Friday.

HILLARY Thing?

BILL Got to be back in Little Rock. A guy who shot a cop.

GEORGE Shit. Jesus. Shit.

BILL I'm not commuting it. I never have.

CARVILLE The press'll say you're using it as cover.

BILL A man's going to die.

CARVILLE I make the rules?

**HILLARY We have gone further than anybody we know of and
that's all we're going to say. And people can ask us a
hundred different ways and from a hundred
different directions and we're just going to leave the
ultimate decision up to the American people.**

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 18. BOSTON: RITZ-CARLTON: SUITE: SATURDAY NIGHT. 25
JANUARY 1992.

THEY HAVE RECENTLY SETTLED INTO THE SUITE. A MIX OF
EXHAUSTION AND FEAR.

KROFT Anything, anything at all, just call down to Reception. It's all
on CBS.

GEORGE Thanks, Steve.

KROFT We'll start taping at nine. Alright? Make-up at eighty fifteen?

BETSEY Thank you.

KROFT Goodnight. Sleep well.

AND THEY CLOSE THE DOOR

CARVILLE 'Sleep well.'

BETSEY Humour him.

BILL Something to eat? Is there a menu?

HILLARY (= STEADY) Bill.

BILL Tonight. Come on. One lousy cheeseburger.

BETSEY You've never eaten just one.

BILL Fries? Regular?

BETSEY Dream on.

HILLARY When I was a girl, room service, it was like Ultimate Luxury.

CARVILLE (DISBELIEVING) Room service?

HILLARY We didn't travel much, and when we did, it was economy.

BILL Your tight-ass Dad.

HILLARY (CONTINUING) But just a few times, maybe not even twice, my pop said we'd order room service. It was like...it was like suddenly we were billionaires.

A MOMENT OF WARMTH, OF COMFORT.

BETSEY Are we avoiding the subject?

CARVILLE Betsey?

BETSEY For tomorrow. We still haven't discussed it.

GEORGE What?

BETSEY The A word.

BILL What are you talking?

BETSEY Do we use the word, do we admit to Adultery?

A MOMENT.

BETSEY Sorry, people, it's the question. Kroft is certainly going to ask it.

BILL I have not had a relationship of any kind with Gennifer Flowers.

HILLARY We cannot use that word.

BETSEY It's where the attack is going to come from.

BILL I can't admit to something I have not –

BETSEY I don't mean with this Flowers woman.

HILLARY Then what the - ?

BETSEY You have admitted causing pain in your marriage.

CARVILLE That's our position. We stick to it.

HILLARY And that's enough. There has to be a zone of privacy, even for someone who wants to lead his country. Especially for someone who –

GEORGE I think – if I may? – I think Betsey's right. He will push and push on this point.

CARVILLE And if we concede it, we're doomed.

GEORGE If you admit that 'pain' equals adultery, then that candour, I think it will score your points. And it means you can crush the Flowers story because you're saying it about...someone else, not her. It'll make people believe she's lying.

HILLARY Believe?

GEORGE 'See.'

CARVILLE Admit it and then the press are obligated, they have to go on a hunt, have to find the women, woman in question. This won't ever stop.

BETSEY It could clear the air.

HILLARY It's a horrible word.

GEORGE But it could –

HILLARY I will not be made to cry on air. I will not.

BILL The way to handle this – We have to channel public disgust for this kind of questioning. The more we push it back, every time we say 'Stop Asking', the more we can highlight how intrusive, how goddam prurient the questions are.

CARVILLE (AGREEING) Is this about candidate's past or the country, the whole country's future.

BETSEY You've made mistakes and that has made you stronger.

CARVILLE Wrongdoing. That's an OK word.

GEORGE Family as a metaphor for character.

CARVILLE You're sad about Gennifer Flowers and you just don't understand why she has changed her story.

BILL (TO HILLARY) I told you these guys were the best.

HILLARY It's you and me going out there.

BILL And you're the very best of the lot. Now, are we going to order or what? Did I see they got Philly Steak.

ALL No way!

KROFT I think most Americans would agree that it's very admirable that you've stayed together, that you've worked your problems out and that you've seemed to have reached some sort of understanding and arrangement.

BILL Wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute. You're looking at two people who love each other. This is not an 'arrangement' or an understanding. This is a marriage. That's a very different thing.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 19. LAKE DISTRICT: ENNERDALE: 1973: AFTERNOON.

THEY ARE CLIMBING THE SLOPE, BILL IN THE LEAD.
THEY ARE BOTH BREATHLESS.

BILL Come on, come on.

HILLARY It's not a dale, it's a freaking mountain.

BILL You aren't going to believe the view. Come on.

THEY CLIMB FOR A LITTLE LONGER
THEY BOTH REACH THE TOP

HILLARY OK. (AGREEING) OK, that's a view.

BILL It's enough to make you into Keats or Coleridge, isn't it?

HILLARY Or Byron.

BILL Not sure he ever came to Ennerdale.

HILLARY Your Oxford friends bring you up here?

BILL It's like one of their holy places.

HILLARY They're very lucky.

BILL It's pretty special for me. Too.

THERE'S A NERVOUS EARNESTNESS ENTERING HIS VOICE WHICH
CANNOT GO UNNOTICED.

HILLARY What, you want to be a poet now?

BILL No, no, once Yale's done, I'm going straight back to
Arkansas, pretty soon I'm going to run for something – state,
federal.

HILLARY Don't get sucked into state legislature.

BILL And I want you to help me.

HILLARY Any campaigning help, you know. I want to be part of it.

BILL As my wife.

HILLARY What?

BILL That's why we're here. I decided this is place. (THEN:)
Hillary, will you marry me? I want to do this with you. I can't
imagine doing it without you. We can be such a partnership,
together, we're going all the way. You are the most amazing –

HILLARY (WHO HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET A WORD IN SINCE
'MARRY ME?') Would you like me to answer?

BILL Sorry, yes.

BREATH, THEN:

HILLARY The answer is No. I won't marry you.

BILL No, don't –

HILLARY It's too soon, Bill. You've brought me here – the middle of
England - I've never even been to Arkansas. I've never met
your folks.

BILL They're going to love you.

HILLARY And this whole Arkansas thing. We've only just graduated
law school. I've got offers, New York, DC.

BILL If I can get to Congress, I can be back in Washington by the
time we're –

HILLARY Maybe. Bill. Maybe.

BILL I'm not going to stop.

HILLARY What?

BILL Asking you.

HILLARY Alright.

BILL I'm not letting you go.

HILLARY I know.

HILLARY You know, I'm not sitting here – some little woman standing by my man like Tammy Wynette. I'm sitting here because I love him, and I respect him, and I honour what he's been through and what we've been through together. And you know, if that's not enough for people, then Heck, Don't Vote For Him.

AND COMING RIGHT AFTER THIS:

SCENE 20. MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE: THE VICTORY
RALLY: EVENING. FEBRUARY 1992.

BILL IS ON STAGE

FLEETWOOD MAC'S *DON'T STOP THINKING ABOUT TOMORROW*
GEORGE, HILLARY AND OTHERS ARE IN THE WINGS, WATCHING:

BILL I think now, I can be called the Comeback Kid.

MASSIVE APPLAUSE

HILLARY I want to thank you, George.

GEORGE Hillary?

HILLARY How you've handled this, last few weeks.

GEORGE It's the Governor. The way he campaigns. Until the last dog
dies. He's amazing.

HILLARY Your strategy too. He needs you.

BILL (RUSHING OFF STAGE) Come on, sweetheart, they want
you out there.

GEORGE Go for it. Both of you.

HILLARY One moment.

BILL Come on, we don't want to lose them.

HILLARY (CALM, SERIOUS) One moment, Bill.

BILL What?

HILLARY We need – we need to talk.

BILL Talk?

HILLARY About what happens when we get there.

BILL There?

HILLARY The White House.

BILL Come on, plenty of time for that.

HILLARY Now. Right now. I want Attorney General.

BILL (FLIPPANT) Sure.

HILLARY I mean it. No fob-off.

BILL Well...

HILLARY Promise. Promise me right now. You owe me. That's the deal. I get something out of all this shit.

BILL I don't know. I mean - my wife.

HILLARY United States Attorney General. That's my price. It's what I – they all look at me, they all know, Bill. Think about that. Every day I live with that. I deserve something.

A MOMENT

BILL Let's get out there then.

TICK-TICK-TICK-TICK...

KROFT I'm Steve Kroft. We'll be back next Sunday at our regular time with a complete edition of....

OVER WHICH, CREDITS.

AND AT THE END OF THE CREDITS,
ACTUALITY FROM THE FLOWERS PRESS CONFERENCE:

REPORTER Miss Flowers, did the Governor use a condom?

END

the clintons

part two

THE COUP

by jonathan myerson

studio draft

cast

**BILL CLINTON
HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**

**SUSAN McDOUGAL
BOBBY McDANIEL
OIC LAWYER
JIM McDOUGAL
CLAUDIA RILEY**

**RAHM EMANUEL
SIDNEY BLUMENTHAL**

**DAVID BROCK
GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS**

**JUDGE(S)
CLERK
GUARD
FBI
DOCTOR**

SCENE 21. LITTLE ROCK: OIC OFFICES: MIDDAY. 1995

SUSAN AND HER LAWYER, BOBBY McDANIEL, ARE JUST PULLING OUT CHAIRS TO SIT DOWN.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE IS A CLUTCH OF OIC LAWYERS AND FBI GUYS. ONE SPEAKS FOR THEM, ALL COURTESY:

OIC Please. Don't feel you have to sit over there.

SUSAN Sorry?

OIC No need to be – Join us over here – this side of the table.

McDANIEL (EQUALLY BAFFLED) My client – she's come today to answer your questions.

OIC Sure, but it's a conversation.

McDANIEL We're fine on this side.

OIC OK.

CHAIRS. THEY SIT.

SUSAN I'm really glad to be here, I want to make that clear. I hope you can hear that in my voice. I want this thing to end. It's been ten years.

OIC And we think we can help you with that.

McDANIEL Great.

OIC We think we can all work together. Mister Starr, the Independent Counsel, is very excited about everything we can achieve.

SUSAN Great.

OIC The fact is, Ms McDougal, and it's only fair you understand, Mister Starr believes we can indict you and we believe we can convict you for your role in the Whitewater Development Corporation. That's what all these papers here indicate (HE SLAPS THE PILE) quite definitively.

McDANIEL I think we need to just spool back –

OIC (EVER SO EMOLLIENT) But that's not our plan. No need to worry, Susan. Is 'Susan' alright?

SUSAN (WARY) Sure.

OIC We have a plan for you today, Susan. We do this for a living. And, you know, we do it very well.

CHUMMY LAUGHTER FROM THE OICS

McDANIEL My client is totally willing...

OIC (CONTINUING) Mister Starr pays big bucks to people like us to come up with the big plans.

SUSAN (SEMI-PRIVATE) Bobby, what's – is this kind of normal?

McDANIEL Um... (TO OIC) Why don't we – is it acceptable – we do this the usual way? You ask us some questions and my client is happy to answer anything, she has no reason to –

OIC We'll come to that.

McDANIEL Why don't you show her what's in that big stack of papers there? These indictments of yours. That'd be a starting point.

OIC (PUSHING THE PAPERS AWAY) That's not how we're going to do it today. What we want from Susan is a proffer. And then we can make her life very very easy.

SUSAN Proffer? What's a proffer?

McDANIEL Susan. (HE CONSIDERS HIS WORDS) They want you to give them something on somebody.

SUSAN Somebody?

McDANIEL Somebody big.

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

TITLES

AND THEN BACK TO:

SCENE 22. LITTLE ROCK: OIC OFFICES: MIDDAY. 1995

A FEW TINY MINUTES LATER.
SUSAN AND MCDANIEL HAVE PUSHED BACK FROM THE TABLE,
WHISPERING:

SUSAN But that's dumber than dumb.

McDANIEL It's how the system works, Susan. You proffer up information
about illegal acts, done by others, they grant you immunity in
return.

SUSAN Anyone – you'd make up anything, as much as you can, if it
gets you free.

McDANIEL It works with the mafia. It's standard operating practice.

SUSAN Sure then. I'll tell them everything.

McDANIEL Great.

THEN, CHAIRS BACK, BACK TO OICS:

McDANIEL My client is willing to tell you everything she knows about
Whitewater.

PURRING FROM OICS

OIC That's good to hear.

McDANIEL But first we want to talk global immunity.

LESS HAPPY OICS. THEN, OUT OF THE MURMURING:

OIC (CAREFUL) I think we can certainly move towards that. If...

McDANIEL (SURPRISE) And I need to clarify what sort of information
you might be hoping to acquire. My client was involved with

the property speculation known as Whitewater and while she's happy to detail everything, it would speed matters if –

OIC (ABSOLUTE) You know who we're interested in.

McDANIEL This is a wide-ranging –

OIC The Independent Counsel, Mister Starr was appointed to see if there was any crime or misdemeanour by elected officials.

SUSAN You mean Bill Clinton?

OIC (AVOIDANT) I can direct your client to the full terms of reference for the appointment of the Office of Independent Counsel.

SUSAN I'm still here. Sir. You don't need to blank me like I'm some imbecile, you know.

McDANIEL Susan, it's OK. I'll handle this.

SUSAN If they mean they want stuff about the Clintons, they should damn well up and say it.

A MOMENT.

McDANIEL (QUIETER, TURNING TO SUSAN) That's not going to happen, Susan. Not in so many words. Not on the record. (BACK TO OIC) But then I know that we will be contradicted if we're wrong in our presumption.

ANOTHER SILENCE.

SUSAN No problem then. Sure. I'll do this proffer thing. I'll tell you everything I know about the Clintons, everything we did. The day we went up there and named it Whitewater. Me and Jim McDougal. Everything. What do I swear on? Where do I sign?

OIC This is excellent. I'm sure we will be able to –

SUSAN Except I got to tell you, I don't know one thing the Clintons did wrong. Is that what you're expecting?

OIC I think it's understood that a proffer should –

SUSAN Not the President, not the First Lady, not little Chelsea. Not one single illegal thing.

OIC We have indictments prepared against you, Ms McDougal and your ex-husband. You personally will be indicted on at least eight counts of fraudulently obtaining –

SUSAN Sure. I get it.

McDANIEL Susan.

OIC Charges which combined carry a maximum sentence of eighteen years.

SUSAN I've done nothing wrong. The Clintons have done nothing wrong.

McDANIEL Hold on, Susan.

SUSAN I didn't come here to cut some lousy deal. Some stinking pay-off. I came here to answer your questions. And you people haven't asked me one.

OIC We came to see whether –

SUSAN This meeting is done. (STANDING) Bobby.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 23. ARKADELPHIA, ARKANSAS: THE RILEYS' HOUSE: THE
YARD. 1995

THEY ARE STANDING OUTSIDE.

JIM They need you to say this. They really really need it, Susie-Q.

SUSAN Don't call me that.

JIM Sorry.

SUSAN We've been divorced five years.

JIM We're in this together, now.

SUSAN Because of what you did, Jim. I didn't know what you were getting up to – those loans, those deals.

JIM So, OK, you just have to say this. Please. No-one will know that you didn't know.

SUSAN When did this happen?

JIM What?

SUSAN Suddenly you're in their camp. The Independent Counsel guys, they're Jim's new best friends.

JIM We've been talking. It makes a whole lot of sense.

SUSAN You worked for Bill Clinton. You got him elected Governor. You got him his first job in Democratic politics. He looked up to you. We were friends. We saw them most weeks. Hillary, Bill, they came to our wedding.

JIM (ADAMANT) He promised my mother he was going to do something about this. (ALMOST VITRIOLIC) He lied to my mother.

SUSAN What can he do? He's President, Jim. He's up for re-election next year. His second term.

JIM Listen to me. Neither of us wants to go to jail. (THE PROMPT:) Bill Clinton asked you to sign for a government loan because his name couldn't be on it.

SUSAN But that's not how it was! And we'd be fools if we said anything like that – there's no evidence that could ever be found to back it up.

JIM David's saying it! He's the guy approved the loan – federal funds. You just have to say it was handed over to Bill Clinton.

SUSAN They'll need proof!

JIM It's your name on the cheque, right? It's your signature on the loan papers.

SUSAN You tell me. I don't know, I used to pick up cheques all the time for you. I didn't ask.

JIM They've got documents. Starr's people – they gave them to me. They can fit this story round the documents.

SUSAN Fit?

JIM They need you.

SUSAN Because your evidence alone is horseshit. Because the jury might not believe an alcoholic manic depressive.

JIM These are serious prosecutors, Susan, people who've brought down congressmen and sheriffs, the Governor of Tennessee! You and me, they'll eat us up and spit us out on the highway.

SUSAN I've done nothing wrong.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 24. WHITE HOUSE: RESIDENCE: BEDROOM. 1998.

BILL IS SITTING ON THE SIDE OF THE BED
HILLARY IS JUST WAKING UP

BILL I said you wouldn't believe it.

HILLARY What? Sorry?

BILL It is unbelievable. Hill, it's just unbelievable.

HILLARY I'm not sure I heard you right.

BILL It's the Post, they're running some cockamamie –

HILLARY The Washington Post?

BILL Uh-huh. They're saying I asked her to lie.

HILLARY Who, Bill, for God's sake?

BILL This girl, I barely know who she is. Some girl.

HILLARY (MINUTELY SHARPER) Who is she?

BILL She's called Monica Lewinsky. She was an intern. White House. Then Pentagon.

HILLARY And you know who she is?

BILL She came to me, wanted advice. Back in my first term. I've been stupid.

HILLARY What? What kind of stupid?

BILL I mean I encouraged her, without realising. She wanted job advice.

HILLARY You're a careers counsellor now? I thought you were the President of the United States?

BILL During the Ninety-four budget shutdown, she brought me a pizza. Betty was there, right outside.

HILLARY What do you mean 'right outside'?

BILL (CONTINUING) Betty organised it. That's all. Sent her out to – Thought I should return the favour.

HILLARY You don't have to – you don't have to look after everyone.

BILL And now they're saying I'm helping her get a job because – (HE SLAPS THE NEWSPAPER) – "Urging Aide to lie".

HILLARY About what? Why do you need her to lie?

BILL It's this goddam Paula Jones case. Turns out this Lewinsky girl's going to be subpoenaed for that, as a witness.

HILLARY Why her, Bill? Why did they pick on her? (COOL, HARD)
What did you do?

BILL I gave her advice. And I asked Vernon to see if he could do something.

HILLARY (LUDICROUS) Because she brought you a pizza!?

BILL Because, I don't know, we talked. She asked to see me a few times. She seemed so adrift. I wanted to help her.

HILLARY You can't. You just can't.

BILL I do see how they could – my actions, they might be misinterpreted.

HILLARY You think?

BILL She's so bewildered.

HILLARY Is she talented? Going places?

BILL I don't – the talented ones are going to make it anyway. They don't help.

HILLARY How old?

BILL I don't know, twenty-five, four.

HILLARY That's Chelsea's age. You know what they're like.

BILL I get....

HILLARY Bill, look me in the eye. Bill.

HE DOES SO

HILLARY You have to answer me. Did anything happen?

BILL Nothing.

HILLARY (HARD TO SAY) A kiss?

BILL Are you crazy?

HILLARY I mean, as she was going or something?

BILL Not even.

HILLARY But you were alone with her?

BILL I haven't been alone for six years! Secret service, attorneys, aides, secretaries.

HILLARY Interns.

BILL I wanted to...

HILLARY What?

BILL I wanted to – I tried to, you know, minister to her, I suppose.

HILLARY You're saying she misread you?

BILL That's it. Just kindness. Right.

HILLARY And now Starr, some kind of Grand Inquisitor –he's going to suck the blood out of this.

BILL (LONG-VENTED EXASPERATION) This has nothing to do with Whitewater!

HILLARY (CONTINUING) He'll squeeze this poor girl, he'll make a proffer, he'll hammer her until he gets you in front of a Grand Jury. He'll get her to say something which corners you. It's what he's always wanted.

BILL How could that – (REALISING) – I did not tell anyone to lie.

HILLARY It's the same as every single time. They drag out some bimbo and pay her to –

BILL She's not a bimbo. She's a good girl.

A MOMENT: WAS HE TOO DEFENSIVE OF HER?

BILL She's not one of those others, that's what I mean. The sort with the hair. She's trying to make a career for herself.

HILLARY They're not going to screw us again. It's not going to happen.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 25. WHITE HOUSE: OVAL OFFICE. 1998.

THEY ARE GATHERED. IT IS SUBDUED.
RAHM IS LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW

BLUMENTHAL (ENTERING) It's solid out there.

RAHM The shitstorm to end all shitstorms.

BLUMENTHAL Solid across TV, radio, cable, internet.

RAHM They're demanding resignation. Can you believe that? Even Democrats. TV shows are talking impea –

HILLARY We don't say that word, Rahm. Not in this room.

BILL IS SITTING ON A CHAIR, SHATTERED:

BILL Is it everyone? Every network?

BLUMENTHAL What about ABC – George? Is he saying – ?

RAHM Yup, George Whipbitch Stephanopoulos as well. Your former director of Communications is telling his viewers right now that this is heading for – the 'i' thing.

BLUMENTHAL And State of the Union on Tuesday.

BILL Shit, I'm not going to last the day.

HILLARY We have to strategise this. That's why I asked you two to join us. Sidney, tell him.

BILL I did not ask anyone to lie.

BLUMENTHAL Mister President, we know these attacks are politically motivated. We know Starr has found nothing in Whitewater, no financial misappropriation, nothing, nowhere –

BILL (DESPAIR) Meanwhile, they've slammed our entire staff with subpoenas, stopped us talking to our friends, bankrupted ordinary people.

BLUMENTHAL (CONTINUING) – so it's back to the old favourite. Dig out these women. Get them to talk on tape. Then they patch into Kenneth Starr, he issues the subpoenas. It's all a machine.

RAHM Thank you, GK, keep taking the tablets.

HILLARY GK?

RAHM 'Grassy Knoll'. Our friend Sidney here, he loves a good conspiracy.

BILL They want us to run scared. Panic. Do something stupid.

HILLARY So we have to stick to schedule. What have I got today?

BLUMENTHAL Goucher College, Baltimore. Convocation.

HILLARY What am I talking about?

BLUMENTHAL Welfare reform. Minimum wage.

HILLARY What, someone actually wants to hear about policy? Anyone might think we'd been elected to run the country. Good Lord.

BLUMENTHAL Mister President, you have PBS, NPR and 'Roll Call'. Three-thirty to five.

BILL The whole thing is this Paula Jones case.

RAHM I told you to settle.

HILLARY What, she makes up some weakass story about the President exposing himself and gets half a million dollars? She can whistle.

RAHM Sir, when you gave that deposition, to Jones' lawyers, this was – what? - last Saturday, did it – didn't you wonder why they were suddenly asking about this Lewinsky woman?

BILL Sure. But I just thought they had a photo of something. They were fishing.

BLUMENTHAL And you didn't ask anyone to get her a job –at State, in Defense?

BILL Why would I!?

BLUMENTHAL But you spoke to Vernon about her. Sent her to talk to him?

A MOMENT

BILL Christ, I feel like one of those people – you know, in that book.

BAFFLEMENT. BILL SEARCHES FOR THE TITLE:

BILL High Noon.

BLUMENTHAL High Noon?

BILL (NO, NO) Sunshine. Arthur someone. Noon.

RAHM Darkness at Noon?

BILL That's it. Them. The people there. Like there's this great apparatus. Kafkaesque. Coming for me. I can't get out of it. And I've done nothing wrong.

HILLARY Bill, are you saying you were asked about this last week? About this girl?

BLUMENTHAL On the sixteenth, Starr won judge's permission to include the Lewinsky matter in his investigation due to possible Obstruction Of Justice.

HILLARY (SHOCK) You knew about this? Last week, Bill? On Saturday they suddenly asked you specifically about her?

BILL I suppose – I –

HILLARY And you told me this morning?

BILL I didn't...

HILLARY (HURT, SURPRISED) I've got to get on a train. Sidney.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 26. WHITE HOUSE: OVAL OFFICE. GENTS' TOILET.

BILL IS ON THE PHONE IN A TILED, CAVERNOUS ROOM

BILL I'm in the bathroom, for Chrissake! The only place they ever let me –

- Thank you, Dick, I appreciate that.
- If I admit it, my marriage is over.
- Maybe the Presidency too.
- You know, Dick, ever since the election, I've tried to shut myself down. I've tried to shut my body down, sexually, I mean... But sometimes I slipped up and with this girl I just slipped up.
- Oh, God. This is just awful. I didn't do what they said I did, but I did do something. I mean, with this girl, I didn't do what they said, but I did – do something.
- Yes, there may be gifts. I gave her things.
- Yes, possibly on her answering machine.
- Perjury is the thing. That's the whole thing.
- Of course I knew. What could I do?
- You really think they could forgive me?
- You will? How long will it take? That's great, Dick.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 27. LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS: DINER: LUNCHTIME. 1995

THE PLACE IS BUSY

SUSAN Hold the creamed potatoes, will you, honey?

WAITRESS (GOING) Salad?

SUSAN That'd be great. Thanks.

JIM You on a diet?

SUSAN Just losing weight.

JIM You look good.

SUSAN Shall we call it the Wire Fraud Diet? I could go on TV: "Get Indicted For Wire Fraud And Watch Those Pounds Fall Off."

JIM I've been speaking to Starr's people.

SUSAN You think I don't know? Pulling up in their black SUVs like it's some mafia sit-down.

JIM Judge Starr came to see me at home last week.

SUSAN (DRY) Hot-diggity. Ain't you the bigshot.

JIM They realise you're not going to say anything about Bill Clinton.

SUSAN I'll tell them everything –

JIM (OVER HER) Because you're in love with him. That's why you won't talk.

SUSAN (LAUGHING) Everyone loves Bill!

JIM No, real love. (SHARP:) That's right, isn't it, Susan? You two've got a thing. Haven't you?

SUSAN You're right. He flew me to Acapulco last weekend.

JIM (YES!) Would you testify to that?

SUSAN We went swimming in the bay – I was wearing that pink two-piece, you remember that one, Jim? Bill loves it too – and he spoke to these dolphins. I'm pretty sure they were Soviet dolphins. They told him exactly how to balance the budget deficit.

JIM (REALISING) Very funny.

SUSAN (HURT) Screw you, Jim. I mean, screw you.

A MOMENT.
THE BUSTLE OF THE DINER.

WAITRESS (APPROACHING) One lemonade. One bourbon. Enjoy.

SUSAN Thank you.

WAITRESS (GOING) It's good to see you guys back in here.

SUSAN Bourbon for brunch?

JIM I'm scared. I don't want to die in jail.

SUSAN (DELIBERATELY IGNORING THIS) Remember, we used to come in here with them?

JIM Who?

SUSAN Bill and Hill.

JIM You never really got on with her.

SUSAN She's alright for a Yankee. It wouldn't kill her to laugh.

JIM So...what about her?

SUSAN What about her?

JIM They reckon, they told me –

SUSAN Your Kenneth Starr friends?

JIM (CONTINUING) If you're so in love with Bill – (SUSAN:
Sheesh!) – maybe you might want to give them something
about Hillary. You must really hate her.

SUSAN So, what? I'm going to go out there, with some story, make
something up, go out and be another fool with no evidence to
back this up. What are you guys thinking of there?

JIM Susan, don't you get it? They'll give you the story. You're not
going to have to worry about that. You don't have to make
anything up. They get it all squared.

SUSAN STANDS DURING THIS

SUSAN Enjoy your drink.

JIM Your steak. Susie?

SHE IS WALKING AWAY

SUSAN You eat it. Only way you're going to find some backbone.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 28. WHITE HOUSE: ROOSEVELT ROOM. 1998.

APPLAUSE. THEN:

(TO BE REVOICED)

BILL Thank you very much. Many of us have been working together now for twenty years on these issues –

APPLAUSE

– and we are determined to help Americans succeed in the workplace and to help Americans succeed at the toughest job of all, that of being a parent.

APPLAUSE

Now I have to go back to work on my State of the Union Speech. And I worked till pretty late last night. But I want to say one thing to the American people. I want you to listen to me. I am going to say this again. I did not have sexual relations with that woman. Miss Lewinsky. I never told anybody to lie. Not a single time. Never. These allegations are false and I need to go back to work for the American people.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 29. BUILDING STEPS: PRESS GAGGLE. DAYTIME.

THE REPORTERS ARE CROWDING THE OIC SPOKESMAN, YELLING A THOUSAND QUESTIONS (TEXT TO FOLLOW)

OIC SPOKESMAN Let's be clear. We went to the Attorney General. She referred it to a panel of three judges. Would she do that if there wasn't substantial evidence? There is a case to answer here.

YELLED QUESTIONS, THEN:

The judges – not Mister Starr – a panel of judges approved a formal investigation into the possibility of subornation of perjury and obstruction of justice.

QUESTIONS, THEN:

Of course. We are obligated to pursue this matter.

QUESTIONS, THEN:

Yes, I know Mister Jordan has denied asking her to lie but we also know that he made efforts to find employment for Miss Lewinsky. You may draw your own inferences.

QUESTIONS, THEN:

No man is above the law.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 30. WHITE HOUSE: EAST WING: OFFICE. 1998.

PRIVATE CONVERSATION, AS BLUMENTHAL CLOSES THE DOOR.

BLUMENTHAL Will you just hear him out?

HILLARY (*But*) David Brock's a right-wing hatchet man.

BLUMENTHAL Not any more.

HILLARY And he told you about this Arkansas Project thing?

BLUMENTHAL Let him tell you himself.

HE CLICKS THE PHONE ONTO SPEAKER

BLUMENTHAL David, you there?

BROCK (SPEAKERPHONE) Sure.

BLUMENTHAL It's just me here, and the First Lady.

BROCK Right. Hi there, Madam First Lady.

HILLARY Mister Brock.

BLUMENTHAL David. Tell her what you told me?

BROCK Where do I start?

BLUMENTHAL The Project.

BROCK Missus Clinton, this thing, it's all funded. They're pouring hundreds of thousands into it.

BLUMENTHAL A conspiracy.

BROCK Sure. Possibly. The money comes from a man called Richard Mellon Scaife, a zillionaire. They're down in Arkansas paying

state troopers, private detectives, any kind of loony tune who's got something to say about you.

HILLARY How do you know all this?

BROCK I used to work for the American Spectator magazine, it's owned by Scaife. These people, they tell you to write lies. They don't care.

HILLARY It isn't illegal to print articles. Even lying ones.

BLUMENTHAL It's way more than that.

BROCK There's collusion. Illegal collusion. Starr's people talking to Paula Jones' lawyers. None of this is happening by chance, Madam First Lady.

HILLARY Hillary.

BROCK Sure. Yes. Right. Thank you. This girl, she's been talking, on tape, about the President. But how did the tape go public? From Starr! His people, they handed it over, at midnight at some Holiday Inn!

BLUMENTHAL Scaife paid for Jim McDougal, pays for anyone who'll testify against you.

HILLARY Alright. Do you have – is there anything to prove that, on the record? This collusion.

BROCK It's all lawyers and journalists and PIs. If you tried to attack it, they'd howl freedom of the press.

HILLARY You could testify?

BLUMENTHAL And we lose our best source.

HILLARY (REALISING) This is a conspiracy.

BLUMENTHAL This isn't their chance to re-run the election, Hillary. This is anti-constitutional. It's a coup. It's a vast, right-wing coup.

HILLARY He's coming to dinner tonight.

BLUMENTHAL Who?

HILLARY Scaife. He contributed to the Endowment Fund.

BLUMENTHAL The White House restoration thing? That's tonight?

HILLARY Want to sit next to him?

CUT TO:

SCENE 31. LITTLE ROCK: COURTROOM. DAY. 1996.

SOME HELD-IN CRYING FROM PEOPLE IN THE GALLERY, WHILE:

JUDGE Susan Henley McDougal. A jury of your peers has found you guilty on four counts. Misapplication Of Loan Funds. Conspiracy To Defraud A Financial Institution. Wire Fraud. And Mail Fraud. All in violation of 18 U.S.C. 657, 1006, 1014 and 1341.

SUSAN (NERVOUS) Your Honour, might I be allowed –

JUDGE (OVER) Ms McDougal, you stand before me as a convicted felon.

A MOMENT.

JUDGE Let there be no mistake, when you return here for sentencing on...

CLERK ...(CALCULATING)...Monday July 8th.

JUDGE – when you should prepare yourself for incarceration.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 32. JONESBORO, ARKANSAS: McDANIEL'S OFFICE. DAY.
1996.

THEY ARE POISED OVER THE SPEAKERPHONE

McDANIEL You want to do this?

SUSAN Jim said they want to offer something.

McDANIEL Help with the sentencing, right?

CLAUDIA He said Judge Starr's going to come to his sentencing personally. Speak for him.

McDANIEL Starr?

SUSAN I can't even – I can't go to jail.

McDANIEL OK. Let's find out what they want.

CLAUDIA You ready, honey?

SUSAN (TERRIFIED) Mm-huh.

McDANIEL HITS THE BUTTON.

McDANIEL You still there, Ray?

OIC Been waiting. Patiently.

McDANIEL My client is with me now. She's brought a friend, too, Mrs Riley is also in the room.

OIC OK.

McDANIEL If Mrs McDougal agrees to work with you, what exactly is on the table?

OIC It's simple, Bobby, you know it is. If there is an acceptable proffer, we can go in front of the judge and we can recommend probation, not jail.

McDANIEL (TO SUSAN) Like I said.

OIC (CONTINUING) And I have in front of me, another stack of papers, relating to income tax evasion by Susan McDougal.

SUSAN (SHOCK) What?

McDANIEL Shhh.

OIC (CONTINUING) New federal charges. I can see them taken out of play. Like that.

McDANIEL And in return?

OIC She knows who this investigation is about.

A CRACKLY SILENCE

OIC And she knows what we want to hear.

BUT NOW THE TEARS ARE COMING FROM SUSAN.

CLAUDIA (WHISPERED TO SUSAN) It's OK. Let's hear him out.

OIC But I got to be clear, Counsel. This is a good deal. This is everything taken off Mrs McDougal's rap sheet. But this deal, listen to me: it's only good for today.

SUSAN (THROUGH TEARS) I haven't got any money. How can I go on?

OIC We can stop it by five o'clock today . We need the proffer.

McDANIEL My client is distressed. I'm going to put you on hold. OK?

OIC Sure, I got plenty indictments to wri –

McDANIEL HITS THE BUTTON.

SUSAN LETS HER TEARS OUT. THROUGH WHICH:

SUSAN As though Bill Clinton, the biggest fundraiser in Democratic Party history needed to come to us for a lousy three hundred. It's a joke! It's sick.

CLAUDIA If you were my daughter, I'd be telling you to take the deal. Say whatever they want you to say. You're going to jail, Susan.

SUSAN I know I am.

CLAUDIA Give it to them. It won't make any difference.

SUSAN Bobby?

McDANIEL No-one'd blame you if you take the deal. Everyone else has.

SUSAN It sounds easy, doesn't it? We get in the car, we drive over to their office, I give them a deposition, something about that loan or about Hillary, and we go home. (FEARFUL TEARS COMING AGAIN, BUILDING FOR THE REST OF THE SCENE) No jail, no more – no more endless nights. Life's good. Except it isn't.

CLAUDIA Sounds good to me.

McDANIEL Claudia, remember, it won't just be tonight. There will be a whole lot of hearings. Susan will be asked to repeat it and repeat it and repeat it allegations.

SUSAN A lie – it'll be a lie – it'll never end. I'll be lying for the rest of my life. I will be a liar. I will be lying and lying and lying. One lie and it will last my whole life.

A SILENCE, JUST SUSAN'S TERRIFIED TEARS.

McDANIEL What do I say? He's on hold.

SUSAN Tell him...I'm so sorry, you know what to tell him.

CLAUDIA Susan!?

McDANIEL HITS THE BUTTON, AMPLIFIED CRACKLES:

McDANIEL Ray?

OIC I'm here, Counsel.

McDANIEL (SEMI-WHISPERED, TO SUSAN) Sure?

SUSAN (TO McDANIEL, IT'S AGONY:) Please. Say it.

McDANIEL It's been great talking to you. We're done here. Thanks, Ray.

OIC (FOR THE FIRST TIME RUSHED) Hang on, we need to –

McDANIEL Bye, now.

AND HE HANGS UP THE PHONE. CLICK INTO DIALLING TONE:
SUSAN KNOWS WHAT SHE HAS CHOSEN FOR HERSELF

SUSAN Oh God, what have I done? Oh God, Oh God.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 33. LITTLE ROCK: COURTROOM. 1996.

SUSAN STANDS BEFORE THE JUDGE

JUDGE To encompass all offences, a sentence of two years to be served in state penitentiary.

McDANIEL (WHISPERED) We'll appeal. (TO JUDGE) Your Honour, we would like to apply for bail pending – ?

JUDGE Disallowed. (THEN:) I will allow your client forty days to get her affairs in order. Then Ms. McDougal, you turn yourself into the U.S.Marshals.

HE STANDS. AND:

CLERK All rise.

AS THE JUDGE EXITS, A HUGE ERUPTION OF NOISE: FRIENDS, ENEMIES, LAWYERS.
IN THE CENTRE OF IT:

McDANIEL We can appeal, Susan. It's going to be OK.

SUSAN From jail? I don't even get bail for –

FBI (APPROACHING) Susan McDougal?

SUSAN What?

FBI (HANDING HER A DOCUMENT) You're served.

McDANIEL (UNFOLDING IT, UNSURPRISED) And this – yes – this is a subpoena to testify in front of the grand jury.

SUSAN Tear it up.

McDANIEL This is federal, Susan. We can't do that. This takes precedence.

SUSAN I don't get it. What else can they do to me?

AND CROSSFADE INTO:

SCENE 34. WHITE HOUSE: OVAL OFFICE. GENTS' TOILET.

BILL IS ON THE PHONE AGAIN

BILL This is just phone or focus – ?
 > Right.
 > I know, Dick, I know.
 > And that's across the board?
 > Did they give any indication – ?
 > OK, I'll wait to hear from you. Thanks, Dick.

SCENE 35. LITTLE ROCK: COURTHOUSE: LOBBY: DAYTIME. 1996.

AMID THE DAILY COURTHOUSE BUSTLE

JOURNALISTS IN THE BACKGROUND (Susan, this way! Susan, what you going to tell them? Are you and the President lovers?)

McDANIEL You packed a bag?

SUSAN I'm going to be OK, Bobby.

McDANIEL If you go in there and refuse to testify to a Grand Jury, the judge can send you straight to jail. Right here, right now.

SUSAN I know.

McDANIEL Civil contempt. There's no bail, no right of appeal. Straight in the van.

SUSAN Home of the brave.

McDANIEL Because it's not a punishment. It's a coercion.

SUSAN How long?

McDANIEL Eighteen months is the maximum.

SUSAN Eighteen?

McDANIEL To my knowledge, no-one has ever served the full....

SUSAN And then the two years for the fraud?

McDANIEL Damn straight, you don't start serving that sentence till the contempt is done.

CLERK (CALLING OUT) Susan McDougal. Susan McDougal.

McDANIEL Like s/he doesn't know you're standing right here.

SUSAN They're singing my song. Wish me luck.

McDANIEL Please, Susan, answer their questions.

SUSAN It takes two to speak the truth – one to speak it

SUSAN } and one to listen.
McDANIEL } and one to listen.

SUSAN You know it?

McDANIEL Thoreau. Every lawyer learns it.

CLERK (CALLING OUT) Susan McDougal. Susan McDougal.

SUSAN (CONTINUING) Bobby, they aren't going to believe me if I
tell them the truth. They want dirt. I haven't got it.
(CALLING OUT) OK, I'm right here. Coming!

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 36. LITTLE ROCK: GRAND JURY ROOM: DAY. 1995.

A NORMAL ROOM, TWENTY-THREE GRAND JURORS AND THE LAWYERS.

OIC Would you state your full name , please, for the court
reporter?

SUSAN Susan Carol Henley McDougal.

OIC Can you tell us, Ma'am, where you were born?

SUSAN I'd like to read a statement before we begin, if that would be
OK.

OIC You can read it at the end of the appearance.

SUSAN I would like to read it before we begin. I think the foreman
can let me do that, if he will. Will the foreman allow me to do
that?

OIC Ma'am, ma'am, ma'am, you will be given ample opportunity
–

SUSAN May I ask the foreman if he'll let me read this statement
before I begin?

OIC No, ma'am, no, ma'am. You are here to answer questions.
You will be given ample opportunity –

SUSAN I'd like to read the statement. The foreman has the right to
let me read the statement.

OIC }You need to answer the questions first . You will be given an
opportunity later –

SUSAN } I'd like to read the statement. The foreman has the right to
let me read the statement.

AND CROSSFADE INTO:

OIC Ma'am, where you were born?

SUSAN DOES NOT REPLY

OIC Ma'am, where you were born?

SUSAN DOES NOT REPLY

OIC Ma'am, where do you reside today?

SUSAN DOES NOT REPLY

OIC Are you employed?

NO REPLY

OIC For the record, are you refusing to answer any questions,
ma'am?

AND CROSSFADE INTO:

OIC Mrs McDougal, I think we can wrap up here. First, I am going to ask you three more questions. Did you ever discuss your loan from the government fund with William Jefferson Clinton?

SUSAN Will you let me read my statement?

OIC Ma'am, the question has been posed. Will you answer the question?

SUSAN I need to read the statement.

OIC Did you ever discuss your loan with William Jefferson Clinton?

SUSAN My answer will be the same for any question you ask me.

OIC One more question then. To your knowledge, did William Jefferson Clinton testify truthfully during the course of your trial?

SUSAN My answer would be the same for any questions you ask me.

OIC Thank you. Mister Foreman, if you would, we'll notify the judge.

AND CROSSFADE BACK TO:

SCENE 37. LITTLE ROCK: COURTHOUSE: LOBBY: DAYTIME.

MUCH MORE PRESS HUBBUB NEARBY

SUSAN (ANGRY) I can't believe this is America. I can't believe this is my country. I can't believe this is my government.

McDANIEL Let's see if we can get more time.

SUSAN I'm ready, Bobby. They can take me away now. I feel good. I feel really good.

McDANIEL Let's see if she'll –

SUSAN And those last three questions! I thought they'd given up, then suddenly they want to go back into all the detail, all the loan, all William Jefferson.

McDANIEL 'She would not say whether Clinton testified truthfully at her trial.'

SUSAN What?

McDANIEL 'Ms McDougal refused to say whether she ever had a discussion with Clinton about an improper loan'.

SUSAN They can't -

McDANIEL That's tomorrow's headlines. Bet the house on it.

SUSAN I haven't got a house. Not anymore. Not nothing.

McDANIEL Just as well they're going to send you to jail then, isn't it?

AND INTO:

SCENE 38. WHITE HOUSE: OVAL OFFICE. DAY. 1998.

BILL IS HAVING HIS BLOOD TAKEN.

BILL (CHARM) Got enough there, Doc?

DOCTOR (NERVOUS) Thank you, that's all, Mister President. One sample tube for Mister Starr, one for your people to log as identical.

BLUMENTHAL I got it, Mister President.

BILL Look after that now. It's precious stuff.

DOCTOR I will, sir.

RAHM This way, please.

A SILENCE AS HE CLOSSES HIS BRIEFCASE
AND THEN THE DOOR IS CLOSED BEHIND HIM.

BILL Do you see that poll? Fifty-nine percent of Americans believe that my "political enemies are conspiring to bring down the presidency."

RAHM Highest approval ratings of the entire presidency, sir —
Sixty-seven!

HILLARY Why do they want your blood, Bill?

BILL Are we being literal or metaphorical?

HILLARY It's humiliating. It demeans the Presidency.

RAHM What do they do that doesn't?

HILLARY Somebody needs to answer me.

A MOMENT, THEN:

RAHM There's a rumour. About a dress.

BEAT

RAHM It's a blue dress which was ref –

HILLARY I don't need to know the colour.

RAHM They're saying they can link this dress – material found on the dress – to the President.

HILLARY And the dress belongs to this...? [SHE CAN'T FIND THE WORD]

RAHM It's a bluff.

BLUMENTHAL It just means they haven't agreed a deal with her. My sources are telling me Lewinsky's lawyers are demanding global immunity.

BILL Or she's refusing to say that I asked her to lie. They won't like that.

RAHM Starr wants evidence that you obstructed justice, committed perjury. He's putting it around that the evidence is 'voluminous'.

HILLARY They still don't have any evidence! Blah years they've been going. You said when you agreed to this – all that about Jimmy Carter and his peanut farm – that investigation was done in three months. Why?

RAHM Because the press are all still running round thinking this is going to be their Watergate, their big Pulitzer. Sitting in the hotel bars in Little Rock, paying low-lives for any piece of –

BILL No-one wants to believe there is no story.

.

RAHM I heard one of them say - this is the best – the absence of a smoking gun is exactly what proves they're hiding something.

BLUMENTHAL And you call me Grassy Knoll.

HILLARY If they give this girl, this narcissistic loony tune, immunity, can they subpoena the President of the United States to appear before a Grand Jury?

RAHM No president has ever been subpoenaed.

HILLARY Answer my question.

SILENCE.

HILLARY Right.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 39. BUILDING STEPS: PRESS GAGGLE. DAYTIME.

THE REPORTERS ARE CROWDING THE OIC SPOKESMAN, YELLING A THOUSAND QUESTIONS (TEXT TO FOLLOW)

OIC SPOKESMAN That's correct. We arranged to deliver the subpoena to President Clinton's lawyer.

YELLED QUESTIONS, THEN:

Yes, he will be the first president to face a Grand Jury.

QUESTIONS, THEN:

That would be disastrous. If he refuses, it is basically saying he is above the law. The Constitution is clear.

QUESTIONS, THEN:

The Grand Jury has questions. Did the President lie under oath and did he encourage others to lie as part of a cover-up? There is considerable evidence.

QUESTIONS, THEN:

We genuinely believe there has been obstruction of justice.

QUESTIONS, THEN:

The evidence is overwhelming.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 40. SYBIL BRAND PRISON, LOS ANGELES. DAY. 1996.

SUSAN IS ON MURDERERS' ROW: A ROW OF BAR-FRONTED CELLS
ALONG A WALKWAY.

THE PRISON IS NOISY: EVERY CONCEIVABLE HUMAN NOISE.

A GUARD IS SLIDING THE METAL TRAY UNDER HER CELL BARS.

GUARD Lunch. (THEN:) McDougal!

SHE IS ON HER BUNK, REFUSING TO MOVE

SUSAN Not eating.

GUARD Roaches'll be happy.

SUSAN I want privileges. I want association.

GUARD You're K-10 now. You been told. You're on lockdown.

SUSAN BREAKS AND JUMPS UP.

SHE KICKS THE FOOD TRAY ACROSS THE ROOM.

GUARD I ain't bringing you – [*another tray*]

SUSAN Twenty-three hours a day in this cell? This is Murderers'
Row!

GUARD We give you time out here. You walk up and down.

SUSAN And everyone else has to get locked back in their cell. How
popular you think that makes me?

GUARD K-10 status comes from way up, babycakes. Complain to me
as much as you like, complain to the governor, ain't nobody
here can change it.

SUSAN I shouldn't be here anyway.

GUARD (TO OTHER GUARD) Hey! You hear that? We got someone who doesn't think they should be in here.

SUSAN (OVER THIS) I mean this is a county jail. I should be in a federal prison. I'm here for Contempt of a Federal Court. I've got a judge's order saying I should be moved.

GUARD (MOVING IN CLOSE) You think we take orders from some weak-ass California judge? We take our instructions from Mister Starr.

SUSAN (DUMBSTRUCK, BECAUSE HE HAS SAID IT) You...

GUARD Pick up your food now. Don't want you starving to death and all.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 41. WHITE HOUSE: YELLOW OVAL ROOM: EVENING. 1998.

A RECEPTION. DRINKS. CHATTER.
 GEORGE IS APPROACHING.

RAHM Hey, it's the Hero of New Hampshire!

GEORGE Thanks.

RAHM Who invited you?

GEORGE They're handing out medals. Of course you want the press.

BLUMENTHAL (SCEPTICAL) *Nightline* are so not covering this.

GEORGE Jesus, look at them.

BLUMENTHAL What?

GEORGE Each time Bill starts gravitating up that end of the room, she pulls away down the other.

BLUMENTHAL There's nothing left, George. The magic is gone.

RAHM It's been cold round these parts. Cold, cold, cold.

GEORGE Is there any way she'd maybe come on the progra – ?

RAHM } No way.

BLUMENTHAL } Forget it.

GEORGE (SHRUG) Got to ask.

BLUMENTHAL And we haven't even told her yet.

GEORGE She's letting it get personal. It's madness.

BLUMENTHAL (AMAZED) What?

GEORGE It's an issue. An issue she has to strategise. We did that so many times.

BLUMENTHAL It's her husband. It's damn personal.

RAHM Come on, Grassy, it's all just a conspiracy, isn't it?

BLUMENTHAL Sure, it's a careful conspiracy to trap him for perjury, but first he has to shtup someone for it all to –

RAHM Incoming. (URGENT. MOVING AWAY) George, let's go mingle. With extreme prejudice.

BLUMENTHAL Rahm!

RAHM (ALMOST GONE) Tell her. Tell her now.

HILLARY (APPROACHING) There are not words to describe how much I hate these things.

BLUMENTHAL You're doing good.

HILLARY We need a king. The British have it right. He does all this hand-shaking and medal-pinning. We get on with the real work.

BLUMENTHAL Hillary....She's got her deal.

HILLARY Who?

BLUMENTHAL Keep smiling. Maybe laugh. The girl, she's agreed immunity. Starr's sending over the subpoena for the President.

HILLARY Of course she has. Keeps her trashy fat face in the news.

BLUMENTHAL Face.

HILLARY He can't plead. He has to be straight. If we get to that.

BLUMENTHAL We're getting to that. (THEN:) Sorry.

HILLARY What's he got to testify about? He hasn't done anything wrong.

BLUMENTHAL What if – smile, face – what if there's more to it?

A TINY MOMENT, THEN:

HILLARY My husband has faults. He has never lied to me.

BLUMENTHAL Yes.

HILLARY Now I'm going to go and speak to that Nevada Congresswoman. Rescue me in four minutes.

BLUMENTHAL OK.

HILLARY Three minutes if I scratch my eyebrow. Like this. It'll mean I am about to go catatonic.

BLUMENTHAL Check.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 42. TWIN TOWERS PRISON: VISITING ROOM. DAY. 1997.

SUSAN ON ONE SIDE OF THE GLASS, CLAUDIA AND MCDANIEL ON THE OTHER.

SUSAN SOUNDS VERY DIFFERENT. DISTANT, LOST, AS THOUGH SEDATED ALMOST.

CLAUDIA We're worried about you, Susan.

McDANIEL Claudia rang me straight after you called her.

SUSAN (DAZED) When was that?

CLAUDIA About four hours ago, honey. You don't remember?

SUSAN I lose track of things.

CLAUDIA Bobby was telling me they got you in this special cell.

SUSAN It's Plexiglas. Not bars.

McDANIEL (TO CLAUDIA) She can't hear anything. She's totally isolated.

SUSAN I get to see it all. All the girls. Prison life is my movie.

McDANIEL A silent movie.

SUSAN They call it the Horrible Lecture cell.

CLAUDIA (BAFFLED) Honey?

McDANIEL Lecter. She means. Hannibal. Like the movie.

CLAUDIA Honey, you did eight months lockdown at Sybil Brand. (TO McDANIEL) Don't they need a cause to put her in solitary?

McDANIEL We've applied to the judge so many times.

SUSAN The bus. A man on the bus.

McDANIEL Another prisoner?

SUSAN He took out his – he started rubbing himself.

CLAUDIA Oh my God.

SUSAN They all think I'm a murderer. That's why they got me in this red suit, special suit means child killer. So the men...

CLAUDIA Darling, you don't have to do this.

SUSAN You get chained in this cage in the middle of the bus. The men, they all do a pee on you.

CLAUDIA You don't have to endure this.

SUSAN (UNCONVINCING) I'm going to be alright.

CLAUDIA Honey, Susan, please, do you think maybe – Bobby and I have talked about this – why don't you give it up?

SUSAN I've got books. I've been reading.

McDANIEL I'll speak to the Warden.

SUSAN Speak to Kenneth Starr.

CLAUDIA That's what you should do. You talk to him, Susan. Everyone will understand. Say you'll testify and you can be out of here tomorrow. Susan, no-one will blame you. The Clintons can manage, whatever you say.

SUSAN You think I'm doing this for the Clintons?

CLAUDIA I don't see who else has got anything – [*out of it*]

SUSAN (FINDING ENERGY, RESOLUTION) This is for me, Claudia, this is all for me. Not them. I don't give a rip-snort about the Clintons.

CLAUDIA What are you getting out of it?

SUSAN I get to be in charge. Don't you see that?

A MOMENT

SUSAN Every time they drag me back to court, on that bus, and I say "You heard me, Judge, I'm not talking" it's my decision. My life. If I start lying, I'm their puppy, they've made me into what they want.

SHE IS NOW STANDING.

CLAUDIA Susan?

SUSAN I'm going back to my cell now. Because that's what I choose.

SHE WALKS OUT AND THE DOOR CLOSES.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 43.WHITE HOUSE: OVAL OFFICE. GENTS' TOILET.

BILL IS ON THE PHONE AGAIN

BILL

Of course I asked her. And Linda. They both told me to get in there and tell her myself.

- Doesn't make it any easier.
- Of course I'll do it before the Grand Jury. They'll leak the tape just like they've leaked every other damn thing.
- She doesn't need to know all that stuff!
- Yes, there was a time when I was on the phone.
- Yes, to a Congressman.
- Yes, in a closet too.
- I didn't call so you could laugh about this, Dick. I asked you for numbers.

CUT TO:

SCENE 44. WHITE HOUSE: RESIDENCE: BEDROOM. 1998.

HE HAS JUST WOKEN HER UP. AND STARTED TO BREAK THE NEWS.
HE IS NOT SITTING ON THE EDGE OF THE BED THIS TIME.

BILL I have to testify on Monday.

HILLARY I am aware of that.

HILLARY KNOWS SOMETHING BAD IS COMING. HER BREATH IS SHORT.

BILL And it's more serious than – I've been so – I wanted to
protect you.

HILLARY From what?

BILL What I'm going to have to tell the grand jury.

HILLARY Which is – come on, Bill, stop dancing.

BILL We didn't – I didn't have sex with her.

HILLARY Then?

BILL There was some intimacy.

HILLARY Oh my God. Oh my God.

SHE IS FINDING IT HARD TO BREATHE.

BILL Here. Drink some water.

SHE SLAPS THE GLASS ACROSS THE ROOM

HILLARY What do you mean?

BILL There was – there was oral sex.

HILLARY I'm going to be sick.

BILL (PASSING HER SOMETHING) Here.

HILLARY Get over there. Stand over there.

SHE GETS A HOLD ON HER BREATHING.

HILLARY Tell me.

BILL You don't want to – [*know*]

HILLARY I'll tell you what I want to know. How long has it been –

BILL It was never – it was occasional – it wasn't ever – I slipped – I thought – she was insistent –

HILLARY Shut up. You wanted it as much as her.

HE DOESN'T CONTEST THIS.

HILLARY I so thought you were over this.

BILL I did too.

HILLARY Why did you lie to me?

BILL I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I was trying to protect you and Chelsea.

HILLARY While you were getting a blow job.

BILL After. I mean.

HILLARY I have believed you. I have gone out there and defended you every day. Every minute of every day, you let me lie.

BILL You weren't lying. You didn't know.

HILLARY You're telling Chelsea, I'm not doing this for you.

BILL I know. I know.

HILLARY And they're going to ask you all about this on Monday. The Grand Jury.

BILL We need to plan it.

HILLARY You got yourself into this mess, you plan it.

BILL I have to...

HILLARY What?

BILL The Situation Room. We're – missile strikes against Osama bin Laden.

HILLARY Now?

BILL There's intel – a meeting, with his people, in Afghanistan.

HILLARY You know what they're going to say. You're just doing it to distract everyone.

BILL If I could ask Osama to delay it a few weeks.

HILLARY They all know, do they? You have a good laugh about it? In the Situation Room?

HE LEAVES IT A MOMENT, THEN:

BILL Can I come back? Can we talk? It won't be...can I come back? Hill? Honey?

SHE DOESN'T REPLY

AND INTO:

SCENE 45. WHITE HOUSE: WEST WING: PRESS ROOM. 1998.

THEY ARE WALKING THROUGH THE CORRIDOR

GEORGE (APPROACHING) Rahm, hold up. Rahm.

RAHM You don't work here anymore, George.

GEORGE I was at the press gaggle.

RAHM How are things on the dark side?

GEORGE How could he do that, Rahm? How could he? To you, to me, to everyone.

RAHM Do I get you escorted?

GEORGE How the hell do you go on working here? "I did not have sexual relations." Wagging his finger at us. I still believed him then. Can you believe that? me? After all the bimbo eruptions, I said, No, it can't be. He's telling the truth.

RAHM If she hadn't kept the dress.

GEORGE Is that all it is? If you can get away with it, that's good enough?

BILL (BARRELLING ALONG THE CORRIDOR) George, good to see you.

GEORGE Mister President.

BILL We miss you, George.

GEORGE Sir... (HE WANTS TO SAY SOMETHING)

RAHM Just going to walk George to the –

GEORGE (TO RAHM) No, hold on.

RAHM (KNOWING WHAT'S COMING) George, come on.

GEORGE (YES, HE'S GOING TO GO FOR IT) Why didn't you just confess, off the bat, the moment it came out? Why all the bad, bad, bad, bad lying? Why the whole precise meaning of Is? Tell me why, please. Please.

A MOMENT OF SURPRISE AT THIS FRONT-ON ATTACK.
THEN, QUITE SIMPLY:

BILL We polled.

GEORGE (UNBELIEVABLE!) You got Dick Morris onto it?

BILL He knows how to do these things.

RAHM The people wouldn't accept a confession, he told us.

GEORGE So you fought it?

BILL Had to win.

GEORGE You freaking lost!

RAHM (NO) We're going to win.

GEORGE What? You've just given Grand Jury testimony. All these years they've been after you, people have gone to prison for you – they don't find a single dishonest thing – and then you serve it up to them on a plate? You perjured yourself, you're the President!

RAHM I wasn't even with you guys in New Hampshire and I remember.

GEORGE (BAFFLED) New Hampshire?

RAHM Same playbook. We're going to win by losing.

GEORGE This place, it's finally gone Alice in Wonderland.

RAHM It's no different from New Hampshire, George. We won there because people didn't like the prying. They went at us so hard, the people came over to us.

GEORGE We came second. Actually.

BILL Second was a victory. It was The Comeback.

RAHM And they're doing it again. The Republicans are going so attack dog crazy, every time they announce something nastier, we go up in the approval ratings.

GEORGE That's sick. That's immoral.

RAHM They questioned him for six hours, asking again and again, questions about which body part touched which body part, and he'd opened the testimony by openly admitting to an affair.

BILL We're not telling them to do it, George.

GEORGE You banked on He Said She Said and the dress blew it.

RAHM For want of a better verb.

GEORGE It is so not funny.

RAHM The core of the entire conspiracy lies in a few blow jobs. No phone was tapped, no one's office burglarized, no tax return fiddled. You can't elevate a blow job to anything more than a blow job.

BILL (TMI) Rahm.

GEORGE There are people out there, people who worked for you, who cannot bring themselves to even talk to you.

RAHM The Republicans will never get an impeachment vote through, they don't have two thirds.

BILL I'll be acquitted.

GEORGE You will. They'll all vote for you, sir. That's right. They'll get behind you but they'll be voting to preserve and protect and defend the Constitution. Not to save you. Not to save Bill Clinton.

BILL I understand.

GEORGE We put ourselves there, we fought off all the crap because you were the best hope for progressive ideals. And how do you reward us? Stupid and selfish.

BILL I...I can't

GEORGE But you know, I am not going to allow a right-wing coup to take power. I'll come to your defence only because I'll want to defend the constitution. They're not going to seize power. But you, you have betrayed everything we worked for.

BILL You need to go now.

RAHM George.

GEORGE (TURNING, GOING) Happy to.

AND INTO:

SCENE 46. COURTROOM: DAY. 1999.

JUDGE Susan McDougal. We have listened to your witnesses telling us about the deterioration of your health. We have heard, at length, from the Office of the Independent Counsel assuring us that the Department of Corrections is quite able to ensure your wellbeing. I am left with only one question – for you, Mrs Riley.

CLAUDIA (STANDING) Judge?

JUDGE Your late husband was Lieutenant-Governor of this state, was he not?

CLAUDIA He was, sir.

JUDGE Would you be willing to accept responsibility for Ms. McDougal if I were to place her into your custody?

CLAUDIA I would, sir.

JUDGE Then I release her forthwith into your care. (GAVEL)

INSTANT LOUD AND SUSTAINED CHEERING AND HOLLERING!

AND INTO:

CREDITS

AT THE END OF WHICH:

VOICE In Kenneth Starr's final Report to Congress, a 445-page document, Susan McDougal's name appears once, in a footnote. During the two-day Impeachment Hearing in the Senate, the word 'Whitewater' was not uttered once.

END

the clintons

part three

THE MAN SCALE

by jonathan myerson

studio draft

cast

**HILLARY CLINTON
BILL CLINTON**

CHELSEA CLINTON

daughter

and

**HUMA ABEDIN
PATTI SOLIS DOYLE
MARK PENN**

personal aide to Hillary
Hillary Clinton Campaign Manager
Hillary Clinton Campaign Pollster

**AIR HOSTESS
DOUG**

on a private jet
Bill Clinton's aide

**TED KENNEDY
WOMAN
STAFFERS**

Democrat Senator
in a hospital in 1994
on the Clinton Campaign

THE PLAY IS SET IN 2008

SCENE 47. RUNWAY: PRIVATE JET: ENTRANCE. FEBRUARY 5 2008.

HILLARY STANDS AT THE FOOT OF THE STEPS, MAKING HER LAST
FAREWELL TO THE CHEERING CROWD:

HILLARY (HOARSE-VOICED) We are winning! Thank you! Tonight -
tonight was a memorable victory! Tonight we heard the
voices of people all across America! We are on our way to
Washington! (THEN:) OK, we have to get going now – thank
you, California! (APPLAUSE, CHEERING) Thank you all the
other states that voted for us tonight! God Bless You!

THIS IS HER GOODBYE AND THE CROWD CHEERS AND APPLAUDS.
DURING WHICH:

ANNOUNCER Let's hear it one more time for the next President of the
United States.

AND MUSIC

WE STAY WITH HILLARY AS SHE TROTS UP THE LAST FEW STEPS.
AS SHE ENTERS THE CABIN, WAITING FOR HER:

HUMA Great. Great work.

HILLARY Even at the airport, they want another piece of me.

BUT HER BRUSQUE FLATNESS IS AT ODDS WITH THE RABBLE-ROUSING
VOICE FROM DOWN ON THE TARMAC.

HUMA These numbers are amazing, Hillary.

HILLARY I've seen them.

HER TONE COULD NOT BE LESS ENTHUSED

HOSTESS Can I possibly get you a drink, Mrs Clinton? A little snack?
Something from the -

HILLARY Gin and tonic, please.

HOSTESS Coming right up.

HUMA You reamed him. Millions of people voting in primaries tonight, all over the country, and you took the popular vote.

HILLARY (IN FACT, SHE'S ANGRY AND FLAT) Fifty point two to forty-nine point eight. I beat Barack Obama by zero point four percent. Woopdidoo.

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

TITLES

AND THEN BACK TO:

SCENE 48. RUNWAY: PRIVATE JET: ENTRANCE. FEBRUARY 5 2008.

IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CREW SEAL THE PLANE (DIALOGUE TO FOLLOW) FOR TAKE-OFF

HUMA (PUMPING HER UP) You took Massachusetts, you took California, you took New York.

HILLARY I'm a New York Senator, for God's sake. You'll be congratulating me for winning Arkansas next.

HOSTESS Shall I put it down here?

HILLARY (ALMOST SNATCHING IT) I'll take it.

HOSTESS The Captain says we're ready for wheels up...if you'd like to...

HILLARY Sure.

AND SHE TAKES A LONG GULP OF THE DRINK. AND CONTINUES:

HILLARY Mister Nice Guy. Mister Cool. Mister I'd Rather Play Basketball. Mister I Don't Mind If I Lose. Horseshit.

HUMA (TO HOSTESS) Excuse me, could we get the radio phone, please?

HOSTESS Right after take-off.

HILLARY And all the time he's got his people screwing you over. Those Obama people – all smiles but they're like – what are those birds that claw at you, claw at your flesh, till you –

HUMA (TRYING TO HALT THIS) Maybe you –

HILLARY All the time, he's working the negative. Leaking stuff to the press. She did this, she did that. Bleeding you, watching you bleed.

HOSTESS If you'd just like to take your seats?

DURING THE FOLLOWING, THEY SIT AND BUCKLE IN.

HILLARY So he won thirteen states, I got nine.

HUMA Hillary, only one thing matters tonight: more people voted for you than him. Super Tuesday and you won.

HILLARY Huma, wake up! He got more delegates than me! Many more. Delegates is all this is about. I win by a state by a splinter and we split the delegates fifty-fifty. When he wins, he wins big. I can never catch up. (EXASPERATED, DURING ALL THIS TRYING TO GET THE SEAT BELT FASTENED AND FAILING) This freaking stupid freaking thing.

HOSTESS } May I - ?

HUMA } Let me, I can –

HILLARY I can fasten my own seat belt, thank you.

HUMA I just thought –

AS IT CLICKS:

HUMA We're going to pull this back. It's only February.

HILLARY Have you even looked at the demographics? The next eleven states, four of them use caucuses – he's wiped us every time in caucuses. So we're going to get greased there.

HUMA We can turn that around.

HILLARY (CONTINUING) And four of them have huge African-American populations. We'll get ass-kicked there too. He'll bank three delegates for every one of ours.

HUMA We don't actually have reliable figures for –

HILLARY We'd need landslides, Huma. And I haven't seen any sign of that.

HUMA Hillary, this isn't like you. Would you like to speak to Bill?

HILLARY What?

HUMA Would you like to speak to President Clinton?

HILLARY That asshole? That pumped-up, self-adoring heap of - He's the last person I want to speak to right now.

HUMA All right.

HILLARY (*Because*) This is all his fault. After I saved his ass. In fact, at the very moment I was saving his ass.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 49. WHITE HOUSE: EAST WING: FEBRUARY 12 1999.

IN THE BACKGROUND, ON THE TELEVISION, THE VOTING ON THE IMPEACHMENT IS BEING CALLED (ARCHIVE SOUND):

“... William Jefferson Clinton has undermined the integrity of his office, has brought disrepute on the Presidency, has betrayed his trust as President, and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice....”

PENN (GENTLY) Hillary? If we can...

HILLARY (WATCHING BUT RELAXED) Sorry. It's...You know, Nineteen Seventy-Five, when I was clerking on House Judiciary, we didn't even recommend Nixon for impeachment. Nixon!

PENN This is your moment, Hillary. Everyone's saying it. You are the Democratic Party's magic weapon.

CHELSEA Guys, guys - Mom – (PAPERS) - look at this place. New York State - it's not a state, it's a whole planet.

SHE IS OPENING OUT A MAP.

CHELSEA (CONTINUING) Fifty-four thousand square miles. You'll be going backwards and forwards, from the Canadian Lakes to – to (LOOKING) Fire Island. This is serious, serious campaigning.

HILLARY McAuliffe says he can raise me twenty-five million.

CHELSEA (SURPRISE) For a Senate seat?

PENN (THE TV) Would you look at him.

CHELSEA Who?

PENN The Chief Justice. Those robes. Looks like something out of Gilbert and Sullivan.

HILLARY Has anyone voted against the whip?

PENN (TICKER, THEN:) Party lines. So far.

CHELSEA Look we've got to... (GETTING HER ATTENTION) Mom, Mom, No First Lady has ever run for election.

PENN Where does it say she can't?

CHELSEA In the Book of Common Sense, Mark. The Republicans will scent blood, they will be vicious.

HILLARY How will that change my life?

CHELSEA They'll use the whole presidency thing against you, Mom. Rub your nose in it. Everything you did and didn't do for the last eight years.

PENN This woman's – sorry – the First Lady's approval ratings are over seventy. Did you hear that, seventies!?! You should have seen her campaigning in the mid-terms – she got them out, this lady was on fire.

HILLARY (COY) Mark.

PENN Women feel sorry for you. Even men see you as the loyal one, the one with a case.

HILLARY Great. You spend your life standing for women's rights, women's independence, and then you get your votes for being a victim.

CHELSEA This place requires serious retail campaigning. Diners, baby-kissing, front rooms. Do you actually like that? Mom?

A MOMENT, THEN:

HILLARY I thought, I've been thinking I'd start by listening. I'm going to spend three months, just going round the state, just a little van, listening to people, New Yorkers. Let that lead me.

CHELSEA For real?

HILLARY That's the point. They don't like it when I – when I tell people how it has to be. I see that. People don't like it.

DURING THIS:

BILL (WALKING IN) How's it going?

HILLARY (TERSE) Fine. Thanks.

BILL I've been going over the remarks for tonight. Chel, Chel, listen to this, what do you think of "I want to say again how sorry I am for my part in these events and the burden they have imposed on the American people." What do you say?

HILLARY Bill, we're trying to –

BILL Or maybe "say again to the American people how profoundly sorry I am for what I did to trigger these events and the great burden they have imposed on Congress"?

HILLARY We're having a meeting here, Bill.

BILL (SEEING THE MAP) You're serious about this? This whole Senate thing?

HILLARY There's a vacancy.

BILL You could get taken apart.

HILLARY What do you think I've been doing, for months, for years?

BILL Hill, I know, I'm –

HILLARY Look at them, look, Bill, there's Orrin Hatch voting to impeach you. (OR WHATEVER NAMES TIME IN WITH THE ACTUALITY) Jesse Helms, yes, Guilty.

CHELSEA Dad, it's Mom's turn. It's her chance. She's put up with all this. All of this. She gets to be in the sun now. Don't you try and push her out again.

BILL I don't want your Mom to get hurt.

CHELSEA I'm going to dignify that with an answer.

A MOMENT'S SILENCE.
PUNCTUATED BY THE VOTE CALL DISTANTLY ON THE TV

BILL I need to polish this speech a little more.

HILLARY Thanks.

BILL GOES.

HILLARY Thanks, Chelsea.

NO-ONE ANSWERS
THEN:

HILLARY I had to save him.

CHELSEA Sure.

HILLARY There was no alternative.

PENN You could have taken him out back and broken his nose.

CHELSEA That wouldn't look so good when he's out campaigning for you.

HILLARY I'm doing this alone. For the first time in a long long time.

AND INTO:

SCENE 50. FREEWAY: CAMPAIGN BUS: FEBRUARY 5 2008.

BILL IS SITTING AT THE BACK OF THE BUS AS IT SMOOTHS ITS WAY DOWN THE FREEWAY.

DOUG Mister President?

BILL (REACHING FOR THE PHONE) Thank you.

DOUG I'm - We haven't been able to make contact yet.

BILL You said her plane took off over an hour – [*ago*]?

DOUG It's...she's not able to take your call.

BILL What?

DOUG I got us patched through to Huma and she – she said the Senator was....

BILL Call them back.

DOUG Right.

DOUG PUNCHES THE BUTTONS ON THE PHONE DURING WHICH:

BILL Doesn't she want to win? Doesn't she see what it takes?

DOUG Sir?

BILL Doesn't she see what I was doing?

DOUG (OF THE PHONE) It's connecting.

BILL I thought they'd toughened her up these last years.

DOUG New York's a tough place.

BILL I mean the Senate. In New York she was fine. That was a great campaign she ran. She let them see a whole different side.

DOUG That's the best of her.

BILL Last month, I told her. I said she had to show a softer side.

DOUG That's good. Did it...?

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 51. HOTEL BEDROOM: EATING BREAKFAST: JANUARY.

THEY ARE JUST SETTLING TO BREAKFAST IN THEIR ROOM.
HILLARY IS POURING THE TEA AS BILL SITS.

HILLARY Yes, an omelette. I ordered you an omelette.

BILL Fries?

HILLARY At breakfast?

THEY EAT.

BILL Mushroom?

HILLARY You can't taste it?

BILL I just –

HILLARY (UNLOVING) You've bombed your taste buds with donuts
and pizza and fried food for so long, you can't – Omelette
Fine Herbes.

BILL OK, OK, just a little early.

MOUTHFULS

BILL If you want, I could get more....[*involved*] Do some speeches.
Come on the stump.

HILLARY It's OK.

ANOTHER ROUND OF MOUTHFULS

BILL I was talking to...some of the guys.

HILLARY Uh-huh.

BILL We were just wondering, if maybe a different sort of approach. From you.

HILLARY Yes?

BILL You're coming over – it's giving the effect – it feels snooty.

HILLARY What did you say?

BILL You're coming over with this 'importance'.

HILLARY It is important.

BILL You're their servant. Nothing more important than speaking to them, hearing them.

HILLARY Did you just say 'snooty'?

BILL It's, you know, kind of haughty, I know it's not meant like that but it's not winning people over.

HILLARY (SHARP) I'm working eighteen hours a day, Bill.

BILL I am well aware how hard you're –

HILLARY And what do you mean? Just yesterday, I took coffee and bagels into the press bus.

BILL That's what I mean.

HILLARY A whole tray of coffees.

BILL How did it go?

HILLARY I asked them about their families. Their significant others. Apologised for how long they had to be away.

BILL (DRY) Significant others?

HILLARY I asked. I was trying to be friendly.

A MOMENT.
IT CLEARLY DIDN'T GO SWIMMINGLY.

BILL You need to let people know you're working hard but working for them.

HILLARY (OUTRAGED) The press?

BILL The voters. The walking people. People in here in Iowa. Next up in New Hampshire. Nevada.

HILLARY Iowa.

BILL There is this belief that you think you're somehow above them. Too busy for them.

A MOMENT.
MOUTHFULS.

BILL This omelette. It is good. Which herbs is it are fine?

THEN:

HILLARY Why do they hate me so much, Bill?

BILL The press have always been after –

HILLARY People. I mean the voters. Your walking people.

BILL You're not really -

HILLARY You know what? I don't like them. I want to do all this for them, sure. But I don't like them. I don't think I like people. Not in one lump.

BILL You've worked all your life for the American people.

HILLARY Can you be a misanthrope and still love or enjoy some individuals?

BILL You're a long way from misanthrope.

HILLARY (CONTINUING) How about a compassionate misanthrope?

BILL No-one who works as hard as you could possibly be described as -

HILLARY I hate all of them, Bill. The Republicans, the Democrats, the voters, the poor people, the bankers, the rich people, the minorities, the hippies. All of them. They're so stupid. Bunch them together and they're stupid.

BILL When you went out on the road. You connected then. Trying to win health care. Ninety-four.

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 52. HOSPITAL: SIDE-WARD: 1994.

HILLARY IS SITTING BESIDE A BED.
GENTLY BEEPING MACHINES. LINO FLOORS.
A WOMAN TENTATIVELY APPROACHES

WOMAN Excuse me...?

HILLARY Mmhhh?

WOMAN I'm sorry to...I know your father's...

HILLARY Thank you. It'll be over soon. They told us.

WOMAN My Pop, he's over there. Other side of the corridor. We saw you in here and...

HILLARY That's OK. Is he...your father...?

WOMAN The doctors say he's going to be OK. But he'll be back in here soon enough.

HILLARY I'm sure he'll be fine this time.

WOMAN Not if he won't take his medicine.

HILLARY OK, then you tell him that the President said he's got to.

WOMAN He wants to. It's not – he can't afford it. says we can't.

HILLARY Ah.

WOMAN He's supposed to take it every day. One of the red ones, and one of the white ones, two of the little ones. He takes one tablet a day, spreads them out. Says it's better than nothing.

HILLARY It's worse than nothing!

WOMAN I told him. But we don't have coverage.

HILLARY You know, every day, I'm doing my best to –

WOMAN How long's it going to take, Missus Clinton?

HILLARY I'm trying. But there are a lot of people, a lot of companies, lot of people making a lot of money who don't want Americans to have health cover.

WOMAN That doesn't sound like –

HILLARY They tell me we can't afford it. Congress is telling me the figures don't add up.

WOMAN I don't know enough to – I don't really follow politics. (THEN QUICKLY:) We voted for you. I mean your husband. Two years ago.

HILLARY Thank you.

WOMAN 'Cause you said you were going to get health for everyone. He held up that card, didn't he?

HILLARY He did.

WOMAN It was blue. He said we'd all get one. A little card but we were all going to be covered. Everything was going to be OK.

HILLARY (FINALLY LETTING IT OUT) I have to wear a bulletproof vest.

WOMAN I'm sorry?

HILLARY I've been going round, you know?, holding these rallies. The Health Security Express, yes?

WOMAN (WHO HAS CLEARLY NOT HEARD OF IT) Yes.

HILLARY They send protestors. They send Hell's Angels. They shout me down. The Secret Service, they arrested some people, they were all round my car, going crazy. They found two guns, a knife.

WOMAN They want to kill you?

HILLARY They tell me I want to end the American way of life.

WOMAN Do you think, if you spoke to the doctors -

HILLARY They call me a Feminazi.

WOMAN (JUST AS BAFFLED) A what?

HILLARY And a Marxist. "Bill and Hillary Are Immoral Homosexual Communists."

WOMAN I don't know – that's bad, right?

HILLARY One of the placards at the last rally.

WOMAN My Pop over there, he's getting worse every day.

HILLARY What does it matter what it costs? When we get into wars, we don't know what it'll cost. When JFK said let's go to the moon, they didn't have to present a budget. Are they saying this is less important?

WOMAN His brother was at Khe Sanh. My Pop's brother, I mean. He was killed.

HILLARY (CONTINUING) See? And still your Pop can't afford his prescription. Forty million Americans without health cover.

WOMAN My husband said maybe, he said Go on, go over, ask her. She's the First Lady, she can tell the hospital.

HILLARY (CONTINUING, UNSTOPPABLE NOW) Now they tell me it's too long. Sure, it's thirteen hundred pages. But it'll eliminate five times that number in other statutes. It will save money.

WOMAN Couldn't you, you know if the President told the hospital, make it OK for my pop?

HILLARY I try and I try and I try.

WOMAN I'm sure you do.

HILLARY All my life I've worked for families and children and health care.

WOMAN We got eight kids.

HILLARY (FINALLY HEARING) ...Eight?

WOMAN Last two were twins.

HILLARY (GENUINE) That's wonderful. You are so lucky.

WOMAN So you're saying, you can't do anything for my Pop? Is that what you're saying? Is it?

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 53.CAMPAIGN BUS: FREEWAY: FEBRUARY 5.

AS BEFORE

BILL She just doesn't hear them. Doesn't hear the feeling. For her, it's a problem to solve. Is that thing working?

DOUG Just a...(THEN:)...It's been declined.

BILL It'll be some technical glitch thing. Give me the phone.

DOUG Still, Obama, no-one could say he's Mister Huggy.

BILL That's why we're still in this.

DOUG Are we?

BILL (DIALLING) They kept me out a long time, Doug. A stupid long time.

PATTI "I wouldn't want my daughter anywhere near him."

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 54. NEW YORK: HILLARY'S SENATORIAL OFFICE:
MORNING. EARLY 2008.

PATTI AND PENN ARE BREAKING THE NEWS TO HILLARY

PATTI "I wouldn't want my daughter anywhere near him."

HILLARY She said that?

PENN In fact, she said – she was asked if Bill had been a great president – and she said "I think he's been a great leader, but I don't want my daughter near him."

HILLARY And I'm doing a fund-raiser for her?

PATTI Tomorrow. A dinner.

HILLARY Cancel it.

PENN The press are going to - [*pick up on something like that*]

HILLARY (IMPLACABLE) Cancel it.

THERE IS A MOMENT

PATTI It doesn't actually change...

HILLARY What?

PENN The issue, Hillary. The Bill Issue.

HILLARY We've dealt with it before. I've dealt with it. I know how to handle it.

PENN Sorry, Hillary, they're talking about it.

HILLARY Who?

PATTI Our people. Our donors - apparently there was this conference call with Bob Rubin and –

HILLARY They're getting together to take conference calls about my husband's – (THERE'S STILL NO EASY WORD FOR IT) – libido?

A MOMENT

PENN It's not just – I don't think the press will go near it again –

HILLARY So what's the – [*big problem?*]

PATTI People, our people, they're saying that you'll sweep the primary and then the Republicans will sucker punch you with it in November. Big.

HILLARY Use what? For instance?

PATTI (DEEP BREATH) There's a plane. A Seven-Five-Seven.

HILLARY Ron's? His jet?

PENN That's right. They - they call it -

PATTI It's this pun thing. Not Air Force One, but Air F-

HILLARY Alright.

PATTI One.

HILLARY OK.

PATTI We called up the flight plans.

HILLARY You did what?

PENN Know Before Your Opponent Knows.

PATTI Miami, Vegas, LA, Miami, Vegas, LA.

HILLARY So?

PATTI They're not famous for temperance, for self-denial, those places, are they?

HILLARY Come on. My husband was in public service, in elected office from the age of thirty-two to fifty-four. He's allowed some R-and-R.

PENN There are names, too, Hillary.

HILLARY (LEANING BACK, EXHAUSTED) Does Washington have nothing better to do than talk about other people's sex lives?

PENN Julie McMahon.

HILLARY Social climbing trash.

PATTI Gina Gershon.

HILLARY Who's she?

PATTI Actress.

PENN Belinda Stronach.

HILLARY What's she? A weather girl?

PATTI Member of the Canadian Parliament.

HILLARY None of it's true.

PENN It doesn't matter whether it's true, it doesn't matter whether it's provable or printable, what matters is whether it means that people – our people – might start to look around for another candidate.

HILLARY He's done nothing. I am not vulnerable.

PATTI Fear of the unknown. Fear of what the Republicans might be planning for you.

HILLARY (STRIDENT, DEFINITIVE) My private life, my husband's private life, it belongs to me, to us. Nobody gets to have conference calls about this. Nobody.

A MOMENT.

PATTI What should we tell people? Our people.

HILLARY That it's not true.

PENN (BLUNT) That won't be enough.

A MOMENT. THEN SHE ADDS:

HILLARY And – and we've decided – we've – (THIS ISN'T EASY) – we're going to keep him out of the campaign.

PENN (THE ANSWER HE WAS WAITING FOR) Right. Good.

HILLARY We keep that part discreet.

PENN Of course.

HILLARY Not some big – it's not a big announcement thing.

PATTI An understanding.

HILLARY Right.

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 55. CAMPAIGN BUS: FREEWAY: FEBRUARY 5 2008.

BILL Smell the wind. That's all she had to do. But she decides to get right behind him, support him.

DOUG Only four African-Americans in the Senate since the Civil War –

BILL It's shaming, you're right. And he was just the sort of candidate we'd worked so hard to find.

DOUG Illinois – how did he do that? Simply not winnable.

BILL You have to find them, you have to help them, but she let him get too big. We were all telling her.

CHELSEA Four thousand people turned up at some Steak Fry.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 56. WESTCHESTER: FAMILY HOME: SITTING ROOM. DAY.
2007.

THEY ARE COOKING, CHOPPING, FRYING.

CHELSEA Four thousand people turned up at some Steak Fry.

HILLARY He's a community organiser. Obama - that's his shtick.

CHELSEA Four thousand, Mom!

HILLARY Community – it's local stuff. State-wide. Communities don't get you to Washington.

CHELSEA He worked the rope line, Dad told me, they said 'Thank you for giving us hope.'

HILLARY Cheesy. My God, that's cheesy.

CHELSEA I think there's something there.

HILLARY It's a lousy book tour – *The Audacity of Hope*. I mean, what does that mean?

CHELSEA Is that – can you pass me that onion.

HILLARY (CONTINUING) You don't hope for something you're definitely, easily going to get, so all hope is audacious. Otherwise you don't need to be hoping, you've already got it.

CHELSEA He's good looking too.

HILLARY He's a first-term Senator. He's diddly outside Illinois.

CHELSEA He's got that anti-war speech. That may be enough.

HILLARY He's plugging a book, Chelsea.

CHELSEA Says he needs the money – to pay off his college loans.
Makes a big, big thing of it. "I'm just like you," he's saying.

HILLARY See what I mean? He's a baby-baby. How's he going to fund-
raise? Who's going to back this guy?

CHELSEA I'm just saying. Don't know what it is. There's a touch of
Bobby K.

HILLARY K as in Kennedy?

CHELSEA Dad said, people, they want to be near him, want to touch
him.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 57. CAMPAIGN BUS: FREEWAY: FEBRUARY 5 2008.

AS BEFORE

BILL Can you believe that, she got him the top slot at the National Convention. Going round calling him a superstar. Did you know that? And they were all over him.

DOUG And now he's got the Kennedys endorsing him.

BILL Ted's been waiting all my life for a chance like this.
(EXASPERATION) A few years ago Obama would have been carrying our bags.

DOUG (*Did he just say that?*) What?

BILL I mean – Christ, you know I don't mean –(*because he's black*) - I mean he's a kid – he would have been fetching us coffee.

DOUG He's not a kid anymore.

BILL (FULMINATING REACHING A PEAK) He'd barely been in the Senate long enough to find the men's room, and they were telling him to run for – (HE BREAKS OFF) Hello? Hello – can you - can you hear me?

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 58. IOWA: MOTEL SUITE: EVENING.

THEY HAVE JUST GOT INTO THE ROOM AFTER A DAY'S CAMPAIGNING.

CHELSEA Thirty-one million dollars.

PENN That's so not possible.

PATTI In three months?

CHELSEA They just announced. Obama's raised thirty-one million.
Switch the TV on.

HILLARY Don't. Do not.

PATTI (CAREFUL, TO CHELSEA) You're sure? You're absolutely
sure? In the last three months, ten million dollars more than
us?

CHELSEA Please.

HILLARY It's not – how could he?

PATTI It's small donors.

PENN They have T-Shirts, they have badges, they have baseball
caps.

HILLARY Then why the hell aren't we doing that? (TEMPER
GROWING) I mean, why the hell aren't we doing that, where
are our T-shirts, we could have had them at the rally today,
we could have had baseball caps. Buttons, posters, anything.
This is basic, guys, basic retail, basic merchandising, this is
basic, basic, basic.

PATTI It's not how we usually, that's not how we fund-raise,
Hillary.

HILLARY (THE PEAK) Then Why The Jesus Christ Not?

PATTI Because our supporters – we go for the big players. The big money. We don't go for college kids, we don't target retired hippies in VW vans, they're not –

HILLARY How does he get them? I want them voting for me.

CHELSEA Because he's a movement.

PENN 'Phenomenon' is the word I prefer.

CHELSEA (OF PENN) Jesus.

PENN I told you, early on, I made it totally clear, he's heading to be a phenomenon and they have to be stopped early, before they turn into phenomenons.

CHELSEA Ena.

HILLARY You're saying he's untouchable? You're saying give up and go home?

PENN Hardly.

HILLARY (CONTINUING) I wouldn't mind one bit. Somebody book my flight, one way. I loathe Iowa. Another churn of butter and I might actually kill. That woman, did you hear her?

CHELSEA Which one?

HILLARY "She's so much prettier in person."

PATTI In the purple jackety outfit?

HILLARY (CONTINUING) Do I have to hear that again, do I? I mean Do I Have To Go Into Another Dipshit Barn And Hear That? I could have grabbed her by her stupid in-bred ears and pushed her head first into that milk churn and clamped on the lid. (THROUGH HER HANDS, AS THOUGH INSIDE A MILK CHURN:) "Dee's Duch Drettier Din Derson". Would anyone complain, would anyone miss her?

PENN One vote less.

HILLARY Totally worth every glorious moment.

PENN New Hampshire, next up. Give him Iowa, make it trivial, irrelevant, then crush him in New Hampshire.

HILLARY How do we crush him when the Press won't touch him? He's like this saint come down to earth.

PATTI Saints don't actually come –

HILLARY (AND WHAT ABOUT?) Every single parking ticket I've ever had, every single tip I didn't leave in some skanky diner, that's a national scandal. But Obama, he snorts cocaine up his stupid retroussé nose and they don't care!

PATTI Movement.

PENN Phenomenon.

CHELSEA Did you know that no woman has ever been elected to Congress from Iowa?

HILLARY What?

CHELSEA I wikied it. Not to Congress, not as Governor. A man every single time.

HILLARY That's – what is wrong with these people?

PENN I said Don't Fight Iowa.

CHELSEA You may have noticed that ship's sailed.

PATTI And...

HILLARY (SNAPPING) What!?

PATTI Sorry. Sorry. We're running out of money.

CHELSEA Don't – not – (*not now*)

HILLARY (TOO LATE) He's beating us two-to-one on fundraising and
you're saying we're running out?

PENN We win in Iowa, the money will start coming in. Again. I
know it. Four more days to caucus.

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 59. PRIVATE JET: IN FLIGHT: FEBRUARY 5 2008.

AS BEFORE

HOSTESS (APPROACHING) I have a call for you. It was patched through to the pilot.

HUMA I don't think we're –

HOSTESS I think maybe it's President Clinton.

HILLARY (SEMI-SOTTO) We're not taking calls.

HUMA (STANDING QUICKLY) Here. Let me. I'll take it.

AS HE MOVES AWAY:

HOSTESS } Can I get you, maybe a toasted sandwich? We have prosciutto and melon?

HUMA } Mister President?

HILLARY (TO HOSTESS) Can I get another drink?

HOSTESS Sure, same again?

HILLARY Easy on the tonic this time.

HOSTESS Of course. And maybe – we could scramble you some eggs? Or we have blue-fin tuna, we can griddle some -

HILLARY Really. Just the drink. That'll be more than fine.

HUMA (RETURNING, GIVING THE HOSTESS THE RADIOPHONE) Thanks.

HOSTESS You're welcome.

THEN:

HILLARY What's he want?

HUMA He says it's a long-term strategy, you need to show them that Obama's –

HILLARY Actually. I don't want to know. There's always someone. There's always someone between me and what I want.

HUMA President Clinton says you have to characterise him.

HILLARY What about me? I went to China and told them human rights are women's rights. They didn't like that. But I wasn't going to keep quiet. I never have. (MORE!) After Yale, did I go and work in Wall Street? No, I went and worked for the Children's Defense Fund, going door to door in Massachusetts. In Arkansas, we totally reformed public schooling, I did that. And sure, sometimes, other things, I didn't win, didn't get it through. And now they all want Mister Clean because he hasn't ever failed - because he hasn't ever tried!

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 60. HOTEL FORT DES MOINES: THE CLINTON CAMPAIGN
BOILER ROOM: JANUARY 3.

A LARGE HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM FILLED WITH YOUNG STAFFERS AT COMPUTERS AND ON PHONES. THEY ARE YELLING OUT:

STAFFER 1 One eighty! At least a hundred eighty at Muscatine.

STAFFER 2 Allamakee's saying two hundred and ten!

STAFFER 3 Palo Alto, I got one ninety!

AND THIS CONTINUES BEHIND HILLARY, BILL, PENN AND PATTI WHO ARE STANDING AGAINST THE WALL ON THE EDGE OF THE ROOM:

PATTI (PAPERS) Look at this. Twice as many voters turning out as four years ago. It's not possible.

PENN You're asking me?

PATTI It's what you're for. Isn't it? For weeks, you've been walking past those kids at Obama events, saying "Hey, they're cute but they won't never turn up to caucus."

PENN They're Facebook, not caucus. They'd shrivel and die in a town hall library. They don't know what a library is.

PATTI How's that little prediction working out?

STAFFER (APPROACHING, PAPERS) I just got this. If you want it. From our guy at the Dubuque Caucus.

PATTI Thanks.

PENN Most of them didn't look old enough to vote, not in any state.

PATTI (PAPERS) Look at this. Our people in Dubuque. They reckon more under-thirties than over sixty-fives.

CUTTING ACROSS THIS:

HILLARY What matters – what matters, people, is (AND THIS HURTS) can we hold onto second place?

A MOMENT.

BILL Well? Mark? Second place made me the Comeback Kid in Ninety-Two.

PENN I don't think – turnout numbers like this. I can't guarantee you second.

HILLARY That means third place, right?

BILL We've got five days until New Hampshire. We have to start looking at going negative, Hill.

PATTI Mr President, we've looked at everything. We've done nasty ads, we've done jokey, we've done serious and hard-hitting. None of them tested well. Not even good. It was horrible. Anything critical of Obama, the voters just don't want to know.

BILL You know - (PAPERS) - I'm looking at these numbers. There is no way this kind of turnout is possible. These voting figures are – it's mathematically – he's bussed people in.

PATTI What?

BILL The only way you get this kind of – these numbers – it's off the scale, Iowa has never seen voting like this – he's bussed people in from out of state. It's his people, from Illinois, he's shipping them in.

HILLARY (THIS IS CRAZY) Are you serious?

BILL It's the only way. We have to find out how he did it. (*If we*) Nail him with that, he's dead, he's history.

PATTI We cannot put out that kind of thing – anyway the Press won't touch that sort of –

BILL Next debate, Hillary, you put it to him, flat to his face. He bussed voters in from out of state. Watch him. He won't have an answer. Then sit back and watch his campaign die, right there, live across all major networks.

THIS IS MADNESS. EVERYONE BUT BILL KNOWS IT.

BILL Right, Mark?

PENN I need to...

THERE IS SILENCE FROM THE OTHERS.
NOTHING BUT THE BUZZ AND SHOUTING FROM THE STAFFERS ALL AROUND.
THEN:

HILLARY (*If*) He wins New Hampshire, I'm finished.

BILL That's a long way away –

PATTI Five days.

BILL When this voting fraud comes out.

HILLARY He wins New Hampshire, our donors are going to run. Won't see them for dust.

PATTI And, Hillary, we've spent – we've spent over twenty-five million here.

PENN My guess, nearer twenty-nine.

HILLARY For what – seventy thousand votes?

BILL That's...that's...

PENN Call it four hundred dollars per elector.

THIS ALSO INDUCES SILENCE.

PATTI That's a lot of butter.

THEN:

HILLARY What have I done wrong?

BILL You've done things, Hill. You actually attempt change, not just speeches, you've done things, thirty years of change, not the hope of audacity of daring to believe to change shit.

PATTI He's done nothing. Nothing to nail him with.

HILLARY (MOCKING) "We're the change we've been waiting for."

PATTI (GALLOWS HUMOUR) "We're the hope we've been hoping for."

HILLARY "We are the audacious changers for hope."

PATTI "We are hoping to change the hope into hope of change."

BILL People, people, you've got to give them a reason to see him for real.

PENN You have to go negative.

BILL We have to hit him. Hill?

A MOMENT. THEN:

HILLARY OK. OK. Let's go for him. New Hampshire here we come.

BILL And I get to...? The old Buy One Get One Free?

HILLARY Sure. I want you in now. I want you at all the planning, all the dailies. Somebody get President Clinton a briefing book. Right? Everyone?

PATTI } (UNENTHUSED BUT POLITE) Sure.

PENN } (ENTHUSED) Got it.

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 61. PORTSMOUTH: CAFÉ ESPRESSO. JANUARY 7.

HILLARY IS DOING A Q&A WITH VOTERS IN THE CAFE
TO BE REVOICED:

HILLARY It's not easy. And I couldn't do it if I just didn't passionately believe it was the right thing to do. You know, I have had so many opportunities from this country. I just don't want to see us fall backwards. Sorry. (APPLAUSE AND WOBBLY VOICE) So... (SWALLOW) You know, this is very personal for me. It's not just political, it's not just public. I see what's happening. We have to reverse it. And some people think elections are a game, lots of who's up or who's down. It's about our country. It's about our kids' futures, and it's really about all of us together. Some of us put ourselves out there and do this against some pretty difficult odds. And we do it, each one of us, because we care about our country. But some of us are right, and some of us are wrong. Some of us are ready, and some of us are not. Some of us know what we will do on Day One, and some of us haven't really thought that through enough. So, tired as I am, and I am....I am going to do everything I can to make my case and then, then the voters get to decide.

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 62. CAMPAIGN BUS. JANUARY 7.

MINUTES LATER.

HILLARY IS KICKING THE CHAIRS, ANYTHING.

HILLARY } No, no, no, no, no!

CHELSEA } Mom! Mom!

PATTI } Somebody find Bill. Quick.

CHELSEA Mom, Mom, Mom, slow down.

HILLARY Why should I? After that – it's gone. It's gone and gone and gone.

CHELSEA What are you talking about? Mom, that's the real you we just saw in there!

HILLARY (FRAUGHT, DESPERATE) I'm applying to be Commander In Chief. Generals don't cry.

PENN Everyone cries these days. Romney. Bush. NFL guys.

HILLARY They're men. Men, oh great, they're showing their emotions. Aren't they just amazing? A woman does it, no, it's weakness, it's patheticness. (SHE KICKS THE WALL)

PATTI It's going to be OK, you'll see.

HILLARY It was your fault.

PATTI I told you – I said we should talk about it, not today.

HILLARY I'm tough enough. You know that, Patti, I am tough enough for anything.

CHELSEA But now they've seen both sides of you.

PENN And you kept to the talking points. "Some of us are ready, and some of us are not." Bang on. "Some of us know what we will do on Day One." Bang. You hit them even while crying!

HILLARY (ADAMANT) I did not cry. You got that, Mark? Watch the tape. Like the rest of the country's going to, for hours and hours on end. All those whining wives at their little coffee morning in – what was it called?

PATTI (MISERABLY) Café Espresso.

HILLARY They're gonna love this.

DURING THIS BILL COMES MUSCLING INTO THE BUS

BILL Honey, come here. It's all OK.

AND HE HUGS HER

HILLARY (INSIDE HIS ARMS) I screwed up, Bill.

BILL We're going to keep going. One more day in New Hampshire.

HILLARY Thank God.

BILL Then I'm going down to South Carolina. And we're going to show him we mean business.

PATTI We agreed not to contest South Ca –

BILL I can make a difference. I know I can. We can hurt him there.

HILLARY You think?

BILL I know. A big difference.

HILLARY Thank you. Thank you, Bill.

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 63. CAMPAIGN BUS: FREEWAY: FEBRUARY 5.

AS BEFORE:

BILL You sure that thing's got a signal?

DOUG Yes, sir.

BILL Right. She was gonna call me back.

DOUG OK.

BILL Probably asleep right now.

DOUG Yes, sir.

BILL For God's sake, Doug, what?

DOUG Sir?

BILL Don't give me the act – what? Straight.

DOUG Isn't it – well, isn't it about what happened in South Carolina?

BILL What happened in South Carolina?

DOUG Well -

BILL I called them out, Doug, that's what happened. She understands that. She needed me to do that.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 64. NEVADA: CAMPAIGN OFFICE: AFTERNOON. JANUARY.

THEY ARE STANDING IN FRONT OF HILLARY'S DESK

CHELSEA You have to get in there and stop Dad.

HILLARY I thought we weren't competing in South Carolina?

CHELSEA You told him he could.

HILLARY Did I?

CHELSEA Iowa. The night of the count. Right?

HILLARY Really?

CHELSEA And after the thing at the café in New Hampshire. Yes? The crying thing?

HILLARY Get him out. Adjust his itinerary.

PENN He adjusts it back.

HILLARY OK. OK, people. What exactly are we talking here?

NO-ONE WANTS TO SAY

HILLARY Spit it out.

PATTI Race. He's put race into it.

HILLARY (NO WAY) Bill?

PENN He keeps saying these things.

HILLARY There is not a racist bone in my husband's body.

CHELSEA These things, Mom. He said Jesse Jackson won there in Eighty-Four and Eighty-Eight.

HILLARY He did! That's a stone cold fact.

PATTI So he means Obama's only getting a win because he's African-American. But that doesn't matter because now we can get back to business as usual with us good white folks in charge.

HILLARY (AS IF!) For God's sake.

CHELSEA It's how it's playing. Everywhere.

PENN Everyone – (*even*) the New York Times! – says we're playing the race card –

HILLARY Obama's people are playing the race card by accusing us of playing it.

PATTI But the mud is sticking. And President Clinton is rubbing it all over you.

HILLARY They'll realise soon – [*enough*]

CHELSEA Mom, we keep getting people to mention the cocaine thing.

HILLARY (OUTRAGE) You think the potential Commander in Chief, it's OK if he's snorted cocaine?

CHELSEA They're saying, coke, it's a race issue, dog whistle.

HILLARY I bet more white people use cocaine than black, brown, yellow put together.

CHELSEA Come on, Mom, drugs, it's a black thing. Always has been. White folks, who do they buy it from? Who goes to jail for selling it?

HILLARY Give me a break.

PENN There's still – we haven't got to The Thing.

HILLARY That wasn't The Thing?

PENN Someone – this Obama guy, local Democrat, he accused Bill
of racism and....

HILLARY (DREAD) He took the bait?

CHELSEA Ballistic. On camera. To all the journalists.

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 66. NEVADA: CAMPAIGN OFFICE: AFTERNOON. JANUARY.

AS BEFORE:

HILLARY "Shame on you"?

CHELSEA It's really horrible.

HILLARY With the finger thing?

PATTI (YES) Wagging all over the place.

PENN That clip has played round and round on cable. Constantly.
On YouTube.

HILLARY This whole YouTube thing, it's just kids in college dorms.

PENN Two million hits.

HILLARY (DISPARAGING) Whatever a hit is.

PATTI They email their friends: Hey, look at this, "Bubba's
exploding." "Bill's wagging his finger at us again and we
know what that means." "The Clintons are –

HILLARY OK, Patti.

PATTI Yup.

HILLARY How could he do that? Let Obama get into his head like that?

CHELSEA Dad's been the Alpha Male on the Democratic Block since
Ninety-Two. Sixteen years he's been 'The One'. Gore refused
his help and lost. Now - he's back.

HILLARY I am not running for President to give your father something
to do.

CHELSEA Mom, I didn't mean –

HILLARY Even you. Even you see it like this. Always the men. It's always – the story is always the men. If I speak clearly, apparently I'm shrill – he's oratorical. If I stand up for something, I'm hard-hearted – he's strong-willed. Sure, I don't make speeches like Obama or your father but there are other skills required, you know. Everything, it's always 'How's she scoring on the Man Scale?' There are other ways to judge a human being. There are.

CHELSEA WAITS FOR HILLARY TO BLOW OUT.

THEN:

HILLARY OK.

PATTI Obama's the new Alpha Male on the block.

PENN Double Alpha Plus.

PATTI Worse, he's jumped the line. It's not his turn. And you don't do that to Bill Clinton. Not to the "First Black President".

HILLARY We didn't call Bill that. Toni Morrison called him that.

PENN And Obama's good looking.

HILLARY I wish – please stop saying that.

PATTI Bill can't stand him: those entitled wrists, the whole snidey, intellectual –

HILLARY My husband's an inte – [*llectual*]

PATTI He's not some Harvard nerd like Obama. Obama doesn't get down with the folks. Obama doesn't eat - you know, eat. And then, and then this brittle-boned newbie accuses him, accuses The First Black President of being racist.

CHELSEA So now they're saying: If she can't restrain him now, how's she going to do it when she's President?

PATTI Rule One of campaigning: you don't overshadow the candidate. You don't make you the story. And you especially don't if everyone's already wondering where the hell exactly you're going to fit in the White House.

HILLARY He barely fit in the last time.

PATTI And President Clinton knows the rules.

SHE LEAVES THAT HANGING

HILLARY (INCREDULITY) What?

CHELSEA Are you saying - ?

PATTI You gotta ask yourself. What happens when you're in the White House? Who is he? Stuck in the East Wing. He won't be able to fly round the place in that jet.

HILLARY You're saying... my husband deliberately screwed this campaign?

PATTI Not deliberately. He doesn't even know he's doing it.

PENN Patti, come on.

HILLARY That's rich. That's pretty rich. You didn't even want us to get this far. Did you?

CHELSEA What's this?

HILLARY Patti lost her nerve back in New Hampshire. Didn't you know? She told me that morning.

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 67. NEW HAMPSHIRE: CAMPAIGN OFFICE: JANUARY 7.

THEY ARE NOSE TO NOSE, ACROSS HER DESK

HILLARY Please answer my question.

PATTI Come on, Hillary, this is the last full day of campaigning here.

HILLARY I asked you a question.

PATTI You're going to be late.

HILLARY For what? Some hag-faced platoon of factory workers?

PATTI New Hampshire is retail campaigning. You know that.

HILLARY Please answer me.

PATTI Let's not do this now.

HILLARY Now.

PATTI BREATHEES AND THEN:

PATTI Penn's numbers aren't that far from the media polls. You're going to lose here. Lose big.

HILLARY Another third place?

PATTI It's got to be possible. Next up is Nevada and the Culinary Workers Union has just come out for Obama. That ties up the Latino vote.

HILLARY They don't have to vote how the union says.

PATTI Then South Carolina, which we shouldn't even contest.

HILLARY And then Super Tuesday, we can –

PATTI That will be four straight losses, Hillary. You. The shoe-in. The One. Four states, four defeats. (SHE PAUSES) Look at this.

SHE SWIVELS THE LAPTOP.
IT IS THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEBATE:

HILLARY Do I really have to live this again?

PATTI Look. This is YouTube. That number there – is how many people have watched this.

HILLARY My God.

PATTI HITS THE BUTTON:
TO BE REVOICED:

MODERATOR My question to you is simply this. What can you say to the voters of New Hampshire – who see your resumé and like it but are hesitating on the likeability issue. Where they seem to like Barack Obama more.

HILLARY Well, that hurts my feelings.

MODERATOR } I'm sorry, Senator. I'm sorry.

HILLARY } What a nasty question.

PATTI } What a man question.

HILLARY - but I'll try to go on.

HILLARY He's very likeable. I – I agree with that. I don't think I'm that bad.

HILLARY What was I supposed to say?

PATTI Here it comes.

OBAMA You're likeable enough, Hillary.

HILLARY What a shit.

HILLARY *Thank you so much. I appreciate that.*

PATTI (HITTING THE BUTTON) That's right. A shit. An arrogant, up-his-own-ass shit. "You're likeable enough."

HILLARY Thanks for taking me through that. You know how to get your team pumped for the day.

PATTI (CONTINUING) That's the point. All these kids watching it. They think that's funny. They think he's cool.

HILLARY If I'd said that, about him, they would have skinned me alive and flown it as a flag from – I don't know where.

PATTI He should have tanked for saying that. No-one likes a smart Alec. His numbers should have nose-dived. But he hasn't. It's not how they read it.

HILLARY We'll find a way.

PATTI Hillary. You know I'm one of yours. You know I'd do anything for you.

HILLARY Patti -

PATTI I have to protect your future. Four straight losses is - You're the star right now. You're an icon. But if you get reamed in four consecutive votes. And if you get third places...

HILLARY What?

PATTI You won't be an icon any more.

HILLARY Come on.

PATTI Drop out.

HILLARY I'm sorry?

PATTI (VERY HARD TO SAY) It may be best to drop out.

BILL (ENTERING) What's this? Is Edwards dropping out?

HILLARY (THICK THROAT) Patti thinks, if we get third here, we pull out.

A MOMENT.

BILL You got the money for a bus ticket?

HILLARY What?

BILL You don't stop until you can't get to the next town. To the next meeting. You keep going out there, telling them why you'll be the best president.

PATTI Mister Pre –

BILL No shame in losing. Whole lot of shame in giving up.

HILLARY Till the last dog dies, right?

BILL That's right, hon.

THEN:

BILL Come here. (EMBRACING HER) They told us to drop out then, didn't they? We kept going in Ninety-Two. We won.

HILLARY We've only lost one state.

BILL Just Iowa. We can win this New Hampshire.

PATTI Mister President, the numbers are looking -

BILL Right, where's the next event?

PATTI Portsmouth. It's called (PAPERS) Café Espresso.

BILL (BRIGHTLY) Well let's go! (AS THEY'RE LEAVING) Come on, people! Everybody – shift your asses. (AND THEN CLOSER:) Hillary, we're going to do thises?

HILLARY Yes. Thank you, Bill.

AND STRAIGHT INTO:

SCENE 68. CAMPAIGN BUS: FREEWAY: FEBRUARY 5.

AS BEFORE
THE PHONE IS RINGING

DOUG (INTO PHONE) Hello? Hi! Oh, sure. Sure, he's right here.
 (THEN TO BILL) Mister President, it's Senator Clinton.

BILL (GRABBING THE PHONE) Honey? How you doing?

AND MIX INTO:

SCENE 69. PRIVATE JET: IN FLIGHT: FEBRUARY 5.

AS BEFORE
BILL COMING THROUGH THE RADIO PHONE

HILLARY How's the dog?

BILL (BAFFLED) Buddy? He's back in - [*Westchester*]

HILLARY The last dog.

BILL (*Ah*) He's still breathing.

HILLARY That's good to hear.

BILL And he's ready.

HILLARY So am I.

BILL We're going to do this?

HILLARY All the way.

BILL Louisiana. Nebraska. Maine.

NOW HILLARY JOINS IN:

BILL & HILLARY Maryland. Virginia. Hawaii. Wisconsin.

HILLARY Maybe we'll give Hawaii a miss.

BILL This dog doesn't run scared of the other dog's home patch.

HILLARY (CONTINUING) Ohio. Rhode Island. Texas.

BILL We don't quit.

HILLARY Clintons don't quit. Don't ever quit.

BILL I love you, honey.

HILLARY I love you too.

BILL See you at the airport?

HILLARY Can't wait.

BEEP AS THE PHONE DISCONNECTS.

A MOMENT.

THEN. TO THE HOSTESS:

HILLARY Excuse me, what time's touchdown?

END