

# **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 CLOSES 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**

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## **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 65.                    CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA: ROPE LINE:  
JANUARY 23.

TO BE REVOICED:

*ON HIS WAY OUT OF AN ELECTION MEETING, BILL HAS STOPPED AT THE JOURNALISTS' ROPE LINE. CROWDS OF PEOPLE BEHIND THEM.*

*BILL                                    ... You're asking me about this? You sat through this whole meeting. Not one single solitary soul asked about this, and they never do.*  
*They are feeding you this because they know this is what you want to cover. This is what you live for. But this hurts the people of South Carolina, because the people of South Carolina are coming to these meetings and asking questions about what they care about. And what they care about is not going to be in the news coverage tonight, because you don't care about it. What you care about is this. And the Obama people know that. So they just spin you up on this and you happily go along.*  
*The people don't care about this – they never ask about it. And you are determined to take this election away from them... And that's not right. That is not right. That's what I think...*

*HUMA                                    (PUSHING FORWARD) Thanks everybody. We gotta go. Appreciate it.*

*BILL                                    (AS HE GOES) You just want more story:  
 Shame on you.*

AND STRAIGHT 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**