

“WITHOUT THE LAW”

FADE IN:

EXT. - WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

VARIOUS CUTS: of the Capitol Building, Vietnam Wall, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial and the White House. PROTESTORS, march in a circle with signs, chanting, "Stop the tax, you're breaking our backs."

SUPER: Credits

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT - CONNECTICUT MANSION - DAY

A breathtaking sunny day gleams down on the estate lawn and mansion. GLORIA, an elderly, becoming Texas billionaire, stands outside a limousine with FOUR MALE BODYGUARDS and a DRIVER, talking. Gloria and the men enter the limousine and close the doors. The limousine drives toward the road.

EXT - NEW YORK CITY - HIGHWAY - DAY

The limousine drives down the highway with traffic, passes a sign: "Manhattan - Whitestone Bridge."

EXT - NEW YORK CITY - U.S. TAX COURT - DAY

SUPERED: US TAX COURT, APRIL 15, 1998

Gloria's limousine on a busy New York City street parks in front of the U.S. TAX COURT BUILDING. POLICE hold back a crowd of SPECTATORS and REPORTERS who had been waiting their arrival. Once parked, the limousine driver and bodyguards exit the car. They create a path by pushing the crowd back with the help of the police. Two of the four bodyguards, turn back to the limousine and open the door to help Gloria step out. The four men with Gloria push their way through the crowd, toward the building. Reporters with their flashing cameras aimed at Gloria take pictures, while the other journalists video record and point microphones in her direction, desperately trying to get a statement from her. Gloria, ignores the requests and silently brushes pass the audience with her guards. The police continue to do their job and hold the crowd back, allowing Gloria and her bodyguards to enter the Tax Court building.

INT - TAX COURTHOUSE - COURTROOM - DAY

Gloria stands next to her ATTORNEY and listens painfully while the JUDGE bangs his gavel to quiet the REPORTERS and SPECTATORS inside the courtroom.

JUDGE

(angry)

Order! Order! Or I am going to clear this courtroom!

Everyone quiets to a low hush.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

That's more like it.

The judge shuffles some papers and directs his attention to Gloria.

JUDGE (CONT'D 2)

(to Gloria)

The verdict here was not a difficult one to decide . . .
You broke the law by committing perjury when you signed your signature on that less than honest tax return to the IRS . . . Really, with all your wealth. . . Shame, shame . . . Therefore, I find the defendant Gloria Vanderberg, guilty . . . Guilty of tax evasion. I sentence you to five years in the Connecticut's Women Federal Facility, with no more than one year off for good behavior.

Gloria throws her hands over her face, sobbing. A SECURITY GUARD handcuffs her. The four bodyguards escort her from the courtroom. Spectators laugh and point at her when she passes by.

EXT - NEW YORK CITY - U.S. TAX COURT - DAY

The people and reporters wait outside the courthouse. The four men and Gloria exit the building and move toward the unruly crowd. The driver, standing next to his limousine, readies himself to open the vehicle's door for departure. Gloria and the four men push their way through the crushing crowd as the police try to hold them back. Moving along quickly, Gloria's blinded by camera flashes and overwhelmed when reporters shove microphones in her face. Without responding to the questions shouted at her, she shields herself with her handcuffed hands over her face.

CUTS of spectators and reporters shouting questions: "Do you have any comments?" "Anything to say to us other poor taxpaying slob?" "I'm so sorry." "Smile for the

camera, moneybags.” “Can I live in the mansion while you’re away on vacation?”
“Hope you like your new home.”

CONTINUED . . .

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CONTINUED:

The limousine driver opens the car door. Gloria climbs inside. The four men get in behind her and close the door. The crowd and reporters continue to pursue Gloria for a response, but are held back by the police. The driver, gets in, shuts the door and manages a quick departure.

EXT - UPSTATE NEW YORK - WOMEN’S PRISON YARD - DAY

WOMEN PRISONERS AND UNIFORMED GUARDS stand around the prison yard. One prisoner notices the limousine and points toward it. The others turn their attention to the approaching vehicle. The limousine drives to the prison gate. In the prison yard the convicts and guards walk to the barbed wire fence. The limousine stops at the entrance. The GUARD in the tower opens the gate. The limousine enters slowly and stops at the

PRISON BUILDING ENTRANCE

where TWO FEMALE PRISON GUARDS wait to escort Gloria inside. Gloria exits the vehicle and the women walk toward the building.

INT - UPSTATE NEW YORK - WOMEN’S PRISON - NIGHT

Gloria, dressed in prison uniform, is escorted by the two female guards to her cell. FEMALE INMATES, behind bars, watch and laugh as she passes. The guards stop at a cell. SARA, a grisly looking woman peers out at a mortified Gloria. One of the guards unlocks the iron bar door.

GUARD ONE

Back up, Sara.

Sara moves back and groans at the guard. Guard one walks into the

CELL

and pushes Sara back to the wall.

GUARD ONE (CONT’D)

(Snarls at Sara)

Grrr to you too . . . Now back up you low life. I brought you a new roommate. She has tons of money, Sara and I want you to be really pleasant to her. Maybe you can convince her to share some of her millions with us.

CONTINUED:

Guard two pushes Gloria into the cell.

GUARD TWO

Yeah, maybe we can all go on a shopping spree together. I could use some new fineries. What do you think, Sara? Would you like to go shopping for a new outfit?

Sara watches in silence. Guard One and Two get into Gloria's face.

GUARD ONE

(to Gloria; sarcastically)

What do you think, Sweetheart?... Would you like us to protect you from the convicted husband butcher? You know she cut his head off with a filet knife and stuffed it down the toilet.

GUARD TWO

(to Gloria)

If you promise to give us some of your millions--

GLORIA

I'll give you whatever you want . . . Please don't leave me in here with her.

GUARD ONE

(sarcastically; to Guard Two)

She'll give us money if we don't leave her in here with, Sara . . . Sara, what do you think of that?

Sara, doesn't respond. Guard One and Two exit the cell into the

CORRIDOR

GUARD TWO

(to Gloria)

We don't want your money, prosperous Lady.

GLORIA

Please, don't leave me in here with her . . . She could.

Guard One slams the cell door shut.

CONTINUED . . .

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CONTINUED (2):

GUARD ONE

Kill you?...You should have thought of that
before you illegally discounted your tax return.

GUARD TWO

Tax cheats cost us money . . . We lose our
pay raises because of stench like you.

The two guards walk away from the cell. They speak loud enough for everyone to hear.

GUARD ONE

Enjoy your new residence.

GUARD TWO

We'll visit again tomorrow . . . Try real hard not to piss
Sara off. She can get really disagreeable when provoked.

INSIDE THE CELL

GLORIA

(nervous; to Sara)

Is this my bed?

Gloria touches the bed and sits. Sara stares at her blankly.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Is this yours?...If it is, I'll move.

Sara approaches Gloria without speaking a word. Gloria, frightened by her expression,
rises to her feet and moves away to the wall. Sara continues to move slowly toward her.

GLORIA (CONT'D2)

Please. Don't come any closer . . . I didn't know it was
your bed.

Sara lunges at Gloria and pins her to the wall. Gloria struggles, but is helpless against
Sara's brute strength.

SARA

Is it true?

GLORIA
Is what true?...Please you're hurting me.

CONTINUED . . .

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CONTINUED (3):

SARA
Do you have millions?

Sara puts her hands around Gloria's throat and starts to choke her. Gloria, gasping for air.

GLORIA
Please, I can't breathe.

SARA
My husband was a tax cheat . . . Why do you have to be
a tax cheat?

Sara grips Gloria's throat tighter and Gloria begins to slump to the floor.

GLORIA
I paid my taxes . . . I paid my taxes.

SARA
The IRS says it wasn't enough.

Gloria starts to lose consciousness. She can hear Sara's voice echoing as she slumps to the floor.

SARA
The IRS says it wasn't enough . . .

SFX: Colorful mind swirling scenes of Gloria's mind going from beautiful colors to black.

INT - GLORIA'S TEXAS MANSION - NIGHT

Gloria wakes from her nightmare in her own bed. Confused, she looks around the room and breathes a sigh of relief. Turning to the nightstand, she picks up a book, stares at the cover, then drops the book back to the floor.

INSERT: Book cover title, "IRS Tax Reform."

BACK ON SCENE

Gloria falls back on her pillows and goes back to sleep.

EXT - WASHINGTON D.C. - CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

PROTESTORS march with signs in front of the Capitol gate.

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INT - CAPITOL BUILDING - HOUSE CHAMBERS - DAY

Several REPRESENTATIVES hold a session. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, at the podium, bangs his gavel.

HOUSE SPEAKER

Order . . . Order, gentlemen.

He pauses for a moment, waiting for silence.

HOUSE SPEAKER (CONT'D)

Would the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Morgan, yield two minutes to the gentleman, Mr. Murdoch, from New York?

Standing at the podium, shuffling papers, is Texas Representative, JIM MORGAN. Tall, late thirties, usually handsome. To the left of the podium is New York Representative, Joe Murdoch, ordinary face, older.

JIM

I decline the yield and would like to be heard for my remaining minutes on amendment, six-zero-two? If you would make it ten minutes I would be obliged to you?

HOUSE SPEAKER

The gentleman from Texas declines to yield to the gentleman from New York. The gentleman from Texas asks the unanimous consent to be heard for ten minutes on amendment, six-zero-two. Is there any objection?

The speaker pauses, waits for a response.

HOUSE SPEAKER (CONT'D)

The speaker hears none.

EXT - WASHINGTON D.C. - CAPITOL BUILDING - NIGHT

Jim, exits the building and walks to an older man, SENATOR BOBBY JOHNSON. They shake hands. Bobby is a handsome, sixty-something, southern Texas gentleman.

BOBBY

How's it goin', Jim?

JIM

I'm getting discouraged.

CONTINUED . . .

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CONTINUED:

O.C. SOUND: The protestors chant repeatedly; "Lower the tax. You're breaking our backs."

Bobby and Jim begin to walk down the driveway in the direction of the protestors.

JIM

Amazing aren't they? I hear they're over at the White house, too.

RACK FOCUS: on the chanting protestors.

PROTESTORS

Lower the tax, you're breaking our backs . . . The IRS takes too much. Lower the tax. You're breaking our backs.

BACK ON SCENE

BOBBY

What are your plans for reelection?

JIM

I think I'm going to run for President.

BOBBY

That's arduous.

JIM

I don't know how much more I can swallow with the bullshit going on up here with the lobbyist.

BOBBY

They're just doin' what they get paid for?

JIM

Yeah . . . From what I hear it pays very well. They don't give a rat's ass about the public.

BOBBY

Sounds like you're takin' this tax reform business serious.

JIM

Somebody has too.

CONTINUED:

O.C.: Protestors in the background chant louder; “Lower the tax, you’re breaking our backs.” “Shut down the IRS.”

JIM (CONT'D)

Their philosophies for government reform could put this country in the poor house.

BOBBY

Not necessarily?

JIM

What do you mind defining that remark?

BOBBY

What I’m sayin’ is the people want tax reform and it might be a possibility.

JIM

In what year? Twenty-fifty?

BOBBY

It’s comin’ sooner than you think.

They reach the end of the driveway and stop by a car that has a driver waiting inside.

JIM

Is something going on behind the scenes I don’t know about?

BOBBY

I’ll fill you in after your reelection bid.

JIM

Is that a just in case?

BOBBY

No, Sir . . . Your polls are lookin’ interestin.

JIM

You’ve been tracking?

BOBBY

I always keep my eyes on the prominent Texas candidates.

CONTINUED (2):

JIM

That's encouraging.

BOBBY

Should be.

JIM

I might be interested in tax relief.

BOBBY

I've been workin' a few deals you may find appealin'.

JIM

I'd like to hear about them.

BOBBY

How's your campaign funds holdin' up?

JIM

I'm low.

BOBBY

Not unusual this early in the game. . . It takes a lot of power and money to change the system. People are supposed to be the power in the United States. Not the government . . . Somehow that got lost in the struggle when we became the number one superpower . . . I like you're pizzazz, kid. I'm goin' to give you my support for your reelection bid.

Bobby opens the car door, climbs inside the car. He powers down the window.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Who knows? Maybe there's a future for a guy like you in the White House.

JIM

Me? Your qualifications outweigh mine.

BOBBY

No thank you. I've dedicated my life to serving the public . . .

(MORE)

CONTINUED (3):

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Besides, I'm too old to be thinking about getting my teeth capped and worryin' about new hairstyles . . . Can I offer you lift somewhere?

JIM

No thanks . . . My apartment's less than a mile from here and I enjoy the walk.

BOBBY

I like a man who thinks on his feet. . . I'll see you in Houston.

Bobby's car drives off. Jim walks down the street.

EXT - NEW YORK CITY - WALDORF HOTEL - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

INT - WALDORF HOTEL - GARAGE - NIGHT

The curb parks a black limousine. THREE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS posture by the car and talk. A LIMOUSINE driver opens the car door and points to his watch. The agents acknowledge his gesture and wave to him. The driver closes the door. Two agents walk to the hotel entrance and enter the

LOBBY

where PEOPLE lounge and loiter. CLERKS work behind the reception desks. The two agents walk to and enter the

ELEVATORS

They push the button for the 50th floor. They stand silent, waiting for the car to stop. The two agents enter the

HALL

and walk to a door marked, "Presidential Suites." One of the secret service agents knocks twice on the door.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT # 1

Mr. Vice President, ten minutes.

PRESIDENTIAL SUITE

The lavish rooms are dimly lit. The CAMERA DOLLIES to the

BEDROOM

where the VICE PRESIDENT, ALEX, a handsome man in his mid-forties is fabricating love to his beautiful mistress, AMANDA, who is in her mid-thirties.

AMANDA

Alex--

ALEX

What?..Oh yeah--.

AMANDA

I think we should stop seeing each other.

ALEX

Right . . . ohhh aahhh.

AMANDA

Seriously . . . I can't do this anymore.

ALEX

Okay . . . Oh . . . oh . . . don't stop.

Alex climaxes. Amanda rolls off of him.

AMANDA

That was fast and purposeful.

ALEX

What?

AMANDA

Never mind.

ALEX

You know how I feel about you.

Alex climbs out of the bed and walks into the bathroom. Amanda stays in the bed making faces mimicking Alex as he talks.

CONTINUED:

ALEX (O.C.)

Please Amanda, with these fantasies . . . Love has nothing to do with our affair . . . My wife loves me and look what it got her. A husband that cheats, some fluff power as the Vice President's wife and an empty bed when I'm on the road. You agreed when we got involved that commitment was not part of the agenda.

He returns to the bedroom dressed, walks to her and tries to kiss her. She turns her head from him in disgust. He walks toward the door to depart.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I hate it when you do this.

AMANDA

It would be better for both of us.

ALEX

I don't have time for this bullshit now. I'm late. Call me when you get back to Washington.

Alex opens the door and leaves. Amanda stands, wraps a robe around herself, walks to the window, gazes out.

EXT - WASHINGTON AIRPORT - NIGHT

Jim climbs out of a taxicab, bags in hand. He hustles to the SKY CAP and checks two of the three pieces of luggage. He enters the terminal.

INT - WASHINGTON AIRPORT - NIGHT

Jim scrambles through the terminal, to his gate.

CAMERA ZOOMS IN ON: Gate sign, Flight 7546, Houston.

BACK ON SCENE

Jim positions his bag on the security belt. He walks through the metal detector, stops picks up his bag and proceeds to the gate where he boards his plane.

INT - GLORIA'S TEXAS MANSION - LIBRARY- DAY

SUPERED: September 9th, 1998.

Gloria, seated behind her desk, pen in hand, addressing envelopes. She picks up an invitation from a stack on the desk and places it inside an jacket. Dampening a mailer sponge, she seals the envelope and puts it aside. Lifting another invitation she pauses for a moment to read it. Gloria's butler, HENRY a short, burly man, early sixties, enters. He walks to the desk and puts a large stack of solicitations in a basket.

HENRY

Are these the last of them?

GLORIA

Yes, Henry. I think this should be it.

HENRY

Would you like them shipped today?

GLORIA

Please.

HENRY

Is this a closed event, Madam?

GLORIA

No, Henry . . . Why do you ask?

HENRY

I know a few people who would like to attend.

GLORIA

Do they advocate Congressman Morgan?

HENRY

They're volunteers at his campaign headquarters.

GLORIA

Tell them they are more than welcome.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

HENRY

The thousand dollars per plate contribution—

GLORIA

Henry?

HENRY

Yes?

GLORIA

I think they've earned their ticket to dinner.

HENRY

They'll be happy to hear you said that, Madam.

GLORIA

My pleasure . . . If we're going to get this country back on its feet, we need people who care about it. The Senator and I can't do it all alone.

HENRY

Publishing your "Tax Reform" book has educated many.

GLORIA

Please, I have nightmares nightly since I published that book. I keep envisionin' I'm going to end up like Leona.

HENRY

The Senator would never let that happen.

GLORIA

The Senator could be residing in the cell next to me if he's not cautious.

HENRY

He knows what he's doing.

GLORIA

I hope so Henry. We are takin' a big chance with this one.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED(2):

HENRY

Let's just hope Mr. Morgan feels the same about the issue.

Gloria and Henry walk out of the room. CAMERA MOVES IN FOR A TIGHT SHOT of a larger envelope on the desk.

INSERT: an envelope titled; "IRS Tax Proposal."

EXT/INT - DOWNTOWN HOUSTON - CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

SUPERED: JAMES MORGAN CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS, September 10th, 1998.

Workers busy ministering telephones and stuffing envelopes. Large campaign signs adorn the windows with reelection posters.

INT - JIM'S CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

The staffers are talking and milling around. Jim is in the front of the room with his CAMPAIGN MANAGER, TOM, who grabs a chair and climbs up on it.

TOM

People!

He sees that no one is listening.

TOM (CONT'D)

(louder)

People! Can I have your attention please?

A hush comes over the room.

TOM (CONT'D2)

As you all know, Jim is down in the campaign funds department. We need to work a little harder on the dollar raising struggle. The opposition has been advertising their phony baloney tax credit plan that we all know is the same old scheme to get votes for our opponent. Greg Marshall is a tough challenger, but we will work harder and defeat him. We have to send Jim back to Washington so we he can continue the good job he's been doing.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

PAN workers.

BACK ON SCENE.

Jim climbs up on another chair next to Tom.

JIM

Look, you guys'. I've been working day and night in Washington introducing your requests.

CAMERA TIGHT ON BOBBY when he walks into the room. He smiles and nods his approval.

BACK ON SCENE

JIM (CONT'D)

You know I'm concerned with the increasing tax waste in this country . . . I know your gripes about working two jobs just to keep a roof over your head, food on the table and clothes on your kids backs is justified. And I know you're on target when you tell me Washington's been working overtime giving away your hard earned dollars by shipping the good jobs overseas . . . I'm working to resolve these issues . . . I can't do it alone . . . I need your help . . . Me and Senator Johnson have joined forces. We're working on a plan to move Washington in a better direction . . . A justified one. The Senator will back me up on this . . . Please join me in welcoming, the Senator Bobby Johnson.

PAN the workers clapping and cheering while Bobby walks to the front of the room.

BACK ON SCENE

Tom steps down from his chair and Bobby climbs up on it. He takes an envelope out of his jacket pocket.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED (2):

BOBBY

Now this is a man you can believe in . . . Let's hear it one more time for the Congressman.

The crowd cheers louder.

BOBBY

(to Jim)

You couldn't ask for better than this.

Jim and Bobby hold their arms in a victory hold, the crowd cheers louder. Bobby holds up the envelope. The workers settle down to listen.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

In my hand here, I hold the answer to most of your campaign needs . . . The financial ones anyway. . . Gloria Vanderberg, one of Texas's wealthiest assets and as you all know, my sweetheart, is gonna go all out for this campaign. She's throwin', Texas style, a huge fund-raiser party for Jim, at one thousand dollars a plate.

The news surprises Jim along with the rest of the crowd.

BOBBY (CONT'D2)

She's expecting a lot of affluent people at this party. And Gloria told me to tell you all that you're invited to the shindig. So put on your best party boots and come a hootin' and a holler in. . . We need all the support we can muster so we can get Jim reelected. He's got to get his tail back to Washington and raise some hell with me on the hill.

PAN the workers cheering again. They start to chant.

CAMPAIGN WORKERS

Morgan. Morgan. He's our man. If he can't do it, nobody can.

BACK ON SCENE

Jim and Bobby hold their arms in a victory hold while the crowd chants.

INT - HILTON HOTEL - BALLROOM - NIGHT

SUPERED: ELECTION NIGHT - November 5th - Hilton Hotel.

Balloons fall and streamers drift around the room. Jim is on the platform with Bobby and Tom. Their arms held high in a victory hold, while they enjoy the celebration. Campaign workers and other PEOPLE congest the ballroom.

ALL
(chanting)
Morgan! Morgan! Morgan!

INT - GLORIA'S TEXAS MANSION - LIBRARY - NIGHT

BURN IN: The victory party on telecast.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal Gloria watching television.

EXT - GLORIA'S MANSION - NIGHT

SUPERED: One month later.

A Buick sedan turns into the driveway, drives to the front entrance of the mansion and parks. Jim and Bobby exit the car and walk to the front door of the house. Bobby fumbles for his key. Henry opens the door. A small sheltie, (Shep) stands behind Henry, barking.

HENRY
Hello, sir. Welcome home . . .

The dog continues to bark. Bobby and Jim enter. Bobby leans over to pet the dog.

BOBBY
Easy little guy . . . Where's Gloria?

HENRY
She told me to tell you to go ahead without her. She'll be down in a few minutes.

BOBBY
Thank you, Henry.

LIBRARY

They all enter the library, including the canine. Shep cavorts up on a leather sofa. Jim, dazzled by the atmosphere in the huge room seats himself on a leather recliner. Bobby does the same. Henry, is still standing.

HENRY

Would you gentlemen care for a beverage?

BOBBY

The usual for me. Scotch on the rocks.

JIM

Whiskey.

HENRY

Straight up, Sir, or with a mix?

JIM

Straight, with a water chaser.

Henry goes to the bar to mix the drinks. Shep springs off the couch and dashes to Jim. sits and offers Jim a paw. Jim, leans over and shakes the paw.

BOBBY

He's usually not this friendly.

JIM

I could learn to live like this forever . . . What do you think, little guy? Want a roommate?

Shep barks once.

BOBBY

Dealer dog! I thought it was me you cherished?

Shep runs to Bobby and jumps in his lap. Henry delivers the drinks.

HENRY

(to Jim)

Congratulations on your triumph.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

JIM

Thank you.

HENRY

Would you gentlemen care for anything else?

BOBBY

I'm fine.

JIM

No, thank you.

Henry leaves the room. Jim takes a sip from his drink.

BOBBY

Gloria should be down in a few minutes. Then we can get started.

JIM

Do you know what this is about?

BOBBY

I'll let her explain the proposal . . . Ah, here's my little Darlin'.

Gloria enters the room and goes directly to Bobby and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

I was just tellin' Jim--.

GLORIA

Let the man unwind and finish his drink, Sugar, before we start talkin' negotiation.

Jim stands to greet Gloria and she extends her hand.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Congratulations, Congressman, on a landslide victory. Texas hasn't seen one like this in a long time.

JIM

Thank-you. I couldn't have done it without your assistance.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED (2):

GLORIA

My pleasure Please, sit.

Gloria moves away from Jim to a desk and retrieves the tax proposition envelope. She returns to Bobby and sits down besides him.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

I suppose you are wonderin' why I've invited you here tonight?

JIM

No, ma'am. I welcome the solicitation.

GLORIA

I'm delighted to hear that.

JIM

I do realize though that a woman of your stature would not invest in a political campaign . . .
Unless, well may I say, that there be some personal premium to gain financially herself.

BOBBY

I'm afraid you've got this little darlin' all wrong.

JIM

I thought this meeting was about tax reform . . . I mean forgive me if I am wrong, but I thought you guys were thinking scratch my back, I'll scratch yours.

They all observe each other.

GLORIA

That's a fair assumption. But way off the mark.

BOBBY

Give him the presentation.

Gloria stands and hands Jim the proposal envelope.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED (3):

GLORIA

Take a few moments to review the contents of this envelope, Sugar . . . We're not expectin' an answer tonight, but we would acknowledge your support with sponsorship. We know what we're suggestin' here could be considered a bribe—

BOBBY

Honey, bribe is not a good word to say to a politician.

Jim opens the envelope and slides out two documents. He begins to comprehend them. MOVE IN for a TIGHT of the documents in Jim's hand.

INSERT: A bank promissory certificate and a proposal titled, "Abolish the IRS."

BACK ON SCENE

Gloria and Bobby wait for his response. Jim reviews the documents and sits back in the chair astonished.

JIM

Would one of you explain this humor?

BOBBY

It's not a hoax.

JIM

Really?

GLORIA

Sugar, I am a very affluent publisher and can easily afford this offer. Several people invested in that note, not just myself . . . Surely you can grasp that I'm not a woman in despair.

JIM

This looks like an incentive to me.

Jim waits for a response. Bobby and Gloria shrug their shoulders.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED (4):

BOBBY

Benefaction is a better definition.

GLORIA

Okay, it's a investment.

JIM

Investment, bribe . . . Whatever.

Jim stands and starts to pace.

JIM (CONT'D)

You're talking about abolishing the goddamn I R S tax . . . You know the one that collects all the money for the United States Treasury. Ka-ching, ka-ching.

BOBBY

(calm, but sarcastic)

We know what the income tax system pays for.

JIM

Really? Hows the government suppose to pay the bills? The national debt? What will happen if we don't have an I R S? Close the country? I know we discussed hypotheticals when we were in Washington . . . But I never thought for one second you'd invoke this kind of scheme.

BOBBY

Why not?

JIM

How are we supposed to pay for our defense system if we dissolve the IRS? You remember, the soldiers in uniform that protect us from harmful intruders.

BOBBY

Defense is accounted for.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED (5)

JIM

What about schools? How would we pay teachers?
The poor? Elderly?

BOBBY

They're accounted for in our plan.

JIM

What about the President? What's he going to think
about this revolutionary cause to save the middle class?

BOBBY

He knows about the plan.

JIM

He does?

BOBBY

He decided to go with Alex's five percent tax credit
hoax.

JIM

Why would the President do that if your proposition was able?

BOBBY

Alex's family has a lot of monetary influence in Washington.
The President needed his monetary support to get reelected.

JIM

But you have financial influence.

GLORIA

You're forgettin' integrity.

BOBBY

Thank-you, Darlin'.

GLORIA

My pleasure.

Jim slugs down his drink.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED (6)

BOBBY

Take a few days to study the proposal and get back to us.
We'll set up another conference with you in Washington . . .
The book Gloria enclosed in the package will give you
a better handle on how this could cultivate.

Henry enters the room.

GLORIA

(to Henry)

Would you have the driver bring the car to the front?

Henry exits the room. Jim holds up the bank note. They all walk slowly toward the door.

JIM

What about this?

BOBBY

You can tear it up if you like . . . It's meaningless unless
we endorse it.

JIM

Oh—

BOBBY

The strongest opposition to this repeal will come from
the White House. Alex in particular. He has the most to
lose because his benefactors—

GLORIA

You mean Special Interests.

BOBBY

(to Gloria)

His supporters do not want to see this retraction happen.

JIM

And the President?

BOBBY

He'll do what he thinks is best.

EXT - WASHINGTON D.C. - AIRPORT RUNWAY - NIGHT (STOCK)

A jet lands.

INT - WASHINGTON D.C. - AIRPORT TERMINAL - NIGHT

PEOPLE rush throughout the terminal. Jim walks toward the exit, carrying his briefcase, luggage and the “Tax Reform” book.

EXT - WASHINGTON D.C. - AIRPORT TERMINAL - NIGHT

Jim hails a cab. A TAXI DRIVER opens his door and gets out of the car. He walks to the rear of the vehicle and flips open the trunk, puts Jim’s luggage in the compartment, slams the lid shut, returns to his driver’s seat while Jim opens the rear door and climbs in. The cab moves into busy traffic.

EXT - WASHINGTON D.C. - JIM’S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

The taxi eases to the curb and parks. Jim exits the vehicle and waits for the cab driver to open the trunk for his luggage. He tips the man, enters his apartment building.

INT - WASHINGTON D.C. - JIM’S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Jim exits the elevator and treks to his apartment. He unlocks the door and enters

JIM’S APARTMENT

He drops his briefcase and luggage on the couch. Carrying the “Tax Reform” book, he goes to his

BEDROOM

where he turns on the light and sets the alarm radio. He lays the book on the bed, disrobes down to his underwear, pulls back the covers, climbs under them. Once settled, he picks up the book and begins to read.

EXT - WASHINGTON D.C. - DUPONT CIRCLE - NIGHT

A limousine rounds the circle and enters the hotel driveway of the Dupont hotel. A DOORMAN opens the door for Gloria and Bobby. Gloria, with Shep in her arms, steps out of the vehicle. Jack follows and tips the doorman. Gloria and Bobby enter the hotel.

EXT - WASHINGTON D.C. - AMANDA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

A red sports car races toward an apartment building. It pulls into the driveway and stops. A DOORMAN, standing on the sidewalk, waits for Amanda to exit her vehicle. She gives him the keys. She enters the building.

INT - WASHINGTON D.C. - JIM'S APARTMENT BUILDING DAY

Jim is asleep, with the "Tax Reform" book on his chest. His alarm clock rings and he fumbles to shut off the ringer, but leaves the radio on. The book cascades to the floor.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Morning weather will be overcast and cool. Now for one of my favorite George Harrison tunes. Pay attention attention Uncle Sam, this one's for you!

Music comes up behind the announcer: "Tax Man."

Jim's awake now! He smirks while listening to the song. He gets out of the bed and walks into the

BATHROOM

reaches into the medicine cabinet, takes out a can of shaving cream and razor. He squirts some of the cream into his hand, smears it on his face and starts to shave.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Hey, it's almost Christmas in the city and time to give away some money. What do you think? Can you use a few extra shopping bucks? If you're the tenth caller when you hear the jingle bells jingle, you could win one thousand dollars! Keep listening for the jingle bells and be the tenth caller to win one thousand Santa bucks!

Another song starts. Jim walks back into the

BEDROOM

and turns off the radio.

EXT - WASHINGTON D.C. - SENATE BUILDING - DAY

Jim enters the Senate Building.

INT - SENATE BUILDING - HALL - DAY

Jim flashes his security badge at the GUARD, walks toward his office. PEOPLE saturate the halls, among them CONGRESSMEN JERRY NEWMAN, early forties, tall and slender man with red hair and MARK JONES, tall, gentle features, wavy brown hair. They stop to greet Jim.

MARK

Congratulations, Jim. Great numbers.

JIM

Thanks.

JERRY

Got any hot legislation this session?

JIM

Some.

JERRY

Well. You going to share?

Jim starts to walk away.

JIM

Not right now, but I will be calling you. I've got to run. I'm late.

Jim continues to his office. Mark and Jerry head to the exit.

MARK

(to Jerry)

I wonder what he's got?

JERRY

Probably more immigration stuff . . . Down in Black Gold Texas, what else could it be?

JIM'S OFFICE - RECEPTION ROOM

Jim's OFFICE STAFF is busy at their desks when Jim enters. SHEILA, his assistant, holds up a piece of paper.

SHEILA

Welcome back. I have—

JIM

Sheila, I'm sure whatever it is you've got there is really important, but I need one hour to organize.

Jim brushes past her and enters his private office. He closes the door. Sheila looks at the other staffers and shrugs her shoulders. Jim pokes his head out from behind his office door.

SHEILA

Sheila, would you pull up a list of all the known tax reform house members? Thanks.

He closes the door again. The staffers look at Sheila who once more shrugs. She takes out a file and enters

JIM'S OFFICE

Jim takes the file from Sheila, thumbs through the papers, hands the file back to her.

JIM

Please call all the names in this file and arrange meetings. Lunches, dinners, drinks, whatever.

SHEILA

Should I tell them what it's about?

JIM

Tax repeal.

SHEILA

Tax repeal?

JIM

The Sixteenth Amendment.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

SHEILA

Are you talking about the Constitutional Sixteenth?

JIM

That's the one.

SHEILA

Literally?

JIM

Ah huh.

SHEILA

Oh my God, you've lost your mind.

JIM

You disapprove?

SHEILA

No . . . I love it.

Sheila exits the office. Jim clicks on his computer and begins to type.

BURN IN: "The proposal for repealing the SIXTEENTH AMENDMENT to the United States Constitution. Proposal sponsored by; Congressman James Morgan, Houston, Texas. Senator Robert Johnson, Houston, Texas. Joint effort."

INT - DUPONT HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT

Jim enters and walks into the

HOTEL RESTAURANT

where a HOSTESS seats him at a table. There are only a few DINERS in the room. A WAITRESS brings Jim a menu. He hands it back to her.

JIM

(to waitress)

Whiskey on the rocks for me with a water chaser.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

WAITRESS

Will that be all?

JIM

For now . . . I'm meeting a couple friends.

The waitress takes the menu and walks away. Bobby and Gloria enter and walk over to the table. Jim stands to greet them. Bobby pulls out a chair for Gloria, seats her, then himself. The waitress returns with Jim's drink.

GLORIA

Tea with lemon?

BOBBY

And scotch on the rocks for me.

WAITRESS

Anything else?

GLORIA

No thank you. We had dinner upstairs.

The waitress walks away.

BOBBY

So you like the budget?

JIM

I've been working on the details' you and your coauthor forgot to put in the book.

GLORIA

Splendid . . . Can we see them?

EXT - DUPONT HOTEL - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Amanda drives to the front of the building, valet parks, steps out of the vehicle.

INT - DUPONT HOTEL - RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jack and Gloria read the prospectus Jim gave them. Amanda enters the restaurant and is seated at the table behind Jim. The waitress walks over and hands her a menu.

BOBBY

(to Jim)

This is an agreeable addition.

GLORIA

What's next?

JIM

Discussions . . . and more meetings.

GLORIA

Should we contact the press?

BOBBY

Whoa . . . Slow down, Darlin'. No press yet.

JIM

Why not?

BOBBY

The longer we stall the wolves the better . . . We should acquire a handle on how the hill feels about this first, before we announce it to the world.

Amanda overhears the conversation and slowly turns around to see who is seated behind her. She turns back and hides her face in her hand. The waitress brings over her drink.

WAITRESS

Can I get you anything else?

AMANDA

Uh . . . No this will be fine for now.

The waitress walks away. Amanda sits back in her to eavesdrop. Bobby, Jim and Gloria are not aware of her intentions.

GLORIA

Bobby's probably right, Sugar. The press can wait.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

JIM

If this backfires, I can kiss my political livelihood good-bye.

BOBBY

And if it works, you'll be a national hero. Have some faith.
Repealing' the income tax is only the half of our plan.
There's a second step to our maneuver.

JIM

Excuse me?

BOBBY

We're going to start groomin' you for the White House.

JIM

What?

Amanda chokes on her drink and starts to cough. She places a napkin over her face and rushes out of the room. Jim turns to look.

JIM (CONT'D)

I hope she's all right.

GLORIA

Probably got excited when she heard she was sittin'
next to an imminent President of the United States.

BOBBY

We're gettin' good at shockin' you, aren't we?

JIM

I think the two of you are becoming psychotics.

BOBBY

Plannin' the future is my game, son . . . I'm goin' to teach
you how to play hardball in the big leagues.

LOBBY

Amanda walks out of the hotel.

EXT - DUPONT HOTELS ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Amanda waits for the attendant to retrieve her car. The valet drives to the curb, gets out and holds the car door open for Amanda to get in. She tips the man, reaches for her cellular telephone, begins to dial and drives away.

INT - WHITE HOUSE - VICE PRESIDENTS OFFICE - NIGHT

The Vice President answers his telephone. He listens for a moment and then replaces the receiver. He walks out of his office.

INT - DUPONT HOTELS LOBBY - NIGHT

Jim, Bobby and Gloria walk through the room.

EXT - WHITE HOUSE - SIDE STREET - NIGHT

Amanda drives her car to the curb and parks. She opens the door and steps out of the vehicle. Another car drives to the curb and parks behind her. Congressman Jerry Newman gets out of his car to greet her. Alex walks up behind them. He shakes Jerry's hand and puts his arm around Amanda. Amanda shrugs him off.

INT - SENATE BUILDING - JIM'S OFFICE - DAY

Staff is busy at work, making copies, stapling reports. A DELIVERY MAN enters with two boxes on a hand truck. Jim is standing at Sheila's desk looking over a report.

DELIVERY MAN

Where do you want these?

JIM

Over there, in the corner.

The delivery man unloads the boxes and exits. Jim walks over to them and opens one. Sheila holds her hand out and Jim hands her a copy of the book.

SHEILA

Finally, my very own copy.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

JIM

Are those ready yet?

SHEILA

They're just completing them.

The office workers are busy stuffing envelopes and piling them on their desks. Jim and Sheila take several reports and put them in his briefcase, adding books to wherever they'll fit.

JIM

How many appointments do I have today?

SHEILA

Seven . . . You'll start with lunch at eleven-thirty and end with nightcaps at Larry's.

JIM

At least you picked a good place to end the night.

SHEILA

You said, "squeeze em' in," and I did.

JIM

Do I get any time off for the good behavior?

SHEILA

Sorry, no.

JIM

No?

SHEILA

Okay . . . One Sunday next week . . . And that's just so you can catch up on the X-Files.

JIM

X-Files?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

SHEILA

Sure if you're going to take us to new and unknown politics
you should be watching the pros.

Jim lifts the heavy case, slings it over his shoulder walks out of the office. He drops one of the books. Sheila catches it and packs it back in his overstuffed case. He exits.

EXT - WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY

QUICK CUTS:

- 1) EXT - CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY - Jim gets into a taxi.
- 2) INT - RESTAURANT - DAY - Jim shakes hands with a MAN and hands him an envelope and a book.
- 3) EXT - LINCOLN MEMORIAL - DAY - Jim in front of the memorial, talking, shaking hands with another CONGRESSMAN. He hands him one of the envelopes and a book.
- 4) EXT - VIETNAM WALL - NIGHT - Jim in front of the Vietnam wall, talking to a CONGRESSWOMAN. She nods in agreement while looking at the prospectus.
- 5) EXT - LARRY'S BAR - NIGHT - Jim walking out of the restaurant with two CONGRESSMEN each holding an envelope and publication. A taxi pulls to the curb and Jim gets in.

END QUICK CUTS

EXT - JIM'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

A taxi drives to the curb and stops. A weary Jim tips the DRIVER and exits the vehicle. He enters his apartment building.

ACROSS THE STREET

A car parked with its lights out. CAMERA MOVES IN TIGHT to the TWO MEN seated in the vehicle.

INT - DUPONT HOTEL - GLORIA'S SUITE - NIGHT

Gloria sits in her spacious hotel suite, reading a book. Shep lies on the floor by her feet. Bobby, seated a few feet away works at a table. He removes his glasses and stares blankly out the window.

GLORIA

What's the matter, Sugar? Gettin' tired?

BOBBY

Yeah, a little.

Gloria goes to him and rubs his shoulders.

GLORIA

Want to get some fresh air?

BOBBY

I could use a stretch.

He stands and gives her a hug.

GLORIA

Give me a few minutes to change.

Bobby goes to the door.

BOBBY

I can go alone.

GLORIA

Are you sure?

Bobby nods in agreement and exits. He's halfway out the door and turns back.

BOBBY

Don't you have a phone call to make?

GLORIA

Oh, I forgot. Thanks for remindin' me.

Bobby exits. Gloria lifts the cordless receiver, clicks it on and dials.

EXT - FLORIDA - HELMSLEY MANSION - NIGHT (ESTABLISHING)

INT - HELMSLEY MANSION - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

LEONA HELMSLEY, stretched out on a couch a few feet away, reading the "Tax Reform" book. The telephone rings. She answers it.

LEONA
(into phone)

Hello?

GLORIA (V.O.)
(Filtered)

Hello, Sugar. How you doin'?

INTERCUT

LEONA
I'm doing fine . . . I'm reading that book you sent me.

GLORIA
Interestin', isn't it?

LEONA
You should have written it twenty years ago.

GLORIA
My reason for callin' you tonight, Sugar, is to tell you the pleasin' news. Washington is respondin' better then Bobby and I anticipated. Are you still enthused?

LEONA
I'm more than interested—How much will it take to bury that law/

GLORIA
More than we have right now.

INT - WASHINGTON POST - NEWS ROOM - NIGHT

An EDITOR is reading at his desk and looks up when a REPORTER enters the office.

REPORTER
We're waiting for your approval.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

EDITOR

You're sure of the source?

REPORTER

Right off the hill.

EDITOR

Go with it.

The reporter jaunts out of the editors office, and through the building until he reaches the

PRESS ROOM

He signals the WORKMEN with a thumb up. The workmen turn on the power to the newspaper press machine.

WORKMAN # 1

It's a go.

The first newspaper comes off the machine, slides into the tray.

INSERT: A newspaper headline, "REPEAL THE SIXTEENTH"

INT - WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The PRESIDENT, MARTIN, a conservative, well polished and handsome man, is seated at his desk, reading the newspaper. He puts the newspaper down, buzzes his PERSONAL ASSISTANT, SALLY, a very attractive young woman on his intercom.

PRESIDENT

Find Alex, for me.

SALLY (V.O.)

(filtered)

Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT

Add Senator Johnson to the list.

The President picks up a television remote control and clicks on it.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

BURN IN: Channel eight NEWS REPORTER.

REPORTER

In the morning Washington Herald it's being reported that congress is going to move ahead, without the consent of the White House, to propose a repeal of the Sixteenth amendment . . . the IRS. We have been trying all morning to reach the White House for a response from the President—

The channel changes to CNN.

CNN REPORTER

We are following the story about the proposed repealing of the IRS It seems the news has stumped the White house staffers and they are waiting for an acknowledgment from the President.

The reporter talks into his headset.

CNN REPORTER (CONT'D)

Has there been any word from the White House?

Reporter waits for a response.

CNN REPORTER (CONT'D 2)

It has been confirmed that the President is aware of the Revolutionary move by Congress to dismantle the IRS and--

BACK ON SCENE

The President (Martin) slams the television remote on the desk. Alex enters the oval office.

PRESIDENT

Did you know about this?

ALEX

It's that bastard, Bobby Johnson from Texas.

PRESIDENT

It's all over the news--

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED 2:

ALEX

We campaigned and won on tax credits.

PRESIDENT

Have you seen Bobby's recommendation in the paper?

ALEX

Yes and he's out of his mind if he thinks he can get this through the house. This idea came across the table before and we killed it.

PRESIDENT

You did. I considered it.

ALEX

You can't side with Johnson. My supporters were clear about any effort to push tax repeal. They don't want it.

PRESIDENT

Schedule a press conference this afternoon. We'll inform the press we have to look it over.

ALEX

You must tell them you're against this. Need I remind you that it was my supporters that paid for our reelection success. This proposal could ruin my shot for the Presidency—

PRESIDENT

I don't want the American people hating me...The public hates the IRS...It's out of control.

ALEX

The public is use to the IRS taking their money.

PRESIDENT

If you believe that, you're insane.

CONTINUED...

CONTINUED (3):

ALEX

Oh, I get it... You needed my help when it was benefiting you. Now that your safely back in office all you care about is how history describes you. My constituents aren't going to go along with this.

PRESIDENT

I gave them what they wanted--

ALEX

And now it doesn't matter... What's going on here, Martin? Who are you going to trust? Me or Johnson?

PRESIDENT

I'm going to do what's best for the American people. That's why they re-elected me.

ALEX

Me or Johnson?

PRESIDENT

I haven't decided.

ALEX

Don't do this--

Sally interrupts Alex when she enters the office.

SALLY

Sir?

PRESIDENT

Yes, Sally. What is it?

SALLY

Senator Johnson will be here with Congressman Morgan at eleven.

PRESIDENT

Thank you, Sally.

Sally walks out of the room.

CONTINUED...

CONTINUED 4:

ALEX

I'll be here too. You better think this through before you hand it over to Johnson...

PRESIDENT

He's not the only one in this. How much do you know about Morgan?

ALEX

He's green.

PRESIDENT

Yeah. Weren't we all once?

INT - DUPONT HOTEL - GLORIA'S SUITE - DAY

Gloria, Bobby and Jim are seated at the table having coffee and reading the morning newspapers.

JIM

I wonder who leaked this?

BOBBY

I don't know, but the press is giving us a positive shot.

GLORIA

Could it have been any one of the house members' you approached?

BOBBY

I don't think they would risk it...This looks more like an Alex leak.

JIM

The Vice President? Why would he leak it to the press?

BOBBY

Publicity.

JIM

That's scary.

CONTINUED...

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

We'll know more at eleven.

JIM

What's at eleven?

BOBBY

Our meeting at the White house.

JIM

What meeting?

BOBBY

The one with Martin.

JIM

What are we going to say? Sorry, Mr. President
we decided to shut down the IRS and forgot to tell you?

BOBBY

It's not Martin you have to worry about... He'll wait to
see how the public reacts before he makes a decision.
Alex is the one who will squabble.

JIM

You seem to have this scenario down.

GLORIA

He knows Alex wants the White house, Sugar . . . And
it horrifies him.

EXT - WASHINGTON, D.C. - WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Jim and Bobby walk to the street entrance of the White House. They check in at the

GUARD STATION

and show their security passes to the GUARD. The guard glances at the newspaper
on his desk, then looks back at Bobby and Jim.

GUARD

Are you the two guys proposing to pulverize the IRS?

CONTINUED...

CONTINUED:

JIM

Maybe. Why?

GUARD

Because I would like to shake your hand. I've been reading this book, "Tax Reform"--

JIM

Pretty good, isn't it?

GUARD

Yes it is. When I saw the write-up in the paper today, I showed it to my wife. I told her the IRS was on it's way out. She laughed and told me to keep dreaming.

BOBBY

You can tell her it's not an illusion.

JIM

Want to come up and talk to the President with us?

GUARD

No, no thanks. I heard he wasn't in a good mood.

JIM

(to Bobby)

Oh...He heard the President wasn't in a good mood.

GUARD

Good luck.

Bobby and Jim leave the guard station and walk toward the White house front entrance.

BOBBY

Did you expect he'd be merry?

They walk up the stairs.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

Do you like this house?

JIM

Of course I like this house. It's the White house.

CONTINUED...

CONTINUED:

BOBBY

Good.

JIM

You're not a bit concerned. Are you?

BOBBY

Nope.

TWO SECRET SERVICE AGENTS greet them at the door and escort them through inside.

INT- WHITE HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Bobby and Jim walk with the agents. White house aides stare at them as they pass by.

JIM

These people look agitated.

BOBBY

Presidential aides. We made their administration look bad in the news today.

The two secret service agents glance at each other, acknowledging the remark.

BOBBY

You'd have plenty of roommates here.

JIM

I'd prefer a First Lady.

BOBBY

We'll have to work on that one.

JIM

I'll work on that one alone, thank you.

The two agents, Jim and Bobby enter the

OVAL OFFICE

The President and Alex are standing by the desk.

CONTINUED...

CONTINUED:

SECRET SERVICE AGENT # 1
Mr. President. Mr. Vice President. Senator Johnson
and Congressman Morgan.

PRESIDENT
(to agents)
Thank you.

Jim and Bobby walk to Martin and Alex. They all shake hands. The two agents stand guard at the door. Alex walks over to the entrance where the secret service agents are standing.

ALEX
(to the agents)
You don't have to stay.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT #2
I'm afraid we do sir, regulations.

Alex walks over to Martin, Bobby and Jim. They are all still standing.

PRESIDENT
Please, Gentlemen. Make yourselves comfortable.

Bobby and Jim seat themselves on a couch. The President sits on the opposite chair. Alex remains standing.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)
(to Alex)
Alex? Are you going to sit?

ALEX
I prefer to stand.

PRESIDENT
(to Bobby)
You told me you were going to wait on this repeal.
You know I can't go along with this.

BOBBY
Time's up.

CONTINUED...

CONTINUED (2):

PRESIDENT

If we start this now, while inflation is under control,
we could throw off the entire economy.

BOBBY

No, it won't.

PRESIDENT

A move now could destabilize the dollar and throw us
into a recession.

BOBBY

Mr. President, excuse my southern slang, but let's cut
the bull shit and save it for the people who don't
understand how the economy works. You know as well
as I do and every first year student studying economics;
inflation jumps every time supply equals demand. It's
a great excuse for the Fed to raise interest rates. The
American people are tired of workin' two jobs to pay
for Washington's mandates. These families are fallin'
apart because we can't balance a checkbook and we spend to
much God Damned money. These families are workin' harder,
longer hours and goin' backwards.

PRESIDENT

My administration has been working overtime trying
to cut waste.

BOBBY

It's not enough.

PRESIDENT

I'm slashing everywhere I can.

BOBBY

You've been cuttin', and some other bureaucracy has
been reinventin'. It's become a political recyclin' bin.
Tax payers want a fairer system.

CONTINUED...

CONTINUED (3):

PRESIDENT

But the IRS? You can't just shut down the IRS.

BOBBY

Why not? It has no problem shut-in' down, jailing and fining the very people that pay to keep it alive. You promised change in your reelection speeches—

ALEX

We didn't promise to shut down the IRS.

BOBBY

No. Your administration promised huge tax breaks for the middle classes in a more creative way. You decreased their deductions and gave them child care deductions that doesn't do did idly to their tax bills.

ALEX

(to President)

Are you going to let him get away with this?

PRESIDENT

Sit down, Alex.

BOBBY

No, go ahead Alex... I'm all ears.

PRESIDENT

Alex.

ALEX

I know what you're after Bobby. You want this office and you're not going to get it.

BOBBY

(to Jim)

Did I say anything about wantin' this office?

JIM

I thought we were here to discuss the repeal?

CONTINUED...

CONTINUED (4):

PRESIDENT

To be honest with you Bobby, this all came as a surprise to me. The news? The repeal? I need time to think this through and review the numbers.

BOBBY

As far as the news, I apologize...I don't know who leaked the story... But you've seen the figures, Martin.

PRESIDENT

I haven't studied them in detail.

The President stands, walks to his desk.

BOBBY

Take your time, Mr. President. Meanwhile, the Senate and the Congress will propose the repeal into committee and we'll see where it goes.

PRESIDENT

(to Jim)

Do you have a majority in the house yet?

JIM

(to President)

It's gaining support.

PRESIDENT

Repealing the IRS is risky business, Bobby. But I'm willing to take a look at it—

ALEX

(to President)

What the hell are you talking about?

PRESIDENT

I said, I'm willing to take a look at it.

ALEX

Fine.

PRESIDENT

Good. This discussion is over.

CONTINUED...

CONTINUED:

ALEX

For now it is.

Bobby and Jim stand, walk over to the desk and shake hands with the President.
Alex, storms out of the room.

BOBBY

You're doing the right thing.

PRESIDENT

I didn't agree to this yet.

JIM

I don't think the Vice President is very happy.

PRESIDENT

Alex's supporters have the power and the money to
take this repeal to the dumpster.

Bobby takes a copy of the "Tax Reform" book and hands it to the President.

BOBBY

(Whispers to President)

I really pissed him off, didn't I?

PRESIDENT

Is that a question?

The two secret service agents glance at each other.

INT - WHITE HOUSE - PRESS ROOM - NIGHT

REPORTERS wait for the President to arrive. The PRESS SECRETARY enters the
room and walks to the podium.

PRESS SECRETARY

The President will be out in a moment to make a
statement. He will not be taking any questions at
this time, so refrain from asking.

CONTINUED...

CONTINUED:

The President enters the room with his secret service agents.

PRESS SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Mr. President.

The President walks to the podium. The Press Secretary steps aside.

PRESIDENT

Hello...I know you must have many questions about the latest effort to repeal the Sixteenth amendment. Let me make it clear that this proposal to shut down the IRS is not news. We have been discussing it for years and haven't quite figured out how the country would work without the law? My administration has not had enough time to study the numbers for this proposal, but we will be over the next few months.

REPORTER # 1

Are you stating Sir, the repeal could be a possibility?

PRESIDENT

I'm not saying it is or it isn't. What I am saying is if the proposal is sound, I promise we will research the proper procedures with the Senate and Congress—I can't get into this right now... Please allow me to complete my statement. I cannot, and will not, commit myself or the American people to a plan that is not well organized, researched and economically sound. It would be irresponsible for me or my administration to endanger the well being of the county or national security. As your President I promise you this: I will not stand silent and be goaded by any rebel politics. I ask you tonight to be patient. Thank you and good night

The President walks away from the podium and exits with his secret service agents into the

HALL

REPORTER (O.C.)

Mr. President? Have you, or anyone in your administration reviewed the "Tax Reform" book?

INT - DUPONT HOTEL - GLORIA'S SUITE - NIGHT

Bobby, Gloria and Jim watch the press conference on TV in the living room.

BURN IN: NEWS ANCHOR talking from the Presidential press conference.

NEWS ANCHOR

We still have not heard from the Vice President about this issue...Sources are telling us he is not happy about the President's comments and indecision.

BACK ON SCENE

Bobby clicks off the television with the remote control. He and Gloria are seated on the couch and Jim in the recliner a few feet away. Bobby stands and walks to the window.

JIM

Good stall tactic.

BOBBY

He's an intelligent man—

GLORIA

He was intelligent before he teamed up with Alex.

BOBBY

Arrogant Son of a Bitch is a better description.

JIM

Do you think he'll fight the President's decision if he goes along with it?

GLORIA

Til' the end.

JIM

I can't believe he has to protect himself from his own Vice President.

BOBBY

It's the price he's payin' for pickin' the wrong runnin' mate.

JIM

I wonder what the American people would think if they knew?

CONTINUED...

CONTINUED:

GLORIA

What? That there's corruption in the White house.
They're not naive'. They know.

BOBBY

What's that suppose to mean?

GLORIA

I've been surfin' the Internet--

BOBBY

Not this again.

GLORIA

The web surfers have been plannin' their own revolution
to dispose of the income tax.

JIM

Militant groups?

GLORIA

No, Sugar. I'm talking about, Americans for Government
Tax Reform. Technologically advanced and more sophisticated.

JIM

Diplomatic name.

BOBBY

They're a group of left over hippies from the sixties armed
with computer modems.

GLORIA

I keep tellin' you, Sugar. These people are plannin'
a rally that's going to rock Washington.

EXT - WASHINGTON, D.C. - MICHAEL'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

SUPERED: TWO WEEKS LATER

A black limousine stops at the curb. The rear door opens, (Amanda's) legs step out of
the car onto the

SIDEWALK

Amanda walks to the restaurant. The limousine drives away.

INT - MICHAEL'S' RESTAURANT - BAR - NIGHT

Jim, Congressman Mark Jones and Jerry are inside the CROWDED restaurant having a drink at the bar. Amanda walks in, goes to the bar. She gazes at Jerry, he notices and gives her a slight nod.

JERRY

(to Mark and Jim)

Hey, there's a friend of mine over there. I'm going over to say hello.

Jim and Mark turn around to see whom he is talking about.

MARK

Leave it to Jerry, a married man to know all the hot ones.

JERRY

She's a friend of the wife . . . Come on Jim. Want to meet her?

JIM

Wouldn't I be stupid if I said no? .

MARK

What about me?

JIM

You're married. I'm the logical choice.

Jim follows Jerry through the crowd to Amanda.

JERRY

She's a really charming lady.

JIM

She looks familiar to me.

JERRY

Oh? From where?

JIM

In my fantasies.

They reach Amanda. Jerry gives her a hug.

CONTINUED:

CONTINUED:

JERRY

Alex told me to say you thank-you.

AMANDA

Tell Alex to drop dead . . . I'm only doing this because I think this Congressman cares about the country. More than I can say about you and your protégée'.

Amanda and Jerry break from the hug. Jim extends his hand to Amanda, she accepts with hers.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Jim, Amanda. Amanda, Jim.

JIM

Nice to meet you.

AMANDA

You too . . . Aren't you? --

JIM

I didn't think many people remember that news story.

AMANDA

Surely you jest. I've heard you have the White house administration in an uproar.

JIM

You follow politics?

AMANDA

Daily.

JERRY

Amanda works in law.

AMANDA

Criminal.

Amanda glares at Jerry, signaling him to leave.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED (2):

JERRY

Would you two excuse me? I just saw another acquaintance
I'd like to say hi to.

JIM

Sure.

Jerry leaves.

JIM (CONT'D)

(to Amanda)

He's a prominent guy.

AMANDA

You think so?

JIM

Criminal law?

AMANDA

I handle advantaged cases.

JIM

Sounds intriguing.

AMANDA

It's a corrupt and unsatisfying business.

JIM

Do you live D.C.?

AMANDA

I have a place here and in New York City and my favorite
in Aspen. My parents place. It's a great place to hide
when I want to get away from the world. Do you ski?

JIM

I'm from Texas. Not much snow.

AMANDA

Do you ride?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED(3):

JIM

Horses?

AMANDA

No, Amtrak.

They both laugh.

INT - WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

The President is reading the "Tax Reform" book when Alex walks in and sits down.

ALEX

What are you reading?

The President holds up the book so Alex can see what it is.

ALEX (CONT'D)

If they win this repeal, it will destroy us.

PRESIDENT

Have you read this?

ALEX

Of course I have. It makes some valid points.

PRESIDENT

It's a damned good plan. I should have thought of it myself.

ALEX

It's been on the table for years.

PRESIDENT

Alex, how popular do you think you are going to be with the voters if you fight this?

ALEX

It's not the voters I'm worried about.

PRESIDENT

That's not a very Presidential thing to say.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

ALEX

You know what I mean. We have favors--

PRESIDENT

No, you have favors. I disapproved from the start about those debts of gratitude.

ALEX

There were no complaints until Johnson jumped back into the picture pushing this damned repeal.

PRESIDENT

It's an admirable proposition. It has—

ALEX

Disaster written all over it.

PRESIDENT

I was going to say integrity, Alex . . . Pure and simple.

ALEX

So does that mean you're going to try and get back your integrity? Big mistake.

PRESIDENT

I said I'm undecided.

Alex stands and walks toward the door to leave.

ALEX

I like the arrangement just the way it is. My advice to you is, unless you want to see your Presidency ending up on the impeachment table—

PRESIDENT

Are you threatening me?

ALEX

This issue is larger than you and me, Martin. It all intertwines with the global price tag. Keeping control of the peoples' money is our job. We give a little, take a lot.

(MORE)

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED (2):

ALEX (CONT'D)

That's why you have executive control. To protect national security . . . Hell, I don't think the public ever understood how it really works. We changed the rules so many times, even I'm getting confused. But go ahead, feel free to search for your integrity and flex your Presidential muscle. It won't last. You'll be forced out by impeachment by my people and I'll move into the Oval office by default. It's what they always wanted anyway.

Alex walks out the door. The President stands, walks to the window and gazes out.

INT - MICHAEL'S RESTAURANT - BAR - NIGHT

Jim talks to Amanda at the bar. She puts on her coat, gets ready to leave.

JIM

Can I call you for dinner sometime?

AMANDA

I'd like that.

She hands Jim a business card.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

It was really a pleasure meeting you. I'll look forward to hearing from you soon.

JIM

Will you be in town all week?

AMANDA

I don't have to be back in New York until next month.

JIM

Another special case?

AMANDA

Not really . . . I just need to get away from D.C. for a while and work out my personal priorities. Long story--

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

JIM

It was really nice meeting you.

AMANDA

Same here.

She walks to the door and exits. Jim watches her as she leaves. Mark walks over to him at the bar.

MARK

She gave you her number?

JIM

I'm taking her to dinner.

EXT - MICHAEL'S RESTAURANT - SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Amanda walks down the street and around the corner. The limousine is waiting for her with its headlights out. She opens the door and climbs inside. The vehicle speeds away.

INT - JIM'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Jim, dressed in a jogging suit, pours a glass of orange juice. He takes the glass and walks to the front door, opens it, retrieves the newspaper. He walks to the table, sits.

INSERT: a newspaper headline, "Freedom tax Amendment, Yes or No?"

BACK ON SCENE

The telephone rings and Jim stands to answer the one on the kitchen wall.

JIM

(into phone)

Hello . . . Bobby . . . Did you see the Post this morning?

BOBBY (VO)

(filtered)

I have it.

JIM

(into phone)

Looks like Alex has some weight in the Senate.

INT - DUPONT HOTEL - GLORIA'S HOTEL SUITE - DAY

Bobby seated in a chair puts the newspaper on the floor. Gloria walks over to him and picks up the paper and starts to read the story.

BOBBY

(into phone)

I'll counteract his story with another one in tomorrow's paper.

INTER CUT:

JIM

Is a press war wise?

BOBBY

The press like anything that will sell papers and Alex likes to play games with them.

JIM

How well do you know him?

BOBBY

I helped him get the White house. Now I'm goin' to show him how the door revolves.

JIM

Sounds personal. . . Is there anything I can do?

BOBBY

Just watch your back. He can get mean spirited when tormented.

JIM

He has nothing on me.

BOBBY

He'll look for any vulnerability--

JIM

In the proposal?

BOBBY

In your character . . . This man will pull out all the stops to destroy your integrity and make himself look like a superstar.

EXT - JIM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jim, in jogging outfit stops at the corner to wait for the light to change. He notices a black sedan parked across the street with two men inside. He continues to jog across the street, away from the parked car.

INT - WASHINGTON, D.C. - HOUSE CHAMBERS - DAY

Congressmen and reporters fill the room. The House Speaker bangs his gavel. CONGRESSMAN JOE MURDOCH stands at a podium. Jim is seated in the chambers with other congressmen.

HOUSE SPEAKER

The gentleman from New York, Mr. Murdoch, would like to be recognized for fifteen minutes. Are there any objections?

The House Speaker pauses.

HOUSE SPEAKER (CONT'D)

Since there is no objection, the gentleman from New York, is recognized for fifteen minutes.

MURDOCH

Mr. Speaker, judging from the remarks made earlier by Mr. Morgan, the gentleman from Texas, concerning the Sixteenth Repeal Amendment, I fear to say that I think we are being railroaded by the good old boys from down south.

Jim stands.

JIM

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the gentleman, who so eloquently just insulted the good ol' boys from down south, yield two minutes for a response to that remark.

HOUSE SPEAKER

The gentleman from Texas asks that the gentleman from New York yields two minutes?

Murdoch

No, I will not yield two minutes for the gentleman from Texas. I have a limited amount of time and the gentleman can respond in his own time.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

HOUSE SPEAKER

The gentleman from New York declines to yield to the gentleman from Texas. The gentleman from New York has a remaining fourteen minutes.

Murdoch

Thank you, Mr. Speaker . . . As I was saying. This great amendment to repeal the sixteenth, which began in secret, I'm sure will end in disaster, creating a devastating blow to the United States Treasury. The proposal to repeal the income tax to put money back into the pockets of the American people is just another attempt to soak it to the wealthy in this country . . . The wealthy and rich can pay for everything . . . That's what they want? . . . The very people who invested in the land should pay it for it all. Well I do not agree . . . I think everybody should pay their tax and pull their weight without complaining. The burden of the expense is right where it belongs—

Several Congressmen stand up and boo Murdoch. The House Speaker bangs his gavel.

HOUSE SPEAKER

Order . . . Order. The gentleman from New York's time has not expired.

INT - SENATE BUILDING- JIM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Jim, alone in his office, works at his computer. He turns to the telephone on his desk, lifts the receiver and dials a number. He listens and waits for an answer.

INT - WASHINGTON, D.C. - AMANDA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Amanda, in the shower hears the telephone ringing, shuts off the water, opens the door and reaches for her robe. The answering machine answers the call.

INTERCUT:

JIM
(into phone)

Hello?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

AMANDA (VO)
(filtered)

Hello. You have reached Amanda. Please leave your message at the tone. If you are sending a fax, start your transmission now.

JIM

Hello Amanda. It's Jim Morgan. I was calling to arrange a time and date for our dinner date. You can reach me at Five-five-six-twenty-two-hundred.

Amanda rushes to answer the telephone in the

BEDROOM

She lifts the receiver.

AMANDA
(into phone)

Hello? Hello?

She realizes Jim hung up. She replays the message and dials' Jim's number. Jim is working at his computer when the telephone rings. He answers it.

JIM

Hello?

AMANDA

Hello, Jim. Amanda.

JIM

Hi . . .

AMANDA

Hi.

JIM

I just called.

AMANDA

I know. I heard your message. I was in the shower.

JIM

Is this a bad time?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

AMANDA

I shouldn't have told you that.

JIM

Are you embarrassed?

AMANDA

A little.

JIM

Don't be . . . I was calling about dinner.

AMANDA

Dinner? ... Yes I'd love to go to dinner. Where?

JIM

Tomorrow night?

AMANDA

Sure? Where?

JIM

Would you like me to pick you up?

AMANDA

No . . . I can meet you—

JIM

Do you like Cajun food?

AMANDA

Love it.

JIM

Do you know where Lulu's is?

AMANDA

Yes.

JIM

How's seven-thirty?

AMANDA

Perfect.

INT - WASHINGTON, D.C. - LULU'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jim and Amanda are seated at a table near the window. The room has a DINERS and a BAND is playing music in the background. A WAITER approaches.

WAITER

Do you need more time?

JIM

(to Amanda)

Amanda?

AMANDA

(to waiter)

I'll have the blackened chicken with a salad, ranch dressing?

JIM

I'll have the same with Cajun fries on the side. And a bottle of Zinfandel.

WAITER

Would you like the wine now or with your dinner?

JIM

Now, please.

The waiter walks away.

AMANDA

How did you know I liked Zinfandel?

JIM

You were drinking it the other night.

AMANDA

Observant.

JIM

I try.

AMANDA

I like that.

There's an awkward moment of silence.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

AMANDA

So tell me how the tax repeal is going?

JIM

It's slow going, but progressing.

AMANDA

I heard you're close to getting a passing vote in the house, but tight in the Senate.

JIM

You do follow politics closely.

AMANDA

The whole country is following the repeal. You'll be putting a lot of the special interest crowd in the unemployment line if you win.

The waiter brings the wine, opens it, pours it.

JIM

Where they belong.

AMANDA

Ohhh . . . I see you don't like them? That's refreshing.

JIM

They have been controlling the country long enough. It's time for the people to catch a break.

AMANDA

Well here's to us the people.

JIM

You're not a lobbyist, are you?

AMANDA

That's not exactly my field of expertise.

EXT - WASHINGTON - LULU'S RESTAURANT- NIGHT

A black sedan drives to the curb and parks.

INT - DUPONT HOTEL - GLORIA'S HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

Gloria is seated at her desk in the living room, working on her computer. Bobby is relaxed in a chair, reading a book few feet away. The dog is laying on the floor near him and begins to bark to go out for a walk.

BOBBY
(to Shep)
Want to go for a walk?

The dog barks. Bobby stands to stretch.

GLORIA
I'll go with you.

Gloria, clicks off her computer, stands and walks over to a nearby table to retrieve the dog's lease. She hands it to Bobby.

BOBBY
Did Jim call tonight?

GLORIA
Earlier. He went on a date.

BOBBY
A date? With whom?

GLORIA
He didn't say?

BOBBY
And you didn't ask?

GLORIA
I'm not his nanny.

BOBBY
She could be trouble.

GLORIA
Sugar. You can't control who he asks out on a date.

BOBBY
I'm not trying to control his dates . . . I just want to know who his dates are.

INT - WASHINGTON, D.C. - LULU'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jim and Amanda enjoy their meal. The waiter delivers more wine. People in the background dance.

JIM

Would you like to dance?

They go to the dance floor. Jim places his arm around Amanda's waist and pulls her close to him.

JIM (CONT'D)

Tell me more about Colorado. Did you grow up there?

AMANDA

Most of my life.

JIM

Do you go home often?

AMANDA

Not as much as I used too since my parents died.

JIM

I'm sorry . . . I didn't mean too

AMANDA

It's okay. They've been gone for a while. My nanny from childhood still lives at the chalet and takes care of the place.

JIM

Nanny?

AMANDA

I'm sorry . . . Her name is Maria . . . She's like a second mother—

JIM

Sounds like you're very close.

AMANDA

I don't know what I would do without her? Maybe if I can convince you to try skiing--

(MORE)

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

AMANDA (CONT'D)

It's easy. You just go to the top of the mountain, take a deep breath and--

JIM

Pray to make it the bottom without breaking a leg.

They laugh, then dance for a moment in silence.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Would you like to try it sometime?

JIM

Colorado?

AMANDA

I mean—

JIM

Hmmm. Alone with you in the mountains? I think I'd like that.

AMANDA

We wouldn't be alone.

JIM

Oh right, Maria.

She rests her head on his shoulder and they continue to dance.

INT - WASHINGTON, D.C. - BLACK SEDAN - NIGHT

Two men sit watching the restaurant. The cellular telephone rings. One of the men answers it.

MAN # 1

(into phone)

Yes, Sir. No she's dancing . . . Yes, Sir, I did say dancing. Yes, Sir, she does seem to be enjoying herself. Would you like for me too No, Sir . . . It's not possible to signal her to stop . . .

The other man points to Amanda and Jim leaving the dance floor.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

MAN # 1 (CONT'D)

It seems like they are getting ready to leave, Sir.
Yes, Sir . . . Uh -huh . . . Okay. We will.

The man clicks off the telephone and puts it down.

MAN # 1 (CONT'D2)

Now he wants pictures.

MAN #2

How did he ever get elected into the White House?

MAN #1

Don't look at me . . . I didn't vote for him.

EXT -WASHINGTON, D.C. - LULU'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Amanda and Jim leave the restaurant. Amanda notices the black sedan across the street and diverts Jim's attention away from it. They stroll down the sidewalk arm and arm. PEOPLE walk past them as they move toward a STREET VENDOR. TWO TEENAGE BOYS run by the stand and snatch a couple of tee-shirts. They race in Jim and Amanda's direction and run by them. The vendor chases after them.

JIM

Amanda, stay here. I'm going to help him.

Jim joins in the chase with the Vendor. Amanda turns to glance at the sedan. One of the men inside the car rolls down his window. Amanda signals for them to wait. She walks down the sidewalk to watch. TWO POLICE OFFICERS in a car, pull over, get out and block the teenagers. Jim, the Vendor and the officers surround the boys. One of the boys leans over and kicks Jim in the leg. The police officer's handcuff the struggling boys.

POLICE OFFICER # 1

(to teenager # 1)

Hold still. You little weasel.

POLICE OFFICER # 2

(to Jim)

Are you all right?

JIM

Just a little bruise.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

VENDOR

Thanks for your help, Mr.

JIM

I've got to go . . . I left my date back there.

POLICE OFFICER # 1

We're going to need a statement from you.

Police Officer # 2 is putting the boys into the back of the police cruiser. Jim hands the officer his business card.

JIM

Here's my card—

The officer looks at the card.

POLICE OFFICER # 1

Congressman Morgan . . . Sorry, Sir, didn't recognize you.

JIM

I have to get back to my date.

Jim limps back to Amanda. Police Officer # 1 shows his partner the card.

POLICE OFFICER # 1

(to Officer # 2)

He's the one pushing the repeal.

POLICE OFFICER #2

The press will love this story.

The officers proceed to take a statement from the vendor. Amanda hurries to Jim.

AMANDA

You're hurt.

JIM

Sorry I ran off like that.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

AMANDA

Come on. I'll take you home.

She looks at his leg.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

That looks like it hurts.

JIM

I'm fine. Just a little sore.

AMANDA

I'll get a cab.

Amanda hails a cab.

JIM

This is embarrassing.

AMANDA

What? You helped that man.

JIM

Shouldn't I be escorting you home on our first date?

The taxi pulls to the curb. Amanda opens the door for Jim.

AMANDA

You can owe me on our second date.

JIM

Our second date?

AMANDA

You were going to ask me on a second date, weren't you?

JIM

A third, a fourth and a fifth.

AMANDA

Really?

JIM

Yes, then on the sixth I was planning to marry you.

EXT - WASHINGTON - JIM'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

The taxi pulls to the curb and parks. Jim and Amanda climb out and walk to the building.

ACROSS THE STREET

The black sedan, parks and turns off its headlights.

INT - WASHINGTON - JIM'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Jim pushes the elevator button. They wait for the doors to open, then step inside the

ELEVATOR

They're alone.

AMANDA

How's the pain?

JIM

Not bad.

AMANDA

Liar.

JIM

Some ice should help it.

The elevator doors open and they step out and walk into the

HALLWAY

toward Jim's apartment. Jim takes out his keys to unlock the door.

AMANDA

Is this the part where a lady comes in or goes home?

JIM

What? No kiss?

At his apartment he unlocks the door.

JIM'S LIVING ROOM

Jim walks to a chair and sits heavily. Amanda walks to the kitchen and searches for the light switch on the wall. She turns it on.

KITCHEN

AMANDA

Do you have any plastic bags?

LIVING ROOM

JIM

In the drawer next to the refrigerator.

KITCHEN

Amanda searches through the drawer.

AMANDA

Found it.

She opens the refrigerator and starts to fill the bag with ice. She notices some photographs on the counter. She picks them up and thumbs through them.

LIVING ROOM

JIM

So how about that second date?

KITCHEN

AMANDA

I'll consider it . . .

She walks into the

LIVING ROOM

with the ice bag and the photographs. She places the ice bag on Jim's knee and shows him the photographs.

JIM

Thanks.

AMANDA

I saw these on your counter. I hope you don't mind?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED 2:

JIM

Those are pictures from my victory party.

AMANDA

This lady looks familiar. Who is she?

She hands Jim the pictures. He thumbs through them.

JIM

That's Gloria Vanderberg and Senator Bobby Johnson.
They're wonderful people—

AMANDA

I know--.

JIM

You've met them?

AMANDA

I met them both when I was a kid. They knew my parents.

Amanda stands and walks to the window.

AMANDA'S POV - ANGLE DOWN on the sedan parked across the street.

BACK ON SCENE

JIM

I'd like to introduce you to them.

AMANDA

I've got to go.

JIM

You just got here.

AMANDA

I know, but I really do have to leave.

Amanda proceeds toward the door.

JIM

No goodnight kisses?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

Amanda turns around and walks back to Jim. She leans over and kisses him gently on the mouth. He pulls her back gently and they share a more passionate kiss.

AMANDA

I really have to go. But I reserve the right for more of the same on our next date.

JIM

And when might that be?

AMANDA

Friday night. You should be able to dance again by then.

Amanda walks to the door to leave. She opens it.

JIM

Where?

AMANDA

I don't know...Someplace out of town would be nice.

JIM

It's a date.

Amanda walks out and closes the door behind her. Jim sighs and nurses his swollen leg.

EXT - WASHINGTON - JIM'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Amanda signals to the men in the sedan to drive around the corner. She follows the car by foot and enters the vehicle once it parks. The car drives away.

INT - BLACK SEDAN - TRAVEL SHOT - NIGHT

MAN # 1

The Vice President wants to know why you went up to his apartment?

Frustrated, she takes the cellular telephone away from the Man # 1 and dials. She listens for a moment and doesn't get an answer. She throws the cellular telephone down on the seat.

AMANDA

Tell Alex we're not a couple anymore.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

MAN # 1

What's that supposed to mean?

AMANDA

It means we broke up, ended the relationship.
It also means I do not need chaperones when I'm
on a date.

MAN # 1

Don't get mad at us. We get paid to do this job.

INT - SENATE BUILDING - JIM'S OFFICE - DAY

Jim's staff is busy at work.

JIM'S PRIVATE OFFICE

He's seated behind his desk, having a meeting with Congressmen Mark Jones and Jerry.

JIM

What I do on my dates are private.

JERRY

I fixed you up with her. The least you can do is tell
me if she's as good as she looks?

MARK

That's none of your business. We're here to discuss
law and legislation. I have another meeting to go to with
Mansfield.

JERRY

That bill is dead in the water. Stop wasting your time
on it.

MARK

I like the proposal.

JIM

Jerry's right, Mark. That one needs a lot of work if it's
going to make it past committees. Talk to Sheila on your
way out. I have some interesting reports you should review.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

JERRY

Are those the drug company reports? I'd like to take a look at those myself.

MARK

What happen Jerry? Your Lobbyist friend stop reporting to you?

JERRY

Low blow.

Mark rises, but pauses before walking out the door.

MARK

You can't discuss issues with this guy unless you have a blank checks for him to fill in the numbers.
Sorry Jim, I'm late and have to go. I'll call you later.

Mark walks out of the office. Jerry stands to leave.

JIM

Why do you always have to start on him?

JERRY

Because Mr. Do Right is so pompous about his issues. He loves to argue dead end deals.

JIM

He may surprise you someday and get one passed.

JERRY

Right . . . Speaking of dead end deals, what have you heard about the repeal?

JIM

It's far from dead and it looks good in the house.

JERRY

I've heard through my sources the VP is waging an all out war against you and Johnson.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED 2:

JIM

Old news. What else?

JERRY

That he's using all his influence to keep the President from signing even if it passes the senate.

JIM

More old news . . . How warm are you becoming with the Devil?

JERRY

I've only met him a few times . . . Guys like him not easy to have lunch with.

JIM

No, guys like him, eat you for lunch.

JERRY

I've got a meeting at four . . . I've got to go.

JIM

Talk to you later.

JERRY

Oh yeah, Hero, you looked good on the front page today.

JIM

Yeah, right.

Jerry walks out the door.

EXT - WHITE HOUSE - VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Alex is seated behind his desk dictating a letter to his assistant, SARA.

ALEX

Another note to make on the environmental impact of the Federal Forest Mandate is to clean up—

SARA

You've already stated that in here, Sir.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

ALEX

I did? Sorry, Sara, my mind's somewhere else today.
Read back to me what you have.

Jerry knocks at the open door. A Secret Service agent stands behind him.

JERRY

If you're busy, I can come back later.

ALEX

No, come in. Sara, that will be all for now. Type up
what you have and we can go over it later— say at
eleven-thirty.

SARA

Yes, Sir.

Sara walks out of the room. Jerry enters and sits in her vacant chair.
The secret service agent stands by the door.

ALEX

So, what's the story? Did she sleep with him?

JERRY

I don't think so . . . Why don't you confront her?

ALEX

She won't talk to me, that's why.

JERRY

Because of Jim?

ALEX

No, because I refused to get a divorce. I can't get
a divorce.

JERRY

She knows that. Why she being so difficult?

ALEX

Because she's a woman, that's why.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

JERRY

I know she's is going to see him again. Do you think she's trying to make you jealous?

ALEX

I think she's calculating her options.

JERRY

You over a second term Congressman? Where's the benefit there?

ALEX

It has nothing to do with who has more power. Amanda wants security, not position.

JERRY

The gala is coming up, do you still want me to escort her?

ALEX

When is that?

JERRY

End of February.

ALEX

You're going to make a good Vice President.

JERRY

What's our next step in sabotaging the IRS repeal?

ALEX

I'm still working the Senate. Morgan already has the vote to carry it through the house.

JERRY

What about the press? Can I do anything there?

ALEX

Just keep feeding me the info when you get it from Morgan and I'll get it leaked to the press.

JERRY

How well do you know Bobby Johnson?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

ALEX

Good enough to know if he caught wind of what we are doing to Morgan he'd pull the rug right out from under us.

JERRY

Do you really think he's grooming Morgan for a primary? Against you?

ALEX

Absolutely. Morgan's green right now, but Johnson's a experienced mentor. He taught me, before I crossed him.

JERRY

You just wanted to be your own man.

ALEX

Plain and simple. I didn't like his honest Abe's ways of doing business. It takes too long to get what I need to do business.

JERRY

What about the President?

ALEX

I can't trust him. He might sign just to make himself look admirable in the history books.

INT - DUPONT HOTEL - GLORIA'S SUITE - DAY

Bobby enters the room and sits in a chair. Gloria is seated at her desk with a laptop computer.

BOBBY

I see you bought that laptop.

GLORIA

You'd enjoy this if you weren't so stubborn?

BOBBY

I don't know a Random memory from a Web page . . .
It would take me forever to figure it all out.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

GLORIA

I'll teach you.

BOBBY

After I retire . . . I'm too tired and old to be dillydallyin' with things I don't understand. When this is over, I'm takin' a long vacation to Anywhere U.S.A.

Gloria stands and walks to Bobby. She starts to rub his shoulders.

GLORIA

Sounds like you had a bad day?

BOBBY

We're still three votes short to pass the committee.

GLORIA

You'll get them. And Congress will follow right behind with a victory.

BOBBY

And I still have to convince Martin this is the way to go.

GLORIA

You'll do it . . . Did you see the newspaper today?

BOBBY

No, why? Did we land on Mars?

Gloria hands Bobby the newspaper.

GLORIA

Jim's a hero . . . Front page news.

BOBBY

Says here. He got hurt.

GLORIA

I talked to him. His leg's a little swollen, but otherwise he's fine.

BOBBY

Doesn't mention who his date was?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

GLORIA

The story isn't about his date.

BOBBY

I want to know who this girl is.

GLORIA

Jim told me he's going to invite her to dinner with us.
You can meet her then.

BOBBY

When's that?

GLORIA

When he's damend good and ready. God you're nosy.

INT - ASPEN - AMANDA'S CHALET - NIGHT

SUPERED: ASPEN, COLORADO ONE WEEK LATER

Amanda enters dressed in a ski suit, carrying her ski equipment. She hears the telephone ringing and ignores the call. She walks to the

LIVING ROOM

and unzips herself from her suit. The room is spacious and lavishly decorated. A field-stone fireplace burns warmth from the burning logs. MARIA enters with a hot cup of coffee and greets Amanda.

MARIA

Miss Amanda, that telephone is driving me crazy . . . All day today, ring, ring, ring. I did what you said and let the machine pick it up.

Amanda takes the coffee from Maria and sits on the couch.

AMANDA

Did you call my service in Washington?

MARIA

Yes, I did. Some Congressman Jim keeps leaving messages. He said he wants to take you to the White House gala.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

MARIA (CONT'D)

He says he won't go unless you go. Also, he says he promises not to be a hero on any more dates. What does he mean by that?

AMANDA

Thank you, Maria. I'll call him back. Did anyone else call?

MARIA

Alex . . . He says he knows you are here and he's going to keep calling . . . Are you going to call him back?

AMANDA

Yes, Maria.

Maria walks toward the kitchen.

MARIA

Good. Would you like something to eat?
You should have something to eat. You're too skinny.

AMANDA

Just some time to think.

MARIA

Okay. You take your time to think, Miss Amanda . . .
I'll be in the kitchen if you need me.

AMANDA

Thank you, Maria.

Maria walks out of the room. Amanda stretches out on the sofa and picks up the television remote control. She clicks on the TV and keys in a news channel.

INT - CAPITOL BUILDING - HOUSE CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Congressmen mull around the room waiting for the vote tally from the House Speaker. Jim is standing by a podium and Mark stands close by.

HOUSE SPEAKER

The house committee passes the sixteenth repeal amendment.
The house will debate starting on the fourteenth before the final vote.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

Several Congressmen walk over to Jim and shake his hand. Mark stands closer to him.

MARK

So far, so good.

JIM

Where did Jerry go?

MARK

I don't know. He was here a minute ago.

EXT - CAPITOL BUILDING - NIGHT

Reporters swarm Jim and Mark when they walk outside.

REPORTER # 1

The tax repeal has passed committee. How does that make you feel?

JIM

Optimistic.

REPORTER # 2

Do you feel that way about the future?

JIM

Yes.

REPORTER # 3

That's it? Any other comments?

JIM

Yes . . . If the American people would like to see this repeal passed, I'd advise them to write, call or E mail their Congressional Representatives. Tell them you want choice and to be free of the IRS.

REPORTER # 4

There are rumors around Washington that you may challenge the Vice President in a primary for the White house. Is there any truth to that?

JIM

Those are exactly what you stated, just rumors.

INT - WHITE HOUSE - VICE PRESIDENTS OFFICE - NIGHT

Jerry is seated in a chair near Alex who is sitting behind his desk. They are watching the TV reporters asking Jim questions.

JERRY
(to the TV)
Of course he has plans, Stupid.

He notices Alex's attention is miles away.

JERRY (CONT'D)
(to the Vice President)
Are you watching this?

ALEX
Hmm? Oh, sorry. I was thinking about Amanda.

JERRY
Have you heard from her yet?

ALEX
Yeah . . . She called me.

JERRY
And?

ALEX
And nothing. She told me it's over between us.

JERRY
She's not serious.

ALEX
She is.

JERRY
Did she say why?

ALEX
Yeah. Because I'm married and she wants stability in her life.

JERRY
Meaning Jim? Hell, he's no competition.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

ALEX

You're wrong about that. He's on his way up and is single . . . Just what Amanda's been looking for.

JERRY

I guess he is a problem.

ALEX

They're both a problem. He's paired with Johnson and she knows too much about me to help them get what they want. Good for them. Bad for me.

JERRY

Really?

ALEX

Yeah, really.

Alex walks to the window and stares out.

INT - WASHINGTON - TV NEWS STUDIO - NIGHT

Jim, Congressman Murdoch and a NEWS ANCHOR are seated in a news studio setting waiting to go on the air. The CAMERA CREW focuses the cameras, waiting for the DIRECTOR to cue them.

DIRECTOR

In five, four, three, two, one.

NEWS ANCHOR

(into camera)

Welcome to Washington Political Spotlight. Tonight we have Congressman James Morgan from Texas and Congressman Joseph Murdoch from New York. They are both here tonight to discuss the repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment. Our personal favorite, the Income tax. The congressional committees passed the repeal effort moving it to the house floor for a vote.

The Anchor looks at Jim.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)

(to Jim)

Hello, Gentlemen. Welcome to the show. Congressman Morgan, can you explain to our viewers a few of the reasons how it would benefit them personally closing the IRS?

JIM

I'd be happy too. This repeal effort is long overdue. The people, I mean the working class in America have been struggling for several years paying higher income taxes. They have been working overtime between their jobs and raising their families. The government on the other hand has been increasing the budget and spending More promising to reinvent and reform government. What I've seen in Washington, since I became a Congressman is a broken system . . . A system that is beyond repair. The Congressional Committee today has taken a historic step toward correcting the wrongs. With a National Sales tax replacing the I.R.S. everyone will pay a fair and calculated tax on goods purchased. The new system would be worked out on a sliding scale calculating the amount of tax, by your income that you should be paying excluding medicine and food. There would be no more loop holes for Special Interest groups and lobbyists would be seeking new employment.

MURDOCH

That's nonsense. The wealthy have always paid their fair share . . . And some . . . Just look at all the charities they have raised money for to give money to the poor.

JIM

Sure the corporations have raised money for the poor, but why not? They don't pay decent wages to the workers to start with . . . The corporations divvy up what they hold back from the working men and women and pass it off as charity. But that's another issue all together, Murdoch, and I'll be going after that one next.

MURDOCH

Minimum wages had an increase. Now, but you want to hike it again?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED 2:

JIM

Sure I do. There are several changes that need to take place to repair the system. Why don't you explain to the public how the tax system, the I.R.S. works? You come from a wealthy corporate background. I'm sure the people would love to hear your side of the story. Tell them how corporations keep expense down and benefits to increase the bottom line for the stockholders . . . Tell some of the single mothers who are working to keep a roof over their children s' heads. How it works with franchised cheap labor. Tell them how you and your family have suffered by hiring minimum wage workers to keep your bottom line profitable so you can afford those expensive suits you're wearing. in Armani suits.

MURDOCH

I resent these accusations, Morgan.

JIM

I have others. Would you like to hear them?

MURDOCH

I don't have to take this abuse.

Murdoch stomps off the set, leaving the news anchor in shock.

NEW ANCHOR

(into camera)

Well, I, ah . . . I guess you can see we just lost one of our guests during what I thought was a good old fashioned mud slinging war. I'll keep you updated. As always, this is Rae-Ann Lagasse, reporting live from the Washington newsroom.

INT - DUPONT HOTEL - GLORIA'S SUITE - NIGHT

Bobby is watching the television with Gloria. They are seated on the couch dressed in their night robes. The lights are dim in the room. Bobby stands and walks to window.

BURN IN: The News anchor talking to Jim (MOS) while the credits roll.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

BACK ON SCENE

GLORIA

That boy has fire.

BOBBY

Murdoch is a fool for walkin' off the set like that.
What would he do if he was dealing with a foreign
negotiation?

Gloria follows Bobby to the window and places her arms around him from behind.

GLORIA

Screw it up like everything else.

BOBBY

Gloria!

GLORIA

I'm just statin' a fact.

BOBBY

That's why we have a democracy in this country, so each
side can put in an option.

GLORIA

Yes, but in Murdoch's case the voters don't get a choice.
After his pompous interview tonight maybe they'll realize
they should boot his butt back home to Daddy where he
belongs.

BOBBY

Your criticisms always amaze me, Darlin'.

GLORIA

My perspective on issues and character are one of
the reason you love me, Sugar.

BOBBY

That and other things too.

Bobby turns to Gloria and kisses her passionately.

INT - AMANDA'S ASPEN CHALET - NIGHT

Amanda, relaxed on the couch, picks up her TV remote and clicks off the television. She puts the remote down and removes the cordless telephone from the cradle and places a call.

AMANDA
(into phone)

Hello?

EXT- WASHINGTON - NEWS STUDIO - NIGHT- TRAVEL SHOT

Jim, hails a cab while answering his cellular telephone. The cab pulls over and he climbs in.

INTER CUT:

JIM
(into phone)

Hello?

AMANDA
Jim?

JIM
Amanda? Where are you? I have been trying to reach you all week?

AMANDA
Aspen.

JIM
What's the matter? Didn't want to do the second date?

AMANDA
No, that's not it at all. I had a great time the other night. Matter of fact, best I've had in a long time—

JIM
I'm confused . . . If you had such a great time, then who did you take off?

AMANDA
Truthfully?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

JIM

Hmm, I like honesty.

AMANDA

It's a long story.

JIM

I'm free all night.

AMANDA

You may change your mind about that second date after I explain my situation to you.

JIM

Try me.

EXT - CONNECTICUT - COUNTRY CLUB DRIVEWAY- DAY

SUPERED: ONE WEEK LATER

A large group of PROTESTORS stand on the road chanting.

PROTESTORS

Repeal, repeal, repeal the Sixteenth. I.R.S. It's time for you to close.

INT - CONNECTICUT- COUNTRY CLUB - DAY

There is a lavish banquet laid out surrounded by floral arrangements. A banner reads, "Welcome Senator Mulholland." The COUNTRY CLUB MANAGER stares out the window at the protestors chanting nearby. A WAITER and WAITRESS' stand close by and watch too.

COUNTRY CLUB MANAGER

Why don't they go away? Shu, shu, go away.

WAITRESS

I think it's kind of neat. Reminds me of the sixties when I was a kid.

COUNTRY CLUB MANAGER

Get back to your stations. If we don't pay attention, maybe they'll go away.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

The staff moves back, as ordered. The country club manager walks to the reception area to use the telephone. He dials and waits for an answer. The kitchen CHEF walks into the room and gazes out the window. The waitress who made the comment follows.

CHEF

Those people are going to ruin my luncheon.

WAITRESS

Who cares? We never have any fun around this snobby country club . . . Those people are out there saying something on our behalf. Reminds me of my friends when I was a kid.

CHEF

Those people probably are your friends from when you were a kid.

The manager still on the telephone, notices the chef and the waitress.

COUNTRY CLUB MANAGER

If you two want to keep your jobs, you better stand away from that window.

CHEF

(to waitress)

Is he talking to me?

COUNTRY CLUB DRIVEWAY

Some of the protestors turn around when they see television CAMERA CREWS and POLICE arriving. The police jump out of their vehicles and create a barrier. The camera crews get out of their vans and set up equipment. Further down the road a black limousine turns onto the street, inside is a DRIVER and SENATOR MULHOLLAND. One of the protestors yells out and moves the crowd in the direction of the limousine. The police try to barricade them. The reporters follow.

PROTESTOR

HEY! THERE'S MULHOLLAND'S LIMO. LET'S GO TALK TO HIM.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

REPORTER

(into camera)

Are we on? Hi, I'm Marybeth Smith, channel eight, coming to you live from Fairfield Country Club where a protest rally has gathered to protest the refusal of Senator Mulholland to vote for the Sixteenth amendment repeal. The Senator is supposed to speak at a luncheon here today. As you can see the police are blocking his limousine at the end of the street. The people here obviously would like to have a word with the Senator to voice their opinion on his vote.

She stops to interview a protestor.

NEWS REPORTER (CONT'D)

Sir, . . . Can you tell the viewers what you would like to ask the Senator?

PROTESTOR

He's supposed to be a representative of the people. I would like to know whom he is representing? Me or his self? Look at the limo he is riding around in. We're paying for that with our tax dollars. This is America, not England.

The crowd continues to move toward the limousine. The Senator pokes his head out and is watching the crowd move toward his car. The limousine driver pokes his head out.

LIMOUSINE DRIVER

Would you like me to drive through the crowd, Sir?

SENATOR MULHOLLAND

(to cop)

Officer, what is going on here? Keep that crowd back.

POLICE OFFICER

We're doing the best we can, Sir. They took us by surprise. There are several hundred of them and they are very angry at you.

SENATOR MULHOLLAND

They are?

The protestors start to chant.

CONTINUED . . .

99

CONTINUED:

PROTESTORS
MULHOLLAND! MULHOLLAND! MULHOLLAND!

SENATOR MULHOLLAND
(to driver)
Turn this limo around and let's get the hell out of here.

LIMOUSINE DRIVER
Thank God.

The driver puts the limousine in reverse and floors it. The jolt bounces the Senator back into the vehicle. The car reaches a driveway, turns around and speeds away. The protestors jeer him and turn back toward the country club.

INT - COUNTRY CLUB - DAY

The manger realizes the crowd is headed his way.

COUNTRY CLUB MANAGER
Oh, no! They're coming back!

The waitress and chef rush back to the window again.

WAITRESS
Cool.

COUNTRY CLUB MANAGER
Get back to your stations.

EXT - COUNTRY CLUB - DAY

The unruly crowd walks closer to the building. Police are having a hard time holding them back. The protestors break the tape barricade. The reporters stay with the crowd.

REPORTER
(to protestor)
Sir, Sir. Do you have any comment?

PROTESTOR
Yeah, I'm getting hungry. Let's eat lunch.

PROTESTOR # 2
HEY EVERYBODY . . . LUNCH IN THE CLUBHOUSE.

INT - COUNTRY CLUB - DAY

COUNTRY CLUB MANAGER

What are they doing? Oh my God! They're coming this way!

The waitress runs to the entrance.

COUNTRY CLUB MANAGER (CONT'D)

(to waitress)

What are you doing?

WAITRESS

I'm serving lunch.

She flings open the door. The protestors swarm in.

COUNTRY CLUB MANAGER

(to waitress)

You're fired!

WAITRESS

I quit!

CHEF

Me, too!

INT - WHITE HOUSE - PRESS ROOM - NIGHT

The President and Alex stand at the podium, answering reporters questions.

REPORTER # 1

Mr. President, did you hear about the Connecticut protest rally earlier today? Any comments?

PRESIDENT

I saw it on the news and was appalled at the behavior. That was not a peaceful demonstration and those people should be held accountably for their actions.

REPORTER # 2

Have you made a decision yet? Are you going to veto the repeal or not?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT

I'm still undecided.

The President points at another reporter.

REPORTER # 3

Sir, can you tell us what is taking so long? I mean, I have a degree in economics, and from my analysis of the repeal and the facts listed in the, Tax Reform book. I think it makes sense to repeal.

PRESIDENT

Maybe you should be working for us.

The crowd laughs.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

All joking aside, my administration has been working day and night on these numbers. We cannot take this repeal lightly. The recommendation of one book does not answer all the budget concerns our government faces. Our National Security and Defense system could be in jeopardy. Before I commit to any decision, I must be sure it is the right choice for all involved. Thank you and goodnight.

He and Alex walk with the staff and secret service agents into the

HALL

REPORTER # 1 (O.C.)

Just one more question? Mr. President?

ALEX

(to President)

Talk to me, Martin. What are you planning? ... Don't do anything you'll regret.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT

The First Lady is waiting in the helicopter, Sir.

ALEX

You can't leave now.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT

The First Lady and I are going to Camp David. I need time to think this thing through.

ALEX

Don't do this, Martin.

The President grabs Alex and hurls him against the wall. The staff and Secret service watches without interrupting.

PRESIDENT

Get off my back. Face it Alex. When the American people want something this badly, they'll fight like hell to get it. It doesn't matter what you want. It's what they want that counts. Now I suggest you take the weekend and chill out.

He releases Alex and continues on down the hall without him. The staff and agents follow him. One of the agents remains to assist Alex.

ALEX

Let go of me, I'm fine.

EXT - WHITE HOUSE - LAWN - NIGHT

The President boards the helicopter and it lifts off. The President POV, watches Alex in standing at the window.

EXT - BOSTON HARBOR - DOCKS - NIGHT

SUPERED: SIX WEEKS LATER, BOSTON HARBOR.

PROTESTORS have organized a rally and are simulating the Boston Tea Party.

INSERT: A newspaper headline, "CONGRESS PASSES THE REPEAL, WILL THE SENATE DO THE SAME?"

BACK ON SCENE

Dressed in period costumes, they gather 1040 tax forms and pass them out to the CROWD. A banner hangs, stretched out over the entrance to the dock. A tall ship flies a flag that reads: "Boston Tea Party 1999." NEWS CREWS and REPORTERS gather for the event. The protestors begin to throw the forms into the harbor and the crowd cheers.

QUICK CUTS:

1) EXT - CHICAGO - DOWNTOWN - NIGHT - Protests rally, with a banner marking the occasion that reads: “Windy City, 1999 Tax Rally.” PROTESTORS march around a bon fire, tossing 1040 tax forms into the flames.

2) EXT - HOLLYWOOD - NIGHT - PROTESTORS dressed to imitate Hollywood actors’ march around depositing 1040 tax forms into a cannon and blowing them off into the sky. They carry signs that read: “Terminate the IRS.”

3) EXT - ORLANDO - DISNEY WORLD - NIGHT - PROTESTORS march with signs and sing; “I.R.S., It’s time to go, so do us all a favor and go.”

4) EXT - NEW YORK CITY - TIMES SQUARE - NIGHT - PROTESTORS fill the streets and cheer, while women from office buildings throw down shredded 1040 tax forms, creating a ticker-tape effect.

5) EXT - HAWAII - HONOLULU - NIGHT - HULA DANCERS dance with PROTESTORS around a luau. A roasted pig cooks in a pit as protesters feed the flame with 1040 tax forms.

6) EXT - IOWA - FARM - NIGHT - FARMERS AND PROTESTORS drive bulldozers and farm equipment with signs that read: “Heartlands of America, 1999 Tax Rally.” A farmer holds up a sign with a stuffed pig that reads: “I.R.S.? Pork?”

END QUICK CUTS:

EXT - DUPONT HOTEL - GLORIA’S SUITE - NIGHT

Bobby and Gloria are seated on the couch watching the protesters on television.

BURN IN: News Anchor changing video backdrops, state-to-state.

ANCHOR

It’s all over America . . . New York, Boston, Chicago—
protesting the Sixteenth amendment. The people seem to
be having a great time destroying their tax forms—

BACK ON SCENE

Bobby clicks off the television and paces the room. Gloria remains on the couch.

BOBBY

This is insanity. Who organized this?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

GLORIA

I told you it was comin', Sugar.

BOBBY

What's going to happen if the repeal doesn't pass the Senate?
Will they organize a lynch mobs for us?

GLORIA

I wouldn't want to be the Senator that voted against it.

BOBBY

That's not funny . . . This is serious business. It could turn into
a disaster—

GLORIA

Sugar, calm down. You're gettin' all red in the face.

BOBBY

I'm not all red in the face—

GLORIA

I thought this demonstration would make you
happy? The people are just showing you they agree.

BOBBY

Was this the surprise you were takin' about? Gloria, was
it?

Bobby gets dizzy and grabs his chest. Rusty barks and runs around in circles.

GLORIA

What are you doin'? Quit foolin' around.

Bobby falls to the floor. Rusty lays down next to him whimpering. Gloria realizes he's
having a heart attack.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

OH MY GOD!

She runs to the telephone, picks it up and dials. She hurries back to him and cradles him in
her arms.

CONTINUED:

GLORIA (CONT'D 2)

(into phone)

Please send an ambulance to the Dupont hotel, the Vanderberg suite. The Senator's down with a heart attack, I think . . . Yes, I'm Gloria Vanderberg, please hurry.

She disconnects the call and attends to Bobby. She dials another number on the telephone.

GLORIA (CONT'D 4)

(to Bobby)

Don't you dropout on me now, Bobby Johnson.
I need you.

She listens to Jim's recorded announcement on the answering machine.

JIM (V.O.)

(Filtered)

Hello. You have reached Jim Morgan's personal line. If you need to contact me immediately, call my beeper number at eight-six-zero-five-five-five-twenty nine-fifty. I will get back to you shortly. If you would like, leave a message at the tone.

GLORIA

(into phone)

Jim. It's Gloria. Call me as soon as you get this message. Bobby's had a heart attack and I'm taking him to the hospital by ambulance.

EXT - DUPONT HOTEL - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

An ambulance slams to a stop. PARAMEDICS jump out, collect their equipment and hurry into the hotel with a stretcher.

INT - WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

The President and Alex are seated in chairs, watching the news on television.

PRESIDENT

Almost looks like a fiction movie.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

ALEX

You're going to sign the repeal, aren't you?

PRESIDENT

Are you blind? The fax machines in our offices are running out of paper every hour on the hour. The telephones are burning off the hook and if I get one more Federal Express with shredded tax forms, I'm going to present the Damned repeal to the Senate myself.

ALEX

It's only made it through a committee--

PRESIDENT

Who in their right mind would vote against it with this kind of public support?

ALEX

There are a few--

PRESIDENT

Well whoever they are they better have another job waiting for them when their terms are up . . . That is if their constituents don't kick their asses out of office first.

ALEX

Are you forgetting as Vice President I hold the tie-breaking vote?

PRESIDENT

Ha . . . A tie? Not likely.

ALEX

I'm working on it.

PRESIDENT

Give it up, you don't stand a chance against this kind of bipartisan support.

EXT - WASHINGTON, D.C. - HOSPITAL EMERGENCIES ENTRANCE - NIGHT

The ambulance attendants rush Jack inside on a stretcher. Gloria follows. A taxi drives up and stops. Jim exits the cab and runs into the hospital.

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INT - HOSPITAL EMERGENCIES ROOM - NIGHT

Bobby is wheeled into a cardiac room. DOCTORS and NURSES surround him, checking his vitals and hooking him up to monitors. Gloria and Jim follow as they work on him. A nurse closes the door to the room. Another nurse walks to Gloria and Jim.

NURSE

It'd be better for him if you waited in the other room.

JIM

(to nurse)

How long until we know something?

GLORIA

This is all my fault.

NURSE

This is not your fault. Men of his age experience heart failure daily from stress.

GLORIA

I caused this.

JIM

Come on, let's go in the waiting room and get you a cup of tea.

Jim leads Gloria toward the waiting room.

GLORIA

This is all my fault. I helped organize those rallies through the Internet.

JIM

You did?

GLORIA

You don't understand, Sugar . . . Those rallies' were what set him off. I can't lose him now--

JIM

He's a tough guy, he'll come through this all right . . .
You organized those rallies?

Jim looks toward the emergency room entrance where REPORTERS and CAMERA CREWS are entering. He walks over to them.

Alex and the President sit on the couch and talk. A Secret Service agent enters the room. He hands the President a note. The President opens it and reads it. The Secret Service agent waits. The President stands and walks to the desk and picks up the telephone.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT

Do you want the car, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT

Yes.

VICE PRESIDENT

What now? Did somebody steal the Statue of Liberty?

PRESIDENT

(to Alex)

Johnson's had a heart attack.

VICE PRESIDENT

Is he dead?

PRESIDENT

Shut up Alex, Bobby's my friend.

INT - ASPEN - AMANDA'S CHALET - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Amanda sits peacefully on the couch reading a book. A fire is burning in the fireplace and the television is on, but muted. Maria, hurries into the room.

MARIA

Quick, Miss Amanda, put on the volume on the television. America is going crazy and your Congressman friend that's been calling here is on the news. Somebody had a heart attack.

Amanda grabs the remote and turns up the sound.

BURN IN: Jim talking to the news reporters.

JIM

We are still waiting to hear from the doctors on his condition.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

BURN IN: (CONT'D)

REPORTER #1

Do you have any comment about tonight? I mean the national demonstrations? Did you organize it?

JIM

No, I was not responsible for the demonstrations.

REPORTER #2

(into camera)

As you just heard live from Congressman Morgan there is still no word on Senator Johnson's condition.

BACK ON SCENE

Amanda reaches for the telephone and dials.

INT - HOSPITAL EMERGENCIES ROOM - NIGHT

Jim is standing near Gloria in the waiting room. Reporters are being pushed back by hospital STAFF. Jim's cellular telephone rings and he answers it.

JIM

(into phone)

Hello?

INTERCUT:

AMANDA

Jim? Is that you? How's the Senator?

JIM

Amanda? Have you heard?

AMANDA

I'm watching it on the news. Is there anything I can do?

JIM

I can hardly hear you. There are reporters everywhere.

AMANDA

I saw on the news.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

JIM

Oh, here comes the President . . . Amanda, I have to go.
I'll call you later, okay?

Jim clicks off his cellular telephone.

EXT - EMERGENCIES ROOM - NIGHT

The President exits the limo with three Secret Service agents. They are surrounded by reporters.

INT- ASPEN - AMANDA'S CHALET - NIGHT

Amanda dials another number. Maria walks toward the stairs.

MARIA

I'll pack your bag. You make the reservations.

AMANDA

That man can't die now. I have too much to tell him.

INT - BOBBY'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Bobby is resting peacefully, hooked up to monitors and oxygen. Jim is scrunched in a chair, asleep. The President is in another chair reading a book, and the three Secret Service agents are posted at the door. Gloria sits close to the bed, her head resting on the edge. She holds Bobby's hand. A NURSE walks in, gently wakes Jim and hands him a note. He reads it and stands. The nurse walks over to Bobby and checks his monitor. Jim exits the room into the

HALL

where he can see Amanda. He walks to her and greets her with a hug.

JIM

Is this our second date?

AMANDA

More like our tenth if you count the marathon telephone conversations we've had in the past week. How's he doing?

JIM

Better.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

AMANDA
Have you been here all night?

JIM
Me, Gloria, the President and the Secret Service.

AMANDA
The President?

JIM
All night. He and the Senator go way back.

They enter Bobby's room.

AMANDA
I know.

JIM
What?

AMANDA
I said I know

The President looks up when Amanda enters the room with Jim.

PRESIDENT
Amanda?

AMANDA
Martin.

Jim is surprised by the President's recognition of Amanda.

JIM
(to Amanda)
You know the President?

Bobby starts to wake up and look around the room. Gloria wakes groggily and sits up.

GLORIA
(to Jim)
Get the Doctor, Sugar. He's wakin' up.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

BOBBY
What's goin' on? We having a party?

PRESIDENT
(to Bobby)
Yeah, and you're the guest of honor. How are you feeling?

Jim leaves to get a doctor.

BOBBY
You've been here all night, Martin?

GLORIA
All night with me and Jim, Sugar. How ya doin'?

Jim enters with a DOCTOR and NURSES. They rush over to Bobby to check him. Gloria steps away with the President, Jim, Amanda and the Secret Service agents start to exit the room.

BOBBY
Amanda, is that you?

AMANDA
Yes Sir, it's me.

GLORIA
Long story, we'll explain later.

INT- HOSPITAL - HALL - DAY

Jim, Amanda, Gloria, the agents and the President stand outside the room. The doctor walks out of the room and walks to them.

Doctor
Well. His EKG came back fine. His blood pressure is a little high, but otherwise he'll be fine. It was a stress attack. He'll be fine in a few days if he gets some rest.

PRESIDENT
(to Gloria)
See. I told you he was too ornery to die.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

GLORIA
You're a good friend, Martin.

PRESIDENT
(to Gloria)
Keep me posted.

He walks over to Amanda. Gloria walks back into Bobby's room.

PRESIDENT
(to Amanda)
I'll be expecting to hear from you too, Young Lady.

AMANDA
I'll call you later this afternoon.

He kisses her on the cheek and then reaches over to Jim and shakes his hand.
He leaves with his agents. Jim looks at Amanda.

JIM
You know the President and the Senator?

AMANDA
They were both close friends with my parents. He's also
my Godfather.

JIM
Who? The President?

Delivery men walk past Jim and Amanda with several arrangements of flowers and balloon
arrangements. They enter Bobby's

HOSPITAL ROOM
and start placing the arrangements all around the room. Bobby is sitting up in the bed.
Gloria directs the men placing the arrangements.

GLORIA
Over on the window sill will be fine . . . Doesn't Amanda
look good?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

BOBBY
(to Gloria)
Is that the girl Jim's been keepin' secret? ...

A nurse walks in.

BOBBY
(to nurse)
Miss can you have these decorations sent to the pediatric
wards . . . I won't be stayin'--

GLORIA
You're stayin' in that bed, Mr. until the doctor says otherwise.

INT - JIM'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jim and Amanda enter the apartment. Amanda walks to the window and stares out. Jim
walks into the

BEDROOM

and begins undressing.

JIM
I need a shower. We can go out and get something to eat,
if you're hungry?

AMANDA (O.C.)
I'd rather order in.

JIM
Sure . . . There's a pizza and Chinese menu on the
counter. Pick your flavor.

AMANDA (O.C.)
Chinese sounds good.

JIM
Tell them to put it on my account.

AMANDA (O.C.)
Shrimp chow okay?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

JIM
Get some Won-ton to go with it.

Jim walks into the

BATHROOM

He turns on the shower, steps in and starts to lather up. A few moments later Amanda enters the room, naked, and joins him in the shower. She kisses him passionately and he responds. They make love, going from the shower into the

BEDROOM

where they continue lovemaking on the bed.

EXT - ASPEN AIRPORT - NIGHT

SUPERED: Aspen, Colorado; One Week Later

Bobby, Gloria, Henry, Jim and Amanda exit the terminal with Gloria's dog. A limousine DRIVER stands by the car and assists them with the luggage. Bobby and Gloria climb into the car with the dog while the others finish putting the luggage into the car trunk. Jim, Amanda and Henry get into the vehicle and the driver walks to the front of the car, opens the door, gets in and drives away into traffic.

EXT - ASPEN - HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

SUPERED: Aspen, Colorado; Aspen Lodge

Alex is walking with his WIFE (CATHERINE) and two SECRET SERVICE AGENTS toward the restaurant. They enter the dining room and are seated at a table. JERRY enters with his WIFE (NICOLE) and joins them.

EXT - ASPEN - AMANDA'S CHALET - NIGHT

The limousine turns into the driveway and stops in front of the house. Maria, opens the front door to the chalet and greets them. The driver, Jim and Henry remain outside collecting the luggage while Gloria, Bobby and Amanda with the dog enter the house.

INT - ASPEN - AMANDA'S CHALET - NIGHT

Maria helps Gloria and Bobby with their coats. They all walk into the living room area and sit down. Jim and Henry walk in with the driver carrying the luggage. Jim tips the driver and he leaves. Amanda introduces everyone to Maria.

AMANDA

Maria, this is Henry, Senator Bobby Johnson,
Gloria Vanderberg and of course Congressman Jim
Morgan.

The dog barks.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm sorry little guy . . . and this is Shep.

MARIA

I remember the Senator and Ms. Vanderberg, Miss Amanda
from a long time ago when they came to visit your parents.

BOBBY

And I remember you too . . . Especially your Mexican
chili.

GLORIA

And you're not gettin' any either . . . Doctors orders, bland diet.
Henry will cook for the Senator, Maria, if you don't mind.

BOBBY

But I love chili.

MARIA

No, I don't mind. Henry, want to see the kitchen?

HENRY

(to Bobby)

Don't fret Sir. I'll get the recipe from her.

Henry and Maria exit into the kitchen.

JIM

How long have you all known each other?

BOBBY

Amanda's daddy was a Staffer for the Johnson
Administration. Her mama was his Executive Assistant.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

GLORIA

Amanda, you were about eighteen years old the last time we saw you with Martin at memorial service for your parents. I hardly recognized you when you walked in the hospital room.

BOBBY

Your parents loved this house.

GLORIA

So do Martin and the First Lady.

JIM

They stayed here too?

AMANDA

And if I remember the stories correctly, they never did succeed in getting you out on the slopes.

BOBBY

Not me . . . I'm no skier.

JIM

That's cause you're a Texan—

BOBBY

Hogwash! I'm afraid of heights.

AMANDA

(to Jim)

Are you trying to get out of going skiing with me?

JIM

Absolutely.

Amanda and Jim are on top of the bunny slopes getting ready to go down the hill. Amanda goes first and Jim follows slowly. He falls and Amanda helps him up. They try again and Jim falls a few more times until he makes it to the bottom of the slope. He's determined to go to the bigger mountain. Amanda brings him back to the bunny slope. They go down again. This time Jim doesn't fall. Alex, Jerry, Nicole and Catherine walk up to them.

JERRY

Hey, Jim, Amanda. What are you doing Jim? Trying to kill yourself?

JIM

What are you doing up here?

JERRY

You've met the Vice President and his wife? Haven't you?

JIM

Not socially.

JERRY

Amanda, Jim, you know my wife Nicole and the Vice President and his wife Catherine. Alex, this is Amanda O'Brian.

ALEX

We've met.

AMANDA

Really? I don't recall. Where?

They all shake hands. Alex smirks at Jim.

ALEX

Learning to ski?

JIM

Yeah, but sliding isn't one of my better sports.

ALEX

Really? What is your sport?

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

JIM

Football. I enjoy a sport that kick's ass.

ALEX

Yeah I do too.

AMANDA

We really must get going—

CATHERINE

(to Jim)

It's nice to finally meet you. I've heard so much about you recently in the press. I would like to wish you the best with your tax repeal effort.

JIM

Thank you.

CATHERINE

(to Alex)

Come on, Darling. We did come up here to ski.
Amanda, enjoy your day—

AMANDA

Thank you I will, you too.

Alex, Catherine, Jerry and his wife walk toward the ski lift. Amanda and Jim watch them as they leave.

JIM

Do you think she knew about your affair with him?

AMANDA

She knew.

Alex and Catherine get on line for the ski lift with Jerry and his wife. Alex and Catherine slide into the

SKI LIFT CAR # 1

first. Jerry and his wife follow on the second lift.

CATHERINE

Looks like your losing twice to him, Darling

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

ALEX

What? I don't know what your talking about?

CATHERINE

Sure you do.

SKI LIFT CAR #2

NICOLE

What's going on?

JERRY

With what?

NICOLE

Do you think Catherine's that stupid? She knew he was seeing her.

JERRY

He's a powerful man.

NICOLE

Not without Catherine's family financing him.

JERRY

He's going to be the next President.

NICOLE

Not if Catherine's Daddy and his friends pull their support. Alex is playing close to the edge with them.

JERRY

Mark my words, if he loses the next election, this country wouldn't survive his wrath. He's uses his power of office to connect with some very dangerous people.

NICOLE

And you?

JERRY

I'm in and there is no way out for you either.

SUPERED: THREE DAYS LATER

A limousine pulls into the driveway. Jim and Henry exit the front entrance carrying luggage and walk to the limousine. The DRIVER steps out and opens the trunk to help load the luggage. Gloria walks out of the house carrying Rusty in her arms. Bobby is behind her. Amanda walks out of the house and to the limousine with Gloria and Bobby. She gives them a hug and goes to Jim. Maria watches from the window and waves a good-bye to them.

AMANDA

I'm going to miss you.

JIM

I'll be back in a couple weeks . . . You're sure you don't want to come back with us?

AMANDA

Not this trip—

JIM

I won't pressure you . . . But I'll miss you.

AMANDA

I'll call.

JIM

Every day?

AMANDA

Before you go to work and before you go to sleep.

They kiss.

GLORIA

Amanda you'll have to make arrangements to come to Texas with Maria after the repeal passes.

AMANDA

I'd like that.

HENRY

So would I.

CONTINUED . . .

BOBBY
(to Henry)
Did you get the recipe?

HENRY
It's in my pocket.

BOBBY
(to Amanda)
Your mama and papa would be happy for you if they knew
you hooked up with a guy like Jim.

AMANDA
Yeah, he's better than my last choice of companions.

BOBBY
That's water under the bridge, Sweetheart.

GLORIA
I can't wait until next election. I want to witness for myself his
departure from office.

BOBBY
Ut-Oh . . . Don't get started on him, Honey. We'll miss our
flight. Bye Amanda. We'll see you soon.

GLORIA
Thanks again, Sugar, for having us. It did the Senator good
to get away from Washington a few days.

AMANDA
And this is the place to do it. You're welcome back anytime.

Jim kisses' Amanda again then follows Bobby, Gloria and Henry into the limousine. Amanda watches and waves good-byes as they leave. She walks back to the house. The limousine drives out of the driveway and passes a Four-runner parked in the woods on the side of the street. The Four-runner waits for the limousine to pass before FOUR MEN dressed in dark clothes get out of the vehicle carrying black bags and walk toward Amanda's chalet.

Maria takes dishes into the kitchen and Amanda puts more wood on the fire.

AMANDA

Maria, do we need anything at the store besides milk?

MARIA

A dozen eggs and more coffee.

AMANDA

Do you think I should have gone with him?

Amanda enters the

KITCHEN

and hand's Maria dishes.

AMANDA

Maybe not. What do you think?

MARIA

I think you should have gone. Washington is a big town. You wouldn't have to see Alex if you didn't want too?

AMANDA

True. But they do work in the same circles. I don't want to embarrass Jim with my past.

MARIA

I think he's thinking more about your future.

AMANDA

Really?

MARIA

It's simple, Miss Amanda, he's in love with you.

AMANDA

Simple in my life is not normal, Maria.

MARIA

It could be if you would let go of the past.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

Amanda walks into the living room and puts on her coat. She walks to the front entrance.

AMANDA

Are you sure we don't need anything else at the store?

MARIA

Maybe some muffin mixes.

AMANDA

Come with me. I'd like the company.

MARIA

I have to change.

AMANDA

Go ahead. I'll wait.

She walks back into the living room and sits down.

EXT - AMANDA'S CHALET - NIGHT

The four men are in the bushes opening the black bags.

INSERT: Bomb in the bag with a timer counting down reading five minutes.

BACK ON SCENE

One of the men points to different areas of property. Each man walks in a different direction surrounding the house. They each place their bag in a different location.

INT - LIMOUSINE - TRAVEL SHOT - NIGHT

Gloria, Henry, Bobby and Jim are seated in the limousine.

GLORIA

So when are you going to pop the question?

BOBBY

I've popped the question to you several times, you keep turning me down.

CONTINUED . . .

CONTINUED:

GLORIA

I'm not askin' you, Sugar. I'm askin' Jim.

JIM

Me?

BOBBY

Don't give her an answer Jim, unless you want her to start plannin' your weddin'?

HENRY

You mean me.

JIM

Whoa . . . Okay. . . What makes you think I'm ready for marriage? We've only known each other a few months.

GLORIA

But you make a perfect couple.

BOBBY

Here we go.

GLORIA

She'd make a great First Lady.

JIM

She doesn't even want to be in Washington, thanks to Alex and what makes think she'd change her mind about that?

BOBBY

Go ahead Professor. Explain away.

GLORIA

It's simple. She loves you and you love her.

JIM

Did she tell you that?

GLORIA

Not exactly. But I know love when I see it.

EXT - AMANDA'S CHALET - NIGHT

The four men run away from the house back to the Forerunner. They get inside quickly,

start the engine and speed off.

INT - ASPEN HOTEL - VICE PRESIDENT'S SUITE - NIGHT

Alex and Catherine are having just finished having sex. Catherine stands and Alex stays in the bed.

CATHERINE

That was exciting.

ALEX

I told you I wasn't in the mood.

She walks over to the window and looks at her watch.

CATHERINE

I want a divorce.

ALEX

And I told you I'm not giving you one.

CATHERINE

Well I'm getting it anyway. You don't stand a prayer of winning the next election, Darling, so why should I stay?

ALEX

I'll get the Oval office.

CATHERINE

You're getting a divorce first.

INT - AMANDA'S CHALET - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Amanda is waiting for Maria. Maria comes down the stairs dressed in warmer clothes.

AMANDA

Are you ready to go?

Maria runs back into the kitchen.

MARIA

I just want to check one more thing.

EXT - AMANDA'S CHALET - NIGHT

Camera close up on the black bag with the bomb.

INSERT: TIMER COUNTING DOWN ONE MINUTE- TWENTY-TWO SECONDS.

BACK ON SCENE

Amanda and Maria are walking out the front door toward the garage.

AMANDA

Oh . . . It's cold.

MARIA

You should have warmed the car. I'm going back into the house until you warm the car.

Amanda grabs Maria by the arm and leads her toward the garage.

AMANDA

Come on, it'll only take a minute.

They run to the garage and get into the car. Amanda starts the engine and backs out of the garage and drives toward the road.

INSERT: TIMER ON BOMB READING FIVE SECONDS AND COUNTING DOWN TO ZERO.

SPX: The bombs go off and the house explodes.

SPX: Amanda's car loses control, flies through the air and crashes.

EXT - ASPEN AIRPORT - TERMINAL - NIGHT

Jim, Gloria, Henry, Bobby and the dog are standing by the car unloading the luggage.

BOBBY

So now you have no excuses. We're gettin' married as soon as I retire.

GLORIA

If you say so, Sugar.

She kisses Bobby. An explosion in the mountains lights up the sky.

CONTINUED . . .

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CONTINUED:

GLORIA (CONT'D)

What was that?

JIM

OH MY GOD, AMANDA!

INT - ASPEN HOTEL- VICE PRESIDENTS SUITE - NIGHT

Catherine's standing at the window and flinches slightly when the bombs ignite. Alex, startled by the explosion jumps out of the bed. The Secret Service burst through the door.

ALEX

What the hell?

SECRET SERVICE AGENT # 1

I think we should end this vacation, Sir.

CATHERINE

Yes, Darling, the party is over.

EXT - AMANDA'S CHALET - ROADSIDE - NIGHT

Fire engines, ambulances and police start to arrive. Amanda and Maria are inside the car un conscience. An ambulance races to the side of the road and comes to a screeching halt. PARAMEDICS' jump out of the emergency vehicle and run to Amanda's car. Jim's limousine pulls up behind the ambulance and Jim jumps out of the car and runs up to Amanda's car. Gloria, Bobby and Henry follow. FIREMEN, POLICE and RESCUE WORKERS work to put out the blaze at Amanda's chalet.

INT - WASHINGTON, D.C. - SENATE CHAMBERS - DAY

SUPER: Senate Chambers - Two months later.

The Senate chambers are filled with SENATORS and REPORTERS. They are preparing for a house vote.

EXT - WASHINGTON - CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

A huge CROWD fills the Capitol lawn. REPORTERS with their CREWS are setting up equipment along the exterior. Along sides of the camera crews are the NATIONAL GUARD and POLICE to work crowd control. Erected high off the ground is a monitor and scoreboard. The scoreboard has posted in large print YES and NO. The monitor is displaying a live feed from the Senate Chambers.

EXT - WASHINGTON - WHITE HOUSE - DAY

A huge CROWD surrounds the White House. A monitor and scoreboard are set up outside the front gate. SECRET SERVICE and NATIONAL GUARD surround the area for crowd control.

INT - WASHINGTON - WHITE HOUSE -DAY

The President, Jim and SECRET SERVICE walk down the hall toward the Vice President's office.

EXT - WASHINGTON - CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

The crowd grows larger.

INT- WASHINGTON - CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

Bobby stands at a podium ready to speak. Senators are seated all around the chamber.

BOBBY

Today I stand before you to offer my belief in the American justice system and the American people. The Income Tax Repeals vote that is before you today, is not only right for the people, but for the country as well.

INT - WHITE HOUSE - VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Alex and Jerry are seated in his office watching the crowd on television. The President enters with Jim and the Secret Service.

VICE PRESIDENT

What do you want?

PRESIDENT

You're resignation. It's over.

VICE PRESIDENT

You have nothing on me.

CONTINUED. . .

CONTINUED

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JIM

He does now.

Alex stands and Jim walks to him. Without hesitation Jim punches Alex in the face, knocking him to the ground. Alex struggles to stand and Jim punches him again knocking him to the floor. Jim turns to Jerry. Jerry holds his arms up to protect himself. The President puts his hand on Jim's shoulder. They turn and walk out of the office. The Secret Service handcuff Alex.

ALEX

What do you think you're doing? I'm the Vice President of the United States.

SECRET SERVICE # 1

(to Alex)

You have been accused by the President of the United States of conspiracy. Conspiracy with Militant Terrorist groups. Also for the explosion at Ms. O'Brien's home in Apsen— The President has requested your resignation—

ALEX

What are you talking about? I had nothing to do with that.

JERRY

Do you want me to call Catherine?

ALEX

It is her that is doing this to me, you Asshole.

BURN IN:

BOBBY (V.O.)(CONTINUED)

As you all know, for years the Special Interest Groups and Lobbyists have been runnin' the show for a while. Well no more . . . Today the buck stops here and we put them out of business . . . We are going to take them out of the game with a stroke of the pen when you my fellow Senators' vote to repeal the Income tax law. We are going to end the deceit, the thievery, the lies, with the support of the President. He has agreed not to sign the repeal.

The crowd is attentively watching the monitor as Bobby speaks.

BOBBY (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

Back in the eighteen-seventy-six we had a great politician whose name was Samuel J. Tilden. He ran for President as a reformer and a candidate who objected to an income tax for the people. He believed in the people of this great country and he believed in a fair tax system. He lost his bid for the Oval office by one stolen electoral college vote. He believed in reform and I think if he was here today he would champion this effort to put government back into the control of the people.

The crowd cheers.

INT- SENATE CHAMBER - DAY

Bobby is standing at the podium talking.

BOBBY

History has proven Mr. Tilden correct. He knew during his time when the income tax was imposed in England the poor with soup kitchens increased dramatically. He knew if an income tax was imposed on America, the same thing was destined to happen here. He knew Special Interest groups would benefit and he opposed the income tax effort. It may very well be the reason why he lost his shot at the White house. Mr. Tilden was a reformer. He was responsible for the breakup of Tammany Hall and the Boss Tweed Ring. Today ladies and gentlemen I pray the Senate will vote for the I.R.S. repeal and break up the Lobbyist groups and take the Special Interest Groups with them.

EXT. - CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

The crowd cheers again.

BOBBY (V.O.)

Today I cast my vote for repeal. I pray the other Senators will join me and vote to give you back the freedom of choice. A smaller government, with less mandates. A government for the people, by the people. Just like Mr. Tilden, I trust the people.

The scoreboard lights up with one yes vote. The crowd cheers. The crowd begins to sing.

(Sings)
WE WILL, WE WILL, ROCK YOU.

QUICK CUTS:

- 1) Tally board lights up again, Yes - 6 - No - 1
- 2) The crowd keeps singing.
- 3) Scoreboard, Yes - 10 - No - 4
- 4) A man holding a baby on his shoulder sings.
- 5) Scoreboard lights up, Yes - 15 - No 16
- 6) The crowd stops singing and jeers.
- 7) Scoreboard lights up, Yes 22 - No 31

QUICK CUTS: (CONTINUED)

8) The crowd begins to jeer louder. The Marines and National Guard stand alert.

INT - WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE

Watching the results on television the President appears concerned. Then he watches the numbers change.

BURN IN: Talley Board; Yes 48 - No - 32

BACK ON SCENE

The President sits back relieved.

EXT - CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

The crowd starts to sing again. A REPORTER talks to another REPORTER while looking into the camera.

REPORTER # 1
I don't know about the rest of you at home, but I thought
we were going to have some real trouble here..

CONTINUED:

CONTINUED. . .
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REPORTER # 2

With fifty votes it would be a tie.

REPORTER # 1

The Vice President have to break the tie?

REPORTER #2

I believe so.

The DIRECTOR gives a stop signal to the reporters to stop talking about the Vice President. Reporter one walks over to the director.

REPORTER # 1

What's wrong?

DIRECTOR

It just came down the pike that the Vice President's been removed from office.

INT. - CAPITOL BUILDING - SENATE CHAMBER DAY

Bobby stands with a few other Senators watching. Another SENATOR walks up to him.

BOBBY

What do you think?

SENATOR

Too close to call.

EXT. - CAPITOL BUILDING - LAWN - DAY

The crowd comes to a low hush when the scoreboard goes black. The scoreboard lights and the crowd cheers.

INSERT: The scoreboard - Yes -64 - No 36

BACK ON SCENE

QUICK CUTS:

1) The crowd goes wild.

2) The Marines and National Guard cheer.

3) INT - SENATE CHAMBER - All but thirty-six of the Senators cheer. One of the Senators opens a bottle of champagne and pours it over Bobby's head.

EXT - WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The crowd cheers when the President walks out to the balcony and waves. The FIRST LADY joins him.

INT - WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Gloria is standing with Henry watching the President and First Lady.

GLORIA
WE WON!

HENRY
It's your dream come true, Madam.

Jim walks up to Gloria and Henry. The President and First Lady come back inside.

HENRY
(to Jim)
Congratulations, Sir . . . How's your hand?

JIM
It hurts.

PRESIDENT

You and Bobby are still a thorn in my side.

Amanda walks up to Jim and the President and puts her arms around them.

AMANDA

Yes he does.

Maria stands up.

MARIA

Did you give him a good one for me too, Mr. Jim?

PRESIDENT

Right into the wall, Maria. You would have been proud.

EXT. - CAPITOL BUILDING - LAWN - DAY

CROWD

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD

WE'LL KEEP ON FIGHTING TIL THE END

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS, WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

SPX – SWIRLING INTO COLOR EFFECTS

INT. – TEXAS – GLORIA'S BEDROOM – NIGHT

Gloria, in her bed asleep, stirs for a moment, opening her eyes...She smiles and snuggles back into the pillow. CAMERA PANS to the floor for a close up of the book titled, "Tax Reform".

ROLL CREDITS

FADE OUT

THE END

