

CARSON (CONT'D)
Hopefully, we can continue this conversation soon?

Before Elizabeth can answer, Carson walks away.

ELIZABETH
(to herself)
I mean, sure. Why not? You've already seen my underwear.

End 2 →
END

16 INT. CARSON'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - TWO DAYS LATER

Carson, Sunny and Ricky sit on the couch sorting through DVDs. There's an edge to Carson and Ricky's interactions; Sunny seems oblivious. The mended beanie baby, stitches visible on its reattached arm, oversees their selections.

CARSON
No. We can't watch *Die Hard* again.

SUNNY
Why not?

CARSON
Because we've watched it ten times.

SUNNY
I like it. I know all the words.

RICKY
I do love Bruce Willis.

Carson raises an eyebrow at Ricky taking Sunny's side.

RICKY (CONT'D)
Or, we try something new?

SUNNY
Ms. Renee says there's a movie about Vincent Van Gogh. He killed himself. It's actually still under investigation. Some people say neighborhood kids shot him and he covered for them.

CARSON
Who is Ms. Renee, again?

SUNNY
My art teacher.
(beat)

(MORE)

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10/15

ELLIE
You kicked ass at the last debate.
With everyone watching the night
before the election, it could be
just the push we need.

(beat)
Why don't you take the night to
think on it? I'll call them back
and stall.

Elizabeth nods resolutely, putting on a brave face.

Ellie wheels out of the office, phone already to her ear.
Elizabeth crumples over her computer, head in her hands.

45 INT. CARSON'S OFFICE - DAY

45

The elevator doors open. Elizabeth almost barrels into Kevin
in her rush to find Carson.

Kevin hugs Elizabeth knowingly, then gets on the elevator.

KEVIN
She's in the copy room.

START

46 INT. CARSON'S OFFICE / COPY ROOM - DAY

46

Elizabeth stands on the threshold of the copy room. She takes
a deep, calming breath and straightens her jacket. Carson is
bent over the Xerox machine.

ELIZABETH
Carson?

Startled, Carson turns around. Her eyes are wet. She tries to
wipe her eyes with her sleeve and drops her stack of papers.

CARSON
Dammit!

Elizabeth hurries to help collect all the fallen pages. Both
women retrieve papers for a minute.

ELIZABETH
I--I'm sorry if I startled you.

They stand. Carson backs away from Elizabeth a few steps.

CARSON
No. It's fine. I'm just having a
shitty day. Week.
(MORE)

Start
3 →

11/15

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CARSON (CONT'D)

(beat)

I saw the press conference.

ELIZABETH

How did you--

Carson is too beside herself to feel embarrassed.

CARSON

I have you on a Google alert.

ELIZABETH

Oh.

CARSON

I know you have to do it.

Carson sinks down onto a chair next to a small table. She begins trying, futilely, to sort her papers.

ELIZABETH

Carson...

CARSON

No. I knew what I was getting into when we started... I mean, I knew you'd need to make certain choices.

She sighs ruefully and gives up on the copies.

CARSON (CONT'D)

I feel like I've failed her, Elizabeth.

Carson begins to cry.

ELIZABETH

Oh, hon. You haven't failed Sunny. She's thriving because of you.

CARSON

Not Sunny. Lynn. My sister. I promised her I'd never let anything happen to her girl.

(beat)

I can't lose her now.

ELIZABETH

You won't.

Carson looks up sharply, her sadness shifting to frustration and then anger.

CARSON

You don't know that. Ricky won't talk to me. Sunny's worried she'll have to leave the only school she's ever liked. You can't even do what you said you would...

Elizabeth's posture turns defensive.

ELIZABETH

You said you understood.

CARSON

It's just me, like always. Me and Sunny against the world.

ELIZABETH

I'm not against you. I can't change that Blanc's a jerk or that I have to be at that debate.

CARSON

Did you at least think about it?

ELIZABETH

Think about what?

CARSON

About saying "No."

ELIZABETH

I know you can't understand. You aren't--

CARSON

I'm not what? Smart enough? I don't rub elbows with the right people?
(beat)
You sound just like Greg.

ELIZABETH

What the hell?

(beat)

Just to be clear, I never promised I would tank my campaign for you. I said I would go to the school board meeting if there was any way possible--

CARSON

That is not what you said and you know it.

(beat)

(MORE)

CARSON (CONT'D)

Look, I don't expect you to sacrifice anything. People like you don't do that. I get it.

(beat)

It would have been nice, though, to know you'd thought about it.

ELIZABETH

I think about you and Sunny all the time! I come home early from the office for you, I bring dinner over, I support you in every--

CARSON

You said you fucking loved me!

ELIZABETH

That is *not* fair. I'm trying...I'm trying to get my dream job. A job that will help all of us in the long run! How can you possibly hold that against me?

CARSON

And I'm just trying to keep my kid! Jesus. You don't get it.

(beat)

Look, I'll make it easy for you. You don't have to come. In fact, I...I don't want you there.

ELIZABETH

Can you calm down? If it means that much to you, I'll...I'll call Ellie. See if there's any way--

CARSON

I'm done, Elizabeth. I'm out.

ELIZABETH

What? If you push me away now...

CARSON

If I push you away, what?

(beat)

What else can you possibly take from me?

Elizabeth stands over Carson, still sitting at the table.

ELIZABETH

I don't need this before the biggest night of my life.

Day of Page Casting

CARSON

And I don't need yet another person letting me and Sunny down.

ELIZABETH

Wow.

(beat)

You clearly want me to go.

CARSON

I didn't invite you in! Your rich boyfriend's bit-on-the-side stole my father's video.

ELIZABETH

So much for gratitude. All I ever tried to do--

CARSON

Gratitude? For fuck's sake, Elizabeth!

ELIZABETH

Fine. I get it. You don't want me to come, I won't come. I guess love isn't enough, huh? Because you said you loved me, too.

Elizabeth pulls her jacket tightly over her chest. She moves a stray hair out of her face. She turns toward the door.

CARSON

And don't you dare use Sunny as part of your "educational platform" anymore. She is not a fucking prop!

Elizabeth stops for a moment, contemplating a response. Finally, she takes a deep breath and silently walks away.

As soon as Elizabeth has left the room, Carson begins to cry in earnest.

End 3

END



47 EXT. DOG PARK - DAY - A WEEK LATER

47

A beautiful fall day finds Elizabeth and Renee in the dog park sitting on a bench. They watch Poe sniff at grass nearby, then bump into another small dog.

Elizabeth is dressed as if she could give a press conference at any moment, but she's clearly exhausted.

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15/15