

Untitled Carlock/Danson/Fey Pilot

Written by  
Robert Carlock  
&  
Tina Fey

Writer's Draft 7/11/19

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

We PAN off the seal of the City of Los Angeles to find NEIL BREMER striding towards camera. Behind him, NITHIA SINGH and TOMMY PIERRE, young and ambitious, lead a pack of LACKEYS. Neil marches around a corner, nods at SUBORDINATES. He exudes confidence. He rounds another corner. And another.

NEIL  
(not stopping)  
You do realize I'm lost, right?

TOMMY  
(jumping on it)  
It's this way, sir --

He steers Neil in the right direction. Nithia leans in.

NITHIA  
Sir, I've prepared some talking points. Should I just go ahead and throw them away?

NEIL  
Yes, Nithia, thank you.

NITHIA  
Okay, great, well just remember to emphasize job creation and please don't try to speak Spanish again.

NEIL  
It's not my fault "pero" means "dog" and "but". That's just goofy.

TOMMY  
You might want to let me hold your Patek Philippe, sir.  
(off his look)  
It could be perceived as elitist.

Neil takes off his watch and hands it to Tommy.

NEIL  
When exactly did "elite" become a bad word, Tommy?

TOMMY

2001. Perry Ellis introduces Elite  
cologne. Base notes of tonka bean  
and oakmoss? Who's that for?!

JAYDEN KWAPIS, 30'S, the opposite of slick, approaches and  
shakes Neil's hand.

JAYDEN

Mr. Bremer? Jayden Kwapis, interim  
Director of Communications.

NEIL

Your hand is very warm, Jayden.

JAYDEN

I fell asleep on it!

Neil nods, "Sure," then follows Jayden into the bright lights  
of the BRIEFING ROOM. Flashbulbs. REPORTERS.

REPORTERS (O.C.)

Mr. Mayor! Mr. Mayor! Mr. Mayor!

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

A room full of REPORTERS and STAFF. Neil is at the lectern.  
Jayden stands off to the side behind him.

NEIL

Look, I've been asked the same  
questions by you folks for months  
now. Did I ever think I'd go into  
politics? No. I'm a businessman,  
and just a few months ago I was  
happily retired. I was playing a  
lot of golf. Maybe too much golf!

Behind him, Jayden offers a hearty chuckle at this "joke."

NEIL (CONT'D)

Do I think I'm qualified to do this  
job? No. I've never actually been  
"qualified" for any job I've ever  
had. But when I see a problem, I  
have to fix it. You've all heard  
the story of my friend Cesar --

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. NEIL'S BACKYARD - THREE MONTHS AGO (MORNING)

The huge lawn and azure swimming pool of Neil's Bel Air mansion. The gardener, CESAR, prunes roses. Neil comes out to read the paper. He pulls up and stares at the pool.

NEIL

Cesar, what the hell? There's  
three dead possums in the pool!

CESAR

Sorry, Mr. B. I'm shorthanded  
'cause I had to let the boys go --

NEIL

What? But who will I talk to about  
Mexican soccer? Tigres are in  
sixth right now. It's a disaster!

CESAR

The mayor raised the minimum wage,  
boss. I can't afford to keep all  
those guys. Pinche Delgado!

Neil looks down at his "LA Times". On the front page we see  
MAYOR VICTOR DELGADO, smiling, charismatic, under the  
headline "Fed Inquiry Targets Delgado Inner Circle".

NEIL

Pinche Delgado.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - PRESENT DAY

NEIL

Cesar's guys wanted to work. But  
for all my predecessor's talk about  
helping people like them, he only  
got in their way. And we all know  
how things turned out with Mayor  
Delgado.

CUT AWAY TO:

EXT. CITY HALL - LAST YEAR [NEWS COVERAGE]

In ENG VIDEO with a news bug, Mayor Delgado, flanked by a  
diverse crowd of CITIZENS, beams at the gathered PRESS.

MAYOR DELGADO

For the past three years, I have  
fought hard for working Angelenos.  
(MORE)

MAYOR DELGADO (CONT'D)

I raised the minimum wage, I put  
lottery machines in bus stops, I  
provided beach access in Malibu by  
making Sean Penn's house a public  
bathroom. And yet a partisan smear  
campaign continues to distract from  
the issues --

Two FBI AGENTS in suits push through the crowd.

FBI AGENT

Victor Delgado, we have a warrant  
for your arrest.

MAYOR DELGADO

(unfazed, still smiling)  
Well all right then!

The agents handcuff him and lead him away.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - PRESENT DAY

NEIL

So when a special election was  
called to replace him, I stepped  
up. Like so many Angelenos, I  
chose this city as my home. In  
1976, I followed a girlfriend out  
here. Classic California story.  
She wanted to be an actress but,  
hey, she didn't make it. 'Cause  
she and the rest of her Black  
Panther cell were killed in a  
shootout with the Army. Meanwhile,  
I stumbled into the outdoor  
advertising business. Billboards.  
And I put them everywhere. Then,  
when billboards started to go  
electronic and I was stuck with  
warehouses full of surplus  
billboard glue, I pivoted. Turns  
out billboard paste is the perfect  
binding agent in vegan hamburgers.  
Ever had an Impossible burger?  
You're welcome.

(shrugs)

So was I "qualified" to do any of  
that? Of course not. But I had a  
dream. And I do not give up.

(MORE)

NEIL (CONT'D)

And as your mayor, I will not quit until every Angeleno wakes up to a possum-free swimming pool!

Jayden applauds hard. The press clamors to ask questions.

REPORTER

Mr. Mayor, when will you start making appointments? You haven't named a single deputy mayor --

NEIL

And I won't be naming any.  
(off their confusion)  
Do you know how many deputies my predecessor had? Fifteen. My whole career at Bremer Outdoor, I called the shots. I took the credit, and I accepted the blame. I don't do bureaucracy. So I will have zero deputy mayors.

CUT TO:

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tommy watches Neil on an internal feed, stunned.

TOMMY

Zero? This guy is unbelievable.

Nithia joins him, not realizing that he's being sincere.

NITHIA

Tell me about it, Tommy. I've been riding this crazy train for three months. I can't believe he won. The old white guy thing is supposed to be over, right?

TOMMY

Um, no, I mean he's unbelievable in a good way. Like the trainer at my gym who has those D'Angelo muscles. Not --  
(eye roll)  
-- unbelievable like the old lady at my gym who thinks I'm her friend. I'm not. I hate her.

NITHIA

(caught, surprised)  
So you're an actual California Republican? You are?

TOMMY

Why is that surprising?

NITHIA

'Cause aren't you... don't you identify as... your orientation, I mean...

(then, annoyed)

I feel like you're leaving me hanging on purpose.

TOMMY

I was. And yes, I'm gay. So what? Small government is super gay. I don't think politicians have any business telling me what I can or cannot do with D'Angelo in an empty spin class.

(back on track, pissed)

The real question is what are you even doing here if you don't believe in Mayor Bremer?

NITHIA

Exactly what everyone else in this office is doing! Padding my resumé. Three months ago I was shooting a "Rock the Vote" PSA with Kendall Jenner --

TOMMY

How tall is she?!

(catching himself)

No, I'm mad at you!

NITHIA

But then Neil jumped into the race with all the money and zero clue and he hired me to manage his campaign! Now I'm "Interim Chief of Staff".

NEIL (ON TV)

I'm very open to the idea of a robot police force. Thank you for reminding me --

NITHIA

And if this job can keep giving me promotions, I will keep smiling and faking it like a white girl on The Bachelor.

Tommy takes her in, disappointed.

TOMMY

That's the problem with you  
millennials, so cynical. My  
generation is capable of hope.

NITHIA

What? How old are you?

TOMMY

Twenty-four.

NITHIA

I'm twenty-five.

TOMMY

Yeah, That's the cutoff.

(re: her)

Millennial.

(re: himself)

Gen Z. And you can really feel the  
difference. I'm sad that you're  
scared to believe in things. I  
think this is a new day for Los  
Angeles.

NITHIA

("are you kidding me?")

He ran for mayor 'cause there was a  
possum in his swimming pool --

TOMMY

Possums. Plural, Nithia. And I  
think that story is really about  
how empowering small business  
owners also protects animals.

NITHIA

Wow. That is adorable. You'd be  
an amazing "blame buddy" if I  
didn't already have one.

TOMMY

I can tell you want me to ask what  
that is.

NITHIA

It's someone you call your buddy,  
but when you need to, you blame  
them. And my li'l buddy's name is  
Jayden.

She points to the TV. ON THE TV Jayden is unwrapping a hard candy as Neil listens to an O.C. reporter's question. Jayden pops the candy in his mouth and immediately begins choking. No one notices and he tries not to draw attention to himself as he panics.

NITHIA (CONT'D)

Whenever I hear a bus coming, I  
just throw him under it.

Jayden self-heimlichs by punching himself in the stomach with his binder. After several hits, he finally spits out the candy into the city flag, panting. Shaking his head, he takes out a fresh hard candy and starts unwrapping it.

TOMMY

I'm gonna call you Bader-Ginsburg  
'cause you are Ruthless!

NITHIA

Hey, I'll do whatever it takes to --

CUT TO:

INT. THE GREGORY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS\* AUDITORIUM - SAME TIME

CLOSE ON a "Bremer for Mayor" poster being torn in half.

ORLY (O.C.)

Topple the patriarchy!

Loud cheers O.C. WE REVEAL a teenager (ORLY) addressing her FEMALE CLASSMATES from a lectern, homemade campaign posters behind her. A KOOKY OLD FEMALE TEACHER supervises.

ORLY (CONT'D)

Believe me, no one here is more  
disappointed in the outcome of our  
recent mayoral election than I.  
Once again, a cis-gender  
businessman wants to boss us around  
and control us all for sport and  
profit! But we at Gregory know  
"the Future is Female". Now, you  
may be asking yourself --

(attempting a voice)

-- "If the future is female, why  
are her posters pictures of sea  
creatures?"

(then dead serious again)

Because listen.

(MORE)

ORLY (CONT'D)

When I am elected sophomore class president, I will ban all plastic straws from school property. Not just because they choke sea turtles and jellyfish --

KOOKY OLD TEACHER

Cnidaria.

ORLY

-- Cnidaria. But because drinking through a straw is a phallic lie.

KOOKY OLD TEACHER

Coles mendacium.

ORLY

Coles mendacium. 'Cause we don't need to suck a tube to drink! Girls have mouths and it's time for us to use them!

KOOKY OLD TEACHER

In ora puellae! Thank you, Orly. Next we will hear from Veda Chung von Medici-Brown Simmons.

Orly's FRIENDS applaud enthusiastically and give her "thumbs up" as she cedes the lectern to another student, the glamorous multi-racial VEDA.

VEDA

Um, before I begin, I just received, like, a bonkers news alert on my phone?

KOOKY OLD TEACHER

Statements go down at the end, Veda.

(demonstrating)

"A bonkers news alert on my phone."

VEDA

Orly's idea may not be as "progressive" as she wants us to think because the literal mayor literally just said this --

Veda holds up her phone. A "Fox Kidz Newz Alert" reads "L.A. Mayor Announces Citywide Plastic Straw Ban".

ORLY

What?!

She grabs the phone and clicks on an embedded link. ON VEDA'S PHONE, we see more of Neil's PRESS CONFERENCE.

NEIL (ON PHONE)

Banning plastic straws will allow local businesses to save money and reduce waste. And listen, if fewer turtles choke on straws, there'll be more turtles for sharks to eat. That means more sharks. And more sharks means fishing gets fun. You ever hook a hammerhead?

REPORTER #2 (O.C.) (ON PHONE)

But how will we drink iced coffee?!

REPORTER (O.C.) (ON PHONE)

How will poor people do cocaine?!

NEIL (ON PHONE)

Poor people shouldn't be doing cocaine. It's a rich person drug. If you don't have a c-note to roll up, you're at the wrong party, pal.  
(then)

Thank you, no further questions.

Neil crosses off. Orly seethes.

CUT TO:

INT. GETTY HOUSE - LATER (EVENING)

CLOSE ON Orly's irate face.

ORLY

Ugh-myeee-Gawd, Daddy! How could you do this?! The straw ban is my thing!

WE REVEAL that "Daddy" is Neil, in a tux without the jacket. He is on his heels, genuinely trying to explain himself.

NEIL

Because-because... I care about the things you care -- I cared, remember, I cared about Pokémon when you loved Pokémon --

ORLY  
Dad! Pokémon is transphobic!  
They can only turn into one  
thing?!

NEIL (CONT'D)  
How?  
But it's creatures.

(back on topic)  
How could you not know this  
would be hugely embarrassing  
for me? Everyone thinks I  
just copied your straw ban  
idea! Or that you did this  
to help me win! You have to  
take yours back. You have to  
undo it. Do you even know  
what Veda said?!

I can't do that!  
Who is Veda?

ORLY  
Veda is perfect and when she gave  
her speech she said that the straw  
ban was exactly the kind of  
"frivolous" thing she would expect  
from a rich white man's daughter.  
She called us rich.

NEIL  
No, I'm rich. You're my plus-one.  
(off her look)  
What? I'm not gonna apologize for  
succeeding! You tell Veda I was  
born in a walk-up in Crown Heights!  
I slept in one bed with both my  
grandfathers!

ORLY  
Ugh! Why did you have to pick  
straws?! I hate my life! I hate  
that you're mayor! And I hate this  
gross old house!

Orly screams in frustration and exits to another room,  
slamming the door behind her. Neil calls after her.

NEIL  
You think I like this house?! I  
can't figure out the A.C.! All my  
cigars are going bad.

She doesn't answer. Neil gently bangs his head against the  
door.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - BULLPEN - SAME TIME

Tommy is now in a tux. Nithia wears a little black dress and heels. She puts on lipstick and checks her phone. Jayden approaches with a notepad.

JAYDEN

Hey, I just spoke to this lawyer  
for the city named --  
(off scribbled notes)  
-- Dingus Serpent?

TOMMY

Daniel Sargent, but sure.

JAYDEN

He was talking pretty fast, but I  
took notes.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

(trying to read notes)

He says that the City...  
Charger maybe? Or Chanton?  
Article 2, Section three-  
point-looks like a lowercase  
"L", reads "there shall be  
one First Deputy" so Mayor --  
(squinting at it)  
-- B-something has to appoint  
at least one deputy mayor --

TOMMY/NITHIA

(alternating)

Charter, Jayden.

That's probably a "one".

Bremer, man! Jesus.

NITHIA

Wait... someone has to be deputy  
mayor?

JAYDEN

According to --  
(flips back, confident)  
-- Dingus Serpent, yes.

Nithia and Tommy eye each other. Huh.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Oh also, this is happening and it  
seems kind of emergency-ish.

He struggles to turn on the TV.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Is it INPUT 1 or...

NITHIA  
(frustrated)  
You're killing me.

TOMMY  
(encouraging)  
I believe in you, Jayden.

The TV finally comes on. ON TV An intense woman of a certain age, ARPI KASPARIAN rants to an O.C. REPORTER.

ARPI KASPARIAN (ON TV)  
-- that this plastic straw ban is  
an affront to our entire community!  
And I will never allow it.

TOMMY  
What? Who is this? I hate her  
haircut.

NITHIA  
That's Arpi Kasparian. District  
Thirteen Councilwoman. She  
represents East Hollywood, Little  
Armenia, and the tent city in the  
Ralph's parking lot. But she's  
super liberal. Why would she be  
against the straw ban?!

ARPI KASPARIAN (ON TV)  
A ban on plastic straws is blatant  
discrimination --

The shot widens to include STEVEN, a disabled rights advocate who uses a wheelchair. Tommy and Nithia react. Uh-oh.

ARPI KASPARIAN (ON TV) (CONT'D)  
-- against quadriplegics or any  
Angeleno with limited use of their  
hands. They call themselves  
"quaddies" or "chairdogs" --

STEVEN (ON TV)  
No we don't.

ARPI KASPARIAN (ON TV)  
Oh, I'm sorry. My nephew must have  
been pranking me with that  
information. He is... difficult.  
(right back in, indignant)  
And they need straws in order to  
feed themselves. So I guess Mayor  
Bremer would rather starve the  
disabled than deal with the real  
problems facing this city: like  
ageism in the porno industry!

NITHIA

This is not good, guys.

JAYDEN

Someone needs to tell the mayor.

NITHIA

Yes, Jayden, and when you do that, emphasize how bad the optics are. It's day one and this straw thing is not the hill to die on, okay?

JAYDEN

Wait, me go tell him? This seems like a --

(re: Tommy)

-- Community Relations problem.

Tommy freezes, caught. He doesn't want to take this bullet.

TOMMY

But telling someone something is directing communications at them, right, buddy?

Nithia smiles. Jayden nods. That's true. Then:

JAYDEN

You guys are so smart. I'm on it. And I'll see you at the party --

("gotcha")

-- but not if you see me first!

He exits. They watch him go, smiling.

NITHIA

I hope I can count on you to back me up like that when I'm deputy mayor.

TOMMY

Okay, no. I will not let you use Neil as a stepping stone. I'm just as qualified as you and I am a world-class sycophant. Before law school, I worked on the Hill for Lindsay Graham and I was the only person he never threw his wig at.

NITHIA

Well, I majored in Confidence at Northwestern. So I guess I'll see you on the ice.

They both back away towards different exits. It's on.

ARPI KASPARIAN (ON TV)  
(re: herself)  
Mayor Bremer, take a good look at  
this. This is the face and  
surprisingly good body of the  
resistance. Aqua aerobics! No  
further questions!

CUT TO:

INT. GETTY HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Neil is trying to coax Orly out.

NEIL  
Orly! Come on, honey. I know you  
thought it was a bathroom when you  
ran in there, but it's okay to  
admit it's an empty closet. Orly?!

A nervous Jayden enters. It's just him and Neil.

JAYDEN  
(a little too high)  
Hey, buddies!

NEIL  
(confused, irritated)  
What?

JAYDEN  
~~Sorry-I-started-to-say-"buddy"-and-~~  
~~I-realized-that-was-not-okay-so-my-~~  
~~brain-was-like-"pluralize it?" --~~

NEIL  
Why are you in my home?

JAYDEN  
Amazing question. Sir, we met  
earlier. Jayden Kwapis. I was  
sent to brief ya about some stuff  
before your event this evening.

NEIL  
Right. Aren't you a little old for  
the name Jayden?

JAYDEN  
(proud)  
Thank you for noticing.  
(MORE)

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

I'm one of the oldest Jaydens you'll ever meet! Born in 1981, I like to think I might be the original Jayden. It's a combination, 'cause I was named after my father Jason and his best friend Dennis.

NEIL

(beat, to door)

Orly, your phone's out here so I know you're gonna cave eventually.

ORLY (O.S.)

Leave me alone, patriarchy!

JAYDEN

Okay, uh, Councilwoman Kasparian has got the chairdog community -- I mean the disabled community pretty fired up about the straw ban --

NEIL

(realizing she's right)

I hadn't thought about that. Well, I will personally donate steel straws to anyone that needs one --

Orly bursts out, furious, and crosses to grab her phone.

ORLY

Are you seriously talking to someone else right now? While I'm having a crisis?!

(noticing Jayden)

Who is this guy? And why is he wearing flip-flops with a suit?!

JAYDEN

They are prescription. I have podiatric claustrophobia --

NEIL

Okay, Kwapis, get someone from the Environmental Council to say how good this straw ban is for the health of the city --

JAYDEN

Yeaaaahh, turns out those folks are upset too 'cause choking on plastic straws was an unofficial cost-free way of controlling the coyote population. Without straws, they think we're in trouble. Coyote-wise.

Neil rubs his head, frustrated.

ORLY

Ungh, you have to cancel this stupid straw ban!

JAYDEN

Your wife makes a good point, sir.

NEIL

ORLY

(horrified)  
This is my teenage daughter. Ew.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE J.W. MARRIOTT - A LITTLE LATER (NIGHT)

Neil and his staff and SECURITY are greeted outside the gala entrance by Nithia and Tommy. And several PROTESTORS. The protestors carry pro-straw signs. There are NEWS CREWS, etc.

PROTESTORS

Let us suck! Let us suck!

NITHIA

Mr. Bremer, I'm gonna suggest we head straight in and not engage --

Councilwoman Kasparian is immediately in Neil's face.

ARPI KASPARIAN

Will exceptions be made for mentally ill straws, Mr. Mayor?

NEIL

(confused)  
Mentally ill people who use straws?

ARPI KASPARIAN

No, mentally ill straws, the ones that go round and round like loop-do-doop.

NEIL  
You mean "crazy straws"?

ARPI KASPARIAN  
I don't use that word, thank you  
very much. But you just did! On  
camera!

Nithia sees an opportunity to be useful and cuts in. Tommy  
and Neil hurry into the building.

NITHIA  
Councilwoman, the mayor just wants  
to celebrate his inauguration. I'd  
be happy to hear you out --

ARPI KASPARIAN  
(immediately, to Nithia)  
We want a bullet train to Glendale!

CUT TO:

INT. MAKESHIFT GREEN ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Neil does Downward Dog on the floor. Tommy sucks up.

TOMMY  
Sir, I think you handled that  
perfectly --

NEIL  
I don't like constantly being told  
I'm "problematic", Tommy.

TOMMY  
No one does. But cancellation  
comes for us all. Mine was a joke  
tweet about how I wanted Drake to  
"murder my vagina".

Nithia enters with a head of steam as Neil gets up.

NITHIA  
Well, Arpi Kasparian is not going  
anywhere. In addition to engaging  
the ACLU against the straw ban, she  
also demands the removal of certain  
"offensive city landmarks".

NEIL  
Lemme guess. There's a Reagan  
statue somewhere.

NITHIA

Close.

Councilwoman Kasparian barges in, overhearing.

ARPI KASPARIAN

Bob's Big Boy. It whitewashes the labor force and gives me sexual nightmares!

NEIL

You have a lot of issues for day one, Councilwoman.

ARPI KASPARIAN

And I can keep 'em coming, Mr. Mayor. I want to see your water bill during the 2017 drought. Why don't our homeless shelters have more pinball machines? Should weed be a vegetable in school lunches? No matter what you say, I disagree.

NEIL

What is your beef with me, Arpi?

ARPI KASPARIAN

The fact that you don't know is ninety percent of the problem.

NEIL

Okay, well, in my experience, no matter how different two people are, there's always common ground. Would you like a drink?

ARPI KASPARIAN

I don't drink.

NEIL

Where did you go to high school? We must be close in age.

ARPI KASPARIAN

I'm two years younger than you. But I'm perceived as a kooky old woman and you're still a sexually viable man.

NEIL

Thank you for noticing. Come on, Arpi, we can do this! Do you like Chinese food?

ARPI KASPARIAN

I have a tree nut allergy and the frequency of cashews is life-threatening.

NEIL

Okay, okay. I give up. What do you want from me?

ARPI KASPARIAN

I want you to step down.

NEIL

Well, I'm not gonna do that. Listen, we both got into this to serve the city --

ARPI KASPARIAN

I got into this to serve the city. You wanted your pool cleaned.

NEIL

Okay, that's not fair. You wanna know the real reason I ran for mayor?

ARPI KASPARIAN

For the giant scissors?

NEIL

I did it for Orly.

ARPI KASPARIAN

The airport in France?

NEIL

No. My daughter. Who was conceived at the airport in France.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT./INT. NEIL'S MANSION - THREE MONTHS AGO (DAY)

We see Neil looking at his pool at the end of the flashback.

NEIL

Pinche Delgado.

Orly and a school friend, CEVICHE, hurry out of the house.

ORLY

Dad, you gotta take us to The Grove, like, now!

(MORE)

ORLY (CONT'D)

I saw on Insta that Joe Jonas got  
hit by the trolley!

It takes Neil a beat to snap out of his reverie but then:

NEIL

Oh, sure, hon. Just let me -- hi,  
Ceviche -- let me get my keys.

As he exits into the house, he stops, overhearing:

CEVICHE

Why is your dad always home? Does  
he run a streaming service?

ORLY

Um, no.

CEVICHE

Did he Me-Too someone?

ORLY

No.

CEVICHE

Wait, is he the Beach Boys?

ORLY

No.

CEVICHE

What does he do for a living?

ORLY

(shrugs, dismissive)  
I dunno. Nothing?

We PUSH IN ON NEIL, gutted.

MATCH CUT BACK TO:

INT. MAKESHIFT GREEN ROOM - THE PRESENT

Neil has the same devastated look. He shakes his head.

NEIL

She thinks of me as a useless old  
man. And why wouldn't she? She's  
never seen me work. Her mother  
died eight years ago and, when that  
happened, I decided to cash out and  
retire. I wanted to be around Orly  
as much as possible.

Nithia takes this in, surprised. She whispers to Tommy.

NITHIA

This is more human than I was  
prepared for.

TOMMY

(nodding, thrown)  
He's more "father" than "zaddy". I  
don't know where to put it.

NEIL

I parented the hell out of her. I  
didn't even have a nanny --

ARPI KASPARIAN

(immediately sarcastic)  
No nanny?! Wow, we should throw  
you a parade --  
(hearing it)  
Sorry. Dead wife. Go on.

NEIL

But now I have a chance to prove to  
her, to myself, that I'm not done.  
Not yet.  
(then)  
And maybe it would be good for Orly  
to see that, in spite of everything  
she's told, white men aren't all --

TOMMY

Oh, sir, don't muddy the  
waters.

NITHIA

This line of reasoning does  
not poll well, sir.

Arpi takes Neil in, then:

ARPI KASPARIAN

So you ran for mayor to impress a  
teenage girl? Jeez, no wonder you  
buried that. It's the dumbest  
thing I've ever heard!

NEIL

What? No, I -- It's touching!

ARPI KASPARIAN

It's dumb because it won't work!  
Is she happy that you're doing  
this?

NEIL

(sighs)

Well, no, she -- She thinks I  
stole her idea for the straw ban.

ARPI KASPARIAN

You've got no idea what you're  
doing! Not just at work, but at  
home --

NEIL

Excuse me, I ran a billion dollar  
company. I know a few things --

TOMMY

(to himself)

Mmm. Back to zaddy.

ARPI KASPARIAN

Oh brother. You better not  
lecture little Heathrow like  
that. When a teen screams at  
you, all you can say is,  
"Thank you for telling me  
that".

NEIL

Okay, you messed that up on  
purpose.

NEIL (CONT'D)

"Thank you for telling me that"?

ARPI KASPARIAN

"Thank you for telling me that". I  
read a whole book about it. And do  
you know what it was called?

NEIL/NITHIA/TOMMY

"Thank You for Telling Me That"?

ARPI KASPARIAN

No. That's a terrible title. It  
was called "Teens, Porn, and Heroin  
in the Age of Trump".

TOMMY

I didn't realize you had children,  
Councilwoman --

ARPI KASPARIAN

I don't. Someone left the book in  
the Barnes & Noble bathroom.

TOMMY

(to himself)

And you finished it?

ARPI KASPARIAN

The book says you have to listen to your kids and keep them talking. And let me tell you something, if you have to choose between getting your straw ban through and making your daughter happy, you should make your daughter happy. Because you only get one go-around with your kids.

Neil considers this. A beat.

NEIL

Thank you, Arpi. That's actually pretty good advice.

ARPI KASPARIAN

(mockingly)

Oh, ya think? Is it "actually pretty good"?

(then, leaning in)

I can't wait for you to figure out why I hate you.

Jayden enters and clears his throat too loudly.

JAYDEN

Ready, Mr. Mayor? The children's choir is getting pretty deep into the Red Hot Chili Peppers' catalog.

(noticing Arpi)

Oh, you must be Mrs. --

NEIL

Kwapis, just stop!

ARPI KASPARIAN

I would rather cauterize the opening.

Councilwoman Kasparian exits. Neil gathers himself.

NITHIA

I think you really connected with her.

TOMMY

This has been a great first day, sir.

NEIL

(insecure)

Okay, I want my shiny watch back.

Tommy quickly gives Neil his Patek Philippe. Neil puts it on as he exits. Nithia and Tommy watch him exit with Jayden.

NITHIA

When I'm deputy mayor, you can hold  
my watch, too.

TOMMY

You wear a watch? Honey, you're so  
old. Do you remember, like,  
Clinton?

He rubs her back, "worried," then crosses off.

CUT TO:

ACT THREE

INT. NEIL'S SUV/EXT. L.A. - THE NEXT MORNING

Neil and Orly ride in silence in the back of Neil's  
chauffeured SUV. He watches his daughter texting.

NEIL

You missed a great party last  
night.

ORLY

Mhm.

NEIL

(beat, then)

You know, Orly, the first time I  
went into a bank to get a loan for  
my business, they turned me away.  
You know what I did?

ORLY

(heard it before)

You grew a mustache.

NEIL

I grew a mustache. I got shoes and  
a shirt --

ORLY

Were you naked the first time?

NEIL

I was wearing jean shorts. It was  
the seventies. The point is, I  
kept going back until I had a suit  
on. And they gave me that loan.  
Because we Bremers don't give up.

(takes a breath, then)

However...

(MORE)

NEIL (CONT'D)

My advisors think this plastic straw thing has become a problem and... I've decided not to pursue it. I hope that makes things easier for you.

Neil waits for his thank-you. He's not gonna get it. Orly doesn't even look up from her phone.

ORLY

Do whatever you want. After yesterday, I'm not gonna win. So I'm dropping out of the race.

Neil goes to say something, then stops. He forces an understanding smile and:

NEIL

Thank you for telling me that.

A beat. Orly, expecting a lecture, is a little thrown. She finds herself filling the silence.

ORLY

I mean, like, Veda was gonna win anyway. She's better than me at everything. Plus she's quad-racial and pansexual and her handwriting is, like, perfect. So... I just feel stupid now and I give up.

NEIL

(calm beat, then)  
Thank you for telling me that.

Orly stares at Neil, rattled.

ORLY

Is that all you're going to say?

NEIL

Thank you for telling me that.

He forces himself to stay mum as the car pulls up to school.

ORLY

Um, okay. Bye.

She gets out of the car, rattled.

CUT TO:

EXT. GREGORY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS\* - MOMENTS LATER

Orly watches the car pull away. Ceviche approaches.

CEVICHE

So did you tell your dad you're  
quitting?

ORLY

(beat, makes a decision)  
Who said I'm quitting?

CUT TO:

INT. NEIL'S OFFICE - LATER (DAY)

Neil sits at his desk, writing on a pad. He looks at a framed photo of Orly looking up from her phone to glower at the camera. Neil sighs as Jayden knocks and enters.

JAYDEN

("being fun")  
Hola, senorita --  
(immediate regret)  
Nope, no, sorry --

NEIL

Yes, Jayden?

JAYDEN

Well, Arpi Kasparillian is pretty worked up about this whole coyote population explosion --  
(“fun fact”)  
-- but not in the way you might think. She thinks the word “coyote” is cultural appropriation and wants us to call them “mini-wolves”. But also she still wants to shoot them. So you're gonna get asked about that.

Neil stares at Jayden for a long beat.

NEIL

Why are you always the one bringing me bad news?

JAYDEN

Because I do communications and that means telling people stuff.

NEIL

No, it's because Tommy and Nithia are using you. You're the fall guy. And I'm not even mad at them. At least they're trying. But you... I've seen your car. That's not the vehicle of a winner.

JAYDEN

("what's the problem?")  
It's a Fiat Lesbo.

NEIL

Jayden, I recognize potential when I see it and... I should fire you.

JAYDEN

Can I grab some stuff from the snack area first?

NEIL

Partly because you have no spine. I mean, why do you let people walk all over you? You're a man, Jayden --

JAYDEN

(increasingly hard crying)  
But I feel like everything I do is wrong now! And they keep changing the rules. Even Matt Damon got in trouble. Matt Damon! I don't know what it means to be a man anymore!

NEIL

Okay, well, we know it's not --  
(re: his behavior)  
-- this. Right?

Jayden nods, drying his eyes with the hem of his sport coat.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Yeah, the world is an increasingly tricky place. Just look around. You and I are the only two straight white men in this office.

JAYDEN

Sir, I don't see color. For real, 'cause once I was picking my nose on the Harry Potter ride --

NEIL

We're not super popular right now, and for good reason. The groping. The mansplaining and 'spreading. All the Reddits. We've made some mistakes. But that doesn't mean we give up. No, it means we've gotta do better. Be better. Earn sex. Listen more. Cool it with the celebratory sports riots.

JAYDEN

When the Rams got in the Super Bowl, I was at Chipotle and I just threw my burrito at the wall.

NEIL

But what we can't do, Jayden, is roll over and go away just because we're afraid people will get mad --

Neil pulls up, hearing it. That's exactly what's he's doing. He rips up his speech. Jayden gasps, swept up in it.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Which is why I'm banning plastic straws.

JAYDEN

But what about Orly?! She'll be so mad at you! And Councilwoman Kapersarsian is gonna be also!

NEIL

Sure. But I'll figure something out. I've spent my whole life taking lumps of coal and turning them into diamonds.

JAYDEN

Like Superman does in Superman Two and then he and Lois Lane get married forever.

NEIL

Dozens of my billboards were burned up in the 2018 wildfires. And you know what I did? I sold the ashes to the props department at "Chicago Fire".

JAYDEN  
(blown away)  
They shoot that here?!

NEIL  
I'll deal with Orly. And Arpi.  
Maybe there's even hope for you,  
Kwapis. Because right now, you're  
a lump of coal. But with a little  
help... you could be a very flawed  
diamond.

JAYDEN  
(inspired)  
Maybe I'll be your deputy mayor!  
(immediately, same tone)  
Also last night I was supposed to  
tell you that you have to have at  
least one deputy mayor but I forgot  
because I was real nervous!

NEIL  
What? Says who?

Flustered, Jayden again tries to read his own notes.

JAYDEN  
Uh, the Charter of the... "Cindy of  
Los Angeles"? That can't be right --

Annoyed, Neil marches to the bullpen and corners Nithia.  
Jayden follows, sheepish.

NEIL  
Jayden just informed me that I'm  
required to have a deputy mayor --

NITHIA  
Uch, Kwapis. Want me to fire him?

JAYDEN  
Can I get some stuff from the snack  
area first?

Overhearing, Tommy hurries up, sensing an opportunity.

TOMMY  
Mr. Mayor, this deputy situation  
may actually be a good thing. A  
chance to empower someone who  
shares your vision for the city --



ORLY (CONT'D)

Some of them brown. Anyway, I realized --

NEIL

Nothing I do is gonna please everyone. But I'm not here to please people. That's not what you elected me to do.

NEIL (CONT'D)

I'm Neil Bremer.

ORLY

I'm Orly Bremer.

ORLY (CONT'D)

I do what I think is right.

NEIL

And I'm not gonna let what's right get derailed by whoever's loudest.

NEIL (CONT'D)

The straw ban stands.

ORLY

The straw ban stands.

ORLY (CONT'D)

And if you don't like it, you can suck it. And not through a straw! I look forward to being your sophomore class president.

She tries to drop the mic but it's attached to the lectern. As she wrestles with fixing it:

NEIL

However, I also know that my job is to listen to and engage with all the voices in this great city. So I am pleased to announce that I have appointed one deputy mayor in charge of --

(reads off a card)

-- "Active Listening, Restaurant Mascot Evaluation, and Mini-Wolf Services". In the future, you may direct any policy complaints or concerns to her. Please welcome Deputy Mayor Arpi Kasparian.

A very pleased Arpi Kasparian takes the mic.

ARPI KASPARIAN

Thank you, Mayor Bremer. I hereby resign my seat on the City Council in order to accept this promotion, and I think it is --

(MORE)

ARPI KASPARIAN (CONT'D)

(eye roll)

-- "actually pretty brave" of the mayor to surround himself with people who dislike him so very much. Before I take your questions, I really want you to think about if your question is dumb.

CUT TO:

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tommy and Nithia watch the feed, shocked and impressed.

NITHIA

Son of a bitch. He got her to resign. He's... a genius?

TOMMY

I hate to say "I told you so" -- Oh no, wait, I love it.

NITHIA

Are we gonna actually, like, accomplish stuff?

Jayden appears out of nowhere.

JAYDEN

And become friends while we do it?!

He puts his arms around them, dropping his papers.

JAYDEN (CONT'D)

Whups --

He tries to bend over, his arms still around their shoulders.

NITHIA

You have to let go!

TOMMY

My neck, Jayden!

CUT BACK TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Arpi continues with Neil behind her.

ARPI KASPARIAN

Are we going forward with the straw ban? Yes.

(MORE)

ARPI KASPARIAN (CONT'D)

The mayor stands by his offer to provide steel straws to those who need them, and for all other parties, the city will provide a free educational video demonstrating how to tilt fluid out of a cup and suck it in with your mouth. You will find it at [LA\\_tiltandsuck.org/mouth](http://LA_tiltandsuck.org/mouth). Next dumb question.

CUT TO:

INT. GETTY HOUSE - LATER (NIGHT)

Neil is doing paperwork. Orly enters, home from school, and heads for her room. She stops at the stairs.

ORLY

So... I saw your press conference.

NEIL

Look, honey, I'm sorry if it makes your life harder, I really am, but --

ORLY

Bremers aren't quitters. I get it.  
(then)  
Also, I have to be at school early tomorrow 'cause I'm class president. So.

A beat. Neil is glowing with pride, but all he says is:

NEIL

Thank you for telling me that.

Orly nods, then crosses to kiss him on the cheek.

ORLY

I got homework. Love you.

She exits up the stairs. Neil watches her go, then gets back to work. After a beat, he picks up a memo, alarmed.

NEIL

Wait, we're hosting the Olympics?!

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE