

*Veep*

*By*

*Simon Blackwell*

*and*

*Armando Iannucci*

*September 2010*

EXT. WASHINGTON STREETS - DAY

The Vice-Presidential motorcade screams through the traffic. Sirens wailing, motorcycle outriders. Tourists take pictures. It looks impressive.

CUT TO:

INT. VP CAR - CONTINUOUS

Inside the car are the VP - SELINA, mid 40s - her 32-year-old Chief of Staff ANNA and Selina's bodyman GARY, 36.

Anna is checking briefing papers and talking on the phone. Gary has Selina's big bag perched on his lap and is looking at various pieces of disposable cutlery. He hands a disposable fork to Selina.

GARY

That's a fork, Madam Vice President.

SELINA

Thanks for the debrief, Gary.

ANNA

(on phone)

The VP needs at least 10 minutes with Senator Hallows, preferably 20. Well if that isn't happening you might want to make it happen in the next 5 minutes, preferably 2. Okay.

(ends call)

GARY

Actually, I meant this is one of the new cornstarch forks. I was differentiating it from the spork...

He gets a hybrid spoon-fork out.

GARY (CONT'D)

The spoon-fork.

ANNA

Just wondering if your meeting with all the senior Senators might be more important than a spoon-fork?

SELINA

Anna - congressional reform is very important...

(she examines the fork,  
bending it around)

But I also need - are you listening...?

ANNA

I am. I'm one huge ear, tuned to the frequency of your voice.

SELINA

I also need plain, simple, solid...

She tries to bend it back into shape. She can't.

GARY

I don't think...

Selina carries on.

SELINA

...solid, green policies - biodegradable cornstarch utensils in most government buildings by the fall. Senate reform's going to take years. But these...

(looks at bent fork)

...shit, do these not bend back?

GARY

They've not perfected that yet, Ma'am.

SELINA

Great. We've come up with a way people can eat round corners.

Anna's Blackberry starts beeping. She checks it. Looks worried.

ANNA

Okay...

SELINA

What's wrong? You used 'okay' like a swearword.

ANNA

Brett Kagan's blog.

SELINA

What does my bete noir have to say?

(to Gary)

Bete noir's French for 'dick.'

GARY

Copy that, Ma'am.

ANNA

He's picked up on a cutlery tweet, from us. From our Twitter guys.

SELINA

What's controversial about cutlery? Is this chopsticks, are they saying we're anti-Asian...

Anna's getting a lot of messages on her Blackberry.

ANNA

A tweet a half hour ago said "76 percent of government buildings now have cornstarch utensils! Let's make it 100! Let's make plastic utensils extinct!"

SELINA

Fuck.

ANNA

Kagan's publicized it, plastics industry are going crazy, they want meetings and statements today.

SELINA

Jesus. Which Club Class pisser tweeted that?

ANNA

Well, officially, you. It was written by a staffer, but as Selina Meyer.

SELINA

There are seven of me in that office, which me wrote it? Glasses me? Tall me? Gay bald me?

ANNA

I think it was gluten-intolerant me.

SELINA

Ryan? Well, let's fire gluten-intolerant me. Get smelly me to do it.

ANNA

And I'll set up a meeting with the Plastics & Cellulose Association. Okay?

SELINA

Sure. I'm livin' the dream. Only it's that dream where I'm meeting men from plastics.

GARY

Do you want to see the cornstarch knife now?

ANNA

Fuck the knife Gary.

SELINA

Yes, on balance, fuck the knife.

Selina holds her temples and closes her eyes. Immediately, Gary reaches into the big bag and brings out two packs of pills, holding one in each hand.

GARY  
Codeine or Ibuprofen?

SELINA  
Codeine.

Gary hands her two tablets with a bottle of water.

GARY  
Would you like them to switch off the  
sirens?

Selina nods. Gary whispers to the driver, sirens go off.

CUT OUTSIDE the car. The motorcade instantly slows down  
and stops at traffic signals.

SELINA (O.S.)  
No, no, put them back on.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

Establisher.

CUT TO:

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

A large Senate meeting room. There are about 15 SENATORS  
gathered there. There are drinks being handed round by  
SERVING STAFF. Selina, Anna and Gary are approaching from  
the outside corridor, checking Blackberries.

SELINA  
...I mean when these guys were kids, were  
they like, 'I want to work with plastic.  
Screw being an astronaut, or Donny  
Osmond, or Kissinger: my ambition is to  
make the least interesting bit of a  
cotton bud. And maybe hound the Vice  
President.'

They enter the room.

SELINA (CONT'D)  
(to room)  
Hello Senators!

Some guests start moving towards Selina. There's not as  
many as she was expecting. Gary whispers to her.

GARY

Over there is Senator Alice Dorsey.  
Husband died two years ago and daughter  
Emily just graduated Harvard.

SELINA

Which one is she again?

GARY

Two o'clock.

SELINA

I'm not a frigging sniper, Gary.

GARY

Red dress. Slight mustache. Tiny lips.

SELINA

Okay, thank you.

She beams and approaches SENATOR DORSEY.

SELINA (CONT'D)

(looking at Dorsey's upper  
lip)

Alice! Hi! So glad you could make it!  
How's Emily?

SENATOR DORSEY

She's good.

Gary throws a victory punch in the air behind her.

ANNA

(To Gary)

There are more serving staff here than  
Senators. Has this cutlery thing made her  
toxic?

SENATOR DORSEY

I see this cutlery story is getting some  
serious traction on the blogs.

SELINA

Oh, it's the plastics industry getting  
antsy. They'll be fine - as long as  
Priscilla Presley is alive they'll stay  
in profit!

SENATOR DORSEY

Right - a 'here today' story.

SELINA

(Notices an already thin  
crowd getting thinner)

Yes, unlike most of your colleagues. Is  
Senator Hallows not joining us?

(MORE)

SELINA (CONT'D)

Or is she too busy stabbing Frank in the back and taking over the Finance Committee to attend a meeting about Committee ethics?

SENATOR DORSEY

(awkwardly moving away)  
I'm guessing that's a rhetorical question? No, there's a vote on the Domestic Aid Bill coming up.

SELINA

Of course.

Senator Dorsey politely moves away, and Selina gestures to Anna and Gary

SELINA (CONT'D)

Quickly!

They crowd round her and start whispering.

SELINA (CONT'D)

I don't want to be here. Make me not be here.

ANNA

No, no, it's going fine.

SELINA

No, Anna, the cutlery story's spread, I'm suddenly a leper with a dirty bomb in one hand and a sign in the other saying 'I Hate Plastic.' This room is emptier than Gary's life. No offence, Gary.

GARY

None taken.

ANNA

It's the vote. We picked a bad time.

SELINA

It's not the vote it's the cutlery. Anna, I need 20 with Hallows and a tunnel out of this meeting.

ANNA

Shall we do a Fax and Go?

SELINA

Yes. Gary, you know what to do?

Gary nods and Selina moves over to a group of Senators.

SELINA (CONT'D)

Senators, I'm really sorry but something pretty major has just broken. Gary?

Gary comes over with a piece of paper. We can just see that on it is a large picture of a cornstarch fork.

GARY

This has just come in, and it looks big.

Selina looks at it as if it's something important, but tries to hide the picture of the fork.

SELINA

Sorry, Senators, something large and unusual's come up and I'm going to have to head back. I am the Vice President, so..that happens.

CUT TO:

INT. CAPITOL BUILDING CORRIDOR - DAY

Selina, Anna and Gary emerge from the room. Anna now has the piece of paper.

SELINA

Okay, we need to search for Hallows, but not look like we're three unemployed day-trippers from Baltimore. Aalk purposefully and briskly. You and Gary can sort of surround me.

ANNA

You want us to form a human motorcade?

SELINA

Yes.

(looking at Blackberry)

It says here 65,000 Americans are employed in the plastics industry and I'm like Jack The Ripper but with a cornstarch knife.

ANNA

Are you self-Googling? Have you got news alerts switched on?

SELINA

Of course. I want to know what people are saying about me.

ANNA

You don't. Really. Don't search on your name, or your nicknames. Really don't.



SELINA

My nicknames?

A beat. A glance between Gary and Anna.

ANNA

You have some nicknames that it's necessary for us to search on...

SELINA

What are they?

ANNA

Okay: Grisly Madam, Meyer the Liar, The Batcave, Mammary Meyer...

SELINA

Is that the breastfeeding legislation?

GARY

It is, Ma'am.

ANNA

...Pissface - you apparently make a face sometimes like you're in the act of...

GARY

Voiding.

ANNA

And then just various VP things: Vaguely Personable, Viagra Prohibitor and Visible Panties.

SELINA

I'm sorry - I *prohibit* Viagra? Because - what, because of my looks? Am I hideous?

GARY

It's just using those initials...

SELINA

Yes, to say that a chemical pill which guarantees to produce a strong, sustained erection in all men, whatever their age or medical history, is nullified by me. I don't want you searching on that nickname.

ANNA

No, of course.

CUT TO:

## INT. CAPITOL BUILDING CORRIDORS - CONTINUOUS

Round a corner. Coming towards them is a group of 7 or 8 CONSTITUENTS with DAN EGAN, Director of Communications for Senator Barbara Hallows. He's good-looking, mid to late 20s, sharp-suited.

DAN

So this would be where Senator Hallows might meet lobbyists, or...

CONSTITUENT

In the hallway?

DAN

Well, yeah, if she were in a hurry. She is always keen to meet her constituents.

CONSTITUENT

She got rid of that emergency trailer park. Those bastards won't be coming back.

The other constituents concur.

DAN

She's very effective.

Dan and his party come level with Anna, Selina and Gary. Dan looks at Anna. They have history. He stops, and so do his entourage of constituents.

DAN (CONT'D)

Anna.

ANNA

Dan.

DAN

On your way to somewhere important? That's purposeful walking.

Dan looks at the piece of paper ANNA is holding. He turns to Selina.

DAN (CONT'D)

Honoured to meet you Madam Vice President. I'm Dan Egan, I'm with Senator Hallows.

SELINA

Great, Level Completed.

(to Anna)

Anna, you want to....?

CONSTITUENT

Madam Vice President, great privilege to meet you. Can we talk to you about the Mexicans?

The excited crowd gathers round Selina.

SELINA

Sure.

(to Gary)

Are my panties visible?

GARY

No ma'am. I haven't seen them.

Selina discretely checks her skirt. Dan takes Anna to one side.

ANNA

So, Dan, are you a tour guide now? I always knew you'd make it to the top.

DAN

How was your boss's meeting? I hear the catering was a box of a dozen donuts.

ANNA

Fuck you.

DAN

I hadn't finished..."and four of those were left over."

ANNA

I hadn't finished either..."fuck you Dan. You dick." OK, that's the small talk done. Now, we know Hallows is avoiding the Veep.

DAN

Veep?

ANNA

We're pushing Veep as her acceptable nickname.

DAN

Oh, you mean, instead of She-Ra?

ANNA

We need 20 minutes with Senator Hallows.

DAN

There are a lot of people who need 20 minutes with probably the next Chair of Finance. Why don't you take ticket 98 and get in line?

ANNA

Come on Dan. Did what we had together mean nothing to you?

DAN

You know it didn't. It was just kissing and rubbing and dinner at Citronelle.

ANNA

You remember the restaurant.

DAN

It's my regular second-date pre-sex restaurant.

(to his entourage)

Ladies and gentlemen.

Dan starts to move off. His entourage follow him in sync.

A beat. Anna calls out.

ANNA

It's the SRVA Fundraiser tonight.

Dan stops, comes back. His entourage shuffle back with him.

ANNA (CONT'D)

How would you like to stand right next to the President?

DAN

She gets 10 minutes.

CUT TO:

INT. SENATOR HALLOWES' OFFICE - DAY

Dan enters Senator Hallowes' office with Selina and Gary. SENATOR BARBARA HALLOWES - a confident woman about the same age as Selina - is on the phone.

SENATOR HALLOWES

I still support him. It was an ill-advised comment and, you know, Frank's chair of the Finance Committee so he needs to watch what he says...absolutely....

Dan leans over the other side of her desk and scribbles, upside down, on a notepad. She reads.

SENATOR HALLOWES (CONT'D)

Look, we've all said dumb things in our lives. But I don't think this is a resigning issue for Frank. Okay. Goodbye.

She rings off.

DAN

Now all that guy will take from the call will be the words 'dumb' and 'resigning'.

SENATOR HALLOWES

Thanks Dan.

(she sees the VP)

Selina!

(looks horrified at Dan)

SELINA

Hi Barbara. You've not been returning my calls. You been seeing another VP behind my back?

DAN

The Senator has been very busy with extremely important legislative business.

SENATOR HALLOWES

You must remember what that was like, Selina, from when you were a Senator?

Dan leaves. Selina and Gary sit down.

Senator Hallows is drinking a coffee. Selina waits a beat, nothing is offered.

SELINA

Heard you talk about Frank there. Is this about his deficit reduction comments?

SENATOR HALLOWES

Yep. Officially supporting him, unofficially positioning to take his job after his sure-fire resignation tomorrow afternoon.

SELINA

The usual dance. Gary, could you get me a coffee from the machine?

Gary goes to leave.

GARY

Oh, I've managed to get a fresh batch of those European sweeteners you like so much. The French sweeteners?

SELINA

Thanks Gary. You're phenomenal. They're great, great sweeteners.

Gary exits.

SELINA (CONT'D)

(explaining)

I don't like them especially, they taste just like any other sweetener. Sweet. It's not like wine, you don't say, mmm, sweetener - I'm getting oak, maybe a hint of raspberries and, my, is that fennel? No, it's just a harsh chemical sweetener, but Gary puts so much effort into getting them I don't have the heart to tell the poor bastard.

A beat.

SENATOR HALLOWES

So, I love what you're doing with the whole cutlery thing.

CUT TO:

INT. DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dan with Anna in his office next to the Senator's.

DAN

You got Google alerts on all the VP's nicknames? Mrs Doubtmeyer, you got that one?

ANNA

("No")

Yes.

DAN

That's a clever one, because it implies she's both nannying and confused, which..

ANNA

(interrupts)

So Hallowes is going to get the Chair of the Finance Committee from Frank?

DAN

Probably. She wont be very good at it though. They'll want Frank back.

ANNA

Okay. Indiscreet?

DAN

She wouldn't believe you over me so I can be honest. She's mediocre. If they did greetings cards that said "You're basically adequate", that's what people would send her.

CUT TO:

INT. SENATOR HALLOWES' OFFICE - DAY

Back with Selina and Senator Hallows.

SELINA

Dan seems good.

SENATOR HALLOWES

He's great. Very loyal.

Gary comes back in with a takeout coffee.

SENATOR HALLOWES (CONT'D)

Got him from an Ohio Congresswoman. She was clearly going nowhere. You know he's dating my daughter?

SELINA

Janet?

SENATOR HALLOWES

No.

Gary writes something on the sleeve of the coffee cup.

SELINA

Of course not. I meant...(reads coffee cup) Carol. Carol Hallows, of course. Great name.

GARY

(re coffee cup)

I got you a double sleeve. Always err on the side of caution. And two sweeteners.

SELINA

You're a star.

Gary exits.

SELINA (CONT'D)

Listen, Barbara, are you on board with supermajority reform? You know I sent a personal letter to you and 20 other senior Senators asking for your support?

SENATOR HALLOWES

(picking up letter from her desk)

Yeah, I got that. Anna does your signature rather well, doesn't she?

SELINA

Yes, she does it so well sometimes I think I use her version of my signature when I sign my own name. She's good.

SENATOR HALLOWES

I need to go. Important committee.  
Remember those?

CUT TO:

INT. DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Gary comes to join Anna and Dan. He is carrying his big bag. He sits down with it on his knees.

DAN

Nice bag Gary.

ANNA

He calls it 'The Leviathan'.

DAN

You got the nuclear codes in there?

GARY

Ha, yes, you see, what I have in here may seem trivial but it is far from trivial.

He takes out two small tins.

GARY (CONT'D)

See? Two types of lip salve - one is ordinary, everyday, regular salve. But if the Vice President is in too many air-conditioned rooms her lips get radically dry, and she needs this fella, the heavy-duty stuff. Without it, she can't talk. Literally, it's too painful for her to speak words.

DAN

And I guess if she can't talk that could result in anything. Maybe war?

GARY

Very funny, Dan, but not so very far from the truth. I do do a serious job.

DAN

Sure. And all those guys who say you're just an old man holding a lady's purse - screw them.

ANNA

Dan - play nice.

DAN

Would you take a bullet for the VP?



GARY

Well, that's the security guys. My job would be to help her when she's down. Staunch the bleeding, get her painkillers and, you know...

DAN

Lip salve, right. In case she gets shot in the lips.

ANNA

Dan. Give me the ball.

DAN

But you're the one constantly by her side, so if someone were to shoot at her...you know...

GARY

Okay...

DAN

You ready for that? Hot, fast metal ripping your internal organs apart. It ain't Shiatsu.

Off Gary's worried look we...

CUT TO:

INT. CAPITOL BUILDING CORRIDORS - DAY

Selina, Hallows, Dan, Anna and Gary are walking down the corridor.

SENATOR HALLOWES

You know Senator Reeves died?

SELINA

Retard Reeves? He must have been ..91?

SENATOR HALLOWES

96.

SELINA

He was the first Senator to welcome me to the Capitol. He was old even then.

ANNA

Was he full of wisdom?

SELINA

He was full of Bourbon and he touched my left boob.

ANNA

God rest his soul.

SENATOR HALLOWES

Did you fire your tweeting guy? Because he is a *weapons-grade* retard. I think you might have been 'hoist by your own retard' there!

Selina laughs.

SELINA

I might use that.

SENATOR HALLOWES

Okay, but tell them I came up with it first.

Senator Hallows exits.

SELINA

Okay, so, good to meet you Dan.

DAN

My pleasure. Really admired your campaign, sorry you didn't get the nomination.

Anna mimes vomiting behind Dan.

SELINA

Thank you. I agree, I think we fought a good campaign.

DAN

Two things I would have done differently, but you've probably been over those with Anna.

SELINA

Two things? What were they?

DAN

Shouldn't have spent so much time in New Hampshire, that was in the bag, and attack ads in Oregon were four days too early, it looked like you were mean before you had to be. But look, I'm teaching my grandmother to suck eggs here.

(off Selina's look)

Mother..big sister to suck eggs.

SELINA

Interesting.

Selina and Gary head off.

DAN

(to Anna)

See you at the fundraiser.

ANNA  
(giving Dan the middle  
finger)  
Yup, don't forget your 'plus one'.

DAN  
(giving her the finger back)  
Yup, plus one.

CUT TO:

INT. VP MOTORCADE - DAY

SELINA  
So - what do you think of Dan?

ANNA  
Dan is a shit.

SELINA  
Okay, want to expand on that?

ANNA  
He's a massive and total shit. When you  
first meet him, you think, surely to God  
this man can't be as big a shit as he  
seems. But he is.

SELINA  
See, I...

ANNA  
It's like, if you were to see a book with  
covers made of shit, you'd think, that's  
intriguing. I wonder what's in this book  
that they saw fit to give it covers made  
of pure shit. Then you open it and -  
shit.

SELINA  
I think he's OK. I think we could use  
him for...Let's just say, I think Senator  
Hallowes has made herself a very powerful  
enemy.

ANNA  
Who?

SELINA  
Me!

ANNA  
Yes, you.

GARY  
Absolutely, you.

SELINA  
I'm the powerful enemy.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

The VP's motorcade draws up to the White House but doesn't go in. Instead it veers right to the Eisenhower Building.

INT. EISENHOWER BUILDING - DAY

Selina, Anna and Gary on their way to the VP's office. In the corridor they catch up with MIKE MCLINTOCK, the VP's Press Spokesman. He's mid- to late-40s, portly, looks like he could deck you.

ANNA  
Hey Mike - off to give the 3:30?

MIKE  
Yeah. I heard about the cutleryfuck at the Capitol. Thanks everyone.

ANNA  
Yeah, go polish that turd, Mike

MIKE  
And the plastic guy - what do you plan to say to him?

SELINA  
Oh shit, him. Okay I guess my main...

MIKE  
No, don't tell me. If I genuinely don't know, the bastards can't make me tell them. You know my motto: "I Don't Want To Know And Anyway What Motto, I Have No Motto."

On the far side of the office is JONAH, 24, one of the President's communications guys - the liaison between White House and VP. Drinks and smokes too much, wispy beard, dandruff, crumpled suit.

Jonah is standing at the window. It's one that opens only a few inches. He is smoking out of the small gap, his hand jammed outside - he leans in to take a puff, exhales through the gap from the side of his mouth.

SELINA  
Jonah.

JONAH  
Madam Vice President.

ANNA  
I know you only do that to look cool and  
get the girls.

MIKE  
You look like the guy from My Left Foot.

Selina goes through into her private office.

JONAH  
The President lets me smoke out of the  
White House briefing room window, and  
that opens the whole way.

GARY  
That one's an anti-suicide window.

JONAH  
They only put it in when you joined,  
right Gary?

GARY  
No.

Jonah flicks his cigarette butt out the window.

ANNA  
How many times have you spoken to the  
President today, Jonah? You need to  
remember so you can put it up on your  
star chart on the refrigerator.

JONAH  
Four times. In the briefing room, in the  
hallway, NSC meeting, in the hallway  
again.

MIKE  
Is that as he was trying to throw you out  
of the NSC meeting?

JONAH  
The President knows my name Mike. I doubt  
he remembers yours.

ANNA  
You know he attaches an image to a name  
to make it easier to remember? So for you  
- Jonah - he'd think of a whale, because  
you're called Jonah and you look like a  
whale.

Jonah moves over to where Anna has sat down.

JONAH

So, Anna, good new Italian place opened downtown. You like Italian?

ANNA

I love Italian Jonah. But still, unfortunately, really dislike you.

JONAH

Hey, I'm not asking you out. That wasn't a knockback because I didn't ask you out. So...

Selina has come out into the open-plane office again, checking her Blackberry.

ANNA

Jonah, you know I will never go out with you. I would rather go out with Gary than go out with you, that's how little I want to go out with you, because I would never in a million years go out with Gary. Isn't that right, Gary?

GARY

Right. You've said this many a time.

Selina looks up from her Blackberry.

SELINA

Jonah, you are, I know, a very busy and important 24-year-old. So why've you come to see us?

JONAH

The White House would like you to go to tonight's SRVA fundraiser instead of the President.

SELINA

Why?

JONAH

There's lots of bad vibes around Frank's remarks about deficit reduction, and the President doesn't want to be asked about them.

SELINA

I'm afraid I haven't the time Jonah. I have my own agenda space to tend to.

JONAH

The President is very keen that your going to the fundraiser should be, fundamentally, the sequence of events that does actually take place this evening.

Selina has no option.

SELINA

Let me make a call.

She goes back into her office, closes the door.

JONAH

We'd like you to be there too Mike, so no going home to walk the dog..

MIKE

Don't tell me what to do, Doogie fucking Howzer.

JONAH

I don't know what that means. Or the left-foot thing. And I can fucking tell you what to do because one of us backed the winning candidate in the Presidential nominations.

(Jonah starts fiddling with his Blackberry.)

Let me text you the name of that someone who does now work for the President...

(he clicks send)

...and not for the candidate who didn't win.

Mike's Blackberry beeps. He looks at it.

MIKE

'Jungle'.

JONAH

Jonah. It's predictive text. You know what I wrote. I wrote my name.

MIKE

Okay Jungle.

Selina comes back out.

SELINA

Okay, I've cancelled my date. Now presumably for tonight I need a speech and some jokes, instead of a new dress and some jokes?

JONAH

What jokes exactly?

SELINA

Just some gags to liven things up. Anna will come up with some.

ANNA

Maybe not jokes as such. Maybe more a light touch. Like Ugly Betty - it's not technically a comedy, but it has a light touch.

JONAH

No, no jokes. These are not humorous times for America.

Jonah leaves.

SELINA

You know, I'm wondering just how hard I'll weep when that guy gets his embolism.

ANNA

Okay, let's turn this - use tonight's speech to expand on supermajority reform and reshaping committees.

Mike goes to leave.

MIKE

I'll go and check if the press room's ready yet.

SELINA

Mike - what were my two big campaign mistakes, would you say?

MIKE

You looked tired a lot of the time? And that hat?

SELINA

You don't think one of them was that we went too soon with attack ads in Oregon?

MIKE

Who knows about that shit? Anyway, we got here in the end.

CUT TO:

EXT. WASHINGTON ROOF TERRACE - EVENING

The SRVA fundraiser is very busy. Lots of important-looking people chatting in small groups, a large free bar, waiters with canapes.

Selina, Anna, Gary and Mike are there. Anna and Mike scanning the room. Gary does too, but also nervously looks up, and across at other roofs, for snipers.

Gary heads towards two SECURITY GUYS.



ANNA

Okay, Senator Clements is here, you should definitely talk to her. And Bill Knight from the Speaker's office.

MIKE

Ooh, little burgers. Great. Four of those make a normal one.

Mike takes four burgers from a waiter's tray.

ANNA

I assume you're taking some of those home for your dog?

SELINA

I really need some major food.

ANNA

Is this a blood sugar thing?

SELINA

I don't have blood sugar any more. I have blood sweetener. What utensils do they have here? I can't be seen using cornstarch over plastic. Or plastic over cornstarch.

MIKE

(eating)

You could use celery as a kind of shovel?

SELINA

Bring me some lentil salad, I'll go in the corner and eat it with my fingers.

CUT TO:

Gary next to WOMAN AT DESK, who is letting people in.

GARY

I expect this is a fairly low-risk event, yeah? All-ticket affair?

WOMAN

Pretty much. There's usually one or two unknowns.

GARY

Unknowns?

Three people - one female(KATE), two male - are coming in. The WOMAN on the desk knows the female guest. She addresses the guys.

WOMAN

You guys with Kate?

The men nod.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Okay. You're not on the list, but go ahead.

(jokily)

You're not terrorists are you, 'cos Kate knows a lot of terrorists!

They all laugh. Gary looks very worried.

Gary shuffles off.

CUT TO:

Mike chatting to a YOUNG WOMAN. He stares a little too hard at her. He holds his left arm out, on which he has balanced five small spring rolls and two mini burgers.

MIKE

They deliberately don't give you a plate at these things to discourage you from getting a free dinner. But I always say - the forearm is nature's plate.

He takes a spring roll off his arm and eats it.

MIKE (CONT'D)

By the way, I'm Mike.

He goes to shake her hand with his greasy fingers. She doesn't respond.

CUT TO:

Selina is with Anna, ready to make her speech. Selina wiping lentil salad from her hands.

SELINA

Do you have my notes Anna?

ANNA

Gary has them.

Selina speaks quietly over her shoulder.

SELINA

Notes please Gary.

He isn't there. He's about three metres away.

SELINA (CONT'D)

Gary?

GARY

Sorry ma'am - do you need me?

SELINA

I need my notes. Why are you over there?

Gary brings the notes, but stands behind one of the PA speakers and leans across to Selina to hand them over.

A LITTLE GIRL is on the rostrum, playing with the microphone. Mike approaches her and whispers.

MIKE

Take a hike kid.

LITTLE GIRL

I'm sorry sir?

MIKE

I said take a hike. Defcon one.

Slightly desultory applause as Selina steps onto the podium. Immediately, people aren't paying attention. There's lots of talking, ordering of drinks.

SELINA

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen...  
(she looks at a party  
official)  
...and Tom!

A beat. She expects a laugh. There's nothing.

SELINA (CONT'D)

Aaaaahm. These are serious times. For the world and for our country. I'm reminded tonight of the late Senator David Reeves, God rest his soul...

She steps back from the microphone a little, waits for warm applause. Zilch. Selina starts getting flustered.

SELINA (CONT'D)

He died. He's dead. And I remember him saying...

The noise of the crowd gets louder. More people drift away to get drinks.

CUT TO:

Anna is with Jonah, watching Selina's speech. Dan is nearby.

JONAH

Well, this sure isn't the Gettysburg Address.

DAN

More a recreation of the tragic events that led to it.

ANNA

Could you two shut your mouth?

(to Jonah)

It's that red and yellow hole you use to seive carbohydrates through your pubey 15-year-old's beard.

JONAH

I'm sorry. Are you having difficulty hearing the other 200 people talking over your boss?

Jonah looks over at a very attractive woman a few feet away - CAROL HALLOWES.

JONAH (CONT'D)

That your date?

DAN

That's the woman I'm with tonight, yes.

JONAH

She's nice. An eight. Definite eight. I used to get sixes, now I'm in the White House I get eights.

DAN

I've never seen you with an eight.

JONAH

Oh, I get eights, believe me. I'm up to my neatly trimmed nuts in eights.

Jonah heads to the bar. Anna looks across at Carol.

ANNA

Carol Hallowses? How do you even say that? Carol Hallowses. "Hello Carol Hallowses!"

DAN

You know I did promise her she'd be three feet away from the President tonight.

ANNA

What a shame - she's going to have to be content with being, what?

(makes cock-measuring  
gesture)

...three and a half inches away from you later?

DAN

That doesn't work. As a joke. The penis, whatever size, is inserted into the vagina.

(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)

So she would be the same distance from me if my penis were small - which as you know it isn't - as she would be if it were huge - which as you also know it isn't. I have an average-sized penis.

Carol joins them.

DAN (CONT'D)

Hi Carol.

ANNA

Hello Carol Hallowses.

CUT TO:

Selina's still speaking.

SELINA

With a Senate logjam like we currently have, hundreds of Bills are getting stalled, which means millions...

Anna gives the 'lighten it up' signal - pushing the corners of her mouth up with her fingers to make a smile.

JONAH

What are you doing?

ANNA

I'm giving her the signal to make a joke.

JONAH

Don't, she's in enough trouble.

Anna again does the pushing her mouth thing. Jonah puts his hand on her face, squashing her cheeks together.

ANNA

Get your hand off me you freak!

Jonah does.

ANNA (CONT'D)

And don't tell people you got to first base with me, because that wasn't first base. That was assault.

Selina has seen Anna.

SELINA

So, I'll let you all get back to enjoying yourselves. Actually talking of enjoyment, and leisure, I just booked a holiday in Florida. Wonder if that makes me the Miami Vice President!? Or...

