

ELECTION

EXT. PARKING LOT -- DAY CLOSE ON TRACY'S EXCITED FACE

TRACY

Mr. McAllister? Mr. McAllister! Wait up
I

Jim, his tie loose and his sleeves rolled up, looks up from unlocking his car. Tracy runs toward him holding out a TERM PAPER FOLDER.

TRACY

I got all my signatures. One hundred
and fifty-eight -- way more than I need!

JIM

Hey, that's super

TRACY

Here they are.

JIM

You can put those in my box. I'll look
at them tomorrow.

TRACY

Could you approve them now? I'd like
to kick off my campaign right away, you
know, in the morning.

JIM

(resigned)

Right

He cursorily flips through the bound pages and offers them back to Tracy.

JIM (CONT'D)

Looks good to me.

TRACY

Aren't you supposed to keep them?

JIM

NO, that's fine

TRACY

I thought you were supposed to keep
them.

JIM

Okay, fine. Sure

JIM throws his briefcase and Tracy's folder into the backseat.

TRACY

Thanks for everything.

JIM

You bet.

Tracy stays put as JIM climbs in, shuts the door and fastens his seat belt.

TRACY

(cheery, awkward)

I can't wait to start campaigning.

JIM

Should be easy. So far no competition.

TRACY

Hell, you know, Coca-Cola's the world's number one soft drink, but they spend more money than anybody on advertising. I guess that's how come they stay number one.

JIM

Yeah. Okay. well, good luck Tracy

They exchange a long, curious stare. There's a tone at once confrontational and vaguely sexual about this moment.

TRACY

You know, Mr. M., when I win the presidency, that means you and I are going to be spending a lot of time together next year. And I for one would like that time to be harmonious and productive. Wouldn't you?

JIM

Sure

TRACY

Okay. That's good. I just wanted to make sure.

JIM

Good luck, Tracy.

JIM pulls away and heads for the parking lot exit.

ELECTION (2)

INT. LITTLE CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Tracy is seated in a chair. JIM hovers above her, alternately leaning on a desk and pacing.

JIM

I guess you know why you're here

TRACY

If it's about the posters, I think it's so awful. It's a travesty.

JIM

A travesty. Huh. That's interesting, because I think you did it.

TRACY

Wait - are you accusing me? You're not serious.

(indignant)

I can't... Mr. McAllister, we have worked together on SGA for three solid years and... I mean, I can't believe it. I'm... I'm shocked!

JIM stares at her.

TRACY (CONT'D)

Mr. M., I am running on my qualifications. I would never need to resort to, you know, to vandalism like a, you know... Plus, my own best banner was torn down. Did I do that too?

JIM

Were you or were you not working in the Watchdog office over the weekend?

TRACY

I was. So? Mr. Pecharda let me in. As you know, with all my responsibilities I often come in on the weekend and have permission to do so. But I left very early, around 6:30.

JIM

6:30. How do you know what time the posters were torn down?

TRACY

I don't. I just know they were there when I left. I'm giving you helpful information is all. You know, instead of wasting time interrogating me, we should be out there trying to find out who did this.

JIM

Okay, Tracy, so who do you think did it? Whom should we "interrogate?"

TRACY

well, I don't know. It could have been anybody. There are a lot of, you know, subversive elements around Millard. You know, like Rick Thieson and Kevin Speck and those burn-outs. Or Doug Schenken - what about him? Or what about Tammy Metzler? Her whole thing is being anti-this and anti-that.

JIM shifts gears

JIM

You're a very intelligent girl, Tracy. You have many admirable qualities. But someday maybe you'll learn that being smart and always being on top and doing whatever you need to do to get ahead, and yes, stepping on people to get there, well, there's a lot more to life than that. And in the end, you're only cheating yourself.

TRACY

Why are you lecturing me?

JIM

This isn't the time or the place to get into it, but there is, for just one example, a certain former colleague of mine, who made a very big mistake, a life mistake. I think the lesson there is that, old and young, we all make mistakes, and we have to learn that our actions, all of them, can carry serious consequences. You're very young, Tracy underage, in fact -- but maybe one day you'll understand.

TRACY

I don't know what you're referring to, but I do know that if certain older and wiser people hadn't acted like such little babies and gotten all mushy, everything would be okay.

JIM

I agree. But I also think certain young and naive people need to thank their lucky stars and be very, very grateful the whole school didn't find out about certain indiscretions which could have ruined their reputations, and chances to win certain elections.

TRACY

And I think certain older persons like you and your "colleague" shouldn't be leaching after their students, especially when some of them can't even get their own wives pregnant. And they certainly shouldn't be running around making slanderous accusations. Especially when certain young, naive people's mothers are para-legal secretaries at the city's biggest law firm and have won many successful lawsuits. And if you want to keep questioning me like this, I won't continue without my attorney present.

JIM draws a long breath as he tries to control himself

JIM

Okay, Tracy. Have it your way.