**AUDITION SIDE #1: PAIGE & DAVE**

DAVE Okay, so Ned is- just so you know-Ned’s not comfortable… having a lot of people around.

PAIGE What does that mean?

DAVE He’s just a… quiet guy, who likes things to be… quiet. He just kinda… works best by himself, mostly.

PAIGE This is the man who just became Governor?

DAVE Yes, but trust me, he’s perfect for the job: he’s incredibly smart, and he understands government better than anyone I’ve ever met. Believe me, once you get to know him, you’re gonna to love him.

PAIGE I’m gonna *love* him? Oh god. Now I remember, now I remember why we didn’t work well together: you’re the guy who *admires* the guy. You’re the guy who says, “Hey- our candidate? –I like him, *I’d* vote for him, so let’s not *worry* how the *campaign* is going, or what the *polls* are saying, or what a disaster his swearing in ceremony was-“

DAVE Okay, we weren’t gonna…

PAIGE No, we’re talking about the swearing-in, Dave…

DAVE It was five minutes on local television, at eight o’clock in the morning. Who even saw it?

PAIGE The swearing-in?

DAVE Yes!

PAIGE It’s online.

DAVE Right, sure, but who’s gonna…?

PAIGE I’ve watched it like nine times. I shared it on Facebook.

DAVE What? Why would you?

PAIGE ‘Cause it’s the kind of video, Dave, the kind you have to watch.

DAVE Ned taking the oath of office?

PAIGE Yes Dave! Ned Newley taking the oath of office is the most amazingly, excruciatingly painful five minutes of live television I have ever seen. This is the man who just became Governor, and in his first appearance on TV, and all he has to do is repeat back what the judge says…

DAVE Yeah…

PAIGE Just repeat the words…

DAVE Okay, I don’t need to…

PAIGE But instead…

DAVE I don’t need to *relive* this…

PAIGE He just stands there, with this look of fear in his eyes – this look of absolute terror frozen on his face… and does nothing for, for five minutes, but tremble uncontrollably, from head to toe. I mean it is impressive, Dave.

DAVE See, I didn’t… get that much enjoyment out of it.

PAIGE Honestly, in the history of politicians failing on TV, you can’t do better than Ned Newley being sworn-in. If he was sworn-in. Can he claim to have taken the oath if he didn’t say anything?

DAVE He said something…

PAIGE He didn’t say anything. He was just making noises.

DAVE No, at the end, when he’s supposed to say, “so help me god,” I definitely heard the words, “help me.”

PAIGE I’m not sure that makes him the Governor.

DAVE Ned’s just not comfortable in front of… people. And cameras.

PAIGE So politics was a good career choice.

DAVE No, listen: Ned was an amazing Lieutenant Governor.

PAIGE Because Lieutenant Governors don’t do anything.

DAVE No, that’s the point; Ned did everything. Larry Clarke is genuinely as vacant as he looks. Every good idea came from Ned: his education policy, his energy plan, his annual budgets – it was all Ned. Ned Newley’s basically been running this state since Larry was elected. I’m telling you: he’s ready to be Governor…

PAIGE Is he?

DAVE Yes!

PAIGE Then you have to get him back on television today.

DAVE No, Paige, I can’t make him do that. I *can’t*.

PAIGE Dave, there’s a reason you hired me. You knew I could tell you what happens next, which is this: there are two political parties, right?; and the other guys – the guys who don’t want Ned to be Governor? They now have a video of him mumbling and trembling for five minutes straight. And they’re going to use that to get him kicked out of office. They’re going to call for a special election to replace the Governor in six weeks. Even his own party won’t want Governor mumbles as their candidate.