**AUDITION SIDE #5: ARTHUR & DAVE**

ARTHUR Dave.

DAVE Oh. Hey.

ARTHUR I’m happy to see you up and … moving again.

DAVE What?

ARTHUR The last three times I came in here, you were lying on the floor in the fetal position.

DAVE Oh. Yeah. I think I needed some time to… process, and… grieve.

ARTHUR Uh-huh.

DAVE But I realized if we are going to fix this, we’ve got to get on it quick, so: I’ve been writing out some different options.

ARTHUR Options for… ?

DAVE Well, we need to start with some kind of retraction, obviously. The public needs to know that, despite what they heard, the woman that interrupted that television interview is not Ned’s nominee for Lieutenant Governor; she’s a temp who was hired to answer the phones. Which, although we don’t have to mention this, she never actually managed to do.

ARTHUR Have you been drinking a lot of coffee, Dave?

DAVE No – no coffee; this is just the natural energy I get when my entire world is collapsing around me. So – Retraction. There’s a bunch of tacks we could take on the Governor’s statement: There’s “I misunderstood the question,” which makes him sound stupid, but you’ll like that; There’s “My words were misconstrued,” which is completely illogical, but I’m proud of that one; There’s “The announcement was premature” where Miss Peakes is one of several candidates being considered, the rest of whom can actually do the job; And then there’s “No, no I didn’t say ‘Lieutenant Governor,’ I said …” But I haven’t gotten far with that one, ‘cause I can’t think of anything that rhymes with “Lieutenant Governor.”

ARTHUR So you’re saying she shouldn’t be the Lieutenant Governor.

DAVE Yes. Or… you could just shoot me now. What are you asking?, are you seriously?, what are you talking about?

ARTHUR I’m talking about Miss Peakes – sorry, Lulu; we’re calling her Lulu now.

DAVE Who’s calling her Lulu?

ARTHUR The administration.

DAVE The administration has a position on her name?! Why would we?, what does that even?, Why are you so calm?

ARTHUR Are you sure you haven’t been drinking coffee?

DAVE The Governor of this state – a man whose success is my sole responsibility – went on TV an hour ago and named as his Lieutenant Governor a person not only completely unqualified for that job, but completely unqualified for any job I can think of.

ARTHUR I don’t know; I think she definitely has a career in television.

DAVE You’re doing it again, you’re doing it again – just like this morning -

ARTHUR What?

DAVE You’re sitting there in the middle of a disaster, and you’re enjoying it.

ARTHUR I’m not enjoying it, I’m… okay, I’m kind of enjoying it. I mean, c’mon, you got to admit: that Lulu, she was something else. Did you see when she stepped in front of that camera? The way she just… turned on? The way those words just flowed out of her mouth? Effortless. Completely effortless. I mean… completely meaningless, but…

DAVE But what? But nothing. She was nothing but meaningless. She was making as much sense as your index cards.

ARTHUR Which is impressive, because she hadn’t even seen the cards.

DAVE No, that is not impressive. It’s not a skill to speak empty headed phrases when you have an empty head. You’re talking like she’s some politician that you’ve trained to go on TV and… Oh my god. That’s it. You think she is. You think that Lulu… is the politician you’ve been waiting for. The leader who’s “just like us.” An hour ago, you thought Ned could be that guy, you thought you could teach him to act clueless, but now… now you’ve found someone who actually is clueless.

ARTHUR Dave, don’t misunderstand: I’m not giving up on Ned…

DAVE You are unbelievable!

ARTHUR But what happened here today… that was something special. Not just her – the two of them together. I mean think about it: if the public is looking for leaders who are absolutely, totally unprepared for office? …we just found our dream team.