**AUDITION SIDE #9: ARTHUR, PAIGE & LOUISE**

ARTHUR Doesn’t it get you excited? Don’t you feel a rush? The launch of a campaign? What’s better than this? Did you see Lulu? Did you talk to her?

PAIGE Yeah, we were… going over a few things.

ARTHUR She’s, like, giddy today. She’s not nervous at all. She’s not even aware that there’s something to be nervous about..

PAIGE Yeah, she’s not aware of… a lotta things.

ARTHUR That’s refreshing, isn’t it?

PAIGE Well, it’s… I mean it’s a little… Does it worry you at all that she’s… she just seems incapable of grasping… basic concepts.

ARTHUR Like what?

PAIGE The three branches of government?

ARTHUR Well… that’s a little complicated.

PAIGE The idea of government?

ARTHUR That’s even more complicated… Believe me, Lulu knows everything she needs to know.

PAIGE Which is what? What does she know?

ARTHUR She knows how to be Lulu. That’s all she needs. That’s what people respond to. I tell you, I’ve never seen such raw talent. Her facility with language – I mean, not the English language, maybe, but political language - is amazing. Those index cards we used with Ned? She doesn’t need ‘em. There’s not a carefully calibrated, poll tested phrase in the world that can compete with whatever words come tumbling out of her mouth. The woman’s a born politician.

LOUISE (enters) Hey there! Hi! How are you!

ARTHUR She’s a natural.

LOUISE Louise Peakes.

ARTHUR It’s uncanny. Welcome to the official launch of your campaign.

LOUISE Look at all this! This is unbelievable. And balloons! Can I take one of those?

ARTHUR Of course.

LOUISE This is all new to me. I didn’t know anything about politics. Arthur said to me: it’s like working in sales. It is like the sales department of government. Except, you know, salesmen have to remember a lot of people’s names, but if you’re a politician, you can stand in front of a whole crowd and say “my friends” and everybody thinks you’re talking to them. I’d love to call everybody my friends. Or –“my mellow Americans”

ARTHUR *Fellow* Americans.

LOUISE Fellow Americans. Though I like *mellow* Americans. And I love the color system.

PAIGE Color system?

ARTHUR Yes! Like I said, Lulu doesn’t need me writing down phrases for her to memorize; she just comes up with the language all on her own. So all I’ve done is define five different categories – different types of phrases and assigned each a color. For instance yellow…

LOUISE Tomorrow is a brand new day.

ARTHUR Right. Yellow represents something sunny or positive. But if I hold up a purple card.

LOUISE This is a very difficult time for all of us.

ARTHUR Purple is dark and foreboding. Now if I hold up a blue card…

LOUISE Gosh I love this country.

ARTHUR She’ll say something patriotic. And if I hold up the green card…

LOUISE Oh, that sounds expensive!

ARTHUR She’ll say something money related. But the amazing thing is when we put them all together. Let’s pretend we’re doing an interview. Paige, you’re the reporter. I want you to ask her any question you can think of. No softballs, okay?

PAIGE Governor Newley, has expressed some concerns about the shortfall in funding for public education in our state. Could you tell us how you, as Lieutenant Governor, would solve a gap like that in the budget?

LOUISE Well, thanks for asking! And I’ll tell you. *(Arthur holds up the purple card)* Things are looking pretty grim right now. *(Arthur holds up the green card)*Sometimes I don’t have enough money for lunch. *(Arthur holds up the yellow card)* But the future looks brighter than ever. *(Arthur holds up the blue card)* Because this is America!

PAIGE Oh my god.

ARTHUR What did I tell you?

PAIGE Oh my god.

LOUISE Isn’t that fun? Boy, if I knew politics was just saying whatever popped into your head, I would have gone into it a long time ago.