**AUDITION SIDE #14: PAIGE monologue**

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 –“ We’re talking about the swearing-in, Dave. It’s on line. I’ve watched it nine times. I shared it on Facebook, ‘cause it’s that kind of video, Dave – the kind you have to watch. Ned Newley taking the oath of office is the most amazing, excruciatingly painful five minutes of live television I have ever seen. This is the man who just became Governor, in his first appearance on TV, and all he has to do is repeat back what the judge says. Just repeat the words. But instead 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 five minutes, but tremble uncontrollably, from head to toe. I mean, it is impressive, Dave. Honestly, in the history of politicians failing on TV, you can’t do better than Ned Newley being sworn-in. I mean, can he claim to have taken an oath if he didn’t say anything? He didn’t say anything! He was just making noises. I’m not sure that makes him the Governor.

There’s a reason you hired me: you know I know politics. You knew I could tell you what happens next, which is this: there’s two political parties, right? And the other guys – the guys who don’t want Ned Newley to be Governor? They now have a video of him mumbling and trembling for five minutes straight. And they’re gonna use that video to get him kicked out of office. They’re gonna call for a special election to replace the Governor in… six weeks? And I’m not telling you Ned won’t win a special election; I’m telling you he won’t even get to run. ‘Cause not even his own party will want Governor Mumbles as their candidate. So if you want him to keep his job, you have to undo this. You have to get him on TV - today – talking. Not a speech, just… five minutes of him on camera, speaking words. He can do that, right?