

Canine-in-Chief

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. RADNOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WASHINGTON, DC - DAY

A presidential motorcade nears the school.

INT. THE PRESIDENT'S LIMO

LINDA GARZA, 11, stares at her father, PRESIDENT KEVIN GARZA, 46. He resembles a Latino JFK. Garza looks over documents with his portly Chief of Staff, TYLER ASHBY, 40. TWO SECRET SERVICE AGENTS sit nearby.

LINDA

Dad?

PRESIDENT GARZA

(ignoring her)

These numbers accurate?

TYLER

So your approval rating dipped.  
Happens to every president. Ike,  
Reagan, FDR, Lincoln.

LINDA

Hey dad?

PRESIDENT GARZA

But 20% in a month?

Tyler pulls out a toothpick from his coat, works it around his mouth.

TYLER

We need to get people jazzed about  
you again.

LINDA

Dad?

PRESIDENT GARZA

More town hall meetings?

TYLER

Nah, something different. Something  
fresh. Something that really  
sizzles.

LINDA

Dad!

PRESIDENT GARZA

What is it, Linda?

LINDA

We still gonna watch a movie tonight?

PRESIDENT GARZA

Maybe.

(to Tyler)

What do you have in mind, Tyler?

TYLER

Not sure. But whatever it is, people need to see you in a new light.

Linda frowns, stares out the window.

EXT. RADNOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - FRONT ENTRANCE

Linda gets out of the limo, says a quick goodbye to her dad, walks to the school. AGENT HAL STEGMAN, 45, trails behind.

KIDS stare at her with curiosity, mutter to themselves. Linda hurries to the entrance.

KAI NORRIS, 10, a shaggy surfer kid approaches. He wears a ton of island jewelry. Baby-faced STEWART GRAYSON, 10, follows.

KAI

Dropped off by the president.  
You're big time.

Linda moves even faster.

KAI

(points to Stegman)  
Need permission from the goon to say hi?

She stops, turns around.

LINDA

Hi Kai.

KAI  
Whoa, hear that, Stewart? The new girl remembered me.

STEWART  
Yeah, she's nice.

Kai glares at Stewart.

LINDA  
Better get to class.

Linda races off.

KAI  
Yeah, the first daughter is too big time to be late, right Stewart?

Stewart ignores him. He's busy putting Visine in his eyes.

INT. 5TH GRADE CLASSROOM - LATER

MRS. SILCOX, 55, stands in front of a chalkboard.

MRS. SILCOX  
...and that's how a bill becomes a law. Now put away your books.  
(the kids do so)  
Can anyone tell me what a veto is?

Kai sneaks a glance at his textbook.

MRS. SILCOX  
Kai!

KAI  
What?

MRS. SILCOX  
No cheating.

KAI  
Don't need to. I know what a veto is. It's a crunchy corn chip. No wait, those are Fritos. I love the chili cheese kind!

Mrs. Silcox sighs. Most of the class laughs. Stewart raises his hand, his expression timid.

STEWART

A veto is when the president votes against a bill?

MRS. SILCOX

Right, Stewart! And when a bill is vetoed, it can't become a law.

Linda raises her hand.

LINDA

(showing excitement)

If the president vetoes a bill, it can still become a law if two thirds of the House and Senate vote for it. That's really rare though.

MRS. SILCOX

Impressive, Linda.

Stewart gives a thumbs up to Linda. A GIRL with enough make up to walk a runway rolls her eyes, then blows a bubble. Kai claps slowly and sarcastically.

KAI

Wow, princess knows a bunch of useless information.

The bell rings.

MRS. SILCOX

Oh, just a reminder. No one other than Kai has signed up to run for class president...

KAI

Yeah, and I'm gonna bust it up!

MRS. SILCOX

Kai, be quiet! (pause) You have one more week to submit your name.

(looks at Linda, smiles)

Some of the girls might want to consider running.

INT. WHITE HOUSE MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Linda sits by herself, looking sad, munching popcorn. Agent Stegman stands at the exit.

CUT TO THE SCREEN:

A courtroom. A MONKEY in a judge's robe and periwig slams down a gavel. The JURY BOX is filled with other MONKEYS going nuts.

CUT BACK TO LINDA

She offers Agent Stegman some popcorn. He declines. A beat. She turns around again.

LINDA  
Know where my dad is?

AGENT STEGMAN  
In a meeting.

LINDA  
Wanna watch with me?

AGENT STEGMAN  
I'm working, Miss Garza.

LINDA  
You can call me Linda.

He nods, looks away. She turns back around, looking forlorn.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

Tyler Ashby, the President, and two ADVISORS have a meeting. AGENT ROY EPSTEIN, 50, guards the door.

ADVISOR #1  
What about a new presidential  
fitness program?

ADVISOR #2  
Or a plan to explore more planets?

The Chief of Staff paces, chews on a toothpick.

TYLER  
Guys, think "new image."

A beat.

ADVISOR #1  
Hey, I took salsa dancing lessons.  
My wife thinks I'm adventurous now.

TYLER  
That's the sort of thing I'm  
looking for!

PRESIDENT GARZA  
I already know how to salsa. I'm  
Latino, remember?

ADVISOR #2  
Okay, what about surfing lessons?

TYLER  
Where? On the Potomac?

A beat.

ADVISOR #2  
My friends said I became a  
different person when I got a dog.

Tyler's toothpick drops to the floor.

TYLER  
Of course! Why didn't I think of  
that? Everyone will focus on the  
dog, how cute and fun he is.  
(to the President)  
They'll forget how you cut their  
programs. And if you get him from  
the shelter, you'll score points  
for compassion.

The President nods.

TYLER  
And who knows, Linda might enjoy  
having a dog around.

The President pauses, shows regret.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
Yeah...Linda.

INT. LINDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Linda lies in bed, flipping through a photo album. She  
stares at the pictures of herself with her mom and dad  
camping. She turns out the light.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - NEXT DAY

The President addresses a room full of REPORTERS.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
Ladies and gentlemen, my  
administration is adding a cabinet  
member...a dog!

The room buzzes. Cameras flash. Commotion.

REPORTER  
Mr. President, does getting a dog  
have anything to do with your low  
approval ratings?

PRESIDENT GARZA  
A dog will be a fun addition to the  
White House. That's all.

REPORTER #2  
Where will it come from? A breeder?

PRESIDENT GARZA  
Our plan is to adopt a dog from one  
of our city's shelters...

EXT. SHONEY'S RESTAURANT - DAY

A little black DOG with a tuft of white fur on his chest  
trots along a sidewalk. He stops, pants.

PRESIDENT GARZA (CONT'D)(VO)  
...many of the dogs in our shelters  
have had a rough life. Many have  
been abused and lived on the  
street. When I was a boy, my  
parents were evicted from our small  
apartment in Houston. We lived on  
the streets for a few months before  
my dad found work. Those were hard  
times. We hope to provide a dog  
going through hard times a good  
home.

The black dog steps to the restaurant. He notices a sign:

ALL YOU CAN EAT LUNCH BUFFET \$8.99!

The dog licks his lips, glances around.

A FAMILY of plump people approach. The dog hides. The family files inside. The dog sneaks in behind them.

INT. SHONEY'S RESTAURANT - BUFFET LINE

PEOPLE spoon mashed potatoes, fried chicken, fries, onto their plates. The dog follows closely behind, pushing a tray on the counter with his snout.

-- He bites a drumstick, puts it on his plate.

-- He dips his nose into the mashed potatoes.

-- He bats at salad with his paw.

A KID

points at the dog, then looks at his MOTHER.

KID

You told me I had to use a spoon.

A SHONEY'S EMPLOYEE

grabs the dog, throws him outside.

EXT. SHONEY'S RESTAURANT

The dog licks the potatoes off his lips, lowers his head, and walks off.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER

The President and Linda look for a dog.

A SHIH TZU

stares at Linda. She stares back. The dog yaps.

A BEAGLE

looks at Linda, then falls asleep.

A BLACK LAB

jumps around with way too much excitement.

EXT. NEWSTAND - DAY

Two KIDS thumb through magazines. A gruff VENDOR notices.

VENDOR

This look like a library?

The kids run off.

THE BLACK DOG

approaches the newspapers. He starts reading the Washington Post. The headline reads "PRESIDENT SEARCHES FOR DOG!" The vendor traps him with a milk crate.

VENDOR

Gotcha! I warned you already, read one more paper and I call the pound.

BACK TO THE SHELTER

Linda comes to a

YORKSHIRE TERRIER

Linda pokes her fingers through the cage. The dog licks them. She turns and smiles at her dad. The President turns and smiles for the photographers following them.

TV BROADCAST - UNN NEWS

JANICE CHEN, a reporter, 40, stands near the First Family and dog outside the shelter.

JANICE

Janice Chen here, coming at you live, with this special UNN Fast Break Report in high definition. As you can see, the presidential puppy has been chosen!

INT. ANIMAL CONTROL VAN

An ANIMAL CONTROL WORKER, Latino, 30, puts the black dog in the back with a DOZEN others. He shuts the door.

The dog glances at the other dogs, then raises his paw to shake hands with a BULLDOG. The bulldog just stares.

INT. LIVING ROOM OF A SUBURBAN HOUSE

A BOY plays in front of a TV tuned to UNN. The screen shows Linda with the terrier. The boy notices the terrier. His eyes bulge.

BOY  
Mom! I found Manny!

TV BROADCAST - UNN NEWS

In the background, the President presents the terrier to the boy and his mother. Linda seems sad.

JANICE  
For the President and his daughter,  
a happy day has turned  
disappointing. But not for the  
Witmers. They lost their dog two  
months ago only to have it found by  
the President's daughter!  
(presses her ear piece)  
I've just received word that Linda  
and Mr. Garza are heading back  
inside the shelter. Apparently, a  
new batch of dogs has just arrived.

INT. ANIMAL SHELTER - CAGES

The black dog is in a cage with four yapping CHIHUAHUAS. He cranes his neck, catches sight of the President.

He quickly starts preening himself. Licks his paws, mats down his fur.

Linda and Garza arrive at the black dog's cage. The black dog sits at attention and SALUTES the President.

The President does a double take. Linda bends down.

LINDA  
Did you just salute my dad?

The black dog nods.

LINDA  
Wait. Did you just nod at me?

The dog woofs.

LINDA  
Uh...was that a "yes?"

He nods again. Linda examines his tag.

LINDA  
Your name is Garrison?

Garrison nods.

LINDA  
That's the name of the Vice  
President.

Garrison nods knowingly. Linda turns, gives her dad a "can we keep him?" expression.

NEWSPAPER HEADLINE:

NATION LOVES GARRISON!

Photo of GARRISON in the Oval Office.

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY - TWO WEEKS LATER

Garrison darts around a corner. Linda follows, laughing. Stegman and two other AGENTS run after them.

A CUSTODIAN pushes a cart of cleaning supplies. Garrison sneaks onto it.

Linda and the agents run past.

Garrison hops out, runs in the opposite direction.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

VICE PRESIDENT SHERWOOD GARRISON, 60, a grump wearing a toupee, sits near the President. His stone-faced aid, JEAN RAYMER, 32, sits close by. Epstein guards the door.

VP GARRISON  
Sir, please reconsider.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
Drug companies that use dogs for testing should be punished.

VP GARRISON  
Most companies only experiment on unwanted strays from the pound.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
I just adopted an unwanted stray from the pound. I'm going to pass this animal cruelty bill.

The President suddenly coughs, massages his throat.

AGENT EPSTEIN  
Mr. President, are you okay?

PRESIDENT GARZA  
(wincing)  
I'm fine, Roy. Thank you.

BACK TO CHASE AFTER GARRISON

A GUIDE leads ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN on a tour.

TOUR GUIDE  
(pointing to portrait of Lincoln)  
Who can tell me who that is?

CHILD #1  
Lincoln!

TOUR GUIDE  
(pointing to Jefferson)  
And how about him?

CHILD #2  
That is Mr. Thomas Jefferson!

TOUR GUIDE

Impressive! Okay, here's a hard one. Who's that?

She points to Eisenhower.

Behind the guide, Garrison BARRELS down a flight of stairs. The kids yell "Garrison!" in unison.

TOUR GUIDE

No, Eisenhower.

BACK TO OVAL OFFICE

VP GARRISON

Testing on dogs would help solve pet overcrowding in shelters.

PRESIDENT GARZA

Maybe, but it's inhumane.

VP GARRISON

And leaving a dog in a cage isn't?

PRESIDENT GARZA

I'd rather keep them in a cage than subject them to experiments.

VP GARRISON

Sure you're not just worried about your approval rating?

BACK TO CHASE AFTER GARRISON

INT. STATE DINING ROOM

Linda rushes inside, scans the room. A long, elegantly set table. Chairs. Paintings on the wall. No sign of Garrison.

She runs out.

A SILVER DOME LID

on a serving tray lifts up. Four legs sprout out from underneath and scamper off.

BACK TO OVAL OFFICE

VP GARRISON

You have until Wednesday at 5pm to pass or veto this bill. That's two days to think it over.

PRESIDENT GARZA

Sherwood, I won't change my mind.

VP Garrison shifts in his chair, annoyed. Garza doubles over and gags.

AGENT STEGMAN

Sir, should I call your doctor?

The President waves him off.

BACK TO CHASE AFTER GARRISON

INT. HALLWAY

Linda and the agents are out of breath.

Garrison studies them from a distance.

They make eye contact. A stand-off. The agents start to run. Garrison takes off.

INT. CABINET ROOM

Two STAFFERS sit at a conference table.

STAFFER #1

(holding a file)

This should've gotten to the President an hour ago.

Garrison enters, bites the file, then scampers out.

STAFFER #2

I hate it when he does that.

BACK TO OVAL OFFICE

A SCRATCH at the door. Epstein opens it. Garrison crashes in, nearly knocking the VP over. He trots to the President.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
 (retrieving the file)  
 Thank you, Garrison.

Linda and the agents stagger into the room.

LINDA  
 Hi, Mr. Garrison.

Garrison the dog barks.

LINDA  
 Not you, pup.  
 (to the VP)  
 Isn't that cute? He barks whenever  
 he hears Mr. Garrison (bark) or  
 Vice President Garrison (bark) or  
 even just vice president (bark).

VP GARRISON  
 Adorable.

LINDA  
 It's like he thinks he's you.

The VP stares at the dog. Garrison stares back. A beat.

VP GARRISON  
 Mr. President, you should consider  
 putting your mutt on a leash  
 instead of letting him roam the  
 halls.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
 Over the past two weeks, I've come  
 to enjoy having him around. I find  
 he keeps everyone on their toes.

Garrison ruffs. The VP exits with his aid. Stegman stays.  
 The other agents exit.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
 (to Linda)  
 Enjoying your day off from school?

Garrison pants.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
 Not you, boy.

LINDA  
 Yeah. Wanna play with me and the  
 pup?

PRESIDENT GARZA  
The Russian President will call any  
minute now, honey.

Linda hangs her head. Garrison barks at the President.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
I suppose he could wait.

Linda beams. Garrison pants. The President stands.

LINDA  
Know what I learned today?

PRESIDENT GARZA  
What?

LINDA  
The White House wasn't always  
white. It used to be gray before  
the war of 1812.

The President chokes, sits down.

LINDA  
Dad!

PRESIDENT GARZA  
(barely audible)  
Call the doctor.

NEWSPAPER HEADLINE:

PRESIDENT TO HAVE EMERGENCY TONSILLECTOMY!

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

A flurry of activity. The ATTORNEY GENERAL chats with her ASSISTANT and the Chief of Staff. Two DOCTORS and a NURSE race around the room, attending to the President. Linda and Garrison are at his bedside. Stegman stands at the door.

LINDA  
Don't worry, Dad. Adults have their  
tonsils taken out too. About a  
million every year.

The President smiles weakly.

DOCTOR  
 (holding out needle)  
 President Garza, this will help  
 manage the pain.

The doctor gives him a shot. The President shuts his eyes,  
 grows even groggier.

ATTORNEY GENERAL  
 Mr. President, I need you to sign  
 this executive order, which would  
 make Mr. Garrison the president  
 while you're in surgery.

Garrison performs a dance on his hind legs.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
 (in a medicated daze)  
 Ha! You wanna be president, boy?

Garrison ruffs. The President smiles. He seems more and more  
 out of it.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
 (to the Attorney General)  
 I can appoint anyone I want, right?

ATTORNEY GENERAL  
 Though the 20th and 25th amendment  
 make it clear the vice president  
 takes over if the president is  
 temporarily disabled, I suppose  
 technically, you have the power to  
 appoint anyone.

The President scribbles on the paper, then collapses onto  
 his pillow, unconscious.

LINDA  
 Dad!

The doctor rushes over, checks his vital signs.

DOCTOR  
 He's fine. Just a strong reaction  
 to the painkiller.

The Attorney General picks up the document, scans it. Her  
 jaw drops. Garrison barks. Tyler picks up the paper. His  
 mouth drops.

A beat. Tyler grins.

TYLER  
(to the doctor)  
How long will he be out?

DOCTOR  
Surgery and recovery will take a  
day.

TYLER  
(to himself, in a daze)  
A dog as president for a day. What  
harm could it do? We won't let him  
pass or veto anything. The country  
will love it. The President's  
approval rating will skyrocket. (to  
Garrison) Hey Gary, ready to lead  
the country?

Garrison cocks his head at him.

LINDA  
He prefers Garrison.

Garrison barks enthusiastically.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - LATER

The press secretary addresses reporters.

PRESS SECRETARY  
Ladies and gentlemen, the President  
is undergoing an emergency  
tonsillectomy at Bethesda Naval  
Hospital.

REPORTER #1  
How serious?

PRESS SECRETARY  
The President will return to work  
sometime tomorrow morning.

REPORTER #2  
VP Garrison has taken over?

PRESS SECRETARY  
Funny you should ask...

The VP barrels onto the stage.

VP GARRISON  
Of course I've taken over!

He shoves the press secretary aside.

VP GARRISON  
I am now the President! It's a job  
I've waited and waited...

Garrison barks.

VP GARRISON  
My first act as President will be  
to put the White House dog in a  
kennel.

PRESS SECRETARY  
(in a whisper)  
Excuse me, Mr. Vice President.

VP GARRISON  
Don't you mean Mr. President?

PRESS SECRETARY  
(to VP, in hushed voice)  
Sir, we tried to locate you to  
inform you that...

VP GARRISON  
Inform me that I've become the  
President? Who else would it be!

PRESS SECRETARY  
(whispering, leaning in)  
Well, actually...you see...the  
President appointed Garrison the  
dog as the interim President.

Garrison woofs.

VP GARRISON  
You're kidding.

PRESS SECRETARY  
(in a whisper)  
No, he crossed out the words "Vice  
President" and wrote "my dog" after  
Garrison.

The VP stands there. Garrison gallops onto the stage, nearly  
knocking the VP over. He leaps onto the podium and barks.

The Vice President storms off to the

SIDE OF THE STAGE

VP GARRISON

(in a strained whisper, to his aide)

A dog can't be president! This is ridiculous!

JEAN

I'm in full agreement, sir.

VP GARRISON

I should be president. I need to be president!

JEAN

It's not right.

The VP's phone BUZZES. He looks at the number. His eyes widen. He walks into another room, answers it.

INT. WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM/OFFICE

A gaunt, older MAN in a white suit sits in a plush office. He eats licorice and talks into a speaker phone.

MAN

An update if you please.

VP GARRISON

The bill has almost been vetoed.

MAN

Almost?

VP GARRISON

Don't worry.

MAN

Oh, I'm not worried. Are you worried?

VP GARRISON

I said I'll take care of it.

MAN

See that you do. It'd be a shame if word got out that the Vice President of the United States took money from a major corporation to get a bill vetoed, don't you think?

Before the VP can respond, the man hangs up. The VP stands still, exhales.

TV NEWS BROADCAST - UNN NEWS

A graphic of UNN explodes onto the screen, accompanied by intense, synthesized music. Two mannequin-like anchors, IRA JOHNSON, 50, and JILL BISCAY, 35, sit at a desk.

IRA  
Good day, I'm Ira Johnson.

JILL  
And I'm Jill Biscay.

IRA  
This is a Universal News Network  
Fast Break News Update...

JILL  
Streaming live in HD with Dolby 5.2  
surround to wherever you are...

IRA  
Providing news in high def that you  
need.

JILL  
Top story at the moment.

An image of Garrison appears on screen.

JILL  
Presidential pup promoted to top  
dog in Washington.

IRA  
From the dog house to the White  
House...

JILL  
From playing in the yard to having  
a guard...

IRA  
From eating treats to giving a  
speech...

JILL  
He'll be using his paws to pass  
some laws...

IRA

Our own Janice Chen has more with  
this high def report. Janice?

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM

JANICE holds a mic in front of a packed press room. People  
shout questions, snap pictures.

Garrison stands on the podium, Linda to his side.

JANICE

Janice Chen here with a special  
Fast Break Report. This morning,  
Garrison, the new presidential pet,  
woke up on his doggy bed to Kibbles  
& Bits. Now, he'll sleep in the  
Lincoln Bedroom and eat fillet  
mignon. You heard it correctly,  
folks. Mr. Garza has named his dog  
as interim President.

GARRISON AT PODIUM

JANICE (O.S.)

Here is the temporary  
commander-in-chief fielding  
questions with his...uh,  
interpreter, the President's  
daughter, Linda.

REPORTER #1

Ummm...does President Garrison feel  
he's qualified to lead the country?

Garrison yips.

LINDA

(speaking into mic)  
He said yes.

REPORTER #2

What does he plan to do while  
President?

Garrison pauses, then ruffs a few times.

LINDA

He wants to make my dad proud and  
also have a lot of fun.

REPORTER #2  
Did he really say that?

Garrison nods.

INT. SENATE CHAMBER

JANICE  
Behind me, the Senate convenes for  
an emergency session to debate the  
constitutionality of a dog becoming  
president.

SENATOR MAKING A SPEECH

A wizened, southern male SENATOR gesticulates wildly.

SENATOR #1  
This is absolute madness! What's  
next? A turkey speaker of the  
house? Perhaps all of us senators  
should be replaced with snow  
leopards!

ANOTHER SENATOR

A bookish male SENATOR makes a plea.

SENATOR #2  
Who are we to say if this is right  
or wrong? Where in the Constitution  
does it say a canine can't be  
president? We should uphold the  
President's wishes.

ANOTHER SENATOR

A fresh-faced, young female SENATOR speaks.

SENATOR #3  
How do we know whether the  
President was of sound mind when he  
made this decision? The answer: we  
don't. Not until he comes out of  
surgery.

INT. SENATE CHAMBER

JANICE

As you can see, the debate rages on. Meanwhile, Garrison has wasted no time in making himself at home in the White House.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY

Garrison kicks a ball that Linda holds for him. It rolls into the gutter.

JANICE (O.S.)

Garrison was eager to try his hand...or paw at bowling in the lane installed by President Nixon.

Garrison chases his ball, tries to nose it out of the gutter.

INT. LINCOLN BEDROOM

Garrison bounces on the bed.

JANICE (O.S.)

The new President tested the comfort of all the beds. I imagine he wasn't allowed on any bed before this morning.

INT. WHITE HOUSE KITCHEN

Janice stands next to a CHEF.

JANICE

And here he is chowing down on some food specially prepared by the White House's illustrious cooking staff.

(to chef)

What's he eating?

CHEF

Something that fell on the floor.

Garrison looks up, juices dripping down his chin.

JANICE  
It appears the new President has  
simple tastes.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN

AGENTS reluctantly play fetch with Garrison.

JANICE (O.S.)  
Every president likes to get to  
know the people who protect him.  
And what better way to do that than  
playing fetch?

INT. WHITE HOUSE BATHROOM

The same agents reluctantly scrub Garrison in a fancy tub.

JANICE (O.S.)  
Or by taking a bath together.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

Garrison sits proudly on President Garza's chair.

JANICE (O.S.)  
Garrison then settled into his new  
office, where he'll hold down the  
fort until President Garza returns  
tomorrow. For UNN, I'm Janice Chen.

BACK TO THE ANCHORS

IRA  
Thanks for that special report in  
high definition.

JILL  
What a story. Only in America.

IRA  
And only on UNN. I'm Ira Johnson.

JILL  
And I'm Jill Biscay.

EXT. RADNOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - TUESDAY MORNING

The presidential motorcade nears the school.

INT. THE PRESIDENT'S LIMO

Linda plays fetch with Garrison inside the car. The dog jumps all over Stegman and the other AGENTS, going for a rope bone.

The agents remain motionless. Stegman shows an inkling of a smile.

EXT. RADNOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - FRONT ENTRANCE

She bends down to the dog.

LINDA

Be a good boy, Mr. President.

Garrison licks her face. Kai approaches, Stewart on his heels.

KAI

Didn't know your dad was so short and hairy. Oh, wait. That's the dumb dog your dad made President.

Some KIDS chuckle. Linda frowns. Garrison walks over to Kai. Agents follow the dog.

KAI AND GARRISON

stare each other down. A beat.

Kai laughs, then tries to get all the kids' attention.

KAI

Hey everybody! I made the dog president mad! Ooh, what's he gonna do, lick me? I'm real scared!

While Kai yells to his classmates,

GARRISON

ties his shoelaces together with his teeth. Garrison barks.

KAI

stumbles onto a bike rack, knocking several bikes over.

Stewart lets out a loud, high-pitched laugh.

KIDS

laugh.

Linda pets Garrison. The dog ruffs. She walks towards the school, smiling.

Stewart looks at her admiringly.

KAI

Stewart! One of these days I'm  
gonna bust you up!

Stewart snaps out of his reverie, looks apologetically at Kai.

INT. 5TH GRADE CLASSROOM

Mrs. Silcox stands in front of the class. Stegman hangs in the back.

MRS. SILCOX

Now is your last chance to run for  
class president. If no one else  
runs, Kai will automatically win...

KAI

I'll be president no matter who  
runs, boom!

MRS. SILCOX

Kai!

STEWART

(raising hand)  
Linda's smart as a whip. She should  
run.

KAI  
What're you doing, Stewart!

MRS. SILCOX  
A great idea. Linda?

LINDA  
Well...

KAI  
A girl can't win.

The boys cheer. Linda suddenly seems determined.

LINDA  
I'll do it.

MRS. SILCOX  
Good! Does anyone want to run as  
Linda's vice president?

Stewart raises his hand.

MRS. SILCOX  
Stewart, you're running as Kai's  
VP.

Stewart turns red. Kai shakes his head.

MRS. SILCOX  
Anyone? (beat) Then, I'll assign  
someone.  
(scans room, locks eyes with  
the heavily made up girl)  
Annika?

ANNIKA  
No.

MRS. SILCOX  
You and Linda are now a team.

Annika groans.

MRS. SILCOX  
You might want to get to know each  
other over lunch and discuss  
strategies and your platform. After  
lunch there will be a short debate  
between the candidates.

LINDA

Debate?

MRS. SILCOX

Don't worry, you'll do fine.

KAI

(to Linda, whispering)

Scared? You should be. In boys  
versus girls, the boys always win.

STEWART

Remember field day last year? The  
4th grade girls won tug-o-war.

Kai stares with disgust at Stewart.

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

The VP hurries to the Oval Office, his aide in tow.

He arrives, notices that a doggy door has been installed. He  
grinds his teeth.

The VP knocks. A yelp. He enters. His aide waits in the  
hallway.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

Epstein stands at the door. Garrison signs a document with  
his paw. A PHOTOGRAPHER takes pictures. Tyler orchestrates  
the setups.

VP GARRISON

What are you doing?

TYLER

A photo op for Newsweek.

VP GARRISON

What is he signing?

TYLER

A request for more doggy doors.

VP GARRISON

The mutt...

TYLER

The President.

VP GARRISON  
I will not call a dog president.

The VP and Garrison have a stare off.

VP GARRISON  
The President is only in charge for  
a day. Why would he need more doggy  
doors?

TYLER  
I thought it'd make a fun story.  
And I knew Garza wouldn't mind.

PHOTOGRAPHER  
(to Tyler)  
I have everything I need.

TYLER  
Front cover, right?

PHOTOGRAPHER  
You bet.  
(to Garrison)  
Thanks, Mr. President.

Garrison woofs. The photographer turns to Tyler.

PHOTOGRAPHER  
He's great.

The photographer exits. A beat.

VP GARRISON  
I should be sitting in that chair.

He moves toward Garrison, forces a smile.

VP GARRISON  
What do you say, pup? Let old Uncle  
Garrison be president.

Garrison sits up, studies the VP.

The VP inches closer. He removes a doggy treat from his  
pocket, tries to hypnotize the dog with it.

VP GARRISON  
Here's an idea. You get this treat  
and I get to be president.

Garrison's eyes and head follow the treat.

VP GARRISON  
This is made of lamb and beef. It's  
really juicy.

Garrison breaks his eyes away from the treat. He shakes his head.

The VP frowns, pulls out more treats.

TYLER  
Thanks for stopping by, Mr. Vice  
President, but the President has a  
busy day ahead.

VP GARRISON  
(ignoring Tyler)  
I've got more. As many as you want.  
Just let me be president.

He waves the treats in the air. Garrison stares at them intently.

A beat. The dog shakes his head again.

VP GARRISON  
(reaching for Garrison)  
Just let me sit in that chair.

Garrison barks. The VP throws the treats toward the door.

VP GARRISON  
Fetch!

Garrison doesn't budge. A beat.

VP GARRISON  
Get out of that chair!

The VP grabs Garrison. Garrison latches onto the chair.

Tyler and Epstein separate them.

TYLER  
Maybe you should leave.

VP GARRISON  
Maybe he should leave!

TYLER  
Sir?

VP GARRISON  
Oh, alright!  
(to Garrison)  
This is not finished. You hear me?

The VP slams the door. A beat.

Garrison dives onto the carpet, devours a treat.

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY

The VP walks to his aide.

VP GARRISON  
Time for the mutt to go!

JEAN  
I couldn't agree more, sir.

VP GARRISON  
Good. Because you're going to help  
me get rid of him.

JEAN  
I am?

VP GARRISON  
You care about your career, right?  
You don't want to spend the rest of  
your life as an aide, do you Jean?

JEAN  
No, sir.

VP GARRISON  
You help me and maybe I help you.

JEAN  
(slowly gives in)  
Okay.

INT. RADNOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - LUNCH ROOM

ANNIKA SHELBY, 10, sits across from Linda. Stegman stands  
against a wall, keeping an eye out.

LINDA  
Thanks for being my vice...

ANNIKA

I had to.

LINDA

Uh, is there anything you'd like to change about the school?

ANNIKA

Yeah, that I don't have to come.

A beat.

LINDA

Let's just get to know each other. How about we each share three things about ourselves?

Annika doesn't respond.

LINDA

I'll go. I'm from Houston, I like Peanut Butter Cap'n Crunch and the movie "Judge Chimp."

Annika perks up.

ANNIKA

Which one? "Judge Chimp" the original or "Disorder in the Court?"

LINDA

I think the first one is funnier.

Annika nods.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

Garrison sucks up the remaining treats.

TYLER

(checks watch)

Time for you to meet the Japanese Ambassador, which means more positive press, which means higher ratings for Garza.

Garrison starts whining and spinning around in circles. Tyler stares at him with a blank expression.

Garrison goes over to the desk, lifts his back leg.

TYLER

You can't go there! Agent Epstein,  
please take the President outside.

Epstein takes the leash, walks Garrison outside.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN

Garrison pees on a bush. The VP's aide approaches.

JEAN

Agent Epstein, right? I'm glad I  
caught you...

Jean stumbles, then hits the ground. She cries out in pain,  
massaging her ankle.

Epstein drops the leash, tends to the aide.

Garrison notices something in the distance.

EXT. SIDE ENTRANCE OF WHITE HOUSE

The VP hides behind a column, holding out a STUFFED CAT.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN

Garrison sprints off. Jean pulls Epstein down.

JEAN

My leg!

AGENT EPSTEIN

Hold on. Help is on the way. (into  
lapel) The peacock is loose on the  
lawn. I repeat, the peacock is  
loose on the lawn. And I need a  
medic for the VP's aide.

JEAN

Oh no, I'll be fine.

Epstein stares at her suspiciously. She smiles sheepishly.

EXT. SIDE ENTRANCE OF WHITE HOUSE

Garrison gallops toward the cat. He stops abruptly, several feet away.

He cocks his head to the side, staring at it. A beat.

The VP lunges at Garrison from behind the column, wraps a thick band around his snout, then slips into an open door.

INT. RADNOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - LUNCH ROOM

PRINCIPAL BOLAN, 50, steps to the front of the room.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Good morning, friends.

The kids pay no attention.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Hey there, let's turn those eyes up here and tuck that talking in your pocket for later. Come on, now. Please?

The kids settle down.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Special privileges go along with being a 5th grader, such as the chance to serve as bus loading zone assistant and participating in the science fair. But the most exciting is running for class president. So let me introduce you to our candidates. First, we have Kai Norris!

Kai struts up front. He punches the air, then does a roundhouse kick.

KAI  
Time to go crazy!

Kai claps a beat. The audience starts to clap. He dances, breaks into the robot.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Okay, settle down. Let's wrap up that enthusiasm as a gift and open it later. Friends, please? And his challenger, a late addition to the campaign, Linda Garza!

A few girls cheer. Some boys too. Mostly boos and a smattering of polite applause. Linda walks to the front.

STEWART

claps enthusiastically. A couple of LARGE BOYS give him dirty looks. He stops clapping.

BACK TO THE FRONT

PRINCIPAL BOLAN

And now for the debate. Our first topic: if you had to choose a campaign slogan, what would it be? Kai, you're first. You have one minute.

KAI

Hmmm..."Vote for Kai and Stewart. What could possibly go wrong?"

The boys cheer.

KAI

When I win, we gonna party and what's wrong with that!

Kai gets the kids to clap again. He does the worm, then a backspin.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN

Calm down! Calm down! Please? Is there anything else you'd like to add, Kai? You have a few seconds left.

KAI

Yeah, I have one more thing to say. I'm gonna bust you up, Linda!

He gets the crowd to clap a beat again.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN

Stop clapping, friends! Pretty please! Okay, Linda, your turn. What would your campaign slogan be?

LINDA

I guess it'd be "Vote for Linda and Annika. A fresh start." I'm new to the school. Coming here is kind of a fresh start for me...

Kai snores loudly. Laughter.

INT. WHITE HOUSE STORAGE ROOM

File cabinets, old furniture fill the room. The VP drops Garrison.

VP GARRISON

Your presidency has come to an end. Not many people know about this old storage room, so it might take a very long time for them to find you. It's a shame really. You showed so much promise as commander-in-chief. I guess with you gone, I'll have to take over.

The VP laughs maliciously, then exits.

A beat. Garrison examines the room, his mouth bound.

BACK TO THE LUNCH ROOM

KAI

Soda machines in every classroom, no homework, and a shorter school day!

Loud cheers.

LINDA

I don't think you can shorten the school day. There are rules about that...

Kai snores again. Laughter.

LINDA

And rules about soda machines in class.

KAI

Well then, I'll change 'em because the students of Radnor Elementary need cold drinks to pay attention!

Loud clapping.

LINDA

How can you promise no homework?

KAI  
Easy. I promise. Boom. Done. Taken care of.

LINDA  
No teacher will agree to that.

KAI  
Oh, I think they will when they see how I dance!

The kids clap again. He break dances.

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY/OFFICE

VP Garrison dials on his cell phone. The gaunt man answers. He chews on licorice.

MAN  
Good news?

VP GARRISON  
I'm very close.

MAN  
Then you have no good news.

VP GARRISON  
Garza wouldn't budge on the bill, but then he got sick. Only he made a dog president...

MAN  
I know. I watch UNN.

VP GARRISON  
And now the dog is out of the picture. I'll be president soon.

MAN  
Have you vetoed the bill, yes or no?

VP GARRISON  
No.

MAN  
See to it that you do. Within 24 hours...or else.

The man hangs up.

BACK TO THE LUNCH ROOM

LINDA

A new jungle gym would be good.  
Maybe we could add a second lunch  
since it gets crowded...

KAI

Those ideas sound like a blast.

LINDA

Well...then...what about a talent  
show?

The room erupts. Linda beams.

KAI

Good idea. We all know who's gonna  
be the main attraction when I bust  
it up!

Kai runs through the lunch tables. The kids clap. He dances.

BACK TO THE STORAGE ROOM

Garrison paces the room, looks at the furniture, the walls.

He jumps and tries to twist the doorknob with his paws.  
Nothing. The door is locked.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN

AGENT EPSTEIN

You recovered so quickly.

JEAN

I've always been a quick healer.  
Once, I fell out of a tree house  
onto a metal fence and then bounced  
onto a big rock and then bounced  
onto the ground where my head  
landed on a croquet mallet and I  
was perfectly fine!

A beat.

AGENT EPSTEIN

What's going on here?

JEAN

Huh?

AGENT EPSTEIN

I said...

JEAN

(stepping away)

What?

AGENT EPSTEIN

Ms. Raymer...

JEAN

I need to file some briefs. Good luck!

She jogs away.

Epstein watches her go with a questioning gaze.

BACK TO THE STORAGE ROOM

Garrison steps on a loose floor tile. He lifts it. Dirt underneath. He digs for a few seconds, then hits concrete.

Garrison lowers his head.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN

Agents comb through the lawn, searching for Garrison.

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY

VP Garrison storms the hallway, a serious expression on his face. Tyler approaches.

TYLER

Seen the President?

VP GARRISON

Last I heard, still in the hospital.

TYLER

No, the dog.

VP GARRISON

Oh, right. Heard he's lost.

A beat.

TYLER  
You don't know where he is?

VP GARRISON  
Haven't the slightest.

TYLER  
Really?

VP GARRISON  
If you will excuse me, I'm in a  
rush.

BACK TO THE LUNCH ROOM

LINDA  
At my old school, on field day, the  
younger kids teamed up with the  
older kids, instead of grade  
against grade.

KAI  
The point?

LINDA  
More kids becoming friends.

KAI  
Here's an idea: why don't the older  
kids partner up with the younger  
kids and use them as punching bags!

The boys go nuts. Kai punches the air as though he's working  
a speed bag.

STEWART

doesn't clap. The boys give him menacing looks. Stewart  
starts clapping weakly.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ROOM

The JAPANESE AMBASSADOR waits in a chair. He stares at the  
clock, sighs. An AGENT guards the door. Several  
PHOTOGRAPHERS stand against the wall.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - CABINET MEETING ROOM

The VP stands before the PRESIDENTIAL CABINET.

VP GARRISON

I called this emergency meeting because the President is missing. I move to install myself as president until he's found.

CABINET MEMBER

Where's Chief of Staff Ashby?

VP GARRISON

Busy. But Tyler's opinion doesn't matter if the majority of you feel I should be president.

CABINET MEMBER

Hasn't the President only been missing about 20 minutes?

A few of the cabinet members nod in agreement.

BACK TO STORAGE ROOM

Garrison notices a vent in the wall near the ceiling.

BACK TO THE LUNCH ROOM

PRINCIPAL BOLAN

Time for your closing remarks. Kai, you're first.

KAI

I have one more thing to say. Do you like to have a good time?

Cheers.

KAI

I said, do you like to have a good time?

Louder, longer cheers.

KAI

Then put your hands together. Let me hear you say, vote for Kai! Vote for Kai!

Most of the kids chant. Some of the girls boo. Linda hangs her head.

BACK TO THE STORAGE ROOM

Garrison studies a big file cabinet. He steps back, runs and jumps onto its side.

The cabinet wobbles.

He does it again. It wobbles more.

Again. The file cabinet crashes against the wall.

Garrison climbs up the slanted file cabinet. Once on top of it, he removes the metal grating with his teeth.

BACK TO THE LUNCH ROOM

LINDA

If elected, I'll do my absolute best to represent you well. Thank you.

KAI

(through fake coughing)  
Loser.

The boys explode with laughter.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN

Please settle down. Please? Thank you, Linda and Kai. Tomorrow, you both get to make a final speech before we vote. So, be thinking about what you want to say. Good luck. And now, everyone, if you don't mind, please make your way back to class.

KAI

steps to Linda.

KAI

Really think you can win?

LINDA

(weakly)  
Yes.

KAI

Too bad your dumb dog didn't show.  
You could've used his help.

Kai walks away.

INT. WHITE HOUSE KITCHEN

The chef chops vegetables. Noise from the vents above. He looks up.

INT. WHITE HOUSE ENTRANCE HALL

The guide gives another GROUP OF KIDS a tour.

TOUR GUIDE

Directly above, you'll see where  
President Carter once installed  
solar panels to help generate  
electricity from the sun.

Noises from the vent. The kids look up.

KID

Is that President Carter?

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM

The press secretary fields questions from reporters.

REPORTER

I heard a rumor the President is  
lost.

PRESS SECRETARY

Not true.

REPORTER

Then where is he?

Noises from the vents. Everyone stops, looks up.

BACK TO DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ROOM WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADOR

The vent cover near the ceiling pops off, crashes to the floor. The ambassador freezes. He's about to bite into a muffin.

The AGENT in the room draws his gun, steps to the vent.

AGENT

Mr. Ambassador, stay where you are.

Garrison shoots out of the vent, falls onto a chair, gets to his feet and trots to the ambassador.

The ambassador removes the band from around his mouth. Garrison woofs his thanks, then stares at the muffin.

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR

Uh, I'll split it with you.

The ambassador tears it in half. Garrison swallows it in two seconds. Photographers snap pictures. Garrison races out of the room.

The ambassador watches him go in disbelief. A warm smile forms on his face.

BACK TO THE CABINET MEETING ROOM

VP GARRISON

Someone needs to be in charge. And do you really believe Mr. Garza intended to put a dog in charge?

Cabinet members nod.

VP GARRISON

So, who wants to second the motion to make me president?

The majority of cabinet members raise their hands. The VP smiles.

Garrison runs in, leaps onto the table. He barks at the VP.

CABINET MEMBER

Looks like our problem is solved.

Everyone gets up, exits.

The VP and Garrison lock eyes. Garrison's tail wags. An imperceptible smile forms on the dog's face.

INT. RADNOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - 5TH GRADE CLASSROOM

Linda sits, her head on the desk. Stegman stands in the back. No one else is in the room. Annika enters.

ANNIKA

Kai's a jerk.

Linda nods. A beat.

ANNIKA

I have two brothers, my favorite color is purple, and Judge Chimp is my favorite movie.

Linda smiles. Annika exits.

Stewart steps nervously into the room.

STEWART

Hello Linda.

LINDA

Hey Stewart.

STEWART

You were simply outstanding today.

LINDA

Thanks.

STEWART

Another lunch period would make both students and administration happy. And I love the idea for the talent show!

A beat. Awkward silence.

LINDA

You're sweet.

STEWART

You think I'm sweet?

LINDA

Yeah.

STEWART

(a bit dramatic)

I don't believe it. May I be so bold as to say that I think you're sweet too?

LINDA

Thanks.

STEWART  
I'm the one who should thank you.

LINDA  
Uh, okay, thanks.

STEWART  
(bowing his head)  
Believe me, the gratitude is all on  
my side of the room right now.

A beat.

LINDA  
Why are you running with Kai?

STEWART  
Our parents are good friends. They  
made us do it.

LINDA  
Kai doesn't seem like he could be  
forced into anything.

STEWART  
His parents said they'd build him  
his own boxing ring if he ran with  
me.

A long beat. He puts Visine in his eyes.

STEWART  
I wouldn't mind being your VP.

LINDA  
I guess girls will stick with girls  
and boys with boys.

STEWART  
Yeah.

A beat.

STEWART  
Well, gotta go.

He pauses, stares dreamily at her.

STEWART  
Bye!

He races for the exit, then stops. He rushes back, flips a  
note onto her desk, then sprints for the door.

He trips.

Linda laughs to herself. Stewart gets to his feet and exits. Linda unfolds the note. It's says: "I like you!" She smiles.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Tyler, Linda, and Garrison enter. President Garza lies on a bed, barely awake. Stegman stands guard.

LINDA

Daddy!

Garrison barks happily. Linda hugs him.

PRESIDENT GARZA

(barely audible)

Hi honey.

TYLER

Your approval rating is up 32%!

PRESIDENT GARZA

What?

LINDA

You made Garrison president, remember?

PRESIDENT GARZA

I did?

TYLER

And people loved it. You're back on top, sir.

PRESIDENT GARZA

What about the Vice President?

TYLER

Not happy. He tried to make himself president.

LINDA

He kidnapped Garrison! Agent Epstein figured it out.

Garrison barks.

PRESIDENT GARZA

What?

LINDA  
Yeah, he locked him in a room!

PRESIDENT GARZA  
(reaching for the phone)  
I'll call him right now and get to  
the bottom of this...

The President grabs his throat, drops the phone.

LINDA  
Dad!

AGENT STEGMAN  
I'll get a doctor.

TV NEWS BROADCAST UNN - BREAKING NEWS REPORT

IRA  
Good evening, I'm Ira Johnson.

JILL  
And I'm Jill Biscay.

IRA  
We're here with a special Power  
Slam News Break in high def.

JILL  
This just in: President Garza got  
out of surgery today...

IRA  
And went right back into surgery  
tonight.

JILL  
His tonsil problems are more severe  
than the doctors anticipated.

IRA  
Looks like everyone's favorite  
presidential pup will be running  
the country for one more day.

INT. LINDA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Linda paces. Garrison watches.

LINDA

Hi everyone, I would like to be  
your president. I know I can do it.

(to Garrison)

That stinks. How 'bout this. Hello,  
I'm Linda Garza and you should vote  
for me. I'll do my best to get a  
new jungle gym and a talent show.

Linda plops down on the bed.

LINDA

I should give up.

Garrison shakes his head.

LINDA

Why did I open my fat mouth? Kids  
love Kai. I can't win.

Garrison pants.

INT. THE NORRIS HOME - DINING ROOM

Kai eats dinner with his three SISTERS and PARENTS.

KAI

Would somebody pass the rolls?

SISTER #1

(mocking him, in a baby voice)

Would somebody pass the rolls? Oh  
please, I'm too little to reach  
them on my own.

The sisters laugh. The father is buried in a newspaper. The  
mother talks on her Bluetooth.

KAI

Stop it!

SISTER #2

(mocking him)

Stop it! Stop it! I'm a baby!

KAI

Mom!

She holds up a finger, silencing him.

KAI  
Dad!

FATHER  
(not looking up)  
Huh?

KAI  
They won't give me the rolls.

FATHER  
(still not looking up)  
Give him the rolls.

SISTER #3  
Okay.

She grabs a roll, hurls it at Kai's head. The others laugh.

SISTER #1  
Little Kai wants to be a boxer but  
he can't defend himself against a  
roll!

The girls laugh.

KAI  
It's ultimate fighting. Not boxing!

SISTER #2  
Then use your ultimate moves  
against this.

Sister #2 puts him in a headlock. Sister #1 throws rolls in  
his face. The mother walks off to a quieter place to finish  
her conversation. The dad looks up.

DAD  
Sit down!

BACK TO LINDA IN BEDROOM

LINDA  
I wish you could be there tomorrow.

Garrison barks. Linda pulls him onto her lap.

LINDA  
Dogs aren't allowed at school. And  
you need to be in the White House,  
right?

Garrison nods. Linda grabs the photo album, opens it. Points to a picture of her mother.

LINDA

That's my mom. She died two years ago. We were best friends. When dad was a senator, she took me to museums all the time. She'd let me stay up late and we'd play Scrabble or do trivia questions. (pause) I miss her. (pause) You and me are best friends now, right?

Garrison licks her.

BACK TO THE NORRIS HOUSE

Kai butters a roll. His dad is back into the paper.

SISTER #3

Daddy, I wanna horse for my birthday.

FATHER

(not looking up)  
You have a pony.

SISTER #3

Ponies don't do anything. I wanna horse!

FATHER

Okay.

SISTER #2

If she gets a horse, I want my own recording studio.

FATHER

No.

SISTER #2

Come on!

FATHER

We'll think about it.

Kai chews on a roll, averting his eyes from his sisters.

BACK TO LINDA IN BEDROOM

LINDA  
I hope dad will be okay.

A beat.

LINDA  
Hey, if I win, you, dad, and I will  
all be presidents.

Garrison woofs.

LINDA  
You'll watch out for Mr. Garrison  
tomorrow?

Garrison nods. Linda lies down. They cuddle up together.

BACK TO NORRIS HOUSE - KAI'S BEDROOM

Kai looks into a mirror. A large DOG paces the room.

KAI  
I'm Kai. Vote for me if you like to  
party!  
(to dog)  
What do you think Sherm?

The dog doesn't respond.

KAI  
I'm Kai. Vote for me or I'm gonna  
bust you up!

A beat.

KAI  
(to dog)  
Think I can win?

The dog just glances at him. Kai shows a momentary look of  
doubt.

KAI  
Don't worry, Sherm, I have a trick  
or two up my sleeve.

Kai stares at the dog for a beat.

KAI  
 Hey, how would you like to help  
 embarrass a dumb girl and her dumb  
 dog?

The dog stares back, still pacing.

KAI  
 Yeah, Sherman, I could use your  
 help tomorrow.  
 (turns back to mirror)  
 Yo, I'm Kai, get ready for liftoff  
 Radnor Elementary cause I'm gonna  
 take you on a ride!

INT. VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The VP sits across from his aide. The room is dark.

VP GARRISON  
 Prepared to get your hands dirty?

JEAN  
 How dirty?

VP GARRISON  
 You're going to make the dog  
 disappear...permanently.

JEAN  
 (hesitates)  
 That's really dirty.

A beat.

VP GARRISON  
 It might also help your career.

Jean looks uncertain. A beat.

VP GARRISON  
 You in or out?

JEAN  
 In.

VP GARRISON  
 Good. Tomorrow the mutt gets  
 impeached.

EXT. RADNOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - WEDNESDAY

Kai hands out campaign flyers to students. His dog is nearby, pacing back and forth, wearing a sandwich board that says: "Vote for the Big Dog: Kai Norris. Little dogs are Dumb." An image of Garrison crossed out is underneath.

Principal Bolan approaches.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Hey there, Kai.

KAI  
Busy.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Oh now, let's be nice.  
(to dog)  
Well, hello there, Mr. Dog.  
(to Kai)  
Did you know that animals aren't allowed on school grounds without permission?

KAI  
So what?

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Well, I don't recall you getting permission.

KAI  
Maybe I should I call my dad and tell him not to donate money to the new chemistry lab.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
No need for that.

KAI  
Bye, Mr. Bolan.

The principal walks away, embarrassed.

Linda, Garrison, Stegman, and two agents approach. Linda reads the sandwich board.

Garrison and the dog survey each other.

KAI  
Like my new campaign poster?

Linda doesn't respond.

KAI

Meet Sherman. I thought the school  
should see what a real dog is like  
since all we hear about is  
President Garrison.

Garrison scans the sandwich board. The two dogs step closer  
to each other.

KAI

Ready to lose?

LINDA

No.

KAI

(sarcastically)

Nice comeback.

Garrison raises his paw to shake hands with Sherman. Sherman  
darts towards Garrison with the sandwich board still on his  
back. Garrison runs along the side of the school.

The agents follow. Linda and Kai too.

KAI

Yeah! Get him Sherm!

LINDA

Garrison!

EXT. RADNOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND

Garrison gallops onto the playground.

MONTAGE

1) Garrison hops onto a swing, rides it, then leaps off. The  
swing comes back and almost hits Sherman, but he ducks in  
time.

2) Garrison runs up a slide. Sherman follows, but slides  
back down.

3) Garrison races around a small baseball diamond. He dives  
into home plate, paws extended. Sherman gets lost in a dust  
cloud.

4) Garrison hops in and out of a sandbox. Sherman jumps in  
and immediately sinks as if it's quicksand.

5) Garrison walks across a teeter totter. When he steps off, the opposite side smacks Sherman in the head.

An agent scoops up Garrison.

LINDA  
(to Kai)  
The big dog had a tough time  
catching the little dog.

KAI  
Because daddy's secret service was  
there to protect him.

He leads Sherman away, turns back around.

KAI  
Can't wait to sleep during your  
speech.

LINDA  
Yeah, well, yours will be boring  
too.

KAI  
Good one.

A beat.

AGENT  
Miss Garza, we need to get the  
President back to the White House.

LINDA  
Okay.  
(to Garrison)  
Bye, pup.

Garrison ruffs. Garrison and the two agents exit. Linda stands there with Stegman.

STEGMAN  
We should get you to class, Miss  
Garza.

LINDA  
Yeah.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - LATER

Garrison gnaws on a bone. Epstein guards the door. A knock. The VP steps in. Garrison growls.

VP GARRISON  
Settle down, boy! Hey, let's be  
friends.

Epstein watches the VP closely. The VP steps gingerly towards Garrison.

He tries to pet Garrison. The dog barks.

VP GARRISON  
How about the two of us go for a  
walk? President and vice president  
alone together.

Garrison shakes his head no.

AGENT EPSTEIN  
The Chief of Staff told me to not  
let him out of my sight.

VP GARRISON  
I am the Vice President of the  
United States.

AGENT EPSTEIN  
Sorry, sir.

The VP shows irritation.

VP GARRISON  
(to Garrison)  
Fine. Another time then, Mr.  
President?

Garrison shakes his head no again. The VP exits.

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY

The VP lurks around a corner. Jean holds a big box covered in wrapping paper.

VP GARRISON  
That didn't work. We move to the  
back-up plan. Go to my car and be  
ready.

She nods, hands him the gift box, then leaves.

The VP reaches into his jacket, removes a small box that reads: "Super Strength Dog Whistle. Just Blow and They Come Running!"

INT. RADNOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - 5TH GRADE CLASSROOM

KIDS read at their desks. Mrs. Silcox watches Sherman circle the classroom, wearing the sandwich board.

MRS. SILCOX

Kai, can you please keep your dog still?

KAI

He's got a nervous condition. He has to always be moving.

MRS. SILCOX

Maybe you should've left him at home.

KAI

(looking at Linda)

If a dumb little dog gets to be president, then I can bring my dog to school.

Mrs. Silcox sighs.

KAI

Besides, when I'm class president, I'll let kids bring in anteaters if they want.

Kai grins smugly at Linda. The boys pound their desks.

MRS. SILCOX

Enough. Everyone get back to your reading.

BACK TO THE OVAL OFFICE

Garrison works on his bone. His ears perk up.

He bolts out of the doggy door, right through Epstein's legs. Epstein runs after him.

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY

Garrison bounds around a corner, into the VP's hands.

The VP wraps a thick band around his snout, stuffs him into a cage, then places the cage into the gift box.

He lifts the box, saunters casually down the hallway.

A MOMENT LATER

AGENT EPSTEIN

Sir, have you seen the President?

VP GARRISON

Nope.

AGENT EPSTEIN

He ran right this way.

VP GARRISON

Wish I could help.

Epstein stares at the box with curiosity. VP Garrison starts to walk away.

VP GARRISON

For the wife. Her birthday.

AGENT EPSTEIN

(in disbelieving tone)

What'd you get her?

The VP continues down the hallway.

VP GARRISON

A tennis racket.

AGENT EPSTEIN

Big box for a tennis racket.

VP GARRISON

Didn't want her to guess what it was. Good luck!

The VP turns a corner. Epstein stands still. A beat.

Faint sounds of a dog whining. He sprints down the hallway.

BACK TO THE CLASSROOM

Stewart flings Linda a note. It falls short of her desk. A beat.

He tries repeatedly to kick it. Can't do it.

While seated, he leans over, tries to pick it up. Stewart tips over in his desk. The kids laugh. He quickly stuffs the note in his pocket.

MRS. SILCOX

No note passing in class, Stewart.

STEWART

No! Uh...it was a Kleenex.

MRS. SILCOX

Bring it here.

Stewart gives it to her.

KIDS IN THE CLASS

Read it! Read it! Read it!

Mrs. Silcox unfolds the note.

MRS. SILCOX

You know the rule. If you pass a note, it gets read.

(she glances at the paper)

Dear Linda, you're going to do great today. I hope you win...

KAI

(to Stewart)

You wanna lose? What's your problem?

MRS. SILCOX

...P.S. Have you decided whether you like me too?

The class makes kissing sounds. Linda blushes.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - UNDERGROUND GARAGE

Jean waits in a black sedan. The trunk is open.

The VP runs into the garage, tosses the box in the trunk.

VP GARRISON

Go to Sugarloaf Mountain. Get rid  
of his tag. Dump him in the woods.

She peels out.

The VP slips out of the garage through a different door.

Epstein hurries in, notices the tire tracks.

AGENT EPSTEIN

(into lapel mic)

This is Agent Epstein. The peacock  
is out of the nest. I repeat, the  
peacock is out of the nest. Search  
all vehicles leaving the White  
House.

EXT. GUARD SHACK AT GATE

Jean pulls up, flashes badge to a GUARD.

GUARD

Ms. Raymer, I need to search your  
vehicle.

JEAN

I'm in a rush.

GUARD

Sorry, ma'am. It'll only take a  
minute. Please pop the trunk.

She complies. The guard looks in the trunk. A beat.

He moseys back to the window, looks at her.

GUARD

Big box.

JEAN

Birthday present. For my husband.

GUARD

What's in it?

JEAN

Golf balls.

GUARD

Big box for golf balls.

JEAN  
I didn't want him guessing what it  
was.

A beat.

GUARD  
Go on through.

She drives off.

BACK TO THE CLASSROOM

The class is quiet except for the sound of Sherman circling  
the room.

Stegman suddenly presses his finger to his ear piece.

AGENT STEGMAN  
(into lapel mic)  
Yes, Agent Epstein...

Linda turns around, stares at Stegman.

AGENT STEGMAN  
He's missing?...

Linda looks concerned. The class listens in.

AGENT STEGMAN  
Yes...I understand.

The bell rings.

MRS. SILCOX  
That's lunch.

The kids file out. Linda steps to Stegman. He's still on the  
phone.

Kai struts up to Linda.

KAI  
Has the doggy run off? Figures.  
Boy, your dad was smart to put a  
dog in charge.

ANNIKA  
And your dad's smarter?

KAI

My dad makes millions of dollars  
from his hot sauce company.

Annika rolls her eyes, exits.

Stewart runs up to Linda.

STEWART

Everything okay?

LINDA

I don't know.

STEWART

I'm here if you need me.

Kai pulls Stewart away, the dog follows.

AGENT STEGMAN

Yes...yes...keep me updated.

Stegman hangs up.

LINDA

Who's missing? Garrison?

AGENT STEGMAN

I'm not at liberty to say.

LINDA

You have to tell me.

AGENT STEGMAN

Time for lunch.

LINDA

Look. My dad is in the hospital.  
Garrison is the only family I have.  
Please, tell me.

AGENT STEGMAN

Miss Garza...

LINDA

Please?

Stegman hesitates for a beat.

AGENT STEGMAN

Alright. We believe Vice President  
Garrison kidnapped President  
Garrison.

LINDA

What!

AGENT STEGMAN

We have the situation under control.

LINDA

We're gonna look for him.

AGENT STEGMAN

You have school.

LINDA

I know that dog better than anybody. I know how he thinks. I could really help.

Stegman hesitates.

LINDA

Garrison is my family. I'm gonna look for him with or without you.

Linda heads for the door. Stegman looks frustrated.

AGENT STEGMAN

(to Mrs. Silcox)

Uh, ma'am. I need to remove Linda from school for a while...it's a matter of national security.

MRS. SILCOX

Oh. The class president speeches begin at 2pm. You'll have her back by then?

AGENT STEGMAN

I'll do my best.

TV NEWS BROADCAST UNN - BREAKING NEWS REPORT

The UNN logo explodes onto the screen.

IRA

This is Ira Johnson.

JILL

And I'm Jill Biscay.

IRA  
Coming at you live with this latest  
Full Court Press Report in HD.

JILL  
President Garrison is missing.

An image of Garrison pops up on screen.

IRA  
It appears our canine-in-chief  
wandered off and lost his way.

JILL  
The White House is giving no more  
details at this time.

IRA  
In related news, President Garza is  
still at the hospital. Will VP  
Garrison now replace President  
Garrison?

JILL  
The more we know.

IRA  
The more you know.

JILL  
And the less we know.

IRA  
The less you know.

JILL  
But we always know more...

IRA  
So you know more.

JILL  
This is UNN. Good day.

INT. AGENT STEGMAN'S CAR

LINDA  
Where would they take him?

AGENT STEGMAN  
To a place where he could get  
lost...permanently.

LINDA  
That's awful! Why?

AGENT STEGMAN  
I believe the Vice President sees  
this as his chance to become  
president.

LINDA  
Isn't being VP good enough?

AGENT STEGMAN  
I guess not.

A beat.

LINDA  
I read that Rock Creek Park has  
like 1,800 acres. That's close by.

AGENT STEGMAN  
Good idea.

Stegman hits the gas.

INT. VICE PRESIDENT'S CAR - DAY

Jean drives. She checks the rear view mirror. She checks it  
again, then relaxes.

Whimpering from the trunk. A beat. More whimpering.

She pulls over.

EXT. CITY STREET

Jean gets out, makes sure no is watching, then pops the  
trunk. She takes the present and puts it on the driver's  
side seat.

BACK IN THE CAR

JEAN  
(to the box)  
Happy now? You're out of the trunk.

Garrison whines.

JEAN

You're not getting out of there.

Scratching from inside the box. It gets louder.

JEAN

Fine!

She stops again, flips the lid, lifts the cage and sets it on the seat.

JEAN

Happy?

Garrison stares at her through the cage.

JEAN

Oh no. You stay in the cage. I'll get fired if you escape.

Garrison continues to stare.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - CABINET MEETING ROOM

The VP stands before the cabinet.

VP GARRISON

This is not like before. President Garrison is gone. Agents have searched the White House from top to bottom. It's time to make me president.

CABINET MEMBER

President Garrison could still turn up.

VP GARRISON

Not likely.

A beat.

CABINET MEMBER

What makes you so sure?

VP GARRISON

President Garrison is a dog. Dogs run away. And dogs are not fit to lead a nation. (beat) How many of you here thought Garza made a bad decision when he put Garrison in charge?

The cabinet members glance around the room. Knowing looks.

VP GARRISON

And now he is missing. Our country  
needs a president. How much longer  
will you wait to provide our nation  
with a leader?

The cabinet members look at each other, nod.

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES:

PRESIDENT GARRISON IS MISSING! VP GARRISON IS NOW PRESIDENT

INT. VICE PRESIDENT'S CAR

Garrison is out of the cage. His mouth is still bound. He  
whimpers.

JEAN

Don't give me that. You're out of  
the box and the cage.

Garrison scratches at the band around his mouth.

JEAN

Oh, alright!

She takes it off. Garrison ruffs happily.

Through the window, a FAST FOOD RESTAURANT. He points with  
his paw.

JEAN

We are not stopping.

A beat. Garrison raises his leg.

JEAN

Stop! This is the Vice President's  
car.

Garrison raises his leg higher. Jean sighs.

JEAN

Alright! Promise not to escape?

Garrison remains still.

JEAN

I said, promise not to escape?

Nothing.

JEAN

Okay then. We won't stop.

A beat. Garrison raises his leg again.

JEAN

Fine! You win. But I'm gonna watch you like a hawk.

EXT. ROCK CREEK PARK - ENTRANCE

A doughy PARK RANGER pokes his head out of a guard shack.

PARK RANGER

Hey there! Welcome to Rock Creek Park. Nature's amusement park. That's not an official slogan. I made it up. But it sure does describe the beauty...

Agent Stegman holds up his badge.

PARK RANGER

Oh! On official business, I see. Well, how can I be of service to the secret service?

AGENT STEGMAN

(holding up picture of Garrison)  
Seen this dog?

PARK RANGER

(grabbing his hat)  
Whoa Nelly! That's the President!

AGENT STEGMAN

You've seen him?

PARK RANGER

No, sir. (beat) I don't have a dog myself, but I have a hermit crab named Richard. Had him now for...

AGENT STEGMAN

Have you seen any government issue cars in the last 30 minutes?

PARK RANGER  
Other than yours?

AGENT STEGMAN  
Yes.

PARK RANGER  
Can't say that I have. You know, I  
collect model cars...

AGENT STEGMAN  
Any other entrances to the park?

PARK RANGER  
Oh sure.

A beat.

AGENT STEGMAN  
Where!

PARK RANGER  
There's a south gate. Just head out  
this road, make a left.

Stegman hits the gas.

PARK RANGER  
Visit again soon!

EXT. VICE PRESIDENT'S CAR

Jean turns into a gas station.

INT. VICE PRESIDENT'S CAR

JEAN  
I don't have a leash, so I'm going  
to hold onto your collar at all  
times, understand?

Garrison nods slowly.

EXT. GAS STATION - PATCH OF GRASS NEAR STREET

Jean puts Garrison down, fingering his collar. Garrison  
freezes, stares at her.

He motions for Jean to turn around.

JEAN  
I will not turn around.

Garrison waits.

JEAN  
Fine!

She turns, Garrison breaks free. He books down a sidewalk.  
Jean chases him.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM

VP Garrison stands before the reporters.

VP GARRISON  
I am the new President of the  
United States!

He extends his arms in triumph. Camera bulbs flash.

REPORTER #1  
Sir, don't you mean the interim  
president?

VP GARRISON  
I am the new President of the  
United States!

REPORTER #2  
Any word on President Garrison?

VP GARRISON  
Yes, here's a word: he's no longer  
president.

REPORTER #2  
What if he's found?

VP GARRISON  
(traces of a smile)  
I doubt that'll happen.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

Garrison runs along a sidewalk. He approaches

## A KID ON A BIKE WITH TRAINING WHEELS

who weaves all over the sidewalk. The kid wears a puffy parka, gigantic helmet, thick elbow and knee pads.

Garrison maneuvers underneath the bike.

Jean can't get around the kid. After a couple attempts, she runs around him on the street.

Garrison comes to

## A GROUP OF ELDERLY JOGGERS

He accelerates, dodges in and out of their legs.

## A WOMAN IN EAR MUFFS

glances down at Garrison. A beat. She gives a brief look of recognition.

Jean catches up. The joggers try to let her past, but everyone keeps bumping into each other.

Out of the corner of her eye, she sees Garrison cut across

## A GROCERY STORE PARKING LOT

A car backs out. Garrison spins out of the way.

An employee pushes a line of empty shopping carts, barely missing Garrison.

He gallops to the front of the store, dives onto a

## WOMAN'S SHOPPING CART

He rides the bottom flat section of the cart.

The woman doesn't notice. She enters the store.

Jean reaches the parking lot. She scans it. Nothing. She stares at the entrance, then runs inside.

EXT. ROCK CREEK PARK - SOUTH ENTRANCE

A PARK RANGER with the same face as the other ranger greets Stegman and Linda. The only difference is a mustache.

PARK RANGER

A very good day to you! Welcome to Rock Creek Park. Your home in nature. That's an unofficial motto. I wrote it. You like it?

LINDA

Do you have a brother?

PARK RANGER

Sure do! That's Glen. He works the north entrance.

AGENT STEGMAN

(holds up picture)  
Seen this dog?

PARK RANGER

Certainly!

LINDA

Really?

PARK RANGER

(laughing)  
On TV!

AGENT STEGMAN

This is no joke. Have you seen any other government issue cars come through here?

PARK RANGER

Other than yours?

AGENT STEGMAN

Yes!

PARK RANGER

Nope. My brother collects model cars...

Stegman peels out. The park ranger waves enthusiastically.

INT. OVAL OFFICE/OFFICE

VP Garrison sits at the desk, signing a bill. He talks on the phone with the man in the white suit, who eats licorice.

VP GARRISON  
(into phone)  
I'm vetoing the bill right now.

MAN  
Good.

VP GARRISON  
(finishes signing)  
There we are. You can test on dogs  
all you want.

MAN  
We intend to, Mr. President.

The man hangs up. The VP breathes a sigh of relief, pauses, glances around the office.

He stands, smiles.

VP GARRISON  
I am President. Finally. After  
years of being ignored. Sherwood P.  
Garrison is President!  
(he hits the phone intercom)  
Send Epstein in!

Agent Epstein enters the room.

AGENT EPSTEIN  
Sir?

VP GARRISON  
Find Chief of Staff Ashby. I'm  
going to hold a state of the union  
address tonight!

AGENT EPSTEIN  
Didn't Mr. Garza give one a couple  
weeks ago?

VP GARRISON  
I am the President now. I do what I  
want!

INT. GROCERY STORE

Garrison's cart passes another with a KID seated in it. The kid sees Garrison and waves.

JEAN

scours the first aisle. Nothing. Then the next. Nothing. In the third aisle, black fur whizzes by. She takes off.

GARRISON

turns around, sees her. He jumps off the cart, runs down an

AISLE

where an EMPLOYEE stacks a pyramid of soup cans. Just as he places the last can on top, Garrison breaks through the middle. Cans everywhere.

THE EMPLOYEE

takes a deep breath, bends over to pick them up.

Jean speeds through, kicks cans, bumps into the employee.

PET FOOD AISLE

Jean passes bag after bag of DOG FOOD. On each, an image of a DOG SITTING.

Garrison sits on the shelf in between the bags. He mimics the image of the dogs on the bags.

Jean misses him. Garrison jumps down, heads in opposite direction.

AISLE

Garrison runs past a "Caution - Wet Floor" sign.

He hits the wet floor, spins in a circle, then slides the rest of the aisle.

Jean is right behind him. She slips, grabs on to a shelf to stay on her feet.

## BACK TO THE SOUP CANS

The employee has one third of the wall built back up.

Garrison hurdles the cans. The employee smiles.

Jean plows into them. He sighs.

## AT THE CHECKOUT

A CASHIER scans food items.

She grabs a CAN OF TUNA, a BAG OF BREAD, and then Garrison. He yelps, then leaps down and goes for the door.

Garrison makes it out under the legs of a CUSTOMER.

## PARKING LOT

Jean scans the parking lot.

She checks under cars, inside peoples' shopping carts. Nothing.

## A WOMAN

opens her trunk, sets a shopping bag down.

She grabs another. Then another.

The last one, she can't lift. She glances inside. Garrison's head pokes out. He chews on some cookies. She screams.

## PARKING LOT

Jean hears the scream, sprints in that direction.

## GARRISON

struggles to get out of the bag. Jean arrives, grips his collar.

JEAN

Gotcha!

EXT/INT. AGENT STEGMAN'S CAR

Linda and Stegman drive along Route 270, going north.

AGENT STEGMAN

It's one o'clock. We need to get you back to school.

LINDA

Not until we find Garrison.

A beat.

AGENT STEGMAN

My gut tells me they're taking him to a more remote location.

LINDA

Then he could be anywhere.

AGENT STEGMAN

I don't think so. Let's assume Ms. Raymer has Garrison. If she were gone all day, that would raise suspicion. The location has to be far enough away from the White House, but not too far.

LINDA

That still leaves a lot of places.

A beat.

LINDA

Mr. Garrison was a senator of Maryland before becoming VP, right?

Stegman nods.

LINDA

Sugarloaf Mountain's in Maryland. I took a field trip there once. It felt like the middle of nowhere. He might go there.

AGENT STEGMAN

That's only 10 miles away.

INT. VICE PRESIDENT'S CAR

Garrison is back in the cage. He stares at Jean.

JEAN  
(laughing)  
Think I'm gonna fall for that  
again? (beat) Don't worry, we're  
only minutes away from you being  
free -- forever.

A tree-covered mountain appears through the window.

GARRISON

looks scared.

EXT. WOODED AREA NEAR SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN

Jean steps through the grass, cage in hand. She finds a clear spot, sets it down. Garrison crawls out.

Jean takes off his collar.

JEAN  
Not gonna need that anymore.

She chucks the collar. Garrison performs a dance on his hind legs.

JEAN  
Bye bye, Mr. President.

Garrison sits like a perfectly trained pet. Jean moves toward the car. Garrison whines. She stops. A hint of guilt flashes on her face.

She gets into the car, peels out.

Garrison darts his head around with panicked eyes.

INT. VICE PRESIDENT'S CAR/EXT. AGENT STEGMAN'S CAR

Through the window, Jean sees Stegman driving the opposite way. She pulls out her cell phone, dials.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

VP Garrison answers.

VP GARRISON

What?...Oh, I'll handle him.

(hangs up, dials)

This is the President. All available agents proceed to Sugarloaf Mountain. I know who kidnapped the Garrison.

EXT. WOODED AREA NEAR SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN

Garrison scampers through woods, half a mile from where he was left. He examines his surroundings, appearing nervous.

AN OWL

sounds above him. Garrison looks up, then runs away. He almost steps on

A SNAKE

The snake lunges at him, but misses.

A FAMILY OF RACOONS

watches him. Garrison gets near them. They hiss. Garrison starts running, then almost gets trampled by a

DEER

Garrison moves on, head down.

EXT. WOODED AREA WHERE GARRISON WAS LEFT

Stegman and Linda pull up, get out of the car. They search through the trees, grass, behind rocks.

LINDA

Garrison!

AGENT STEGMAN

Mr. President!

LINDA  
Garrison, it's me, Linda!

Linda bends down, picks up Garrison's collar. It has the presidential seal on the tag.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

Tyler enters.

TYLER  
What's going on?

VP GARRISON  
Address me as sir or Mr. President.

TYLER  
You held a cabinet meeting without me?

VP GARRISON  
Heard you were busy.

A beat.

TYLER  
(hesitates)  
You got rid of Garrison, didn't you?

VP GARRISON  
It was Stegman.

TYLER  
Are you serious?

VP GARRISON  
Address me as sir or Mr. President.

TYLER  
You're not going to be president very long.

VP GARRISON  
You're right. So I better enjoy myself while I can. I want you to set up my first state of the union address for tonight.

TYLER  
That's ridiculous. Garza just gave one about two weeks ago.

VP GARRISON  
Do it or you're fired!

Tyler hesitates, nods and exits.

BACK TO STEGMAN AND LINDA

Stegman and Linda continue searching. A voice from behind startles them.

AGENT FAZZOLI (O.S.)  
Freeze!

Linda shoots her hands into the air. They both turn around. AGENT FAZZOLI, a grizzled 40-something points a gun. TWO AGENTS stand behind him.

AGENT FAZZOLI  
Agent Stegman, I presume. I am Agent Fazzoli. You kidnapped the President's daughter as well as the President?

LINDA  
We're looking for Garrison.

AGENT FAZZOLI  
Right. Get in the car.

LINDA  
I found his collar!

AGENT FAZZOLI  
Doesn't matter.

LINDA  
Don't you want to find Garrison?

AGENT FAZZOLI  
My orders are to bring in Stegman and get you back to school.

AGENT STEGMAN  
The Vice President is the one...

AGENT FAZZOLI  
You mean the President.

AGENT STEGMAN  
The President kidnapped Garrison.

AGENT FAZZOLI

A, I don't believe you. B, I don't care. And C, I have a job to do. So D, get in the car!

AGENT STEGMAN

Okay. We'll come. No need to point a gun at us.

Fazzoli lowers his gun. Stegman and Linda walk towards them. Fazzoli pulls out a pair of HANDCUFFS from his jacket.

AGENT FAZZOLI

You'll have to put these on.

Stegman grabs the cuffs, snaps them on Fazzoli and one of the other agents. Stegman then pushes the third agent into them. They CRASH to the ground.

Stegman and Linda race toward the car.

AGENT FAZZOLI

Get these off of me!

Stegman and Linda peel out. The agents fumble with the cuffs.

EXT./INT. AGENT STEGMAN'S CAR

The car barrels along Route 270.

LINDA

What about Garrison?

AGENT STEGMAN

We'll double back after losing them.

EXT. ROUTE 270

THREE CARS sped toward Stegman and Linda.

Stegman jerks the car across a grass divider, heads back towards the mountain.

The other cars follow.

## THE FIRST CAR

spins out completely, flying into the side of the road.

## THE SECOND AND THIRD CAR

make the turn, then quickly catch up.

## BACK TO GARRISON

He walks along the highway. It starts to drizzle. It's cold.

Garrison reaches a REST AREA EXIT. He walks the shoulder of the exit ramp.

## BACK TO THE CAR CHASE

Stegman jerks the car onto an exit. The FIRST CAR speeds up and pulls alongside Stegman on the exit ramp.

The agent driving signals for them to pull over.

Stegman turns and sees a RED LIGHT at the end of the ramp. He slams on the brakes. The agent goes through the intersection, weaves in and out of cars and hits an

## ICE CREAM TRUCK

A dozen CONES fly on to the agent's windshield. The ICE CREAM MAN steps out of the truck, counts the cones on the car.

ICE CREAM MAN

That'll be \$10.

## STEGMAN AND LINDA

speed along the road. Fazzoli is right on their tail.

Stegman turns onto a

## NARROW TWO-LANE ROAD

Stegman gets behind an EIGHTEEN WHEELER. Stegman swings out into the opposite lane. A TRACTOR is there. He pulls back into his position behind the truck.

Stegman pulls out into the opposite lane again. A COUPLE on a SCOOTER is there. The couple screams.

Stegman drives off the road onto a

STEEP GRASSY HILL

The car explodes through a bail of hay and barely misses a tree.

The car spins out of control, skids to a stop on another road at the bottom of the hill.

INSIDE THE CAR

AGENT STEGMAN

You okay?

Linda nods.

AGENT STEGMAN

We lost them -- for a little while  
at least.

Stegman tries starting the car. Nothing. They get out and start walking.

A voice from behind.

AGENT FAZZOLI (O.S.)

Need a lift?

Fazzoli pulls up behind them.

EXT. REST AREA

Garrison walks along a sidewalk, his head down.

He sees a FAMILY in a station wagon, playing with their dog. Garrison watches them for a moment, showing sadness.

BACK OF REST AREA

Garrison spots a large box near a dumpster. He runs to it.

TWO SKUNKS

are inside, huddled close. Garrison runs away.

FRONT OF REST AREA

Garrison walks to the food court entrance. A FAMILY exits, chatting and laughing.

He watches them as they pass.

Through the doors, he sees a picture of FRIED CHICKEN at a fast food place.

He tries slipping in. A SECURITY GUARD, 70s, stops him.

SECURITY GUARD  
Hold on there.

He points to the door. A sticker of a dog crossed out.

SECURITY GUARD  
No dogs inside.

Garrison stares at him.

SECURITY GUARD  
Don't look at me that way, scooter.  
Go on now.

Garrison doesn't move. A beat.

SECURITY GUARD  
Oh, okay. I'll get you something.  
Promise to wait here?

Garrison nods.

SECURITY GUARD  
Did you just nod at me?

Garrison nods again.

SECURITY GUARD  
Smart dog.

The guard steps inside and surveys

## THE SEATING AREA

He finds a tray with an unfinished drumstick and fries.

The guard brings it back

## OUTSIDE

to Garrison. The dog ruffs his thanks, sucks the chicken dry in seconds and slurps the fries.

## SECURITY GUARD

Sure hope you find your way home.

In the parking lot, Garrison notices a

## HORSE TRAILER

pulling out of a parking space.

He races toward it, enters the back under the gate. The trailer drives away.

## SECURITY GUARD

That dog looked familiar. (beat)  
Naw, couldn't be.

## EXT. ROUTE 270 HIGHWAY

The horse trailer merges onto the highway.

## INT. HORSE TRAILER

Garrison approaches the horse. The horse stares at him.

Garrison holds out his paw to shake.

## EXT. WHITE HOUSE

A bird's eye view of the White House.

## INT. OVAL OFFICE

Fazzoli brings in Stegman.

VP GARRISON

Thank you, Agent Fazzoli, for apprehending the man who kidnapped the President.

AGENT EPSTEIN

Sir, I don't think Agent Stegman kidnapped the president. I'm the one who told him he was missing.

VP GARRISON

Agent Epstein, you're fired. Fazzoli, escort him out.

Fazzoli leads a stunned Epstein out.

AGENT STEGMAN

I know what you did.

VP GARRISON

And what's that?

AGENT STEGMAN

You kidnapped the President.

Garrison laughs.

VP GARRISON

In a few hours, I make my first state of the union speech...

AGENT STEGMAN

Mr. Garza just gave a state of the union speech.

VP GARRISON

I don't care! I'm the president now. And when I give my speech, everyone will see what a strong and decisive leader I am. They will see that I should have been president all along! They will love me!

AGENT STEGMAN

And what if President Garza gets better in time for the speech?

VP GARRISON

Don't you watch UNN? He's still bed-ridden. And now, Agent Stegman, I'm putting you in jail.

(presses button on phone)

Escort the prisoner out of my office!

Fazzoli comes back in, removes Stegman.

INT. RADNOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM STAGE

Principal Bolan steps onto the stage. Annika, Kai, and Stewart stand in a line.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
 Attention boys and girls.  
 Attention. Please quiet down.  
 Please? (beat) It appears Linda had  
 to leave school...

Linda enters the auditorium, runs onto the stage.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
 Oh, hi Linda.

STEWART  
 (whispering, to Linda)  
 Really glad you made it.

KAI  
 Shut up!

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
 It's the moment you've all been  
 waiting for! Our two candidates  
 will give their final speeches and  
 then we vote!

The kids clap.

INT. HORSE TRAILER

Garrison sleeps on a mound of hay.

The trailer hits a bump.

Garrison wakes up, glances around. He gets on top of the horse, looks out of the trailer. There's a "Welcome to Washington, DC -- Our Nation's Capitol" sign.

Garrison barks at the driver.

INT. HORSE TRAILER - INSIDE TRUCK

The DRIVER, 60s, reacts to the bark. He pulls over.

EXT. WASHINGTON, DC - CITY STREET

He opens the gate of the trailer. Garrison barrels out. He woofs a thank you to the horse and driver, then speeds away.

DRIVER

Was that? (beat) No, couldn't be.

CITY SIDEWALK

Garrison runs along the sidewalk.

He rounds a corner and bumps into the same VENDOR who nabbed Garrison before.

The vendor grabs Garrison.

VENDOR

Long time no see.

He traps him with a milk crate.

VENDOR

Guess who's going back to the pound?

BACK TO THE STAGE

Kai prances to the front of the stage, his dog is at his side.

KAI

What up, Radnor Elementary?

The kids clap, call out "Yeah!" and "What up!"

KAI

Gimme a beat!

He claps his hands above his head. The kids do likewise. Kai beat boxes, then starts rapping.

KAI

My name is Kai, I am fly, I'll tell  
you why, I am dope, gonna get your  
vote, cause I'm the kid who's

(MORE)

KAI (cont'd)  
 gettin' rid of long school days and  
 stupid plays adding soda cans to  
 every class, so you will pass, so  
 you will last all through school, I  
 ain't no fool, ain't no chump,  
 gonna make this dump into something  
 cool...if you like to party then  
 shout "bust it up!" I said if you  
 like to party then shout "bust it  
 up!"

Most kids shout "Bust it up!"

KAI  
 Alright! Everybody come up on stage  
 and let's dance!

THIRTY KIDS take the stage. Principal Bolan tries in vain to  
 stop them.

LINDA

covers her face with her hands.

INT. ANIMAL CONTROL VAN - BACK OF VAN

Garrison tries to shake paws with a BOXER next to him. The  
 boxer just stares.

FRONT OF VAN

The same ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER as before, 30s, Latino,  
 drives, whistling to the music on the radio.

A RED LIGHT FLASHES

The officer stops at an intersection. He peers to his right.

A BIG SCREEN TV STORE

In the window, multiple TVs show a picture of Garrison with  
 the words, "Presidential Pup Still Missing!"

The officer examines the screens for a moment. The light  
 turns GREEN. The officer steps on the gas.

He comes to another RED LIGHT.

## A RADIO STATION BILLBOARD

with a huge picture of Garrison. It reads "Tune in for the latest on DC's favorite dog."

Slight recognition on the officer's face. He drives on.

He flips

## THE RADIO

to AM 850.

## RADIO HOST (O.S.)

...President Garrison is still out there. In case you live in a cave and have no idea of what he looks like, he's about 15lbs, black, and has a tuft of white fur on his chest..

The officer SLAMS the breaks, jumps out of the van.

## BACK OF VAN

The officer rips opens the back door. Garrison remains still. The other dogs bark. The officer's mouth hangs open.

## ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Mr. President?

Garrison woofs. The officer salutes.

## FRONT OF VAN

The officer sits with Garrison.

## ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Uh, should I take you to the White House?

Garrison shakes his head no.

## ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Wow. My dog doesn't even know his name and you know where you live. If only you could read a map then you could show me.

Garrison woofs. The officer is impressed.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
 A dog that understands English.  
 ¿Sabes español también?

Garrison bobs his head to indicate a little bit.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
 (getting out map)  
 Man, my mother-in-law would love  
 you. Listen, if you need a place to  
 stay, just let me know.

He spreads out the map on the dash.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
 Uh, okay, where to?

Garrison steps on a particular spot on the map.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
 You wanna go to this school?

Garrison nods yes.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER  
 I'm taking a dog president to  
 school. (beat) This is the weirdest  
 day of my life.

BACK TO THE STAGE

The principal and TWO TEACHERS chase the kids off the stage.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
 Settle down please. Please? I'm  
 asking nicely. Thank you. (beat)  
 And now the final speech from  
 Linda.

Boys boo. A couple girls cheer. Linda steps forward.

LINDA  
 This morning I lost someone I love.  
 My dog Garrison.

KAI  
 Little dogs stink anyway!

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
 Could you please be quiet -- if you  
 don't mind?

LINDA

My dog was asked to lead this country. And he did it. A little 15lb spaniel mix from the shelter that someone gave up on. Garrison's old owner didn't see his potential so they gave him away. Everyone underestimated him.

KAI

Sure they did. He's a dog!

A KID in the audience stands, stares at Kai.

KID IN AUDIENCE

Be quiet!

A handful of kids, boys and girls, say "Yeah!"

PRINCIPAL BOLAN

No more outbursts, please. Thank you. Go ahead Linda.

LINDA

Garrison passed the presidential test with flying colors. So now, I ask you to not underestimate me. Yep, I'm small too. I'm not funny or popular like Kai. But I have heart and courage. I ask that you give me a chance. I ask for your vote. Thank you.

Loud applause. Linda breaks into a smile.

SIDE OF STAGE

Annika smiles. Stewart claps enthusiastically. Kai grabs his arms.

BACK TO THE STAGE

PRINCIPAL BOLAN

Thank you Linda and thank you Kai...

A BARK echoes in the room. The teachers and kids look around.

Garrison gallops into the auditorium, towards the stage.

LINDA  
Garrison!

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Mr. President?

Garrison springs onto the stage.

KAI  
Sherman, bust him up!

SHERMAN

pants after Garrison. Garrison does a 180, races back down the aisle.

Sherman chases Garrison around the auditorium. The kids go crazy.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Wouldn't it be great if everyone  
calmed down?

The principal is drowned out. Garrison scoots along the

TOPS OF THE SEATS

leaping from row to row. Sherman falls repeatedly, but doesn't give up.

Garrison leads him onto

THE STAGE

from the other side. Principal Bolan steps in front of Sherman.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Sit! Please?

The dog knocks him over. Laughter.

Garrison slides underneath the

## BACKSTAGE CURTAIN

Sherman follows and gets tangled. Once free, Sherman and Garrison run in circles.

Sherman suddenly stops. Gasps for air.

The two dogs study each other.

KAI  
Yeah, take him out!

They get

## NOSE TO NOSE

A beat. The room is quiet. Sherman raises his paw into a shake. Garrison accepts. They wrestle playfully.

KAI  
Oh come on!

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
(getting to his feet)  
Friends, you will now go back to class and vote. The teachers will collect the ballots. We'll announce the winner and the runner up -- no losers here -- first thing tomorrow morning.

Garrison runs to

LINDA

and jumps into her arms.

ANNIKA AND STEWART

approach. Stewart high fives Linda. Annika gives her an approving nod.

STEWART  
(with watery eyes)  
Linda, that moved me. My heart feels very full right now.

Garrison barks in agreement.

LINDA  
We'll see tomorrow morning.

KAI AND SHERMAN

KAI  
Dumb dog! I trained you as a  
killer.

Sherman pants. Kai points to Garrison.

KAI  
Attack!

Sherman continues panting, then trots over to Garrison,  
licks him.

BACK TO LINDA

LINDA  
(calling out to Kai)  
These guys like each other. Wanna  
have a play date?

Kai stomps off. Stewart laughs his high-pitched laugh.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

President Garza puts on a suit in front of a mirror. Tyler  
helps him. Garza's movements are slow. He looks pale. An  
AGENT stands at the door.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
I can't let Sherwood veto that dog  
testing law without a fight.

TYLER  
Sir, he's already done it.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
I have to do something about it.

TYLER  
Listen, if you're worried about the  
numbers, your comeback tonight will  
send your approval rating through  
the roof.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
I'm not worried about my rating.  
This is about what's right.

Linda and Garrison enter. Linda leaps into her dad's arms.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
(in a hoarse whisper)  
Easy now. I'm still a little faint.  
How are you, honey?

LINDA  
Well, since you got sick, I decided  
to run for class president.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
That's great! You're going to win,  
I know it.

Linda smiles, hugs her dad again.

LINDA  
Dad, Mr. Garrison kidnapped  
Garrison and dumped him in the  
woods!

Garrison barks.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
I know. And I'm sorry. This is my  
fault. Looks like I picked the  
wrong VP... but at least I picked  
the right interim president.

Garrison woofs.

LINDA  
We don't have any proof he took  
Garrison.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
Let's worry about that...

The President puts a hand on his forehead, sits down.

LINDA  
Dad!

TYLER  
Sir, you sure you're up to this?

PRESIDENT GARZA  
 Yes. But if not, Garrison can  
 always speak in my place.

Garrison ruffs.

TV NEWS BROADCAST UNN - STATE OF THE UNION COVERAGE

IRA  
 I am Ira Johnson.

JILL  
 And I am Jill Biscay.

IRA  
 We are coming to you live in high  
 definition...

JILL  
 With special coverage of the  
 President's state of the union  
 address.

IRA  
 Our very own Janice Chen is at the  
 Capitol Building, awaiting the  
 speech. Janice?

INT. CAPITOL BUILDING

Janice holds a mic in front of a packed chamber.

JANICE  
 Thank you, Ira, Jill. What an  
 unusual night. Traditionally, the  
 President gives a state of the  
 union address once a year. And Mr.  
 Garza just gave one a couple weeks  
 ago. And while Mr. Garrison is  
 expected to speak, I've caught word  
 that Mr. Garza might show up -- as  
 well as President Garrison. That  
 is, the dog.

In the background, the SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE stands.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
 Ladies and gentlemen, the President  
 of the United States of America!

SENATORS and REPRESENTATIVES clap. A beat.

VP Garrison strolls into the hall triumphantly. He waves, shakes hands, soaks it all in.

He gets behind the presidential podium.

VP GARRISON

My fellow Americans. I am proud to be president at this crucial moment in history, when Mr. Garza has taken ill and when that stup...interim President has gotten lost. My first act was to veto the Animal Cruelty Act, which, if passed, would hurt businesses. I am here to show you strength, leadership, and that American can-do spirit. I love being President. I've waited a long time to be President. And I will be President for as long as you want me to be...

A GASP from the crowd. President Garza enters. Soft clapping grows louder. People rise to their feet.

THE VP

turns red.

JANICE (O.S.)

I don't believe it! Everyone here can't believe it! President Garza has returned!

GARZA

walks slowly to the front. The VP tightens his grip on the podium.

PRESIDENT GARZA

Sherwood.

VP GARRISON

Mr. President.

PRESIDENT GARZA

Do you mind?

VP GARRISON

Sir, you look tired. Why don't you rest?

The President stares him down. The VP hangs on for another moment, then sits.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
 Madam Speaker, Mr. Vice President,  
 my distinguished colleagues in  
 Congress, and my fellow  
 Americans...I am back.

Loud applause.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
 Thanks to Mr. Garrison, it appears  
 I will be making my next state of  
 the union address early. (laughter)  
 The first topic I would like to  
 discuss is the Animal Cruelty Act,  
 which Mr. Garrison vetoed...

Garza wobbles and then collapses into a chair.

THE CROWD

gasps.

LINDA AND GARRISON

race to his side.

From his chair, the President addresses the crowd.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
 (in a daze)  
 I want Garrison to speak.

VP GARRISON

returns to the podium, smiling broadly.

JANICE (O.S.)  
 Remarkable. The President is too  
 sick to continue and has asked the  
 Vice President to take his place!

VP GARRISON  
 Ha ha! I am the President!

PRESIDENT GARZA  
 No! Garrison the dog.

Garrison barks. The VP hugs the podium. Garrison jumps onto it, gets in his face.

VP GARRISON  
Get out of here!

LINDA  
You're mean, Mr. Garrison. You left  
Garrison in the woods.

A hush falls over the crowd.

VP GARRISON  
I did no such thing!

LINDA  
You did!

VP GARRISON  
I did not!

Garrison jumps onto the VP's head, barks. The VP starts swiping at him frantically.

VP GARRISON  
Get off me, you stupid mutt, or  
I'll drop you in the woods again  
and make sure you never come back!

THE CROWD

looks stunned. The VP stops moving.

Garrison jumps back onto the podium, taking the VP's TOUPEE with him. The crowd laughs.

VP GARRISON

storms out of the chamber.

THE CROWD

chants, "Garrison the dog!" louder and louder.

GARRISON

positions himself behind the mic. Linda stands at his side.

JANICE (O.S.)

In our nation's history, we've never had a dog deliver a state of the union address. What will he say? And more importantly, will we understand?

Garrison emits a series of barks. Linda leans into the mic.

LINDA

Garrison says he's honored to be here and that he hopes to make our family proud. (more barks) Being President is fun. (laughter, more barks) He wishes there were some way of passing the animal cruelty bill the Vice President vetoed.

Linda's eyes bulge. She smiles.

LINDA

Wait! I know.

(turns to Garrison)

If two-thirds of Congress vote for a bill the President vetoed, it can be overturned!

Garrison ruffs excitedly.

LINDA

So raise your hand, if you want to vote for the Animal Cruelty Act.

No one moves. A beat. Garrison starts barking.

LINDA

He says that the bill will help unwanted strays. He was an unwanted stray once and now he's found a family. Please change your vote.

THE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

one by one raise their hands until almost all have their hands raised.

LINDA

hugs Garrison. Garrison starts barking some more.

LINDA

Garrison thanks you and now wants to know which of you will adopt a pet.

A beat.

A FEW HANDS

sprout up. Garrison barks.

LINDA

He thinks there should be more.

MORE AND MORE

hands shoot up.

BACK TO JANICE IN FRONT OF THE CHAMBER

JANICE

Surely that has to rank up there with the best and strangest presidential speeches of all time. A surprise appearance from a sick president. A veto overturned. Senators promising to adopt pets. And you saw it all, right here on UNN!

LINDA AND GARRISON

go back to her father.

PRESIDENT GARZA

I'm really proud of you.

Linda smiles. Garrison ruffs.

PRESIDENT GARZA

You too, Garrison.

(to Linda)

I can't believe you got everyone to vote for the bill! I couldn't have done that. (beat) You're going to make a great class president.

LINDA

I don't know. Those kids love Kai. And he doesn't say anything. He just jumps around and dances and gets kids to clap.

PRESIDENT GARZA

It's hard to resist someone who's fun. But you know how to have a good time too. And you'd make a strong leader. Your classmates will see that.

LINDA

Thanks, dad. I love you.

PRESIDENT GARZA

Love you too.

Garrison ruffs.

LINDA

He said he's happy our family is back together.

INT. RADNOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - NEXT MORNING

Principal Bolan addresses the students.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN

Okay, friends, let's place that excitement in your book bags for later. Please? Can you be a little quieter? Thanks.

(pulls out envelope)

Before I announce our new class president and vice president, let's bring up all the candidates.

Kai, Stewart, Linda, and Annika come up.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN

A big round of applause. Really, there are no losers here.

Light applause.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN

And now, the moment we've all been waiting for. Who wants to know who the new 5th grade class president is?

Cheers.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
I said, who wants...

Kai grabs the envelope, tears out the paper inside.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Hey!

The principal tries to get it back. Kai quickly reads it.

KAI  
I won!

Kai goes berserk. He pumps his fists, chants, "Boys rule!"  
The boys chant with him.

LINDA  
hangs her head.

STEWART  
flashes a look of determination, rushes to the podium.

STEWART  
He cheated!

The room quiets instantly.

STEWART  
Kai stuffed fake votes into the  
ballot box!

KAI  
What are you doing!

STEWART  
Making sure a cheater doesn't win.

Kai pushes Stewart out of the way.

KAI  
You're fired. I don't need a VP  
anyway.  
(to crowd)  
Alright! I'm the new president!  
Let's get crazy!

The room is silent. The principal walks over to Kai.

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Kai, did you cheat?

KAI  
I'm making my acceptance speech!

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
Did you cheat?

KAI  
Yeah! So what? I won, didn't I?

PRINCIPAL BOLAN  
No, you didn't. Linda is the  
winner.

KAI  
Get out of here!  
(to crowd)  
Somebody give me a beat!

He claps. No one responds. Kai stops, looks embarrassed.

THE KIDS

yell "Linda! Linda! Linda!"

LINDA  
Principal Bolan, Miss Vice  
President, and my fellow  
classmates, I am pleased to accept  
the job of class president!

The kids cheer.

KAI  
runs out of the auditorium.

LINDA  
smiles at Stewart. He smiles back, gives a thumbs up.

A WEEK LATER

INT. WHITE HOUSE MOVIE THEATER - DAY

MOVIE SCREEN

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

A CHIMP in a periwig, robes, holding a gavel, sits behind the bench. He pounds the gavel.

JURY BOX

A DOZEN CHIMPS in suits eat bananas, wrestle, jump around.

GALLERY

More chimps in suits go crazy.

MOVIE THEATER SEATS

Linda, Stewart, and Annika laugh, eat popcorn. Stegman sits behind them, digging into a box of Dots.

STEWART

I can't believe you have a movie theater where you live.

LINDA

Yeah, this used to be a coat room until 1942. In the 50s, President Eisenhower...

ANNIKA

Shhh! This is the best part!

BACK TO THE SCREEN

JUDGE CHIMP

Bailiff, escort in the surprise witness.

A GORILLA in bailiff garb opens a door, letting in a RHINO in a suit. The courtroom goes even crazier.

JUDGE CHIMP

We'll reconvene after lunch!

BACK TO THE SEATS

STEWART  
Where's Garrison?

LINDA  
Hard at work I think.

ANNIKA  
Watch! It's about to get really  
crazy.

BACK TO THE SCREEN

The judge rides the rhino around the courtroom, trying to tame him. They destroy everything in sight.

INT. WHITE HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

The President walks the hallway. He's healthy again.

A STAFFER approaches him as he nears the Oval Office.

STAFFER  
Mr. President, I can't seem to find  
the Vice President.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
I moved him into my office, so I  
could keep an eye on him.

President Garza opens the door.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Agent Epstein greets the President.

AGENT EPSTEIN  
Good morning, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT GARZA  
How has the Vice President been  
behaving?

AGENT EPSTEIN  
Not bad, as long as he gets a snack  
every so often.

The President peeks inside the room.

Next to his desk is a smaller desk, a tenth the size. Behind it, Garrison sits. He winks.

MONTAGE

1) At the newstand. The gruff vendor shoos away a couple kids. A NEWSPAPER shows a picture of VP Garrison. A headline reads "VP GARRISON IMPEACHED FOR KIDNAPPING THE PRESIDENT AND TAKING BRIBES!"

2) White House lawn. Linda, Annika, Stewart, and Mr. Garza play fetch with Garrison.

3) Radnor Elementary School. Lunchtime. Linda goes over and shakes Kai's hand. Kai smiles apologetically. Linda smiles back.

FADE OUT

END CREDITS MONTAGE

1) British Parliament. A monkey is made the new prime minister.

2) Japanese royal ceremony. A duck is made the new emperor.

3) Mexican congress. A cow is made the new president.

4) Indian parliament. A cat is made the new prime minister.

5) Canadian parliament. A chicken is made the new prime minister.