

"ALEX"

INT. BACKSTAGE - DAY

Sc. 1

Alex turns to the Reporter --

START →

ALEX

A word of this sees print, there's even a Tweet about it, I'll make sure you're only interviewing people about whether they want soy or whole milk in their lattes.

The Reporter nods in understanding and exits. Leaving Alex alone with Jessica --

JESSICA

I'm sorry you had to witness that.

ALEX

What's going on, Jessica? After your daughter's abduction, I thought you two would be closer than ever.

Salt in the wound. Jessica covering --

JESSICA

It's a complex situation, Alex...

ALEX

My advice? Simplify it. You have to be either a mother or a candidate. You can't be both. Not right now. You can't split your focus.

A tentative nod from Jessica prompts --

ALEX (CONT'D)

I mean it, Jessica. Running a successful mayoral campaign isn't about polling or fundraising or hot-button issues, it's about connecting with people. That's why after we announce tomorrow I want to get you in front of as many cameras as possible: Morning shows, talk shows --

JESSICA

Alex, I want to help rebuild Star City, not pander to it.

ARROW #405

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ALEX

It's not pandering, it's campaigning. Let the people get to know the real Jessica Danforth and they'll fall in love with you.

Off Jessica smiling, reassured...

// END

INT. CAMPAIGN OFFICES - JESSICA'S OFFICE(PRESENT DAY, N1)

Sc.2

The remains of CHINESE TAKE OUT are scattered on the table. ALEX DAVIS skims through a large notebook as Madison sits across from him, *it's been a long night* --

START →

ALEX

Good news, we are almost done.
Just two more things left on the docket for tonight...

Madison looks at the paper in front of them -- takes her pen and makes a slash --

MADISON

Actually, just one. I've already booked Gerard's for Mom's fundraising event.

ALEX

That was fast.

MADISON

(proud)
Got connects from my clubbing days.

ALEX

Wait, is Gerard's that bar downtown?

MADISON

You've heard of it?

ALEX

(smiles)
Don't act so surprised.
(then)
I go to bars.
(off Madison)
Okay, I go to bar. Or, went.
(an admission)
It's been awhile.

MADISON

I figured.

The two smile -- and lock eyes for a second too long -- when Alex builds up the courage --

ALEX

I was thinking... maybe we should check out Gerard's tomorrow night.
(MORE)

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ALEX (CONT'D)

You know, just to make sure it's the right type of venue we want to introduce our candidate in.

MADISON

Wait, are you asking me out?

ALEX

I think so, but I can't be sure. It's been awhile since I've done this, too.

It's obvious Madison wants to say yes but something's holding her back.

MADISON

Look, Alex. Now is probably the world's worst timing for me to go out with anyone... let alone my mother's campaign manager.

Alex takes the rejection in stride --

ALEX

You're completely right and that was totally unprofessional. And something I normally would never consider and have never done before... I just thought -- there was something there... but I probably just consumed too much MSG.

(taking a breath)

How about we just erase these last five minutes?

MADISON

(smiles)

Deal.

//END