

RED, WHITE & ROYAL BLUE

Screenplay by
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Based on the novel
by Casey McQuiston

FINAL SCRIPT based on FINAL MIX
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01E INT. LUXURY CAR - DAY

01E

Alex and Nora in their wedding finery ride to Buckingham Palace. Nora is watching the coverage on her phone as Alex nervously fidgets.

REPORTER (OFF)

--Also representing the U.S. is Nora Holleran, the Vice President's Granddaughter.

NORA

She's talking about us!

REPORTER (OFF)

Mr. Claremont-Diaz is sometimes referred to as "the American Prince Henry."

Nora smiles at that.

ALEX

(turning to Nora)

Hey here's an idea--how about we skip the party tonight and go do touristy things instead?

NORA

No, are you crazy? I wanna see Buckingham Palace, don't you?

Alex shrugs.

NORA

Okay, you've been yucking my yum all day. What's going on with you?

ALEX

It's the whole Prince Henry comparison thing. He's spent his entire life attending fancy events like this. He's trained for this. I feel like if I use the wrong fork at dinner they'll eat me alive.

01F EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

01F

Alex and Nora leave their car and walk toward the front entrance.

01G INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

01G

They step inside the main entryway, where many of the wedding guests have gathered. A passing waiter offers them champagne. Alex takes one but Nora declines.

NORA

Just remember you're smart and charming
and everyone loves you.

Alex downs the drink.

01H INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

01H

Alex and Nora find themselves near the end of a receiving line. Philip and Martha followed by Henry and Bea slowly make their way down the line, greeting their guests.

Henry and Bea, shaking hands with guests. Henry whispers to Bea--

HENRY

When the revolution happens it will be
because of this wedding.

BEA

Oh shut up, Henry and get into the spirit
of the thing--Oh, hello.. Hi..

HENRY

Hello..

(turning to Bea)

The cake alone cost 75,000 pounds. They
practically had to break the doors down
to get it inside. It's obscene.

Bea SMACKS Henry in his stomach.

OVER TO Nora at the end of the receiving line as she
SMACKS Alex, uprighting him out of his ostrich position--

NORA

You're not going to want to hear this,
but that Prince Henry is so yummy.

ALEX

Nora, no! He's a such a snob.

NORA

I dunno, man. If I was going to go for a
rich white boy, that is the rich white
boy I'd go for.

ALEX

But he's the worst kind of rich white boy. So smug and entitled.

NORA

He's a prince, Alex. He's literally entitled.

Back to Henry and Bea, who are getting closer.

BEA

Oh, you know what is obscene--is how attractive the President's son is. Have you ever met him?

HENRY

Yes, a few times. He's very...animated.

Back with Alex and Nora--

ALEX

He's the world's rudest person.

And then to Henry and Bea.

HENRY

He's the world's most irritating person.

And to Alex and Nora.

ALEX

Also, I swear that he is not 6' 2".

Then Henry and Bea arrive. Bea and Alex greet each other as Henry shakes the hand of an older dignitary.

HENRY

It's wonderful to see you.

Bea excitedly greets Nora--

BEA

I have heard so much about you. You're sticking with me tonight, come on.

And with that, Bea pulls Nora away.

Now it's Alex's turn to be greeted by Henry. Alex nods politely--

ALEX

How's it going?

But Henry walks on, totally ignoring him. CLOSE on Alex, shocked at the snub.

Alex shakes his head and makes his way inside, alone.

1 Omitted 1

2 OMITTED 2

3 OMITTED 3

4 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - BALLROOM - DAY 4

Alex sips his drink, watching the other guests from afar.

He re-enters the ballroom, swiping a scotch from the bar that was meant for another guest. Alex navigates the guests and sinks back into a sofa, scanning the party. His eyes land on...

Prince Henry standing by himself next to the ENORMOUS WEDDING CAKE.

Alex takes a swig and walks in Henry's direction --

5 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - BALLROOM - DAY 5

Alex approaches with his drink still in his mitts.

ALEX

Henry, wassup! Long time no see.

HENRY

Alex.

ALEX

Killer wedding, man.

HENRY

I'm glad you're enjoying yourself.

ALEX

Oh, who doesn't love a little Mozart?

HENRY

Actually, it's Schubert.

Alex places his drink on the cake table and leans on it.

ANGLE ON top of cake, looming above the room. It WOBBLES SLIGHTLY from the impact of Alex's body.

ALEX

Although you gotta wonder how many families you could feed with what this cake cost.

HENRY

Probably not as many as if we put your shoes on auction.

ALEX

Rude.

Alex grabs his drink again, accidentally grazing the side of the cake, pulling back a big handful of frosting. He tries to lick, then wipe it off, then finally decides to just go with it.

ALEX

Tell me something, Your Majesty...

HENRY

Yes, Alex.

ALEX

Did your parents send you to snobbery school or does looking down on people just come naturally to you?

HENRY

Well in your case, I would say it's rather inevitable.

ALEX

We are the same height!

HENRY

If you say so, Alex. Great to see you.

ALEX

You too, Your Majesty.

HENRY

It's "Your Royal Highness", "Your Majesty" is reserved for the King.

ALEX

Oh, thank you for the etiquette lesson.

HENRY

You are desperately in need of one.

Henry turns to leave when--

ALEX

You know what.

Alex grabs his shoulder, accidentally getting icing all over Henry's tuxedo. Henry and Alex look at the mess simultaneously, then...

ALEX

I am so sorry.

Alex hands Henry his glass so he wipe off the mess, but he only makes it worse. Henry shoves the glass back at Alex, spilling the booze all over Alex. Henry then takes a handkerchief out and begins wiping down his filthy lapel.

ALEX

Here, let me...

Alex hands the glass back to Henry again and grabs the handkerchief from him to wipe. Henry grabs it back and the begin to tussle over it and the cleaning until finally Henry has enough and shoves Alex away, causing Alex, drunk and off-balance, to fall backward toward the WEDDING CAKE. Eyes wide with panic, he reaches for Henry to catch himself, which ends up pulling Henry toward him.

WIDE SHOT: The wedding in full swing, at the top of the frame, Alex and Henry falling toward the cake.

SLOW MOTION: Alex and Henry topple toward the cake.

SLOW MOTION: The wedding guests turn their attention toward the imminent disaster. Chief among them are the BRIDE and GROOM.

SLOW MOTION: Nora turns her head in Alex and Henry's direction. The look on her face: oh shit.

SLOW MOTION: Alex and Henry land on the cake table, sending the massive confection toppling over.

THEN BACK TO NORMAL SPEED AS they land on the floor in an avalanche of white buttercream.

Prince Philip, furious--

PHILIP

Henry!

Alex and Henry share a look. They slip in the frosting as they try to get up.

Then, from amongst the guests, a WAITER takes out his phone and starts taking pictures.

BACK TO ALEX AND HENRY AS they EMERGE FROM THE MESS. Henry gets to his knees and flicks icing and cake from his hands. IMAGE FREEZES and we catch a doozy of a candid photo of the two on the ground, covered in cake, as we --

6 OPENING TITLES

6

Saul Bass-style animated credits detailing the British tabloid news coverage of the fiasco. We also use the titles as a way of introducing each of the characters in the story--delineating between the Americans and the Brits. THEN --

7 OMITTED

7

7A OMITTED

7A

8 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY

8

WIDE SHOT of Alex sitting in the middle of the storied room. In a chair beside him sits ZAHRA BANKSTON, (40's, non-White), the White House Deputy Chief-of-Staff. And before him, stood behind the Resolute Desk is--

PRESIDENT ELLEN CLAREMONT (55, White), a compact and iron-nerved Texan who presently does not look at all happy.

Silence for a moment as she stares at him, as if trying to decide whether or not she could get away with killing him. Then --

ELLEN

Darlin' you have done some pretty stupid things in your day. But this--

ALEX

Takes the cake?

ELLEN

Did you hear that, Zahra? He's opening with a joke.

ZAHRA

Maybe he can host the Correspondents' Dinner next year.

ALEX

I'd be down.

ZAHRA

No.

ELLEN

I sent you to London with some pretty simple instructions: represent the family at the royal wedding and don't cause an international incident.

ALEX

Henry shoved me.

ELLEN

An urge I currently share with the prince. We have spent the last three years negotiating a new trade deal with His Majesty's government.

ZAHRA

Thousands of hours, gallons of tea.

ELLEN

Before this weekend, I had a higher approval rating than the Prime Minister. Hell, I was out-polling the Spice Girls. And overnight, you've managed to undo all that.

ALEX

Ma, by next week no one will be talking about this anymore. And really, no reasonable person is going to even pay attention to that article...

Zahra starts a video on her iPad, showing it to Alex.

ON THE IPAD, we find the UK PRIME MINISTER at their podium at the 10 Downing Briefing Room.

PRIME MINISTER

The British people deserve better from our closest ally than this juvenile stunt. And it certainly casts a pall over our negotiations.

BACK IN THE ROOM -- Zahra closes her iPad. Alex looks up at his mother.

ELLEN

I'm on the ballot again in 14 months, and I need the farming exports and manufacturing jobs that this deal provides to take to Midwest voters.

ALEX

I'd argue you don't actually need the Midwest and there's a path to re-election without the you don't want to hear from me today.

Ellen stands and heads for door --

ELLEN

What I need from you, sunshine of my heart, is some good old-fashioned damage control. Zahra will explain everything.

As Ellen is in the doorway --

ALEX

I'm really sorry, Mom.

ELLEN

I know you are, baby. That's why I need you to fix it.

With that, Ellen leaves. Once Alex and Zahra are alone, she starts whacking him with a couch cushion.

ZAHRA

Asshole!

ALEX

Zahra!

After a brief scuffle...

ZAHRA

You're flying back to London tonight.

ALEX

What??? Why???

ZAHRA

To undo all the damage you've done. The White House and the Palace are going to release a joint statement explaining that what happened at the wedding was a complete misunderstanding--

ALEX

Which it was.

ZAHRA

--and despite rarely having time to see one another, you and Prince Henry are in fact close personal friends and have been for the last several years.

ALEX

Zahra.

ZAHRA

(pulling a file from her portfolio)

This is a fact sheet on Prince Henry. Memorize it.

ALEX

(looking at it)

He is not six foot two. And does he get a fact sheet for me?

ZAHRA

Yes. And I can assure you that making it was one of the most depressing moments of my career. And I once saw Mitch McConnell eating a banana.

Zahra gathers her things and heads out of the room.

ALEX

(following)

Can I just point out that the Royal Family are purely figurehead, they serve no elective role whatsoever?

ZAHRA

Unlike you, whose role is clearly spelled out in "Article Nothing" of the U.S. Constitution.

She heads out into --

8A

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OUTSIDE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

8A

ZAHRA

And you're going there to work. No hookups, no partying. You can hate Prince Henry all you want, but the minute you see a camera, you better act like the sun shines out of his ass and you have a Vitamin D deficiency. And there is no getting out of this.

ALEX

Oh yeah? What if I set myself on fire?

ZAHRA

We'd ship the ashes to Heathrow.

And with that, she's off, leaving Alex in the dust.

9 OMITTED

9

10 OMITTED

10

11 INT. COMMERCIAL FLIGHT - BUSINESS CLASS - NIGHT

11

Alex and Amy mid-flight. Amy holds the Henry fact sheet.

ALEX

Mother: Her Royal Highness, Princess
Catherine, Duchess of Edinburgh.
Firstborn child of His Majesty, King
James III.

AMY

Did you know she started her own climate
nonprofit? That's pretty cool.

ALEX

Do you wanna swap jobs this weekend?

AMY

No one in their right mind would ever
give you a gun. Henry's father, go.

ALEX

Arthur Fox, beloved English stage and
film actor, died of cancer three years
ago.

AMY

I remember that. What's the name of
Henry's dog?

ALEX

David. I mean, really--who names a dog
David?

AMY

You know I have a Shih Tzu named
Jonathan.

ALEX

Yeh, I still maintain that's weird.

AMY

That's my son you're talking about.

ALEX

He is super cute.

AMY

He is. You wanna see some pictures?

ALEX

Yeah, a hundred percent.

AMY

Oh yeah.

-- We see vignettes of London captured on Alex's phone.
The Tower of London, Big Ben, Southbank...

The likes, follows and comments going through the roof on
his socials.

12 OMITTED

12

13 EXT. KENSINGTON PALACE - DAY

13

The Land Rover comes to a stop in front of the palace. A
Palace Attendant opens the door for Alex to step out.
Alex looks around at the grounds--lush and green, the
stables are elaborate and elegant. He's slightly awed by
it all.

A tall South Asian man in an impeccably tailored suit
approaches. He is SHAAN SRIVASTAVA.

SHAAN

Mister Claremont-Diaz, welcome to
Kensington Palace. Shaan Srivastava,
Prince Henry's equerry.

Alex throws his arms around Shaan.

ALEX

Nice to meet you, Shaan. Didn't expect to
be back in England so soon.

SHAAN

No one is more mystified than I.

ALEX

So what exactly is an "equerry?" Do you handle the horses?

SHAAN

I am His Royal Highness's personal attendant.

ALEX

So you're the butler?

SHAAN

I am not the butler, I am the equerry.

ALEX

And back we go to my original question: what is an equerry?

SHAAN

Me.

The SOUND of a SPORTS CAR approaching.

A VINTAGE JAGUAR comes roaring through the gates, Henry at the wheel wearing sunglasses and an impeccable suit.

SHAAN

Ah, here comes His Royal Highness now.

Henry brings the car to a stop right in front of Alex.

ALEX

You've got to be joking.

Henry gets out, giving his shirt cuffs a good tug as he goes.

HENRY

Alex. It's good to see you. Sober.

SHAAN

One of our photographers will now take some pictures of His Royal Highness welcoming you.

ALEX

Don't I get to shower and change first?

SHAAN

(pronouncing it "shed-yule")
I'm afraid we're on a very tight schedule, sir.

ALEX

Oh, wouldn't want to screw up the
"shedyule."

SHAAN

You must stand to the right of His Royal
Highness.

ALEX

Is that protocol or is that just his good
side?

HENRY

(to Shaan)

Shall we do this?

SHAAN

Yes, sir.

And with that, Alex moves over to Henry's right. Shaan
begins direct them and the photographer.

Alex and Henry pose for photos, hands clenched in what's
meant to be a hand-shake. Through clenched teeth:

ALEX

My NDA is bigger than yours, I want you
to know that.

HENRY

You're wearing lifts. I know that too,
sweetheart.

Photographer gets a juicy photo of Alex's shocked
reaction.

HENRY

Are we finished here?

SHAAN

Yes, Your Royal Highness.

Henry walks away with Shaan and the rest of his team
following.

PUSHING IN ON ALEX. This won't be fun.

ALEX

Dick.

15 OMITTED

15

16 INT. POSH HOTEL SUITE - DAY

16

Alex and Henry sit next to each other on a sofa--Alex once again to Henry's right (camera left). Several ROYAL ATTENDANTS scurry about making last minute adjustments to Henry's hair. Alex runs his fingers through his own hair.

ALEX

Hey Shaan, you think maybe I could get a little...?

SHAAN

You're fine.

(to the Attendants)

Thank you.

The Attendants walk away. Henry hands Shaan his phone.

HENRY

Thank you Shaan.

SHAAN

Whenever you're ready.

THEN --

ROUGHLY CUTTING as Alex and Henry give back-to-back interviews. The interviewer keeps changing but it all gets sewn together into a single coherent interview.

At first, they're sitting as far from each other as possible when --

INTERVIEWER 1

Can you two scooch in a little closer together?

Reluctantly, they do.

INTERVIEWER 1

Now you have been mates since you met at the Melbourne Climate Conference several years back, is that correct?

HENRY

Yes, yes, we hit it off instantly, like we'd known each other all our lives.

(turns to Alex)

Right?

ALEX

...Yup.

Then, with INTERVIEWER 2 --

INTERVIEWER 2

Wonderful. So Alex, what do you think of jolly old England?

ALEX

I really love it here. I've been a few times since my Mom was elected. I love the people, the beer, the dogs that wear the sweaters...

HENRY

Well actually we say "jumpers."

ALEX

I love how all your outlets have those little light switches on them. Except for in the bathroom. There's no outlets in the bathroom...

HENRY

(enjoying himself a little)
Alex has very strong opinions. And he shares them, loudly.

ALEX

What three words would I use to describe Henry? White. Blonde. And... British.

HENRY

One thing I most admire about Alex is his willingness to admit when he's wrong. A wonderful, wonderful trait to have.

ALEX

You don't know this, but Henry does the best freestyle raps.

HENRY

--Well.

ALEX

Go on, do a little for them.

HENRY

No. That's not why we're--

ALEX

She wants to hear it.

Alex doing his version of Henry rapping, as--

HENRY

Don't you do an incredible Barbra
Streisand impression?

Alex LAUGHS it off.

HENRY

Voice of an angel this one, really.

ALEX

I love hanging out with this guy.

Alex reaches over and playfully punches Henry in the arm
harder than he probably should. Henry just smiles.

Then, quickly --

INTERVIEWER 3

Now I have to ask this...

INTERVIEWER 2

...because it's all anyone is talking
about...

INTERVIEWER 1

...how on earth did you end up on the
floor...

INTERVIEWER 4

in Buckingham Palace...

INTERVIEWER 5

...covered in cake?

Alex is about to answer when --

HENRY

Actually it happens more often than you'd
think at the Palace. In the reign of
Queen Victoria, they were having food
fights all the time.

ALEX

Vicky... Classic.

18 INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - DAY

18

Alex and Henry are talking to a group of kids. Henry points to Alex. Lots of photographers.

HENRY

Do you know who this is?

Kids shake their head "no."

HENRY

Well his mum is the President of the United States. And my mum is the Duchess of Edinburgh. Which means that his mum outranks my mum, what do we think of that?

The kids giggle with delight. Alex cannot help but smile.

21 INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

21

Alex and Henry continue their tour, photographers and security once again in tow.

ALEX

Do you visit this place a lot?

HENRY

Every couple of months. Never with photographers, though.

Alex is about to say something when BANG! What sounds like gunfire down the hall. Amy grabs both Henry and Alex and shoves them through the nearest door into --

22 INT. SUPPLY CLOSET

22

--as Alex trips over a mop and one of Henry's legs and they go crashing down together into a clattering pile of bedpans.

AMY

Stay down.

She closes the door. Alex has landed on top of Henry.

HENRY

Get. Off. Me. You're sitting on my leg.

ALEX

Are you serious right now.

Alex pulls himself off Henry, but they're wedged in together, legs entangled. They struggle but it's useless. Alex slips down next to Henry's side. They are essentially spooning. Henry looks for a place to put his hands but the only place is on Alex's arm.

Henry tries his best to sit up, but the space is so tight and then there's still the question of their arms. In the end, he has no choice but to get comfortable. They are both keenly aware that their bodies are pressed next to each other. Their breathing starts to sync up. It isn't entirely unsexy.

HENRY

Santal 33.

ALEX

Yeah?

HENRY

Makes sensse.

ALEX

What do you mean by that?

HENRY

It means you have good taste, Alex.

ALEX

Thanks.

HENRY

And why do you dislike me?

Alex is caught off guard by this question. He turns to look at Henry. Now Alex is on his back and Henry's on his side. Their faces are right next to each other.

ALEX

Climate Conference in Melbourne. First night party. I went to introduce myself to you and you looked at me like I had head lice. Then you turned to your equerry and said, "get me out of here."

HENRY

I didn't realize you'd heard that.

ALEX

So you do admit that's a douchey thing to say.

HENRY

I could have been nicer. Alright, what else?

(once Alex doesn't answer)

It couldn't have just been the conference.

(when Alex doesn't answer)

Oh my God, it is. It is, isn't it?

ALEX

Don't minimize it.

HENRY

How could I possibly? It's already as minimal as it gets. Are you seriously telling me that one meeting, years ago, in which yes, I admittedly acted ungenerously towards you has occupied such a vast mental and emotional space in your head?

ALEX

Ok sure, when you put it like that. But it was my first foray into the world as a public figure and I was really scared and you could of helped me and you didn't.

HENRY

You're right. I'm sorry I was a prick to you. It's no excuse, but I was a prick to everyone in those days. My father had died a few months before and the Palace insisted on parading me around.

CLOSE ON ALEX absorbing this information.

HENRY

For the record, I didn't say "get me out of here." I said, "I need to get out of here." Which is a different thing entirely.

ALEX

Oh. Well now I feel like I need to apologise.

The door suddenly opens.

AMY

Threat neutralized. Some kid brought fireworks for his friend.

ALEX

When you say "neutralized...?"

It's good he's already in a hospital.

INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - DAY

Alex animatedly telling a story to a group of kids. He is dressed as a strawberry. He waves the children goodbye and heads to the door where he sees --

INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

ALEX'S POV: Henry standing next to a YOUNG GIRL'S BED. She wears a cap over her bald head. Henry's talking sweetly to her.

She laughs. ANGLE ON Alex, watching this.

EXT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - DAY

Alex and Henry emerge from the front entrance and approach their waiting cars. Photographers are cordoned off in the distance.

Well we survived it. That means we never have to see each other again.

Wrong. You're expected at my New Year's party.

No, I hate New Year's.

Wow. Most people would kill to get an invite to my party.

That's perfect. They can kill me and then I won't have to go.

They can't help but smile.

I think we're supposed to shake hands now.

They shake. We HEAR the sound of CAMERAS CLICKING.

ALEX

I know, I know. Stand to your right.
Okay, well I need to get out of here. See
you in a few months, Your Majesty.

Henry fights a wave of irritation as Alex turns toward
his waiting car.

ALEX

Later, Shaan.

He stops, looks at the cameras and with the most shit-
eating of grins, gives them his best presidential wave.

RACHEL MADDOW (O.S.)

But I think it's telling, that in it, no
matter how silly the so-called cake-gate
controversy may be, and it is very silly.

IPAD FULL SCREEN - RACHEL MADDOW - NEWS BROADCAST

RACHEL MADDOW (ON IPAD)

You can already see the potential
outlines of what the President
Claremont's campaign could be about next
year, right?

10

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - TRUMAN BALCONY - NIGHT

10

Alex's father, Congressman OSCAR DIAZ (55, Latino)
sitting on a wrought iron chair, smoking a cigar *watching*
Rachel Maddow on his Tablet. Dialogue in italics will be
spoken in Spanish.

RACHEL MADDOW (ON IPAD)

And in so far as it concerns the
President's trade deal with Great
Britain. Well, the first son's charm
offensive this week has helped his
mother's campaign.

In walks Alex--

ALEX

Hey dad.

OSCAR

Hey, *mijo*.

ALEX

I watched your committee hearing on the
flight home.

OSCAR

Yeah, you and three other people.

ALEX

You should be tougher on those agribusiness mofos.

OSCAR

Well, maybe I can get you to push them in a cake for me?

Oscar chuckles at his own joke.

OSCAR

What you got against him anyway? I mean he seems like a nice enough guy.

ALEX

Oh come on dad. He's, he's elite and privileged and lives in a palace.

Oscar reaches over and brushes his hand across Alex's shoulder.

ALEX

What, what's that?

OSCAR

Just brushing that old working class chip off your shoulder.

ALEX

Hey, you and mom taught me to question authority.

OSCAR

Mmm meanwhile you're now elite and privileged and live in a palace. And your mom is the epitome of authority. It's funny how life works.

(both looking at the view)

Speaking of your mom's authority. Don't tell her I was smoking.

24A

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

24A

Alex is leaving with a takeaway coffee. He passes a table on his way out and--

MALE VOICE

Alex!

ANGLE ON MIGUEL RAMOS, a reporter in his late 20's working at a table. He is handsome, direct, charming.

ALEX

Hey Miguel. What's up?

MIGUEL

ACD, slumming it in Shaw. Got a minute?

ALEX

Yeah, I could hang.

Alex sits across from Miguel.

MIGUEL

Nice damage control this weekend. I had no idea you and the prince were such good friends.

ALEX

Yeah, well...neither did I.

They smile and then look suddenly awkward. There's clearly something going on between them but before it gets too weird--

MIGUEL

Hey, do you mind if I put on my journalist hat on for a sec?

ALEX

Only if you actually have one of those journalist hats like they do in the old movies.

MIGUEL

Promise I'll wear it for you sometime. Is your mother's campaign nervous the Republicans are going to nominate Richards?

ALEX

The only Republican who makes us nervous is Abraham Lincoln and I doubt he's running.

MIGUEL

You see? This is why I ask you these things because you give me quotes like that. You have to let me use it.

ALEX

Not a chance, Miguel.

MIGUEL

You are such a tease. How about "sources close to the President?"

Alex is tempted, but--

ALEX

I'm gonna pass.

MIGUEL

Bueno, lo intenté.

(then)

Deberíamos de vernos pronto. Off the record, of course. Hace mucho, no?

ALEX

Yeah, well...*la escuela ha estado locura últimamente.*

MIGUEL

Yeah, you're always running at full speed. *Es lo que te hace encantador. Eso las pestañas.*

Miguel actually renders Alex speechless. If he weren't Mexican, he would blush. Then...

ALEX

I should get going. *Que bueno verte, Miguel.*

MIGUEL

Lo mismo, Alex.

Alex hustles off and Miguel watches him go.

25 OMITTED

25

26 INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT

26

Alex is at his desk, studying. His phone buzzes.

CLOSE ON PHONE: a +44 number has texted him a photo of Alex at an event with a beautiful woman on his arm. You always pose for photos with your right hand in your pocket. Are you having a wank?

Alex looks at his phone, not at all certain who sent this. THEN, another text: It's Henry, by the way.

ALEX

How did you get my number?

HENRY

MI6. (Not kidding.)

Followed by an image of 'Spy Kids'.

Alex rolls his eyes, but does save the number: HRH Prince Dickhead, followed by the Poop Emoji.

27 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OUTSIDE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

27

Alex is walking through the West Wing offices when he spots a copy of PEOPLE opened to a photo of Henry on a beach with his arm around a beautiful young woman in a bikini. Alex snaps a photo, then starts typing.

CLOSE ON THE PHONE: he's texted the photo to Henry along with: You have a lot of moles. Is that a result of the inbreeding?

As Alex types -- WE SEE images from PEOPLE magazine appear around him, defaced by playful doodles he's made on his phone.

27A OMITTED

27A

28 INT. GEORGETOWN LECTURE HALL - DAY

28

Alex in a lecture, taking notes on his computer. An iMessage alert from Henry pops up on his screen, linking to a *Daily Star* Tweet: "Is Alex Claremont-Diaz going to be a father?" Then we see Henry's text: But we were ever so careful dear.

Alex laughs out loud, eliciting a "shhh" from the student next to him.

ALEX

Sorry.

TEXTING MONTAGE: We then follow Alex through his autumn, catching snippets of their text exchanges as Henry appears and disappears into frame.

29 ALEX JOGGING ALONG THE POTOMAC --

29

ALEX

I hate the tie you're wearing in Vogue.
It's so boring. What do you have against
color anyway?

HENRY
Grey is a colour, thank you.

29A OMITTED

29A

ALEX'S DRESSING ROOM --

Alex at the mirror dressed for a black tie event.

HENRY (V.O.)
Just received a parcel of your mum's old
campaign t-shirts. Is this your idea of a
prank?

ALEX (V.O.)
The next box is full of thongs.

HENRY (V.O.)
I first read Zadie Smith as a teenager--

24 GEORGETOWN LECTURE HALL --

24

Alex is a lecture, taking notes. The student sitting next
to him slides her phone towards him.

ALEX (V.O.)
You absolutely have to read *Another*
Country by James Baldwin--

HENRY (V.O.)
The Picture of Dorian Gray--

ALEX (V.O.)
And Love in the Time of Cholera--

CLOSE ON PHONE -- a gif of Alex punching Henry in the arm
during their interview.

HENRY (V.O.)
Also *Madame Bovary*.

ALEX (V.O.)
I'm sending you a copy.

Alex laughs, rolls his eyes, shakes his head and gets
back to taking notes.

29B WHITE HOUSE RESIDENCE LIVING ROOM --

29B

Alex and Nora watching 'Some Like It Hot' on the TV.

Henry crosses the TV and sits down, talking animatedly. Though they do not look at each other.

HENRY

That's the thing no one understands about Byron's poetry. He was single handedly responsible for every romance ever written in the past two centuries. And that's not even considering his personal life.

ALEX

I'm blocking you for the rest of the night.

HENRY

He had London under his spell--

HENRY VANISHES IN A SWIRL OF MONARCH BUTTERFLIES.

30

INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT

30

CLOSE ON A TURKEY staring at us from behind the bars of a crate. THEN --

Alex snaps a photo and sends it to Henry.

HENRY (O.C.)

Good God, man, what have you done?

ALEX

So there's this American tradition where the President pardons a turkey before Thanksgiving.

HENRY (O.C.)

I don't understand, don't you have to commit a crime to be pardoned?

ALEX

Don't look too closely at it. I found out that they keep the turkey in a luxury hotel suite the night before the ceremony. I mean, can you think of anything more wasteful?

Alex lays a blanket over the crate.

HENRY (O.C.)

Perhaps this conversation?

ALEX

Anyway, I convinced my mother's staff to keep it at the White House and they put the little asshole in my room!

Alex crosses to the other side of the bed. As he does Henry appears on Alex's bed eating from a box of Jaffa cakes.

While in the same shot, they never look at each other.

HENRY

Don't ask mommy for a pet if you can't take care of it.

ALEX

Why are you awake?

HENRY

Because some bellend called me at three in the morning to talk turkey.

ALEX

What's a "bellend?"

HENRY

Look it up. I'm also a world class insomniac. I'm in bed, with my dog, watching *Bake Off*.

ALEX

It never occurred to me that the royal family watches television.

HENRY

Well, we all share the same password.

ALEX

You're more of a human than I thought.

They both turn on their side, facing in.

Unlike before, this time they ultimately do interact with each other.

HENRY

Wow, Alex, that's so flattering.

ALEX

No, I just mean...you don't act like the kind of person who would name his dog "David."

HENRY

Well he's named after Bowie.

Alex looks at Henry as if he were actually in the room.

ALEX

Wait, seriously? That's way cooler. Why not just call him Bowie, then?

HENRY

It's a bit on the nose, don't you think?

ALEX

Have I surprised you in any way?

HENRY

Nope. You are just as ghastly as I imagined.

TOP SHOT: CLOSE ON Alex as he turns away from Henry, looking up. A moment, then--

HENRY

I'm hanging up now.

ALEX

No, I'm hanging up on you.

HENRY

Fine, have it your way.

CONTINUE TOP SHOT ON ALEX, not moving. Then --

HENRY

That's what the big red button is for.

Alex smiles, turns back to Henry.

WE ANGLE to reveal Henry's not there.

ALEX

Good night.

Alex hangs up. He looks at the phone a moment, then settles back into his bed.

He THWACKS a cushion over his head to the loud sound of the turkey GOBBLING.

-- SHOTS of WASHINGTON DC and the WHITE HOUSE at CHRISTMAS time.

30A INT. ZAHRA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

30A

Zahra at her desk, working on her laptop. Alex appears at her door.

ALEX

Has anyone on the campaign actually read my Texas strategy memo?

ZAHRA

What Texas strategy memo?

ALEX

I think I have my answer.

ZAHRA

Alex this isn't a really good time, I have a ton of work, can you just-- Yeah, just make yourself at home kid.

Alex comes in and plops down onto her sofa.

ALEX

Okay, here's the deal: I wrote a fourteen-page memo detailing how we can win in Texas next year. I spent weeks working on it. I think its a viable plan that you should take seriously. I emailed it to senior campaign staff three weeks ago and I've heard *nada*.

Zahra sits beside Alex.

ZAHRA

Did anyone ask you to write this memo?

ALEX

No. I took the initiative.

Alex reaches into his bag and pulls out a copy of his memo.

ZAHRA

Yeah. If there's one thing people on the campaign hates, it's when the candidate's family takes initiative.

ALEX

Zahra, there are good ideas in there. I really want to help.

ZAHRA

You do help. You are genuinely useful.

ALEX

Yeah, for like photo ops and New Year's parties and stupid shit like that. But I can do so much more...Will you please read my memo?

ZAHRA

Fine.

Zahra snatches Alex's memo.

ALEX

Thank you.

ZAHRA

Get the hell out of my office.

Zahra then returns to her desk and her work. Alex stands and heads to the door.

ZAHRA

Oh, one more thing--has your new buddy the Prince confirmed for your New Year's party?

ALEX

Zahra, did you not just listen to my entire soliloquy?

ZAHRA

Alex, I've got the Prime Minister coming in town next month for a visit. You want to help your mother's campaign? Make sure Prince Henry comes to your party. People like him more than they like you.

ALEX

(out the door)

Well they wouldn't if they knew him.
Later!

Zahra looks down at Alex's memo.

31 OMITTED

31

32 EXT. WHITE HOUSE - TENT ON SOUTH LAWN - NIGHT

32

Establishing the huge party tent that has been installed for the event. Limos lined up the drive. Then we go to --

33 INT. PARTY TENT - NIGHT

33

It's a HUGE party. Over 300 young people, all dressed up. A cool vibe permeates. We catch --

Alex and Nora looking amazing as they move through the crowd. Guests nod and raise glasses to their host.

Partygoers snap disposable cameras of fellow revellers as VIPs sip champagne and martinis around private tables and dance platforms.

33A INT. PARTY TENT - NIGHT

33A

ANGLE ON Alex and Nora nearby, moving past minglers. They look up at this and --

ALEX

Ah, look who it is?

Through the revelers on the dance floor, we REVEAL PERCY OKONJO (24, Nigerian-British) in a bright floral patterned satin bomber. Percy is just as impressive as his clothes.

Behind him saunters --

HENRY, looking dashing in a simple dark blue suit with a bright coppery-mustard tie. He approaches with a knowing smirk on his face. All four meet.

ALEX

Nice tie. Rockin' the orange.

HENRY

Orange? You must be colourblind? This is obviously copper.

ALEX

You are so annoying.

HENRY

Nora, this is my best mate Percy Okonjo, who has been begging me for an introduction since the wedding.

PERCY

Miss Holleran, you are the most exquisite woman I have ever seen in my life. I would love to procure for you the most lavish drink in this establishment.

NORA

Well, it is an open bar and a free-ish country so only the Secret Service can stop you.

Percy follows Nora to the bar. Alex slings an arm around Henry's neck.

ALEX

I've been drunk since Christmas. You gotta catch up.

Alex pulls Henry toward --

34

INT. PARTY TENT - VIP AREA - NIGHT

34

THROUGH THE CROWDED VIP AREA, we spot Alex and Henry talking animatedly on a VIP sofa.

Suddenly a glammed up FLIRTY GIRL slinks herself on the sofa across Alex's legs. Her arm around his neck.

FLIRTY GIRL

How're you doing?

ALEX

I'm good, how're you?

She extends a hand just noticing but not recognising the Prince.

HENRY

(a little startled)

I'm uh, Henry.

And with that--the music switches up.

FLIRTY GIRL

(to Alex)

Oh my god, we've got to dance, come on.

She grabs Alex's hand, tugging him towards the dancefloor. He turns back to Henry--

ALEX

You not going to dance?

HENRY

You go ahead.

Henry left alone sipping his martini on the sofa, surrounded by socialites all grooving to the music, doing their thing.

35 INT. PARTY TENT - NIGHT

35

Alex is dancing his fool head off with the FLIRTY GIRL. Nora and Percy are nearby, having a blast. Alex looks out across the ballroom to find HENRY ALONE AT THE BAR. Posh wallflower.

36 INT. PARTY TENT - BAR - NIGHT

36

Alex approaches Henry, placing a friendly hand on his shoulder.

ALEX

You don't dance?

HENRY

The ballroom lessons didn't exactly cover this.

ALEX

It's all in the hips. Loosen up!

Alex reaches down and places both hands on Henry's hips. Henry instantly tenses at his touch.

The song crossfades into "Get Low" by Lil Jon. Alex throws his hands up in the air and starts to dance as Henry stares at him blankly.

ALEX

Oh my God, this is the song of my childhood! You're dancing!

Alex grabs a bottle of champagne from across the bar then Henry's arm and drags him into the roiling sea of people.

37 INT. PARTY TENT - NIGHT

37

The party rages. Lights and music blasting at full capacity.

We then find Alex, drunk. He's surrounded by strangers, dancing his ass off. Nora and Percy are dancing nearby. Also Henry, who subtly bops to the music while swigging directly from a bottle of champagne. Then --

HENRY

(re: the lyrics)

Sorry. Did he just say "'til the sweat drop down my balls?"

Alex laughs at this ridiculously endearing question. As he's pulled away by a girl wanting to dance.

WIDE SHOT of the Party Guests, dancing. At one of the "Get Lows" in the lyrics, the crowd suddenly drops to the floor, leaving only Alex and Henry standing, staring at each other from across the dance floor. The crowd then rises again, obscuring them.

LATER: CLOSE ON the DJ'S HANDS switching up the track --

DJ
Ten seconds 'til midnight everyone!

INSIDE THE CROWD, Alex is dancing with Henry, Percy and Nora-- The crowd cheers --

VARIOUS SHOTS OF THE CROWD: *Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one.* CONFETTI CANNONS EXPLODE, the crowd erupts!

As we hit the collective 'Happy New Year!'--

A YOUNG WOMAN grabs Alex for a kiss. The FLIRTY GIRL from earlier sees this, and wants in. She pulls Alex in for an even sexier midnight kiss.

Henry, crestfallen, turns and walks away. Alex looks up just in time to see Henry disappear into the crowd.

ALEX
Henry!

Alex makes his way through the crowd, everyone's hands are on him, wanting a piece of Alex Claremont-Diaz.

37A OMITTED

37A

38 EXT. WHITE HOUSE - KENNEDY GARDEN - NIGHT

38

HENRY, standing under an evergreen tree amid the snow, staring up at fireworks, the Washington Monument behind him.

ALEX (O.C.)
What are you doing out here?

ANGLE ON Alex approaching.

HENRY
Wanted to get some air.

ALEX

Did I do something wrong?

HENRY

Do you ever wonder who you'd be if you were an anonymous person in the world?

ALEX

I was an anonymous, working-class kid for most of my life. And then my mom became president. Who would you be?

HENRY

I'd be a writer. I'd live in Paris. I'd certainly date more.

ALEX

Yeah, because it's so hard for a prince to get a date.

HENRY

People I date don't interest me. And the people who interest me, I can't date.

ALEX

Oh my god, Henry, I have no idea what you're talking about.

HENRY

Christ, you are as thick as it gets.

Henry grabs Alex by the back of the head and KISSES HIM DEEPLY. Alex is at first surprised, but once he understands what is happening, starts to kiss Henry back.

Henry pulls Alex closer to him and they kiss longingly. In the moonlight, snowy White House grounds, they look so right together.

Eventually, they pull apart. Alex stares at him, stunned. Henry looks at him, panic growing in his chest, genuine fear crossing his face.

HENRY

I'm sorry.

Henry turns and runs away.

PUSHING IN on Alex, who stands in the snowy garden, utterly gobsmacked by what just happened.

40 OMITTED 40

41 INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT 41

Alex, stretching on the floor in winter jogging clothes, he grabs his phone and texts Henry: Are you alive?

ON THE TV -- Governor Richards makes a speech about manufacturing jobs in the mid-west, live on CNN.

42 OMITTED 42

-- Richards full screen on TV, continuing his debate speech.

43 INT. NORA'S OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT 43

Nora with a group of colleagues, watching the debate. Food and beers on the table. They're playing a debate-watching drinking game. We hear Richards say the word "prosperity."

Prosperity!

They all chug their beers. Alex appears in the doorway.

ALEX
Hey Nora.

NORA
Hey, what's up?

ALEX
Got a minute?

From the look on his face, she knows this is important.

She takes her beer and leads him out of the conference room and into --

43A INT. NORA'S OFFICE - NIGHT 43A

She sits down at her desk. Alex follows her in. We see the conference room and the debate through the glass wall behind Nora.

NORA
OK, what's going on?

ALEX

So...funny thing happened on New Year's Eve. Henry kinda kissed me?

From the conference room, we hear Nora's colleagues yell at the TV.

NORA

I totally and privately called that.

ALEX

Oh shut up Nora, you did not.

NORA

Hey, it's my job to analyze data and he has never once checked me out and I'm what some men would consider exquisite. So from where I'm sitting, Henry's...

ALEX

Kinda gay?

NORA

More like the first 50 rows of a Gaga concert kinda gay.

ALEX

But he's always dating a different girl.

NORA

Oh honey, Princes aren't allowed to be gay, you should know that.

Alex notices the beautiful flowers on her desk.

ALEX

Did I forget your birthday?

NORA

Not yet. Remember Henry's friend Percy?

ALEX

Are you into him?

NORA

I'm not not into him. Right now i'm more into getting female identifying candidates elected into congress. But he does have a good taste in florists.

(then)

Anyway, okay, tell me more about this kiss. Did you like it?

ALEX

He grabbed my hair in a way that made me understand the difference between rugby and football.

NORA

I'm going to take that as a yes.

ALEX

It wasn't unpleasant, just surprising.

NORA

I mean, you have been wanting him to dick you down forever.

ALEX

WHAT?!? WRONG!!! NO NO NO NO NO!!!

Alex takes a seat on the sofa. Nora joins.

NORA

OK. Allow me to lay out some observations for you. Extrapolate as you wish. First, you've been, like completely obsessed with Henry for years.

ALEX

I have not been...

NORA

Do not interrupt me.

NORA

You've been long-distance text flirting with him all day every day for months. You spent the entire New Year's party straight-up ignoring the who's who of hot young women in order to talk to Henry. And he kissed you and you liked it. So, objectively...what do you think that means?

ALEX

I don't know.

Nora lowers her head. Roaring with frustration.

NORA

Come on!

ALEX

I don't know, I don't know.

Alex gets on his feet.

ALEX

Okay... I can wrap my head around being low-level into guys. But I am really confused about being into Henry.

NORA

How many guys have you been with?

One of Nora's co-workers walks into her office, grabs a folder from her own desk and scurries out.

ALEX

Two. Once in high school, and once...with Miguel Ramos.

NORA

(too loudly)
The Politico reporter?!

ALEX

Shut up.

NORA

Didn't see that coming.

Nora close with Alex at her desk --

NORA

What was that story there?

ALEX

(with a shrug)
We once made out on the campaign...drunk...fully naked...in a hot tub. I get the feeling he wants me back in that hot tub but, you know, he's a journalist.

NORA

Right. Yeah. Closeted princes are much safer.

Someone knocks on the glass to signal to Nora that she really does need to come back into the conference room. She signals back that she's coming.

NORA

Yes well, do you two have any more appearances coming up?

ALEX

He's supposed to be my guest to the dinner for the Prime Minister next month. He can't ignore me all night, can he?

NORA
(as she's leaving)
I guess you'll find out.

ALEX
Nora, come on!

44 OMITTED 44

45 OMITTED 45

-- The White House lit up at night.

46 INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST ROOM - NIGHT 46

All eyes on Ellen and the BRITISH PRIME MINISTER as they are announced and enter --

Ellen and the first family have their photograph taken. Alex's mind is elsewhere.

TIME CUT to Alex standing alone anxiously watching the distinguished guests pour in. When --

MIGUEL (O.C.)
Alex! Nice tux. *Que guapo.*

ANGLE ON MIGUEL RAMOS standing in front of him.

ALEX
Hey Miguel. Thanks. You too.

MIGUEL
So I read your Texas campaign memo.

ALEX
How? That was super confidential.

MIGUEL
I'm a journalist, Alex. I quite literally have my sources.

HENRY WALKING IN, looking like a young James Bond in his immaculate tuxedo.

MIGUEL
Anyway, I think you've got some good ideas.

ALEX
(back in the room)
Thanks, Miguel.

MIGUEL
The campaign putting your memo into
action? Because they should. Is this the
year that the democrats finally flip
Texas?

Alex is about to answer but he's entranced by Henry being
photographed --

MIGUEL (O.C.)
Earth to Alex.

ALEX
(distracted)
Yeah, we're gonna flip Texas. Good to see
you, Miguel.

Alex walks away. We stay on Miguel, watching him go.

46A OMITTED

46A

47 OMITTED

47

48 OMITTED

48

49 INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST ROOM - NIGHT

49

--Alex approaches Amy.

ALEX
I need your help.

AMY
Where's the threat? Do we need to clear
the room?

ALEX
What? No. I just need to talk to Henry.
In private.

Their POV: Henry talking with an OLDER COUPLE across the
room.

Amy flashes a look of understanding at him.

AMY

The best I can do is the Red Room. You take him any further and his security team will taser you.

50

INT. WHITE HOUSE - RED ROOM - NIGHT

50

Alex waits alone. Trying out the perfect suave and sophisticated pose to greet Henry. The door opens and Henry slips in.

HENRY

Look, I know I owe you an explanation. My behavior has just been appalling--

ALEX

Shut up, stop talking.

Alex grabs Henry's face and kisses him deeply. It takes Henry a second or two to realize what's happening. Once he does--

HENRY

Wait a minute, wait a minute!

Henry looks at Alex to make sense of this sudden twist and then grabs him and kisses him back and THEY GO AT IT, BABY! Alex shoves Henry against the nearest wall. It's not the sweet, furtive kiss from New Year's--it is raw and aggressive and hot--like they're trying to eat each other.

Just then --

AMY (O.C.)

Alright fellas, time's up. We need to get you back to--

The door opens.

AMY

Oh ... god!

They quickly break apart, pretending to be casual.

51

INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST ROOM - NIGHT

51

Alex and Henry re-enter the party, standing a little too close to one another than they should.

ALEX

So are you still...?

HENRY
Like Stonehenge.

ALEX
Your royal hardness. Or Big Ben.

HENRY
Nelson's column.

ELLEN (O.C.)
There you are.

ANGLE ON Ellen and The Prime Minister.

ALEX
Hi ma.

ELLEN
Prime Minister, this is my son Alex.

PRIME MINISTER
It's good to see you and His Royal
Highness on better terms. And not on the
floor.

ALEX
Yes, Prime Minister. Henry and I are much
happier against walls.

CLOSE ON ALEX'S HAND GENTLY GRABBING HENRY'S ASS.

Henry jumps at this.

PRIME MINISTER
Everything all right?

HENRY
Yes. Very excited to be here.

ELLEN
Hopefully we'll get through tonight
without any more scandals from these two.

ALEX
The night is young, ma.

Ellen glares at Alex.

ELLEN
Please, Prime Minister--

As she escorts the Prime Minister away.

ALEX

Okay, so here's what we're gonna do.

HENRY

Yes tell me.

ALEX

You're gonna stay at least five hundred feet away from me for the rest of the night.

HENRY

Sensible plan.

ALEX

I'm not done.

HENRY

Of course you're not.

ALEX

And then at midnight, you're going to come to my room on the second floor of the residence where I am going to do some very bad things to you.

And with that Alex charges away, leaving Henry with the bluest balls on the planet.

51A OMITTED

51A

52 INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT

52

Alex undoes his tie when there's a KNOCK at the door.
Alex goes to the door, opens it --

Henry stands there, his head resting on the door frame,
looking utterly devastating.

ALEX

You're late.

Alex goes to close the door on him but Henry stops it with his hand, pushing it open. In one elegant move, Henry steps in, closes the door, grabs Alex by the waist and pulls him into a deep kiss. Henry pushes Alex against the back of the sofa and begins unbuttoning his shirt, kissing down his neck and chest.

HENRY

To be clear: this changes nothing between us.

ALEX

I was about to say the same thing.

HENRY

No you weren't. That's impossible.

They topple back onto the sofa. Alex moves over to one end and Henry gets on top of him. They kiss like mad.

ALEX

When did you start to...?

HENRY

Fancy you? Melbourne Climate Conference.
First night party.

ALEX

Wow, you had a lot going on that night.

HENRY

Tell me about it.

ALEX

I really thought you hated me.

HENRY

I hated how good you looked.

Henry unbuttons Alex's pants. He moves down, out of frame. We stay on Alex until we CUT TO --

-- A TIME LAPSE over the WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

53

INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT

53

Alex and Henry lie on the sofa. Alex's clothes are askew. Henry's still fully dressed. Henry notices an old silver key dangling from a chain around Alex's neck.

HENRY

What's that?

ALEX

Key to my family's house in Austin. I started wearing it when we moved here.

HENRY

Hmm. You know I don't think I've ever owned a key in my entire life.

ALEX

No such thing as a locked door when you're a prince, I suppose.

HENRY

Well, you'd be surprised.

ALEX

Just to put it out there...

HENRY

Yes?

ALEX

I guess you could say I'm...bisexual.

HENRY

Noted. Ah...Just to put it out there, I am as gay as a maypole.

ALEX

(chuckling)

I have no idea what a maypole is. Are they known for their homosexual tendencies?

HENRY

Oh god yes. Notorious. Notorious for it.

Alex entwines his fingers with Henry's.

ALEX

I wouldn't mind doing this again.

HENRY

Me neither. We just have to keep it very casual, of course.

ALEX

Oh, obviously. The press and all.

HENRY

I just can't afford for you to fall in love with me.

ALEX

Oh get over yourself, your majesty.

HENRY

No, that's not what I meant when I said--

HENRY

It's Your Royal Highness, I don't know how many times I have to tell you that--

Henry kisses Alex. Then --

HENRY

I should probably get going.

Henry stands, moves to the door. He turns and--

ALEX HENRY
I guess I'll see you... You know I was thinking...

ALEX HENRY
No, you can. You go..

ALEX
Please, you first.

HENRY
There's this charity polo match in Windsor next month that my mate Percy's foundation organizes. I was wondering if you might want to be my guest.

ALEX
Oh. Umm.. I don't know how to play polo.

HENRY
Damn. Well, I suppose that will be alright, seeing as you won't be playing. I will. You'll be watching. On the sidelines.

ALEX
Great. That's probably safer for everyone.

HENRY
Agreed.

Henry holds Alex's look from the doorway. Smouldering. As he closes the door Alex collapses into the couch. A grin wide across his face.

54

EXT. POLO GROUNDS - VIP SECTION - DAY

54

CLOSE on a POLO BALL getting WHACKED by a Mallet. THEN --

A pack of riders on horseback racing toward it. One of these players is Henry, who swings his mallet at the ball and WHACK! It goes flying.

We find Alex arriving in his J Crew finest. Him watching the match.

ALEX'S POV: Henry, looking unbelievably fit in his skintight polo outfit, urging his horse across the field with the power of his thighs, his arm muscles stretching and flexing with each swing of the mallet, his arse bouncing hard in the saddle.

BACK TO ALEX, who has never been so jealous of a saddle.

All of the above starts to crescendo with intensity. It is INTERCUT with --

55 OMITTED

55

56 INT. POLO GROUNDS - TEAM TENT - DAY

56

Alex and Henry enter the small changing area. The walls lined with saddles, riding crops, bridles, and reins.

Henry grabs Alex and kisses him. They attack each other, pawing and kissing. Alex can't decide where to put his hands because he wants to put them everywhere at once. The SOUNDS of people just outside the tent seems to add to the urgency.

Alex lifts Henry onto the counter, starts unbuttoning Henry's trousers and YANKS them down as there's --

One final WHACK of the polo mallet striking the ball.

57 EXT. POLO GROUNDS - TEAM TENT - DAY

57

Alex and Henry emerge from the tent, attempting to make themselves look as tidy and nonchalant as possible.

HENRY

Are you hungry?

ALEX

Yeah, I could eat.

The WHIRL of an airplane engine takes us to PARIS drenched in soft afternoon light, as we settle on a --

58 INT. BISTRO IN PARIS - DAY

58

Alex and Henry at a private table in the back. Their meals are gone. Two espressos before them.

ALEX

There's something I've been dying to ask you.

HENRY

Which other famous boys have I shagged?

ALEX

There's two things I'm dying to ask you.

HENRY

Alright, let's start with the first.

ALEX

Do you have a last name?

Henry is charmed by that question.

HENRY

Actually I have several. The official family name is Hanover-Stuart. My father's surname was Fox. So my full name is Henry George Edward James Hanover-Stuart-Fox.

Alex whistles in amazement.

ALEX

And I thought Alexander Gabriel Claremont-Diaz was a mouthful.

HENRY

(with a wink)

He is.

59

EXT. PARK IN PARIS - DUSK

59

Alex and Henry walk through a park. Their security detail follow.

ALEX

Does anyone in your family know about you?

HENRY

My sister Bea's the only one I've told. My mum probably suspects. My brother Philip is completely oblivious.

ALEX

And what about His Majesty the King?

HENRY

Grandpa's a cold-hard realist. He sat me down on my 18th birthday and told me not to let any selfish desires I might be harboring reflect poorly on the crown.

ALEX

That is some bullshit.

HENRY

It's my life.

ALEX

Doesn't mean you have to accept it.

HENRY

I was four years old when I realized that everyone in my country knew my name, but I would never know theirs. Prince Henry belongs to Britain. Henry Fox has to belong to himself or else he'll vanish.

ALEX

Can't he ever belong to someone else?

HENRY

Only momentarily.

Alex looks at Henry in this moment of vulnerability. He reaches for Henry, who pulls away.

HENRY

Not here.

A SHOT of a boat moving down the Seine. Paris's buildings silhouetted against the evening light.

60

INT. HOTEL ROOM IN PARIS - NIGHT

60

Alex looks out the window--the glow of Paris reflecting on his face. He smiles, then laughs at where he finds himself and with whom. Henry appears into frame behind Alex, wrapping his arms around him. They look out the window together. Then...

HENRY

I think we should make love tonight.

ALEX

Oh! I mean, yeah I'm down. But I mean who says "make love" anymore? Are we gonna like listen to Lana del Rey when we do it?

HENRY

All right, all right...

They laugh and kiss. Then--

ALEX

It's just...who's gonna do what? Because I'm...I've never...

Alex's language fails him and he ends up resting his head on Henry's chest.

ALEX

I'm so not playing this cool right now.

HENRY

I went to an English boarding school,
dear. Trust me--you're in good hands.

They kiss. Then, while staying close on our TWO SHOT, Alex and Henry silently start to undress.

First their jackets come off. Then their shirts. Alex unbuttons Henry's.

HENRY

Careful. The buttons are quite sturdy.

ALEX

Rigid.

It's the first time Alex has seen Henry shirtless. He takes in an eyeful, then Henry takes Alex's hand and places it on his chest. Alex feels Henry's heart beating, then he moves his hand up to Henry's shoulder, then to his bicep. All the while locking eyes with him.

REVERSE ANGLE as we trace Henry's hand down Alex's back.

BACK TO TWO SHOT as Henry and Alex remove the rest of their clothes OFF CAMERA. They look at each other, taking in the sight of one another, smiling and continuing to stare a hole into each other.

CLOSE ON their fingers entwining. CLOSE ON Alex's hand on Henry's hip.

Henry reaches forward, lifting the key around Alex's neck in his palm.

Alex moves Henry back toward the bed. They fall back, kissing madly, their faces and bodies entwined.

The rest of the scene will be composed of medium shots. Their faces and torsos are all we see. The sexual action happens off camera. Throughout, we stay focused on their faces.

Henry reaches down out of frame and slowly guides Alex inside him. Deep inhale from Henry, deep exhale from Alex. Alex slowly starts to make love to Henry. They stare at one another, as if in amazement at this moment.

ALEX

I can't believe how wrong I was about you.

HENRY

Most people are.

They kiss and continue to make love.

61

INT. HOTEL ROOM IN PARIS - NIGHT

61

Alex and Henry in bed, holding each other, their legs entwined.

HENRY

Is there any part of you that wishes you weren't the son of the President? Or that your family wasn't in politics?

ALEX

I actually wish I could help out more. It's gonna be a tough campaign.

HENRY

You really do love it, don't you?

ALEX

Yeah I really do. To devote your life to helping others? To know that what you do has a meaningful impact on people's lives? I know it's my life's work.

HENRY

Is there any part of you that doubts?

A moment, then--

ALEX

My father was 12 when my *abuela* brought him and his sister over from Mexico. You may not understand this, but in America, if you're an immigrant with a "Z" in your last name, there's not a lot of people in positions of power that look like you, or sound like you. I've been given a chance to be someone in the world my father didn't see when he was growing up. You can't know what that means.

Henry kisses Alex's shoulder.

HENRY

I'm learning.

62 OMITTED 62

-- An airplane cuts through the evening sky.

63 INT. COMMERCIAL FLIGHT - BUSINESS CLASS - NIGHT 63

Alex travels home. Lost in thought.

64 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY 64

Alex in a chair facing Ellen at her desk.

ELLEN

Did you tell Miguel Ramos we had a plan
to flip Texas?

ALEX

What?!? No!

Ellen picks up her iPhone and reads.

ELLEN

Sixteen tweets today, all linking to his
new article.

ALEX

He really tweets too much.

ELLEN

"Mr. Claremont-Diaz, a student at
Georgetown Law, is playing an active role
in the campaign's new Texas strategy." I
was unaware my campaign had a new Texas
strategy. Can you please tell me what it
is.

ALEX

If your campaign had read my memo you'd
know. All I said to Miguel is that Texas
is competitive and we intend to win it. I
didn't think that he'd write an article
about it--

ELLEN

Well he has. So now we have to explain to
everyone that we don't in fact have a new
Texas strategy.

ALEX

You do have a Texas strategy, you just
won't implement it. Why aren't you
registering a million new voters?

ALEX (CONT'D)

Why aren't you firing up the youth vote, building a grassroots movement? Why aren't you fighting for your home state, ma?

ELLEN

I am fighting for my administration, and for the people who can't afford to have Jeffrey Richards become president. And I will not be the first woman to lose re-election to this office.

Ellen picks up a red folder and tosses it across the desk toward him.

ALEX

What is that?

ELLEN

Our latest internal polling. Richards is killing me in the Rust Belt. That's where we need to focus, not Texas. You're being idealistic when I need you to be realistic.

ALEX

Is that why you got into politics? To be realistic? Do you think that's what the people really need right now?

ELLEN

I do not need a lecture from you about idealism. I was 28 when I was elected to the State Legislature. I had 150,000 constituents. Now I have 330 million. They need me to be realistic so they can be idealistic. If you don't understand that, then you have a lot to learn about politics, kiddo.

Then--

ELLEN

You are no longer allowed to speak to the press, do you understand me?

ALEX

Yes, Madam President.

Alex heads to the door, but stops just as he gets there.

ALEX

27.

ELLEN

What?

ALEX

You were 27 not 28 when you won your first election. Ask any of the women who work for you. They'll be able to tell you that.

Alex leaves. Ellen sits there, looking at the fabled room she calls her office.

65 OMITTED

65

65A INT. ZAHRA'S OFFICE - DAY

65A

Zahra is at her desk. Ellen appears at the door. Zahra stands.

ZAHRA

Madam President. Do you need me for something?

ELLEN

What's the deal with this campaign memo?

66 OMITTED

66

67 OMITTED

67

68 INT. WHITE HOUSE - RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

68

Ellen and Oscar curled up on the sofa. Before them is a box filled with photos and press clippings from her career. Also campaign paraphernalia from all her past races. She studies them all.

ELLEN

Oh, I remember that.

Alex walks in, backpack slung over his shoulder.

ALEX

What's all that?

ELLEN

My first Texas campaign. Your grandmother saved everything.

OSCAR

Every press clipping, every button, every flyer.

Alex sits down next to them and looks through it all. Ellen holds up Alex's memo.

ELLEN

I read your memo. Good work. We're sending you to Texas.

ALEX

Really???

ELLEN

You'll have a shoestring budget. You'll eat fast food for every meal.

OSCAR

You'll work 18 hour days. And you'll love every minute of it.

ELLEN

So what do you say?

ALEX

When do I start?

Pushing in on a smiling Alex as we --

BEGIN EMAIL/CAMPAIGN SEQUENCE in which we follow Alex on the campaign trail while he and Henry exchange emails.

-- Shots of beautiful Texan countryside and sprawling farmland.

ALEX (V.O.)

Dear Henry. Greetings from the Lone Star State...

70 OMITTED

70

71 INT. TEXAS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

71

Alex meets with a group of young volunteers in the bare-bones campaign office they have opened.

ALEX (V.O.)

...It's hard to put into words how exciting it is to be back here, working to get my mom re-elected.

72

INT. TEXAS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

72

Alex is giving an on-camera interview while giving a tour of the headquarters to a visiting journalist. He shows them a chart on the wall indicating the goal of 1 million new voter registrations by election day.

ALEX (V.O.)

The energy here is electric and I think we can make a real difference. The only thing that would make it even better is if you were here.

-- Alex studies a Texas map on the wall.

HENRY (V.O.)

I can't think of single way to start this email, except to say..You're incredible.

-- CLOSE ON a 'CLAREMONT, HOLLERAN' campaign signs pitched into someone's front yard. There's a whole row of them lining a residential street.

-- CLOSE ON someone sticking a 'I'm with Ellen' bumper sticker to their car.

-- Alex volunteering at a voter registration table.

HENRY (V.O.)

But should I also tell you that when we're apart your body comes back to me in my dreams? That I can feel your skin against mine and it makes every bone in my body ache?

78B

INT. TEXAS HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

78B

Alex and Amy play cards in his hotel room. Burgers, fries, and a bottle of red wine beside them.

ALEX (V.O.)

Henry, seriously. I'm out here giving my all for my mother.

-- Alex in the middle of a contentious call at the campaign headquarters.

ALEX (V.O.)

I can't have smut filling my inbox--

-- Alex speaking with dock workers.

ALEX (V.O.)
Corrupting my mind and bulging my pants
like this.

-- Alex talks to a local community at a picnic.

ALEX (V.O.)
You know I am incorrigible, so don't
incorrigé me.

73 INT. HOTEL KITCHEN - DAY 73

Alex helps to do the dishes as he talks with two workers.

HENRY (V.O.)
I'll behave. By the way--

74 OMITTED 74

78A INT. TEXAS HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY 78A

Alex (with Amy) walks down a corridor and encounters a
HOUSEKEEPER coming out of a room. She recognizes him and
he stops to talk to her. He takes her phone and uses it
to take a selfie of them.

HENRY (V.O.)
--we call them "trousers", not "pants,"
dear. But in this case both seem to
apply. Also, from all the photos you're
posting--

74A INT. TEXAS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY 74A

Alex eats pizza with campaign volunteers.

HENRY (V.O.)
It really makes me want to visit.

ALEX (V.O.)
Yes! I was just thinking that--

-- Alex gives an on-camera interview to a group of
reporters in front of a farm.

ALEX (V.O.)
--I want you to come and see it one day.
There's so much I want to show you. I
think you'd really like Austin most
especially.

80A INT. TEXAS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

80A

Alex steals a quiet moment to check his phone. He reads something wonderful from Henry and smiles.

I want to see your mouth covered in
barbeque sauce and then I wanna lick it
off.

77 EXT. TEXAS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

77

Alex and other volunteers hand out flyers. One woman gives him the finger as she passes.

HENRY (V.O.)
Wait, don't they have napkins in Texas?

78 INT. TEXAS HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

78

Alex alone on his bed, watching the news where Henry is at a ribbon cutting.

HENRY (V.O.)
I wish I could but my duties keep me
here. It's becoming increasingly
difficult attending mindless ribbon
cuttings--

78D INT. WHITE HOUSE - RESIDENCE - NIGHT

78D

Ellen and Oscar watch Alex giving a TV interview.

HENRY (V.O.)
--While you're out there changing the
world. I'll be damned, Alex, but I miss
you.

76 INT. TEXAS HOTEL GYM - DAY

76

Alex runs on a treadmill.

ALEX (V.O.)
Dear Henry. I miss you too. I'll admit
this to you and no one else--

ALEX (V.O.)
--for all my big talk and all my
certainty, I'm secretly afraid I'm going
to let my mother down.

78C INT. TEXAS HOTEL ROOM - BATHROOM - DAY/NIGHT

78C

Alex practices his Convention speech, the text taped to
the mirror before him.

HENRY (V.O.)
I understand what you're saying and I
believe what you're describing is called
"impostor syndrome."

-- Alex standing on the back of a pickup truck, speaking
to a crowd of young people.

HENRY (V.O.)
But I know that you are not an impostor.

80 INT. TEXAS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

80

Alex returns to the chart measuring new voter
registrations.

ALEX
We just hit a million voters!!

Alex high fives his team as they cheer. They've far
exceeded their goal of 1 million and are still growing.

HENRY (V.O.)
I'm reminded of one of my favourite
quotes from *Sense and Sensibility*. "It
isn't what we say or think that defines
us--

75 INT. TEXAS HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

75

Alex returns to his room, exhausted. He collapses face-
down onto his bed.

HENRY (V.O.)
--But what we do." And I think what
you're doing is amazing. So keep going.

79 OMITTED

79

79A OMITTED

79A

END OF MONTAGE

-- WE SEE a map of Alex's route from Texas to New York.

-- JOY REID reports live from the MSNBC studio --

JOY REID

We're going live to the Democratic
National Convention in Brooklyn, New
York, where Alex Claremont-Diaz is
addressing the crowd. Let's listen in...

80B EXT. BARCLAYS CENTER - NIGHT

80B

FOOTAGE of the Barclay's Center in Brooklyn.

ALEX (V.O.)

My mom has inspired me every day.

81 INT. BARCLAYS CENTER

81

Broadcast footage of the Democratic National Convention
in all its craziness. We end with Alex onstage,
delivering his speech to the convention. He is confident
and poised and laser focused.

ALEX

She has passed down to me a faith in
America that always looks to the future,
not back at the past. Her vision for
America has you at the center. Your
hopes. Your values. Your future.

82 INT. NEW YORK HOTEL - BAR - NIGHT

82

Alex sits at the bar nursing a drink when Miguel appears
beside him.

MIGUEL

Bien hecho, cabron. Great speech.

ALEX

Hey, Miguel.

MIGUEL

You looked really good up there.

ALEX

Thanks.

MIGUEL

You know, we're both staying at this hotel tonight...

ALEX

Tell me something...do you honestly believe that we're ever hooking up again?

MIGUEL

Well I don't anymore. Is there a problem between us, Alex?

ALEX

Yeah. The problem is you sandbagging me and my mother's campaign on your little wannabe *Washington Post* website, claiming we had a plan to flip Texas.

MIGUEL

Which you do, and have enacted, and confirmed as much when we spoke about it on the record.

ALEX

Well the only thing that I'm confirming tonight is that you're an asshole. Feel free to use that quote. *Buenas noches, cabron.*

Alex gets up and turns toward the entrance to the bar only to discover --

HENRY walking in. Their eyes lock and Alex rushes to them, trying to chill his excitement.

ALEX

What are you doing here?

HENRY

Bit of skullduggery. Amy helped me plan it.

Alex then turns to look at Miguel at the bar, fuming from their interaction and staring directly at them.

ALEX

We need to get up to my room right now.

Alex and Henry burst into the room and start going at each other, kissing and hurrying out of their clothes.

84

INT. ALEX'S NEW YORK HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

84

Later, they cuddle on the sofa in bathrobes. The remnants of room service dinner on the coffee table before them. They eat chocolate mousse from a glass.

ALEX

Have you ever cooked for yourself?

HENRY

Once, unsuccessfully.

ALEX

Have you ever been on Grindr?

HENRY

Once, unsuccessfully.

ALEX

Do you vote?

HENRY

Not allowed.

ALEX

What? That's insane.

HENRY

Them's the rules.

ALEX

What's your faavorite movie?

HENRY

Oh, In the mood for love.

ALEX

I've never seen it.

HENRY

God, sometimes I forget how uncultured you Americans are. It is only the swooniest movie of all time.

ALEX

Swooniest? Is that even a word?

HENRY

Yes, of course it is.

ALEX

Have you ever had your heart broken?

HENRY

The day my dad died.

Alex sets the desert down and rests his hand on Henry's side.

85

INT. ALEX'S NEW YORK HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

85

Alex and Henry asleep in bed, WHEN --

A POUNDING ON THE ROOM DOOR AND --

ZAHRA (O.S.)

Alex Claremont-Diaz, it is almost seven.
You have interviews to do. Let's get
going!

Alex bolts up, awake.

ALEX

Henry, wake up.

Alex shakes Henry, who groans and slowly wakes. The banging continues.

ALEX

Shit, shit, shit!

HENRY

What's going on?

ZAHRA (O.S.)

Come on, let's get your mother re-
elected!

HENRY

Oh shit.

Alex and Henry jump out of bed.

86

INT. NEW YORK HOTEL - HALLWAY - SAME

86

Zahra pounds on the door, then listens at it. The faintest sound of speaking.

ZAHRA

Is there someone in there?

ALEX (O.C.)

Be right with you, Zahra!

ZAHRA

That's it, I am coming in.

She uses her key to open the door and steps inside --

87

INT. ALEX'S NEW YORK HOTEL ROOM - SAME

87

REVERSE ANGLE on Alex's naked behind as Zahra barges in, instantly shielding her eyes.

ZAHRA

Put clothes on now.

Alex pulls on some clothes while Zahra does a quick visual sweep of the room -- empty wine bottle, late night room service, and a bed slept in by two.

ALEX

There's no one here, Zahra.

ZAHRA

Yeah right, where is she?

ALEX

Zahra, no one is here.

ZAHRA

Oh really...

Zahra picks up Henry's phone from the night stand.

ZAHRA

Well that "no one" left her phone in here.

Zahra charges to the bathroom, looking for her culprit.

ALEX

Okay, so she left her phone in here. Big deal, Zahra.

ZAHRA

Where is she? Hello, hello--

ALEX

Let me get dressed and I'll meet you downstairs.

ZAHRA

Hello...Little missie.

ALEX

Zahra please, it's all chill.

ZAHRA

It's all chill? You hook up with some rando the night before your mother's acceptance speech. You don't have her sign an NDA, of that I am certain.

ZAHRA (CONT'D)

And then you let her bring her phone in here, transmitting god knows what to god knows who. Yeah, Alex, yeah. That is really chill.

Then, a LOW BUMP in the closet. Zahra makes a beeline for it, opening the door to reveal Henry standing there in his boxers and his unbuttoned shirt on. His cheeks are crimson with embarrassment. But he is a prince, after all. So he stands up straight and says--

HENRY

Good morning.

Zahra starts to go through some kind of mental and mechanical meltdown, like a computer in a death spiral.

ALEX

Zahra, breathe...

ZAHRA

Don't you tell me what to do!

ALEX

Do you want to sit?

ZAHRA

(barely lucid)
Yeh, yeh yeh.

ALEX

Tell me where you wanna go.

Alex helps sit her on the bed.

ALEX

Here? Oh, there?

ZAHRA

Fine, fine. I'm fine!
(composing herself)
How long has this been going on?

ALEX

Since New Year's.

ZAHRA

Oh god. And who knows about this?

ALEX

Literally no one but you. And the Secret Service.

HENRY

And Percy.

ALEX

Right, and Nora.

HENRY

Oh, and I told my sister.

ALEX

Aw, I didn't know that.

HENRY

Yeah, she was really happy for us.

ALEX

I can't wait to see her again. She's really--

ZAHRA

Alright, shut up ok, the both of you. I need to think.

ALEX

Please don't tell my mom.

ZAHRA

Seriously? Alex, we're in a hotel crawling with reporters, in a city filled with cameras, on the precipice of the biggest event of the campaign in a race so close it could be arrested for assault and you're asking me not to tell your mommy on you?

ALEX

I haven't told her yet.

ZAHRA

Ah gee kid, I'm sorry to interrupt your process of becoming. But you're the one who decided to put your dick into the heir to the British throne.

HENRY

Technically, I'm the spare.

ZAHRA

(to Henry)

Not talking to you, sir.

(to Alex)

Ok. Would it make any difference if I told you not to see him again?

ALEX

No.

ZAHRA

Every time I see you it takes another year off my life. Alright, I'm going downstairs and you'd better be dressed and in the lobby in five minutes so we can get your mother re-elected.

ALEX

I'll be there.

She swiftly turns on Henry.

ZAHRA

And as for you, Little Lord Fuckleroy. You get your ass back to merry ol' England right now. I want you chewing on a goddamned crumpet by sunset. And if anyone sees you leave this hotel, I will Brexit your head from your body, you got me?

HENRY

Loud and clear.

Zahra turns to leave, then stops, turns to face Henry once again and awkwardly curtseys.

ZAHRA

Your royal highness.

She then turns and storms out of the room. Alex and Henry left in shock.

87A OMITTED

87A

88 EXT. OUTSIDE OVAL OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

88

-- Alex outside the Oval Office. He KNOCKS on the door.

ELLEN

Yeah, come in.

89 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

89

Ellen is stood by her desk as Alex opens the door.

ELLEN

Hey.

ALEX

Do you have a few minutes?

ELLEN

Sure darlin'. What's up? You look very serious.

Alex walks in, closing the door behind him.

ALEX

Yea. I've been, um, I've been figuring some things out about myself lately. And it's, um, relevant to the campaign, in a way.

Ellen takes a breath.

ELLEN

Okay.

ALEX

I've met someone.

ELLEN

Is that all? Honey, that's great. But why would that be relevant to the campaign? She's not a Republican, is she?

ALEX

No. She's also a "he." And "he" happens to be Henry.

ELLEN

As in the Prince of England?

ALEX

Yeah.

Ellen picks up her phone.

ALEX

Oh, I'm --

A moment, then --

ELLEN

We're going to need some pizza.

89A OMITTED

89A

90 OMITTED

90

90A INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

90A

Alex and Ellen sit on the sofa, cuddled up with each other. Pizza and beer before them.

Ellen kisses his temple.

ELLEN

So are you gay? Bi? Fluid? Pan? Queer?

ALEX

Cool it, mom. I'm bi.

ELLEN

All right. You know, the "B" in LGBTQ is not a silent letter.

ALEX

Yes, thank you, mom.

ELLEN

I mean if I'd had more warning, I could have made you a PowerPoint presentation but..can I give you some advice?

ALEX

Yeah of course.

ELLEN

You need to figure out if you feel forever about him before you take this any further. A relationship like this will define your life.

ALEX

I don't know if we're there yet, mom. I don't know if we ever will be.

ELLEN

One more thing...we didn't go over this particular type of partnering when we had "the talk," which is on me for making assumptions.

ALEX

Okay...

ELLEN

I just want to make sure you know you need to wear a condom if you're having anal intercourse.

ALEX
(sitting up)
Oh my God.

ELLEN
We can talk about getting you on Truvada.
And if you're bottoming, you need to the
HPV vaccine. I can have HHS send over
some brochures...

ALEX
You are ridiculous. I cannot believe they
give you the nuclear codes.

Then...

ELLEN
And you have to tell your father.

ALEX
Ugh. I don't know. This is uncharted
territory for us.

ELLEN
When you're a parent, every day is
uncharted territory. And when your child
is Alex Claremont-Diaz, you get used to
the exceptional.
(then)
I love you.

They rest their foreheads against each others.

ALEX
I love you, too.

90B

INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT

90B

Alex in his walk-in closet. Amid all his suits and fancy clothes, he pulls out a storage box. Inside are all his "hangout clothes" from his life in Texas--shorts, tank tops, baseball caps. He slips one on.

ALEX (V.O.)
Dear Henry. Well, I just came out to my
mom. I was never afraid of her rejection.
I was afraid that she would see me
differently than before. But, now I
realize that's exactly the point. And
then I told my dad, and he'd already
figured it out. Anyway, my parents bought
a vacation house after my mother's book
was published.

ALEX (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I'm headed there to chill over Labor Day weekend with my dad and Nora.

91 EXT. TEXAS ROAD - DAY

91

Alex drives a Jeep across a stretch of Texas blacktop, Nora riding shotgun, Henry and Percy in the backseat. The doors and roof are off of the Jeep, the wind whipping through Alex's hair, a pair of Ray-Bans on his face. He's young and tanned and free.

ALEX (V.O.)

My dad suggested that I invite you. Do you wanna come? Please say yes. (PS, Nora says to bring Percy.)

91A OMITTED

91A

92 EXT./INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - DAY

92

Alex, Henry, Nora, and Percy approach the house through the backyard, each carrying bags. Oscar stands in the open sliding doorway to greet them as they walk inside.

ALEX

Watch out! Here comes the British invasion!

OSCAR

Hey hey! Welcome to *La Casa Blanca Oeste*!

Alex grabs the sound system remote --

ALEX

Dad, what is this music? It's so not the vibe.

HENRY

It's great to see you again, sir.

OSCAR

What's with the "sir?" Please, call me "Congressman."

Henry laughs.

HENRY

Well in that case, you can call me "Your Royal Highness."

Alex switches the music over --

The beat kicking in-- As Henry's attention is drawn to a cluster of Alex's family photos.

Alex, Henry, Nora, and Percy play volleyball. Oscar in a chair, cigar in his mouth and a margarita in his hand, playing referee.

Alex and Henry together in a hammock, each with a book.

OMITTED

OMITTED

OMITTED

OMITTED

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Alex, Henry, Nora, Percy walk into the charmingly run-down bar. Henry is dressed in some of Alex's old clothes and a baseball cap. He looks like a true Texan. Henry looks around, completely charmed.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

The quartet at a table holding tequila shots in their hands. There are about a dozen other patrons inside. Amy and several other Secret Service and Royal Security stand guard.

They down their tequila shots. Nora and Alex grab their limes and suck. Henry and Percy follow their leads. We realize that Henry is already a bit drunk.

ALEX

(to Nora)

Wait'll he finds out about the karaoke machine.

HENRY

No, I am definitely not doing karaoke.

CUT TO:

96

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

96

Henry microphone in hand, standing on the tiny stage, singing Queen's "Don't Stop Me Now." The rest of the patrons, all crowded in front of the stage, start to cheer as Henry gives them his most royal Freddie Mercury.

ANGLE ON Alex, Nora, and Percy at their table, cheering them on.

ANGLE ON HENRY, giving it his all, having the time of his life. He locks eyes with Alex and smiles deliriously.

REVERSE ON ALEX, staring back at Henry with eyes that can only be described as love.

96A

INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

96A

Oscar is preparing breakfast as Alex comes in, pretty hungover. Through the plate-glass windows, we SEE Nora and Percy enjoying coffee together in the sun.

OSCAR

Lazarus wakes.

ALEX

Need help?

OSCAR

Not as bad as you do. Coffee's fresh.

He pours Alex a cup.

OSCAR

Henry's still sleeping?

ALEX

He did karaoke last night. Plus half a dozen tequila shots.

OSCAR

(laughing)

I gotta be honest. I thought because he was a prince, he'd be a little more of a candy ass.

ALEX

He's tougher than he looks. So you like him?

OSCAR

What's not to like?

ALEX

I wasn't sure if you would need to, like, have a Catholic moment about it.

OSCAR

Please. Have some faith in your old man. You are, after all, talking to the patron saint of gender-neutral bathrooms in Austin you little shit.

Oscar turns back to Alex.

OSCAR

You know your mom and I were a stupid idea too. We were just babies when we had you. Nobody thought we'd make it. Look at us now. Sometimes you just gotta jump, and hope you're not standing on a cliff.

97 OMITTED

97

98 OMITTED

98

98A EXT. PLATFORM - PRIVATE LAKE - DAY

98A

--Henry lays in the sun on a floating platform in the middle of a lake. At peace.

Alex emerges from the water, pulling himself onto the platform and shaking his wet hair all over Henry.

ALEX

Shower time!

HENRY

God, you are such a cretin. No get off.

Alex, happy with his prank, lays down next to Henry.

ALEX
I've been thinking.

HENRY
I seriously doubt that.

ALEX
(mimicking him)
"I seriously doubt that." I've been
thinking about how my life is going to be
a lot different after the election.

HENRY
How so?

ALEX
Well, my mom'll hopefully be in office
again, and we won't have to worry about
winning any more national elections. And
I'll have a lot more freedom. Until it's
my turn to run for office, of course.

HENRY
Of course.

ALEX
And I thought maybe next summer we could
come back here for like a couple weeks.
We can be naked and have sex anywhere on
the property we want. We can walk through
Austin holding hands and it won't even
matter if anyone sees us. I can take you
around to all the places I grew up and
you can get to understand my life a
little more.

CLOSE ON HENRY'S FACE -- he knows it will always matter.

ALEX
I've never felt this way about anyone.

Henry sits up, looking out at the water.

ALEX
It's like there's a rope attached to my
chest and it keeps pulling me toward you.
And it feels so right.

Henry's face tightens into a grimace of emotional pain.
It's as if all the joy is draining from his body.

ALEX
What I mean to say is...Henry, I love--

Henry DROPS INTO THE WATER and we follow him--surrounded by the murk, the faint tendrils of daylight still visible. He holds his breath for as long as he can, then swims away from us.

Henry emerges. Alex now stood up on the platform behind him.

ALEX (O.C.)

Henry? Henry! Where are you going?

Henry swims to shore, not daring to look back at Alex, who grows more and more distant in the background.

99 INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT 99

Henry lies awake with the lights out.

100 INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT 100

Late at night, Henry (fully dressed) watches Alex sleep, regret etched onto his face. He then grabs his bag and leaves.

101 OMITTED 101

-- The Royal Jet takes off.

102 INT. ROYAL JET - NIGHT 102

Henry in his seat. He takes out his phone and starts to type a message to Alex but decides against it.

102A INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - FRONT HALLWAY - DAY 102A

Henry walks into the front hallway of KENSINGTON PALACE the next morning and is attended by several members of staff. His beagle DAVID rushes to greet him.

HENRY

Hello David. Hi, it's so good to see you.

104 EXT. KENSINGTON PALACE - GARDENS - DAY 104

Henry and Bea walk along the pebbled path of Kensington Palace Gardens, shaded by an archway made of trees.

BEA

What happened in Texas?

HENRY

I ended things with Alex.

BEA

Oh, Hen. I'm so sorry. Did grandpa find out?

HENRY

Not this time, but...I felt myself getting too close. And I didn't want to break his heart.

BEA

What about your heart?

They turn into a formal garden area awash with the violet tones of lavender.

BEA

Have you thought about calling mum?

HENRY

Last I heard from mum, she was off saving elephants in Botswana. Perhaps I ought to grow some tusks.

BEA

God, she'd better not abdicate. Or find herself at the top of a staircase with Philip around.

HENRY

It's all so silly, isn't it? The idea of royalty in the 21st Century? It's so antiquated. Sometimes I wonder if what we do has any meaningful impact on people's lives.

BEA

Well cheer up...at least you'll never be king.

They laugh, then --

BEA

(reaching for his hand)

Do you love him?

ANGLE ON HENRY. Of course he does, but --

HENRY

What difference would it make if I did?

He offers her a smile, then turns and walks away.

102B INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - MUSIC ROOM - DAY 102B

In the palace's MUSIC ROOM, Henry quietly plays the piano. His phone vibrates on a nearby table.

CLOSE ON THE PHONE: Henry has an incoming call from Alex. He lets it ring.

102C OMITTED 102C

102D INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - DINING ROOM - DAY 102D

Henry, in his DINING ROOM, sits in a horribly dull meeting with Philip, Bea, and a group of old men in suits, droning on and on. His phone illuminates--Alex is calling. He flips the phone over. We notice that Bea clocks this.

102E OMITTED 102E

102F INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - HENRY'S BEDROOM - DAY 102F

Henry at his desk, reading *The Guardian* on his laptop. A photo of Alex greets him along with the headline: "The Future of American Politics?" Henry closes the laptop.

103 OMITTED 103

104A INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT 104A

Alex and Nora lay on top of his bed.

ALEX

He won't answer my texts or take any of my calls. Has Percy heard from him?

NORA

Percy said that Henry sometimes goes into his cocoon phases and the only thing to do is just wait it out.

ALEX

I can't "wait it out", I'm going crazy here.

NORA

Well you have air miles. Go to London. Get your man.

ALEX

What if he won't see me?

NORA

At least you'll have your answer.

105 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - HENRY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 105

Henry in bed, reading. Rain against the window. A KNOCK at the door. Henry turns quizzically and--

HENRY

Yes?

An ATTENDANT steps inside.

ATTENDANT

Sir, Mr. Claremont-Diaz is at the gates. He insists on seeing you.

106 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - GALLERY - SAME 106

Henry comes out onto the gallery, looking down at the front hall. ANGLE on Alex standing downstairs, drenched from the rain and looking like he hasn't slept in days.

ALEX

Can we please talk?

BACK ON HENRY, not at all pleased.

107 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - HENRY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 107

Henry charges into the room and Alex follows. The storm outside intensifies.

HENRY

I'm going to let you say what you need to say and then I would like you to leave.

ALEX

What's going on, Henry? A week ago we were happy and then you disappear without a word? I think you at least owe me an explanation.

HENRY

I have done nothing but explain myself to you this past year. I don't know what more you want me to say. And I don't appreciate you barging in here in the middle of the night.

ALEX

Well I'm sorry I can't turn my feelings off as easily as you.

HENRY

Do you honestly think this is easy for me?

ALEX

What else am I supposed to think? You won't talk to me. All I know is I'm the one here willing to fight for us.

HENRY

Because it costs you nothing.

ALEX

I've been losing my mind this week because the man I love has vanished from my life without an explanation. I flew across an ocean. I stormed a fucking castle to look you in the eye and tell you that I love you, knowing that you wouldn't say it back. So no, Henry, in fact this is costing me everything. If this is over, I at least deserve to know why.

Henry recoils as through he's been punched in the chest. He turns to face the fire, regaining himself.

Henry violently turns to face Alex.

HENRY

Oh for Christ's sake, Alex! For once I wish you could see me for who I am, and not who you want me to be. Sometimes I don't think you know me at all. I'm not like you. I can't afford to be reckless. I wasn't raised by a loving, supportive family like you were.

HENRY (CONT'D)

I have centuries of history bearing down on my shoulders. My life is the crown and yours is politics and I will not trade one prison for another. I can love you and want you and still not want that life. I'm allowed, all right, and it doesn't make me a liar--it makes me a man with some infinitesimal shred of self-preservation, and you don't get to come here and call me a coward for it.

Henry turns back to face the fire.

ALEX

I would never call you a coward. We can figure out a way to love each other on our own terms, no one else's.

HENRY

That is simply not possible and you know it.

Alex closes his eyes in disappointment.

ALEX

Fine. I'll leave. And you can live in your tower and protect your heart for the rest of your life. And nothing will ever happen to you. But, Henry, nothing will ever happen to you. So if you want me to go, you have to tell me to leave.

HENRY

Please don't make me.

ALEX

It's the only way you're getting rid of me because I would never leave this room if I didn't think there was any hope of holding on to the happiness that I found with you. And if you think otherwise, then you don't know me. So tell me to go, Henry, and I promise I'll walk out that door and trouble you no longer.

HENRY (O.C.)

Wait.

CLOSE ON HENRY'S FACE -- illuminated on one side by the fire and by the reflection of the rain splattered window on the other. He turns to face Alex.

HENRY

There's something I want you to see.

108

EXT. KENSINGTON PALACE - PALACE GATE - NIGHT

108

Henry leads Alex out of the palace and through an exterior alleyway. They approach a solid wrought-iron door. Henry reaches into a hollowed out ledge against the palace wall and produces a hidden skeleton key.

Henry opens the door and nods for Alex to pass through.

Henry shuts the gate and Alex follows Henry.

109

INT. V&A MUSEUM - NIGHT

109

Henry leads Alex through the darkened museum, passing spotlit statues, stopping at his favorites. In the half light, the room feels magically alive.

HENRY (V.O.)

When I was a boy, my father used to bring me here. Early in the morning before the museum opened. Now, I like to come at night.

Our camera gently sails around the room, as if caught on a breeze, catching their faces.

HENRY (V.O.)

In here, at night, no one else is around to gawk at you or try and take your picture. You can slip in between the statues like a shadow.

They continue on. Henry is more peaceful and contented than we've ever seen him. Alex watches him as if seeing him really for the first time, with a look that can only be described as love. The glowing statues surround and protect them.

When Henry speaks, it's with a soft voice, as if trying not to break the spell.

HENRY

When I was younger, I would dream of taking somebody I loved here and he'd love it as much as I did, and we'd dance right here amidst all these statues. Just a daft pubescent fantasy.

Henry starts to continue on but Alex stops, pulling out his phone. PERFUME GENUIS performing a cover of Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling In Love" starts to play. The music turns Henry back toward Alex, who smiles at him, offering his arms up to dance.

Henry, bashfully stands in place. Alex begins to sway, his gravitational pull getting stronger on Henry. Finally, face to face, Henry puts his arm around Alex's waist. They dance amid the statues. The music, their love, their hope filling this vast and holy space.

THEN --

HENRY

Please be patient with me. And I promise I will try to be brave for us. Because when they write the history of my life, I want it to include you and my love for you.

ALEX

History, huh? Bet we could make some.

They continue dancing. MUSIC CONTINUES AS WE CUT TO--

109A INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - HENRY'S BEDROOM - DAY 109A

Alex and Henry sleep, Alex spooning Henry. Henry wakes, smiles.

110 OMITTED 110

110A OMITTED 110A

111 OMITTED 111

112 OMITTED 112

113 OMITTED 113

114 OMITTED 114

115 INT. PRIVATE AIRSTRIP - DAY 115

Alex and Henry slowly, reluctantly approach a waiting private jet.

HENRY

I want you to have some part of me until you can have all of me again.

Henry pulls his SIGNET RING off his finger and places it into Alex's palm. Alex then removes the key and chain from around his neck and hands it to Henry.

CLOSE ON the key and chain coiling into Henry's hand.

ALEX

Now we're even.

The jet engines start. It's time for them to part. Alex looks around. There are guards keeping a perimeter and no one else. He risks it and pulls Henry into a deep embrace. Into his ear --

ALEX

I love you. I'll be as patient as you need.

Reluctantly, they pull apart.

HENRY

Go win an election.

Henry turns and pushes us back to his waiting car, tears now fully flowing from his face, and Henry not doing a damned thing to stop them.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

116 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - HENRY'S BEDROOM - DAY 116

Henry stirs awake with his dog David, to the sound of VOICES and FOOTSTEPS moving rapidly in the hallway. Something is wrong.

117 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - DRAWING ROOM - DAY 117

Henry walks in to find Bea with Shaan and a handful of PALACE ADVISORS, all huddled around a coffee table, which is strewn with newspapers. They look up as Henry walks in, the staff rising to bow for him.

HENRY

What's going on? Is it Grandpa?

Bea quickly moves to Henry. She sits him down.

BEA

Your emails to Alex have been hacked.
They were posted overnight to Reddit.

BEA (CONT'D)

The *Mirror* and the *Sun* ran them this morning. And now security photos of the two of you at the V&A have been popping up.

Henry, his world imploding. He looks up at her.

HENRY

How many of our emails?

BEA

All of them. I'm so sorry, Henry.

HENRY

I should call him.

SHAAN (O.C.)

I'm afraid you can't, sir.

ANGLE ON SHAAN.

SHAAN

I've taken the liberty of confiscating your phone as a precaution.

HENRY

You've done what?

BEA

They've taken my phone and laptop, as well.

HENRY

No. You can't do this.

SHAAN

Orders from the Palace, sir.

HENRY

No, I give the orders in this palace.

The LEAD PALACE ADVISOR, stern and unyielding, steps forward.

PALACE ADVISOR

These orders are from Buckingham Palace, sir. It is believed that this is the work of certain rogue elements within the media.

HENRY

Can we at least get a message to him? To the White House?

SHAAN

I've tried my contacts within the White House with no luck. They may be speaking to Downing Street, but they are not speaking to us.

Henry buries his face in his hands. Bea wraps her arms around him.

118

OMITTED

118

-- WE SEE News Coverage of the rapidly unfolding "scandal."

A British journalist reports on the email leaks.

BRITISH NEWS PRESENTER 1

The emails, which the *Mirror* is calling "The Waterloo Letters," detail the months-long romance between Prince Henry and Alex Claremont-Diaz, the son of American President Ellen Claremont.

The channel flicks to MSNBC and Rachel Maddow.

RACHEL MADDOW

As details emerge about Alex Claremont-Diaz's relationship with the prince, the White House is trying to stay on message.

We SEE VIDEO of Ellen in the Oval sitting next to the JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER, taking questions from the press.

RACHEL MADDOW

This is obviously a critical time for the President in her re-election bid. Polls have her in a dead heat with Governor Richards.

The channel changes to JOY REID on MSNBC.

JOY REID

Now we have Miguel Ramos of Politico, who was the first American journalist to break this story...

Alex sat in bed watching the Don Lemon interview on his laptop.

JOY REID

...And who has written extensively about it in the week since the leak.

On the laptop: Across from JOY REID on split screen is a suited Miguel, being interviewed.

JOY REID

I have to ask you, Miguel...why is this anyone's business? After all, Alex Claremont-Diaz is a private citizen.

MIGUEL

He isn't at all a private citizen. He's playing an active role in his mother's campaign.

Alex shakes his head in disbelief.

JOY REID

Well don't public figures have a right to privacy?

MIGUEL

They do, but these emails clearly show a pattern of obfuscation around this relationship and it's my job to examine and contextualize them.

Alex leans forward. Is he serious?

JOY REID

I'm curious, Miguel--these emails were posted to Reddit at 11:54pm Eastern Standard Time on Sunday night and your first article was posted at 2:30am Monday morning. How did you have time to read nearly 72 emails, write an article, and publish it all within two and a half hours?

MIGUEL

(feeling caught)

I'm not sure what you're getting at...?

JOY REID

Are you really that quick or did you perhaps have advance knowledge that this leak was going to happen?

And with that Alex closes his laptop.

We then find ourselves in --

118C INT. WHITE HOUSE - SMALL BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

118C

--where we find Alex at a podium giving a speech.

ALEX

Good morning.

(beat)

Henry and I have been together since the beginning of this year. As many of you have already read, we have struggled every day with what this means for our families, our countries, and our futures.

As the speech continues, we SEE --

--Henry in the BACK OF A CAR, arriving at the ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE.

ALEX (V.O.)

And while neither of us is naive about what it means to be public figures, we never imagined our most private and intimate thoughts, fears, and truths would become fodder for public examination.

Henry's door opens and he is greeted by a frenzy of flash bulbs and two dozen photographers calling out "Prince Henry!", as he's rushed inside.

ALEX (V.O.)

What was taken from us this week was our right to determine for ourselves how and when we should share our relationship and queer identities with the world.

-- And we're back with Alex at the podium

ALEX

(beat)

The truth is every queer person has the right to come out on their own terms and on their own timeline.

--KENSINGTON PALACE Philip yelling at Henry, pacing behind him, his face red, veins popping out of his forehead.

ALEX (V.O.)

They also have the right to choose not to come out at all.

--Shaan and a group of PALACE ADVISORS talking to (lecturing) him on his options.

ALEX (V.O.)

The forced conformity of the closet cannot be answered with forced conformity in coming out of it. This isn't about shame, this is about privacy and the fundamental right of self-determination...

We return to Alex at the podium.

ALEX

...Which are exactly the principles on which the struggle for queer liberation has always been fought.

(beat)

But there is another truth that is much simpler:

-- WE CUT TO FLASHBACK MOMENTS of Alex and Henry together.

-- Looking affectionately at each other at the polo game.

ALEX (V.O.)

I fell in love with a person who happens to be a man...

-- Talking animatedly by firelight.

ALEX (V.O.)

...and that man happens to be a prince. He has captured my heart...

-- Gleefully running between statues at the V&A.

ALEX (V.O.)

...and made my life immeasurably better.

-- Leant up against a tree, kissing in a forest.

ALEX (V.O.)

I love His Royal Highness, Prince Henry George Edward James Hanover-Stuart Fox.

118F INT. ZAHRA'S OFFICE - DAY

118F

Alex's speech plays on the television in Zahra's office.

ALEX (ON TV)

I hope one day we will have the opportunity to be public about our relationship on our own terms.

ALEX (ON TV) (CONT'D)

(a beat)

Thank you.

We find Alex and Zarah as slumped on the sofa, a scotch in each of their hands. The speech ends and Zahra turns off the TV.

ZAHRA

Great job. I'm proud of you.

ALEX

Is it still possible I've cost my mom the election?

ZAHRA

Yes.

(then)

But it's also possible that you've just won her the election. We'll find out next week.

ALEX

I hope Henry was watching. I could feel him watching. He does this thing when he's worried. Furrows his eyebrows. It's the cutest thing. God I miss him...

ZAHRA

Oh my God!

She gets up, goes to her desk, pulls a phone from a drawer and dials a number. After a moment--

ZAHRA

Shaan Shrivistava, this is Zahra Banskston. Look, I know we said we'd only use these phones in an emergency. Well, welcome to that emergency. I've got the First Son in my office mooing over the prince like a cow in labor and I'm not going to get any work done until you put these two lovesick homosexuals on the phone with one another. I don't care what any of those wrinkled white men at Buckingham Palace have to say about it, I want you to march your skinny, perfect ass over to the prince, hand him your phone or so help me God, you will never see me naked again.

ALEX

Wait, what???

ZAHRA
(into the phone)
I thought you might see it my way. Yes
we'll hold.
(to Alex)
You might be lousy at keeping secrets,
kiddo, but I'm not.

ALEX
Zahra I could kiss you.

ZAHRA
Touch me and die.

119 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - MUSIC - DAY

119

Find Henry at the piano, playing the Cantata as Shaan enters, holding an iPhone. Henry stops playing, looks at the phone in Shaan's hand and takes it.

HENRY
Hello?

ALEX (ON PHONE)
Baby.

Henry breathes for the first time in days.

HENRY
Alex? Oh my God. Are you alright?

ALEX (ON PHONE)
I'm hanging in there. Are you okay?

HENRY
No. No, I'm not okay.

ALEX (ON PHONE)
You know what, I'm coming to London
tonight.

Conversation continues as we CUT AHEAD TO --

120 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - STAIRCASE - DAY

120

Henry rushes down the stairs as Alex rushes up them. They meet in the middle, kissing and falling down onto the steps together.

ALEX (V.O.)
Just hold on until I get there. We'll
figure this out.

HENRY (V.O.)

Hurry. Please.

ALEX (V.O.)

I'll break the sound barrier for you.

121

INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - MUSIC ROOM - DAY

121

Henry plays the Bach Cantata as Alex sits on the floor nearby, listening. There's a section in the piece that vaguely sounds like "Yankee Doodle" and this time, Henry actually plays that melody, which gets a laugh from Alex.

Alex gets up and sits next to Henry on the piano bench. Alex plunks out the start of "My Country Tis of Thee" and, since it's the same melody, Henry finishes the phrase by playing "God Save the King." Then...

ALEX

Have you heard from your grandfather yet?

HENRY

Not a word. Part of me wonders if their entire strategy is to deny I ever existed.

ALEX

They can't keep you locked away forever.

HENRY

We really need to get you a book on English history.

(a beat)

I feel so lost right now. They used to call me the 'Prince of England's Hearts' and now it feels like everyone hates me.

ALEX

They still love you.

HENRY

They loved the idea of me and now they are faced with the reality.

Henry reaches for Alex's hand.

HENRY

Your speech was beautiful. It made me proud to be your boyfriend.

ALEX

I'm always proud to be your boyfriend.

HENRY

Oh sorry, I'm white and upper class. So my affection comes with strings.

ALEX

Oh speaking of boyfriends on strings, you'll never guess who Shaan is dating...

With a KNOCK, Shaan appears at the door.

SHAAN

Excuse me, Sir. The King wishes to see you. Both of you.

ANGLE on Henry and Alex, looking at each other and --

122 OMITTED 122

123 OMITTED 123

124 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - KING'S RECEPTION ROOM - DAY 124

Henry and Alex stand in unison with Bea in the huge and imposing room. Philip also waiting, sits a little away, refusing to make eye contact.

The only sound is the ticking of a clock.

ALEX

You know, it's not too late to get out of here and fly to the Maldives.

HENRY

Tempting. But I think it's time I stood up for myself. Might as well start at the top.

PHILIP

The less you say, the better it will be for you.

Henry looks at Philip.

HENRY

I do not need your advice, Philip.

PHILIP

Yes, well you continue to make a mockery of yourself, and in return--

-- The double doors at the end of the room are opened by an attendant and THE KING walks in. His grandchildren freeze at the sight of him, bowing for him. Henry nudges Alex to follow suit. The King doesn't acknowledge this obeisance and heads directly to his stately desk where he lights a cigarette. He gestures for them to be seated.

He considers speaking, but decides to keep them waiting, instead approaching his bar to pour himself a large whiskey neat. As he does--

THE KING

During the Second World War, our intelligence services initiated a clandestine "disinformation" campaign against our enemies. While we employed it as a wartime necessity, there are a number of unscrupulous governments who routinely concoct wholesale fabrications about prominent people in order to further their own national interests. I wonder, Henry, do you suppose that might explain these unseemly reports?

CLOSE ON HENRY. The choice is before him. This is the moment.

HENRY

It's all true, Grandpa.

The King absorbs that blow with great dignity. He steps forward. Standing behind Philip.

THE KING

Nevertheless, I have directed palace communications to issue a firm denial of these accusations.

HENRY

They are not accusations--they are the truth.

THE KING

It's a truth from which I am determined to protect you.

HENRY

I don't want your protection, I want your support.

THE KING

It is not yours to decide which of the two you will get.

HENRY

I am as much a part of this family as anyone here and I deserve to be happy.

THE KING

Oh Henry, no one is suggesting that you don't deserve to be happy, but--

PHILIP

But to throw away your future because of one mad infatuation--

The King clears his throat, silencing Philip, then returns to his desk. His back to his family, he listens.

HENRY

Have you read our emails, Philip?

PHILIP

God no.

HENRY

Well if you had, you would know this is more than just a mad infatuation. Alex and I love each other. Deeply.

(taking Alex's hand)

And we are committed to each other. Deeply.

The King faces Henry and Alex, and makes his way to his seat beside Philip.

THE KING

I have read your emails, Henry. All of them. They leave no doubt that your love is genuine. Occasionally vulgar, but genuine.

Henry and Alex cast surprised and cautious glances at The King.

THE KING

However, your primary responsibility is not to your heart, but to your country. And anything other than maintaining the traditional royal image is out of the question.

ALEX

Why is it out of the question?

The King looks at Alex.

THE KING

Mr. Claremont-Diaz, let me disabuse you of the idea that your contribution to this conversation is in any way welcome. You are party to this problem, not to its solution.

HENRY

Then I'll ask it then: why must we maintain a traditional royal image?

THE KING

Because--because, because the nation simply will not accept a prince who is homosexual.

A ROYAL ADVISOR gingerly enters the room, crosses to The King.

THE KING

Yes Tommy, what is it?

His advisor whispers into his ear.

ROYAL ADVISOR

There's a very large crowd gathering outside.

The King looks at his Advisor.

As this is happening, Alex reaches his hand over for Henry's. He allows him to take it.

THE KING

Well how many people?

The Advisor whispers the answer into his ear.

ROYAL ADVISOR

Several thousand, sir, and growing.

The King stands, as does his family.

THE KING

Right, that's settled then.

HENRY

What is it that we've settled?

THE KING

You're all to go home immediately and await further instructions.

As Bea stands, her attention is drawn to the window.

BEA

What's going on outside?

THE KING

Henry, Bea...there's a car waiting to take you back to KP.

Bea goes to the window, looking out.

BEA

Oh my God. Henry, look at this.

THE KING

Henry, Bea. Kensington Palace immediately. And take the American with you.

Henry rushes to the window.

BEA

(on her phone)

Apparently there's crowds gathered in Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham.

Bea peels away.

BEA (O.C.)

Cardiff, Edinburgh, and Liverpool...

FROM OUTSIDE THE WINDOW LOOKING IN: Henry looks out at the Mall. Reflected in the glass, we see several thousand people gathered. Rainbow flags, Union Jacks, and even a few American flags as far as the eye can see. People with signs saying "HENRY + ALEX 4EVER" and "FREE HENRY" and "FIRST SON OF OUR HEARTS."

CLOSE ON HENRY from outside -- the dawning on his face that he is more than tolerated...he is loved.

HENRY

I will no longer be the prince of shame and of secrets.

Henry turns to face The King.

HENRY

Starting today, the world will know me for who I am--and not who you want me to be.

He extends his hand. Alex smiles and makes a beeline over to Henry.

PHILIP

No, you can't go out there.

(crossing to the King)

Grandpa, tell them that they can't go out there.

Henry and Alex look at each other. Hope and love filling the space between them. Henry looks over at The King, who knows he's been beaten.

CLOSE on The King's face, humbled and a bit awed by this declaration.

THE KING

Henry, my boy. Are you sure this is what you want? There is no turning back if you go out there now.

HENRY

I certainly hope not.

Henry looks at Alex.

HENRY

I love you.

ALEX

I love you more.

HENRY

I think that's up for debate.

They kiss then Henry faces the balcony, faces his future.

Henry and Alex step out onto the balcony, and the crowd goes wild. They smile and wave at the adoring crowds.

125

OMITTED

125

-- ELECTION NIGHT COVERAGE. On MSNBC Rachel Maddow reports on the election results, now in its final moments.

RACHEL MADDOW (V.O.)

Well it has been a long election night. The entire race now hangs on Texas. It is possible we just minutes away from knowing who the next president of the United States will be.

TITLE: ELECTION NIGHT - AUSTIN, TEXAS

TITLE: CLAREMONT: 233 ELECTORAL VOTES; RICHARDS: 265
ELECTORAL VOTES

RACHEL MADDOW (ON TV)
With 265 electoral votes Governor
Richards has swept Pennsylvania, Ohio...

We leave Rachel Maddow and follow --

126

INT. VIP SUITE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

126

Alex and Henry enter the quiet hum of nervous energy.
High-level staffers everywhere, all on computers or
phones. Alex is very uptight.

ALEX
Let's find my dad.

HENRY
Breathe, Alex.

ALEX
I'll breathe when we win.

They make their way into the living room to find Oscar,
Nora, and Percy watching election coverage on TV. The map
of the United States is currently a sea of RED.

HENRY
Crikey, that's a lot of red.

ALEX
It's all going to come down to Texas.

HENRY
(joining them, fascinated)
Remind me how this works again. We're the
blue team, right?

OSCAR
What did they teach you at that fancy
private school? You just say the word,
I'll get you enrolled at UT Austin.

Alex turns and leaves the room.

RACHEL MADDOW (ON TV)
All eyes have turned to Texas. The
president's home state. Texas of course
has 40 electoral votes, which means very
bluntly and simply. It's easy to do the
math here. Whoever wins Texas is going to
win the White House.

As Alex wanders into --

127 INT. VIP SUITE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

127

--where we find Ellen huddled with ZAHRA and a SPEECHWRITER. Ellen marks up a piece of paper with a pen. The look on her face suggests she isn't working on a victory speech.

ALEX

Hey ma.

ELLEN

(barely looking up)

Hey hun.

ELLEN

(to Zahra)

I want to say something like, "this campaign was never about just me. It was about the country we hope to leave to our children."

They continue their work as Alex turns and heads back into --

128 INT. VIP SUITE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

128

Alex walks the halls to the sound of --

RACHEL MADDOW (ON TV)

You may remember that it was her son Alex Claremont-Diaz who was the driving force in turning her campaign's focus to Texas. And some people said that was to the detriment of the campaign's ability to carry the so-called Rust Belt states.

ALEX

(to Henry)

Will you take a walk with me?

Henry gets up, taking Alex's hand.

RACHEL MADDOW (ON TV)

Tonight. It was a bold gamble to focus on Texas. We're going to see tonight if it paid off.

Alex and Henry go out into --

129 INT. VIP SUITE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

129

--past the Secret Service agents guarding the room. They walk halfway down the corridor. Alex leans against the wall. Henry stands lovingly close.

ALEX

I think my mom's working on a concession speech.

HENRY

You fought hard. And it isn't over yet.

(then)

You still haven't noticed my tie.

Alex takes a good look at Henry's tie, then smiles.

ALEX

Yellow roses.

HENRY

I read it was a thing in Texas. I thought it might bring you some luck.

ALEX

My God, I'm so grateful you're here.

Henry wraps his arms around Alex and holds him, Alex burying his face in Henry's chest. THEN --

SHRIEKS OF JOY emanate from the suite. Alex looks up at Henry, then grabs his hand and they race down the hall --

130 INT. VIP SUITE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

130

-- where they discover the room has exploded in celebration. Everyone is cheering, jumping, hugging, crying.

On the TV: "CLAREMONT RE-ELECTED"

The look on Alex's face isn't joy, it's shock. He immediately starts crying. He and Henry are pulled into a hug by Ellen. She whispers into Alex's ear --

ELLEN

Thank you.

Then --

130A INT. BALLROOM STAGE - NIGHT

130A

Ellen, Oscar, Alex, and Henry step out onto the stage, smiling and waving to the crowd. The flush of victory on the Claremont-Diaz faces and a timid, yet very real smile on Henry's face.

ELLEN (V.O.)

There are people who will tell you that elections don't matter. But try telling that to the auto worker in Michigan who worries whether or not their plant will be shut down.

130B OMITTED

130B

130C INT. BALLROOM STAGE - NIGHT

130C

As Ellen giving her victory speech, we eventually push past her onto Alex and Henry.

ELLEN

And tell that to the transgender high school student in Mississippi, voting for the very first time. Elections do matter because they give you a voice!

Alex reaches down and takes Henry's hand, who looks at first to quickly panic and then relaxes and smiles.

ELLEN (O.C.)

And your voice is blended tonight with the voices of millions of Americans, all across this country. Millions of Americans just like you--

-- BACK TO the VIP SUITE LIVING ROOM.

As Ellen is pulled away from Alex and Henry, to prep for the very speech we are hearing.

ELLEN (V.O.)

...Open-hearted, fearless and alive to a bolder, brighter, braver future.

Henry looks at Alex.

HENRY

What do we do now?

ALEX
Do you still have my key on you?

FADE TO BLACK.

131 OMITTED 131

132 OMITTED 132

133 EXT. ALEX'S CHILDHOOD HOME - NIGHT 133

Alex and Henry ride like teenagers through a classic American suburb. Alex veers off the road and onto his family's front lawn, pulling off an expert dismount. Henry, a little less adeptly, follows suit. They stand in front of their house catching thier breaths. The nieghborhood is quiet at this time of night.

Alex unlocks and opens the front door. Henry joins him in the doorway.

ALEX
We won.

HENRY
We won.

ALEX
After you.

Henry enters. Alex follows and closes the door behind them as --

HENRY
Wow, you really are working class, aren't you?

The CAMERA rises up the front of the house as the lights inside come on.

ALEX
Oh, shut up your Majesty. Do you want me to give you the tour of the house?

HENRY
Yes darling, lead the way.

The CAMERA soars over the rooftop and to the star-filled sky above, to the sound of Henry and Alex's laughter.

134 OMITTED

134

135 OMITTED

135

THE END

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