

STUDENTS #1 AND #2

Thanks.

JOSH

Sure.

As the STUDENTS go back to their table they ad lib good-byes.

JOSH

See 'ya.

MANDY

Listen. You called me. What do you wanna know? Is Lloyd gonna run?

JOSH

I really don't care one way or the other, he's a lightweight. I just--

MANDY

You don't like him.

JOSH

Not when I can't use him, no. I just wanna know how much trouble he's gonna be on the budget surplus.

MANDY

You should get to know him.

JOSH

I have enough friends.

MANDY

Not these days you don't

JOSH

Jeez, Mandy, it's not like these people were in our camp to begin with.

MANDY

Right, Josh, and they've been waiting for you to trip over your mouth and you handed it to them. It's Christmas morning for Mary Marsh.

(pause)

You're a Fulbright Scholar, are you honestly the only adult in America who doesn't think you're about to be fired? Do what Tokyo's telling you to do

JOSH

Did you just call him Lloyd?

Start →

MANDY
Who?

JOSH
Senator Russell.

MANDY
When?

JOSH
Just now. You said "What do you wanna know? Is Lloyd gonna run?"

MANDY
I don't remember. What does it--

JOSH
It's unusual for you that you'd call a Senator by his first name to a third party.

MANDY
A third party?

JOSH
You know what I'm saying.

MANDY
No, but as long as one of us does--

JOSH
You're dating Lloyd Russell.

MANDY
(beat)
Yes.

JOSH
(pause)
Wow. That's great.

MANDY
Are you gonna freak out?

JOSH
No, no, no, not at all.
(pause)
It's just I always thought he was gay.

MANDY
No you didn't.

JOSH

I did.

MANDY

He's not gay.

JOSH

Are you sure?

MANDY

Very sure.

JOSH

He always seemed effeminate to me.

MANDY

He happens to be very athletic. Plenty masculine.

JOSH

I think he's a woman.

MANDY

Josh, take me seriously.

JOSH

I do.

MANDY

The *New York Times* is gonna release a poll in the next few days that brings your unfavorables up to 48%.

JOSH

(beat)

This is the first I'm hearing of it.

MANDY

You'll have it in about an hour.

JOSH

Where'd you get this?

MANDY

We don't play for the same team anymore.

JOSH

Wait a minute. One minute you're giving me career advice, the next minute you're telling me we don't play for the same team.

MANDY
I'm just gonna be here a while. And I want you at your fighting weight when I start bitch-slapping you guys around the beltway.

The waitress brings their food...

JOSH
You and Lloyd Russell, huh?

MANDY
(beat)
Yeah.

CUT TO:

23 INT. LEO'S OFFICE - DAY 32

As LEO speaks on the phone, a few STAFFERS will come in and out to leave something on the desk.

LEO
(into phone)
Seventeen across.
(beat)
Yes, seventeen across is wrong.

C.J. comes in...

LEO
(into phone)
You're spelling his name wrong... What's my name? My name doesn't matter. I'm just an ordinary citizen who relies on the *Times* crossword for stimulation. And I'm telling you that I met the man twice. And I recommended a pre-empted Exocet Missile strike against his Air Force. So, I think I know how to--

C.J.
Leo.

LEO
They hang up on me every time.

C.J.
That's almost hard to believe.

LEO's begun gathering up some things--

End
→