

# oops

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By

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TIME  
Winter of 1999 and 2000

PLACE  
Michigan and Iowa

CAST

CHUCK GOLLY.....Good looking, fun-loving mayor of Detroit  
WILLIAM GOLLY.....Chuck's father and former president  
VICKY GOLLY.....Chuck's mother  
DALE SULLY.....Political strategist, former congressman  
HEMINGWAY.....Loyal aide to Chuck Golly

TWO CHARACTERS SEEN ONLY IN VIDEO CLIPS

RHONDA RIGHT.....Far right TV reporter and talk show host  
HARRY WONG.....Far left TV reporter and talk show host

# OOPS

## SCENE

SETTING: A few props suggesting a living room, hotel suite, squash court, park bench. A large screen that will fill with the images of TV news casts hangs above everything.

ON RISE: TV studio. TV anchor Rhonda Wright is delivering the news to a TV audience.

## RHONDA WRIGHT

Welcome to the Rhonda Wright Hour, the news show that always gets it right. The new presidential election season hasn't started yet, but here at Fox News, we have the first scoop. Our field reporter, Jane Wong, a new member of the best news team in the business, has the story.

Limbo area lights up with Jane Wong, talking to an unseen TV camera.

## JANE WONG

Thank you Rhonda. This is Jane Wong, somewhere in Michigan. We are here looking for the hideaway retreat of former President William Golly, who disappeared from the scene shortly after losing reelection seven years ago. Golly's ex-chief of staff, Dale Sully, reportedly has come here to ask his former boss to run again for reelection. A gas station attendant told us exclusively that the former president lives in a house deep in the Michigan woods. We are going there now, Rhonda, and will get back to you when we find the house.

## RHONDA WRIGHT

Thank you, Jane. This is a story worth watching. For further developments, be sure to stay tuned to Fox News.

## BLACK OUT

## SCENE

Lights come up on the Golly living room. Two comfortable chairs. Sully and Golly are talking. GOLLY is a dignified, impressive looking man in his 60s. SULLY is about the same, more gruff than dignified. He wears a Bluetooth cell phone in his ear.

SULLY

This is one hell of a hideaway. Had to ask some guy in a gas station where President Golly lives.

(Awkward pause)

It's a pretty enough spot. If you like trees and scenic views. Don't much care for that stuff myself. Mother Nature is a bitch. She's out to kill us. No one escapes.

GOLLY

How the hell did you find out I moved here?

SULLY

I still have friends in Washington.

GOLLY

Secret Service?

SULLY

Not very likely.

GOLLY

Why are you here, Sully?

SULLY

How's Chuck? Very impressive what he's been doing in Detroit. His approval rating is unbelievable.

GOLLY

Why are you here, Sully?

SULLY

It's awfully chilly in here. You wouldn't happen to have any brandy, would you?

Debating whether to honor the request, Golly finally goes to the table with the liquor bottles, pours some brandy into a snifter and hands it to Sully .

SULLY

You're not joining me?

Golly shakes his head.

SULLY

The First Lady? She's well? What's she doing with herself?

GOLLY

Helping the poor.

Sully sips the brandy, getting ready to broach the subject that had brought him to Golly's house. Golly waits, looking at him sternly.

SULLY

(Finally)

The Iowa caucus is in six months.

GOLLY

So what?

SULLY

We can't let Broadhurst win.

GOLLY

What's that got to do with me?

SULLY

Our only hope is for Golly to run against him.

GOLLY

The voters made it clear seven years ago. They don't want me.

SULLY

I wasn't thinking of you. I was thinking of Chuck.

GOLLY

Did you come all the way out here just to make a joke?

SULLY

Broadhurst is too much a part of the system. The voters want a fresh start. A new face.

GOLLY

There are plenty of new faces in Washington.

SULLY

Not willing to stand up against Broadhurst. They know he's a shoo-in.

GOLLY

So you want to throw Chuck under the truck.

SULLY

Chuck could beat him.

GOLLY

You've wasted your time coming here, Sully.

SULLY

Detroit has never had such a popular mayor. In three years Chuck's made Detroit the safest city in the country. His stop-and-frisk campaign practically eliminated gun violence. His face has been on every magazine cover in the country. Late night comedians are making jokes about how safe the city is. Endorsements don't come any better than that.

GOLLY

So you've added up all the pluses.

SULLY

A lot more pluses than minuses.

GOLLY

What's in this for you, Sully?

SULLY

What's in this for you? That's the question you should be asking.

GOLLY

So what's in it for me?

SULLY

The Federal Work Force.

GOLLY

Water under the damn.

SULLY

It's still a good idea.

GOLLY

We lost that battle, Sully.

SULLY

You can get it done. With Chuck in the White House.

GOLLY

Middle class Americans don't care about the poor.

SULLY

They didn't eight years ago. But times have changed. The rich have gotten richer and the middle class have discovered they're not as rich as they thought they were. This time the support will be there.

GOLLY

What makes you think so?

SULLY

We control both houses. By filibuster-proof margins. You and Chuck could accomplish a lot. Maybe even world peace.

GOLLY

Now you're going too far.

SULLY

Operation. Our. Peaceful. Solution.

GOLLY

You're still riding that old horse.

SULLY

We could have gotten an agreement at Camp David if you'd used it.

GOLLY

OOPS (pronounced as one word) was far too risky.

SULLY

It would have worked. It can still work.

GOLLY

OOPS is dead and buried. What makes you think anyone can beat Broadhurst. He has a lot of friends.

SULLY

He has many more enemies than friends. The party will welcome someone like Chuck Golly. Whomever we nominate, will win in November.

GOLLY

Broadhurst is too conservative. He's in the wrong party.

SULLY

The Detroit voters love Chuck. Once the American People get to know him, everyone will love Chuck Golly. Broadhurst is smart. But Chuck is charming. When you're looking for votes, give me charming every time.

GOLLY

Chuck might not be the brightest ornament on the Christmas tree, but at least he wants to do the right thing.

SULLY

Chuck looks good on TV.

GOLLY

I looked too serious. You'd think the American People would want their president to be a serious person.

SULLY

Chuck's the kind of person you want to have a beer with.

GOLLY

Name recognition wouldn't be a problem.

SULLY

Chuck would want to do this, wouldn't he?

Golly goes to the liquor table and empties what's left in the brandy bottle into a glass.

GOLLY

Persuading Chuck would not be difficult. But the First Lady? That could be a problem.

SULLY

Any mother would be proud to have her son in the White House.



GOLLY

Mrs. Golly isn't any mother.

SULLY

Of course not. She is a special mother.

GOLLY

I wouldn't use that kind of sweet talk on Mrs. Golly.

SULLY

I'm sure you can show Mrs. Golly that this will be in everyone's interest.

GOLLY

Especially yours. That's what she'll think.

SULLY

Then you must convince her otherwise.

GOLLY

Mrs. Golly has a strong mind of her own. She'll do what she thinks is right.

SULLY

Then we have nothing to worry about.

GOLLY

Would you care for a cigar?

SULLY

I'd love one.

Golly offers him a cigar and they light up. Golly sits back and thinks of the possibilities while Sully watches him with a smile.

GOLLY

The money is pretty well assured?

SULLY

Enough for Iowa and New Hampshire. If we run a tight campaign.

GOLLY

Then what?

SULLY

The money will start pouring in after Chuck wins.

GOLLY

And if he loses?

SULLY

You'll go back to seclusion and I'll go back to private industry. But it's not going to come to that.

Sully's Bluetooth ear phone sounds.

SULLY

Excuse me.

(On phone)

Yes... I'm with him now... I'll be there as soon as I can.

(Hanging up)

That was Jim Handler. He's with us on this.

GOLLY

(Impressed)

Handler's one of the backers?

SULLY

One of many. It's getting late. I've got to meet with Jim. And you should talk with Chuck.

(Standing and looking around)

I'd go crazy out here with nothing to do, waiting for nature to kill me.

He goes to the corner of the room, gets his coat and puts it on.

SULLY

Get back to me as soon as you can.

VICTORIA enters. She's a simply dressed, attractive woman in her 60s, with a quick, no-nonsense manner. She sees Sully with shock and then suspicion.

VICTORIA

What are you doing here?

SULLY

It's good to see you, too, Mrs. Golly. You're looking well.

VICTORIA

Am I?

SULLY

I understand you're taking up the fight for the little people.

VICTORIA

Not the little people. The helpless people, being screwed by people like you. Have you made your first million yet?

She tries to pour a brandy, but the bottle is empty. She shakes her head in disgust.

SULLY

In pharmaceuticals, you get that just for signing up.

GOLLY

(Trying to defuse the situation)

Sully has come here to propose an interesting idea.

VICTORIA

Like what?

GOLLY

He wants Chuck to run for president.

VICTORIA

The president of what?

GOLLY

Of the United States.

This stops her dead.

VICTORIA

Is this what you two have been doing all afternoon -- drinking up the cognac and talking nonsense?

(Indicating the overcoat Sully is wearing)

I see you were just leaving. Don't let me stop you.

SULLY

Yes. I've taken up enough of the president's time. It was so good seeing you, Mrs. Golly.

(To Golly)

You'll get back to me tomorrow?

GOLLY

I'll talk to Chuck tonight. Thanks for stopping by.

SULLY

Good night.

Sully exits.

GOLLY

What the hell was that all about? You practically kicked him out of the house.

VICTORIA

That bastard frightens me.

GOLLY

Even so.

VICTORIA

I didn't trust him when he was your chief of staff and I sure as hell don't trust him now. I don't like him.

GOLLY

No one likes him. He's a scheming, manipulative, tough son of a bitch. I don't like his methods. But he wins elections.

VICTORIA

He cost you the election.

GOLLY

I lost the election because I didn't listen to him.

VICTORIA

It's better that you lost on your terms than win on his.

GOLLY

Talking to that guy brought back a lot of memories. A lot of painful memories. Four years in the White House and nothing much to show for it. You'd think it would stop hurting, after all this time.

VICTORIA

You're not being fair to yourself, William.

GOLLY

I wanted to do so much.

VICTORIA

You had no support in Congress.

GOLLY

The Federal Work Force was going to eliminate poverty. The lobbyists took care of that in pretty fast order. National Day Care Centers wasn't reported out of committee. And National Health Care didn't even make it out of the White House.

VICTORIA

They were all good ideas.

GOLLY

We control both houses now. With big majorities. Chuck could get some of these things passed.

VICTORIA

You're not seriously considering this idea of Sully's. Are you?

GOLLY

It's something to think about. This could be a great opportunity for us.

(Correcting himself)

For Chuck.

VICTORIA

Our son? Running for president? Of the United States?

GOLLY

He could get a lot accomplished. With the right advisers.

VICTORIA

He's doesn't care about politics any more. God and all that religious stuff. That's all he's interested in now.

GOLLY

It's just a passing fad. Like all of his other fads.

VICTORIA

This is different. He spends all his time reading the Bible. And talking to God. And preaching his happiness philosophy.

GOLLY

His unique interpretation of the Scriptures.

VICTORIA

You shouldn't kid him about that. He's very serious about his philosophy.

GOLLY

It's not a philosophy. It's an excuse. He's using God to justify whatever crazy thing he's wanting to be doing at the time.

VICTORIA

Religion has given his life meaning. Why put him through the ordeal of running. He doesn't have a chance of winning. He's not qualified.

GOLLY

I admit, he has some limitations as a politician in Washington.

VICTORIA

I can think of maybe a hundred. What's at the top of your list?

GOLLY

He's honest.

VICTORIA

He's innocent.

GOLLY

He's trusting.

VICTORIA

He doesn't mislead

They laugh.

GOLLY

I want him to run, Vicki.

VICTORIA

You're making a joke.

She starts to laugh. He doesn't.

VICTORIA

You are. Aren't you? Making a joke? William? For him to get elected, you would have to convince the voters that Chuck is capable.

GOLLY

Of course.

VICTORIA

You can't deceive the voters like that.

GOLLY

I know it will be a stretch for the boy. That he'll have to work harder than he's ever worked before. It's not like Detroit. He could have won that election without even campaigning.

VICTORIA

Hard work is not the biggest problem.

GOLLY

The biggest problem is commitment. Whenever the going gets tough, Chuck walks away. This will not be an easy campaign for him. This time he's got to make a commitment and stay with it.

VICTORIA

He isn't qualified, William.

GOLLY

Our son has the most important quality for that high office. He wants to do the right thing. Nothing and no one will sway him. He's lobby proof. We'll be a great team.

VICTORIA

You'd go back to Washington with him? To that hell hole? Washington almost destroyed you. It almost destroyed us. You were a dreamer. Chuck's a dreamer. Dreamers don't survive in Washington.

GOLLY

You were a dreamer when we met.

VICTORIA

Haven't you been happy here, on the lake? Away from all that?

GOLLY

There are things I still want to do.

VICTORIA

You're 67, William. We're old. It's time to rest. To enjoy the little things that you don't have time for when you're busy trying to change the world. You know how I spent the morning today? Watching a bird flying back and forth building a nest. It was quite a complex operation. But somehow the bird knew exactly what it had to do. It kept flying back and forth with twigs, constructing this...

GOLLY

I can't waste my time watching birds building nests.

VICTORIA

At our age, not doing something like that is a waste. We don't have that much time left, William.

GOLLY

I have responsibilities.

VICTORIA

And you're meeting them. With your foundation. Look at all you've accomplished since you left Washington. Because you didn't have to fight losing battles with politicians who don't give a damn about your visions.

GOLLY

I know there's a limit to what I can do as Chuck's closest adviser. But damn it, Vicki, we could get Work Force passed. Yes. The time just might be right for that. It'll be tight. But we might have the votes. What a legacy that would be.

(Lost in the dream)

An army of men and women working for the government. Fixing bridges and roads in states too poor to do it themselves. Staffing day care centers. Helping old people. Teaching the illiterate. The employer of last resort. Paying a living wage. Forcing businesses to compete for labor by also paying living wages.

Victoria is surprised by the passion, which he still has after all these years out of office. She is touched.

VICTORIA

I think you're going to have trouble getting to sleep tonight.

GOLLY

It would mean a lot to me, knowing that you were on board. You've always been part of the team. Remember my first campaign. My senior advisers were ripping each other apart when in comes this young woman -- a junior staff member -- with all sorts of charts and statistics and talking points.

VICTORIA

You were so excited when I came in with my charts and showed you what had to be done to win the election. Such a happy look on your face.

GOLLY

I have a confession to make.

VICTORIA

A confession?



GOLLY

About the happy look. It wasn't the charts.

VICTORIA

I know. Is that what you've been doing here all this time -- brooding about what could have been?

GOLLY

I've tried to watch the birds building nests.

She hugs him.

VICTORIA

Maybe you're right. We should do this.

GOLLY

Thank you.

CHUCK enters. He's a well built, handsome man with an athletic build in his 40s.

CHUCK

The Tigers are ahead. One zip. Top of the eighth.

He puts on the TV.

CHUCK

It's a hell of a game. A pitching duel.

Golly mutes the TV.

CHUCK

Hey, it's a tight game.

GOLLY

We've got to talk.

CHUCK

We can't talk while watching the game?

GOLLY

I need your concentration.

CHUCK

My concentration? Is something wrong?

GOLLY

Have you ever thought about running for higher office?

CHUCK

Governor?

GOLLY

Washington.

CHUCK

I wouldn't be very good in Congress. I don't like being one of many.

GOLLY

Sully wants you to run for president.

CHUCK

President of what?

GOLLY

Of the United States.

CHUCK

Oh.

GOLLY

We've been talking about it all afternoon.

CHUCK

I've been thinking about getting out of politics. It's not making me happy.

GOLLY

Son, there's more to life than happiness.

CHUCK

What could be more important than that?

GOLLY

Hard work.

CHUCK

I don't accept that concept.

GOLLY

That's ridiculous.

VICTORIA

There's nothing wrong with wanting to be happy, William.

CHUCK

God is good and a good God wants us to be happy. Just like good parents want their children to be happy. I don't know why preachers go through the Bible picking out only the dark thoughts, ignoring every thing the Bible says will make us happy.

GOLLY

You could find a lot of happiness in knowing you have served your country.

CHUCK

I don't think so.

GOLLY

Serving the country is a family tradition. Your grandfather was a senator. Your great grandfather was the governor of Michigan. And his father was a supreme court justice.

CHUCK

This has not been a happy family.

GOLLY

The baton has been passed to you.

CHUCK

I'm mayor of Detroit.

GOLLY

You can do better, Chuck. You can make this a better country.

CHUCK

You tried to do that. And look how unhappy it made you.

GOLLY

Don't you feel good about making Detroit the safest city in America? Didn't that make you happy?

VICTORIA

William, you're bullying the boy.

CHUCK

You really want me to run. Don't you, dad?

GOLLY

It's a great opportunity.

CHUCK

There's a lot to think about.

GOLLY

Why don't you and I and Sully get together tomorrow and talk about what this will involve?

CHUCK

Sure, dad.

The doorbell rings.

GOLLY

Did Sully forget something?

Chuck goes to the window

CHUCK

I'll be damned.

GOLLY

What is it, son.

CHUCK

Some woman with a TV camera crew.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

## SCENE

TV news show, the next day, with Wright and Wong sitting at the coffee table on the set.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Welcome to the Rhonda Wright Hour, the news show that presents the right news at the right time. Speculation is continuing to build that William Golly will seek reelection. To tell us about that, I'm joined by our field reporter Jane Wong, who spoke to him late last night after finding him in a secret retreat in the woods of Michigan.

JANE WONG

Yes, Rhonda. The former president is living in a secluded house on a lake, miles away from the nearest road, reachable only with four-wheel-drive vehicles.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Fox News always gets its man.

JANE WONG

That's right, Rhonda. He made it quite clear in our brief but exclusive interview that he is considering running.

RHONDA WRIGHT

What did he say when you asked him about that?

JANE WONG

No comment.

RHONDA WRIGHT

You interpreted that to mean he is considering running again?

JANE WONG

He would have said he wasn't considering it if he wasn't. Politicians are always quicker to say what they won't do than what they will.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Once again, political analysis at its best. A staple of news from the best political news team in television.

JANE WONG

My sources say that Golly was devastated by his loss seven years ago.

RHONDA WRIGHT

After the inauguration of his opponent, Golly climbed on board Marine One and didn't even wave goodbye, a time-honored tradition of presidential departures.

JANE WONG

He was very bitter.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Disappointed would be a better word.

JANE WONG

No president in modern history had proposed as many far-ranging programs as William Golly.

RHONDA WRIGHT

And no president in modern history has seen as many legislative initiatives go down in flames.

JANE WONG

He was his own worst enemy.

RHONDA WRIGHT

He had a wonderful vision.

JANE WONG

That was far beyond his reach.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

## SCENE

The next morning, a park bench. Victoria and Hemingway are talking. HEMINGWAY is in his late 40s, early 50s. He looks like a professor.

HEMINGWAY

Chuck is very well liked in Detroit. He will easily win reelection.

VICTORIA

This is why you wanted this meeting? To tell me that?

HEMINGWAY

Chuck told me about being offered a chance to run for president. He asked me if I thought he should.

VICTORIA

What did you tell him?

HEMINGWAY

I evaded the question.

(Having difficulty saying what he's come to say)

I don't want to step out of bounds or take advantage of our friendship.

VICTORIA

You would never take advantage of our friendship.

HEMINGWAY

Chuck should stay in Detroit.

VICTORIA

You don't think he should run for president?

HEMINGWAY

It would be in everyone's best interest if he stayed in Detroit.

VICTORIA

This isn't like you, Donald. Beating around the bush like this.

HEMINGWAY

Do you think being president would make him happy?

VICTORIA

Chuck is a good boy. He has boundless enthusiasm for life and all the excitement it offers.

HEMINGWAY

Now who's beating around the bush?

VICTORIA

Then let's be brutally honest with each other. You go first.

HEMINGWAY

Brutally honest?

VICTORIA

Brutally honest.

HEMINGWAY

Chuck is a religious nut.

VICTORIA

He does have an unusually close relationship with God. As his chief of staff, you must be dealing with it all the time.

HEMINGWAY

Fortunately God isn't that interested in municipal affairs. But it would be different in the White House. Chuck would be confronting many sensitive issues, which should not be decided by faith.

VICTORIA

Many presidents turn to God when making difficult decisions.

HEMINGWAY

Chuck wouldn't be seeking guidance from God. He'd be taking orders. The campaign will not be easy for Chuck. He doesn't know anything about national or foreign affairs. Broadhurst will attack him ruthlessly on this. He will make Chuck look like a fool, in front of the whole country. You don't want to do this to your son.

VICTORIA

It's not going to come to that. Because Chuck is not going to run.

HEMINGWAY

He's told you that?



VICTORIA

Chuck doesn't like to confront his father. He will wait. Pretend that he's thinking about it. And then he'll say that he's decided not to run.

HEMINGWAY

You must encourage him to say no.

VICTORIA

I can't do that. William wants this so much. The other day, when Sully came here with this idea, it was almost as though the clock had been pushed back ten years. William was a young man again. Telling me all the things he wanted to do. He was excited. Happy. I don't want to be the one who takes this away from him. It'll happen soon enough.

HEMINGWAY

If Chuck runs, he could very well win. The voters like him.. Voters don't give a damn about competency.

VICTORIA

What's made you so cynical, Donald?

HEMINGWAY

Chuck won by a landslide in Detroit.

VICTORIA

I know my son, Donald. He won't run. Not one chance in a thousand.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

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## SCENE

Next afternoon, a field. Victoria, who is dressed for hunting, is scanning the field for birds. She sees one, raises her gun and takes aim.

CHUCK (O.S.)

(Yelling)

Mother. Where are you?

The bird flies off.

VICTORIA

Damn it.

CHUCK (O.S.)

We should stay together. Where are you?

Chuck enters. He wears a camouflaged hunting vest and hat and carries a shotgun.

CHUCK

Ah, there you are. Ranger can't find anything. The poor dog is running all over the place.

VICTORIA

I just saw a bird and you scared it off with all your damn yelling. Don't you know anything about hunting? These birds have got ears. And brains, which is more than some hunters have.

CHUCK

We're probably too late. The birds have finished feeding. Hemingway kept me late, talking about city council. This damn job keeps cutting into my private time.

VICTORIA

You'll be working a lot harder as president. Have you made any decision?

CHUCK

Sully says I would be doing God's work. But I don't know if I even want to stay in politics. What do you think? Me. Getting out of politics.

VICTORIA

You never wanted to be mayor. It was something your father wanted.

CHUCK

What do you think of Sully's idea?

VICTORIA

You should do what makes you happy.

CHUCK

Yes. Exactly. You understand what I'm talking about. I wish dad could.

VICTORIA

It's very hard for him to see this the way you do. Work has been his whole life.

CHUCK

He thinks I only want to play. I'm not against work. What I'm against is doing work that you don't like. It doesn't make sense spending most of your life hating what you're doing so you can spend the little bit of time that's left over trying to be happy when you're not working. T.G.I.F. says it all. Thank God It's Friday because all the other days are so bad. This isn't what God wants.

VICTORIA

God tells you this?

CHUCK

Yes.

(Responding to Victoria's exasperated look)

There's that look again.

VICTORIA

What look?

CHUCK

The look you and dad have whenever I tell you what God says to me. I'm not schizophrenic. I'm not hearing voices. Some people call it intuition. Insight. Inspiration. But where does it come from? I think it comes from God. He's talking to me. He's talking to you. He's talking to everyone. If only they listened.

VICTORIA

You must admit that your relationship with God is unusually intimate.

CHUCK

I've been thinking of going to India. To study meditation. It would help me get closer to God. There's a lot of Good Golly in that. The gurus say, "The sweetest and highest possibility of a human being is to live in happiness and love." That's what I've been saying all along.

VICTORIA

This is all very exciting, Chuck.

CHUCK

But now dad wants me to run for president.

VICTORIA

You've got to do what's right. For you.

CHUCK

I don't want to disappoint him.

VICTORIA

I know you don't.

CHUCK

God is saving me for something special. I don't know what it is, but it's big. Every now and then He says something that makes me think I am the chosen one.

Victoria is dumbfounded.

CHUCK

Yes. I know. I can't believe it, either.

VICTORIA

Are you sure that God...

CHUCK

Look, over there. By those bushes. Ranger's on the bird.

Chuck moves in the direction of the birds.

CHUCK

He's on a solid point. Go flush out the birds.

VICTORIA

I thought that was Ranger's job.

CHUCK

Mother, we're supposed to be a team out here.

VICTORIA

And you've just been elected leader?

CHUCK

Please, mother. We're going to lose our chance.

Victoria ambles off in the direction of the birds  
and Chuck raises his gun. There's a sound of birds  
taking flight.

CHUCK

(Calling out)

Rooster. Rooster.

He fires.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

## SCENE

A squash court, later that day. In the dark, the sound of a game in play. The ball is heard bouncing off the walls. A point is scored. Silence. The game continues in the dark.

SULLY

Nice shot.

The sound of play being resumed, still in black. A point is scored.

SULLY

Your point.

Play is resumed. A point is scored.

SULLY

Beautiful.

Play resumes. A point is scored. Lights come up, revealing Chuck picking up the ball and an exhausted Sully heading for the benches.

CHUCK

That's game.

SULLY

I'm getting too old to keep up with you.

CHUCK

Nothing to do with age, Sully. You're out of shape. Another game?

SULLY

No, I've had it.

They sit on a bench, toweeling sweat off their faces and arms.

SULLY

Your dad tells me that you're not sure about running.

CHUCK

I'm adding up the pluses and minuses.

SULLY

You're offered the chance of a lifetime and you've got to add up pluses and minuses?

CHUCK

(Reluctant to talk about this)

Yes.

SULLY

Why?

CHUCK

It's just something I do.

SULLY

You do this math with everything?

CHUCK

It's a system I've got.

SULLY

What do you mean a system?

CHUCK

It's not something you'd be interested in.

SULLY

No, I'm very interested.

CHUCK

I don't see why.

SULLY

You offer someone a chance to become president of the United States and because of some mysterious system he can't make a decision? It makes you want to know what that system is. Aren't some things so obviously good that you just say yes?

CHUCK

That's when you need the system.

SULLY

OK. I'm listening.

CHUCK

This isn't worth talking about.

SULLY

Humor me.

CHUCK

I shouldn't even be calling it a system. It's something some people do without thinking, though too many don't. They think something is "obviously good," so they decide to do it. But then end up regretting it because it has a lot of hidden negatives. That's one reason there's so much unhappiness in this country. Like moving out to the suburbs. The pluses are obvious. A big house. Beautiful backyard for the kids to play in. Maybe a swimming pool. No crime. Good schools. The negatives aren't so obvious, until after you've moved there. And then you're stuck. Long commutes every day. Lot of money spent on gas. Chauffeur-ing the kids everywhere. Mowing the lawn in the summer and clearing the snow in the winter. Always encased in air conditioning or automobiles. No sidewalks to walk on. No chance encounters. No random, unscheduled joy. No diversity.

SULLY

So when the positives outnumber the negatives....

CHUCK

It's Good Golly.

SULLY

Good Golly?

CHUCK

(Embarrassed)

That's what I call it. And if it ends up minus, it's Bad Golly. I don't do Bad Golly.

SULLY

And you're thinking running for the presidency might be Bad Golly?

CHUCK

I don't want to end up the way my father did, unhappy and bitter. He had a lot of Bad Golly.

SULLY

He would have left office a happy man if he'd gotten the treaty signed.

CHUCK

The ayatollah always seemed to be one step ahead of my dad.



SULLY

Everyone was afraid of that bastard. The problem was they weren't afraid of us.

CHUCK

That last day at Camp David was awful. Dad came back from the meeting and didn't say a word. I never saw him so angry. We tried to talk to him about it but he waved us off. He wanted to be alone. Later, in the middle of the night, I got up to go to the bathroom and I saw him in the living room, sitting in front of the fireplace, all by himself, crying. He was so sure that he would get an agreement.

SULLY

If you had been the president, Camp David would have turned out differently. You would have taken care of the ayatollah.

CHUCK

If my dad couldn't beat that guy, how could I?

SULLY

Your father was afraid to use OOPS. You wouldn't be.

CHUCK

What's that?

SULLY

We'll talk about that later, if you decide to run. It's classified. Chuck, we need someone like you to do what has to be done.

CHUCK

I don't know if I'm the right person for the job. I want to do God's work.

SULLY

Eliminating bastards like the ayatollah is God's work.

CHUCK

Finding happiness is God's work.

SULLY

Says who?

CHUCK

Ethicists say the satisfaction of desires is the highest good and proper aim of human life.

SULLY

That's why we need you in the White House. What better way to honor God than to lead a nation out of the darkness and into the light and joy of happiness.

CHUCK

You can't do that by making laws.

SULLY

Not laws, Chuck. The bully pulpit. There is no better pulpit from which to preach happiness. This is why God wants you to run for the presidency. He has blessed you with the knowledge of knowing the importance of happiness. He wants you to preach the gospel of happiness.

CHUCK

God has been pretty depressed lately. Mankind was suppose to be His crowning achievement. But we've made such a mess of it. He wanted us to be the happiest creatures on earth. Living together in loving harmony. Making beautiful children. Finding joy in everything we do. Celebrating beauty and good fortune. But instead we wage wars that beget wars and do work that we hate. Half of us get divorced and those who don't wish they had. There's crime in the streets. Poverty throughout the world. Religions that rejoice in suffering. And everywhere. Disease. Poverty. Hunger.

SULLY

I suppose mankind could have done better.

CHUCK

I think God has given up on us.

SULLY

If He had, He wouldn't be spending time talking about this. He'd just smite everyone and be done with it.

CHUCK

That's true.

SULLY

God needs help. And the reason he's come to you is because only you are living life the way He intended. That's why he told me to seek you out.

CHUCK

God told you to seek me out?

SULLY

Not in so many words. He contacted me on a subconscious level. But think about it, Chuck. Who would be in a better position to help God than the most powerful person in the most powerful country in the world?

CHUCK

He never said anything to me about running for president.

SULLY

You should ask Him.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

## SCENE

The Golly living room, two days later. Golly is alone, talking to Jane Wong. Limbo area lights up, revealing Wong on the telephone.

GOLLY

You're a very persistent reporter, Ms. Wong. I was surprised when you turned up the other night. How did you find out where I lived?

JANE WONG

I can't reveal my sources.

GOLLY

Probably that damn gas station mechanic. He's telling everyone where I live. He give you my phone number, too?

JANE WONG

Have you agreed to run for president?

GOLLY

No comment.

JANE WONG

Were you and Sully talking about the Iowa caucus?

GOLLY

I really can't talk any more.

JANE WONG

When will you announce your decision?

GOLLY

Goodbye, Ms. Wong.

He hangs up and limbo area goes black. Sully enters, talking to Rhonda Wright on his Bluetooth, as another limbo area lights up with Rhonda on the phone.

SULLY

I told Wong that we have nothing to say at this time.

RHONDA WRIGHT

We'll hold back on this story, if you promise to give Fox News the exclusive when you reach a decision.

SULLY

I told Wong we'd call her.

RHONDA WRIGHT

She's just a field reporter.

SULLY

Aren't you two on the same team?

RHONDA WRIGHT

Yes, but...

SULLY

Goodbye, Ms. Wright.

Sully hangs up his Bluetooth. Limbo area goes black.

SULLY

Johnny Preston wants to meet with us in Des Moines.

GOLLY

That's a good sign. Johnny coming on board.

SULLY

It's just the beginning of what will be a groundswell. How the hell long do these church services last?

GOLLY

He doesn't believe in churches. He went up on some hill to talk to God.

SULLY

He doesn't like to use the middle man?

GOLLY

He's seeking guidance directly from a higher source.

Victoria enters.

VICTORIA

Where's Chuck?

GOLLY

Still on the hill.

(To Sully )

When does Preston want to meet with us?

SULLY

Friday.

GOLLY

Friday's no good. I've got a meeting.

SULLY

You don't have to come. I can handle it.

Hemingway enters.

HEMINGWAY

Chuck still praying?

GOLLY

Yep. Still on the hill.

SULLY

When Chuck asks the Lord for advice, does he actually hear the voice of God?

GOLLY

He says he does.

SULLY

A booming voice will say, Chuck, I want you to run for president?

GOLLY

I'm sure Chuck is putting it in much more general terms.

SULLY

That leaves a lot of room for earthly persuasion.

Chuck enters. He's pensive. Everyone looks at him and waits.

GOLLY

Well? What did He tell you?

CHUCK  
We talked a long time.

GOLLY  
And?

CHUCK  
I've never seen him so angry. He says He's had it with organized religion. The Protestants. The Jews, the Catholics. The Muslims. And all the other religions preaching self-denial and sacrifice.

GOLLY  
Did you ask him about running for president?

CHUCK  
He said He didn't put us here to be miserable.

SULLY  
What did God say about you running for president?

CHUCK  
He was very pleased.

GOLLY  
So?

CHUCK  
He seemed even enthusiastic.

SULLY  
Which means?

CHUCK  
He thinks my running for president would be Good Golly.

SULLY  
Does that mean you'll do it?

CHUCK  
I can't refuse God.

SULLY  
Of course you can't.

GOLLY  
You're doing the right thing, son.

They high five each other

SULLY

(Typing a message on his BlackBerry)

I knew you'd come through.

VICTORIA

Chuck, is this something you really want to do?

GOLLY

Chuck says he wants to run, Vicki.

SULLY

We're going to have to work fast now. Broadhurst has been campaigning for a year. Actually he started campaigning the day he was elected to the senate.

GOLLY

He's got the right-of-center vote locked up.

SULLY

We lose if we concede that to him.

GOLLY

Our platform is a push for more generous social programs.

SULLY

Stay away from that word "generous." It means tax increase.

CHUCK

God wants me to use the campaign to preach the gospel of happiness.

GOLLY

I'm sure we can come up with a better platform than that.

CHUCK

God doesn't want a conventional campaign.

GOLLY

Happiness is a losing issue.

CHUCK

Happiness is the key to success. That's what Albert Schweitzer said. Of course, he also said happiness is nothing more than good health and a bad memory, but he was making a joke.



GOLLY

A generous (correcting himself)... An enlightened social program would make the voters happy.

CHUCK

I've got to do it God's way.

GOLLY

We have to decide what the platform will be. Too much is at stake to leave it in God's hands.

CHUCK

God wants me to preach the gospel of happiness.

GOLLY

Chuck, I'm telling you...

SULLY

Wait. Let's all look at this calmly.

GOLLY

Listen to him, Chuck.

SULLY

If we have God on our side, we'll win the election. No matter what the platform is. It's as simple as that.

GOLLY

What?

SULLY

We do it God's way.

CHUCK

I'm glad you understand that, Sully.

SULLY

So let's get busy and start planning how we're going to spread the gospel of happiness.

GOLLY

(Sternly to Sully)

As one of the planks in our platform.

SULLY

As one of the planks in our platform.

CHUCK

I'm too excited to start planning. Right now I want to celebrate.

SULLY

Where's the champaign?

CHUCK

No, not champaign. I want to jog through the park and yell to the world that everything is going to be different. Come, Sully, join me.

SULLY

I'd really rather toast your victory.

CHUCK

Come on. It will help your squash game.

SULLY

I'll follow you in the car. And when you're finished, we'll toast you properly.

CHUCK

Come on, dad, join the celebration.

GOLLY

I'll ride with Sully.

CHUCK

Let's go.

The three exit.

HEMINGWAY

Not one chance in a thousand that he'll want to run?

VICTORIA

I underestimated Sully. That son of a bitch coopted God.

HEMINGWAY

This could be bad.

VICTORIA

Sully's not going to be able to keep this balancing act going for long. Already they're squabbling and the campaign hasn't even started.

HEMINGWAY

Don't underestimate Sully again.

VICTORIA

No matter what that bastard does, Chuck is not going to win the caucus. Promising voters happiness is a losing tactic.

HEMINGWAY

Herbert Hoover won by promising only chickens and cars.

VICTORIA

Cars and chickens the voters understand. You can eat one and drive the other. But happiness? What can you do with that?

HEMINGWAY

Maybe win an election.

VICTORIA

I want to believe he can't win. Why? Is it because I don't want to go back to Washington? Am I so bitter and disillusioned? Would it be that awful if he did win?

HEMINGWAY

Yes. It would.

VICTORIA

When William won the presidency, he thought he had a mandate to change the way things were done in Washington.

HEMINGWAY

That's what they all think when they walk into the White House.

VICTORIA

But William really believed it. He thought once the politicians got past their petty differences they would see the interests they shared. And pass legislation that would make a difference.

HEMINGWAY

He wasn't able to get anyone to cross the aisle.

VICTORIA

Not one person. And still he thinks he can make a difference.

HEMINGWAY

Some times the right person can.

VICTORIA

You're as bad as William. Washington is ruled by greed and lobbyists.

HEMINGWAY

But when the stars are lined up just right -- the greed in perfect alignment -- a good administration can nudge events in the right direction.

VICTORIA

And the wrong administration?

HEMINGWAY

The country loses.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

Online Sample Reading Only

## SCENE

TV set, four months later. Wright and Wong are sitting at the co-anchor news desk talking to each other on camera.

## RHONDA WRIGHT

Welcome to the Wright and Wong Hour, the new, bigger and better expanded news show that will present both sides of the story. And welcome to Jane Wong, who will be joining me as cohost of the news hour.

## JANE WONG

Thank you, Rhonda. It is an honor to join such a distinguished TV journalist as yourself in presenting both sides of the story.

## RHONDA WRIGHT

And congratulations to you, Jane, on your meteoric rise from field reporter. Well, then, let's get on with presenting both sides of the story. What started off as a shoo-in win for Hamilton Broadhurst is turning out to be a horse race with the surprise appearance of Chuck Golly, mayor of Detroit, who just announced his candidacy. Congratulations on your scoop, Jane.

## JANE WONG

Thank you, Rhonda. But as for this being a horse race, I must disagree with you.

## RHONDA WRIGHT

That's why you're here.

## JANE WONG

No one thinks Chuck Golly stands a chance of winning the Iowa caucus, at least no one who knows anything about politics.

## RHONDA WRIGHT

Don't underestimate Golly, Jane. He's a miracle man. He made Detroit the safest city in America.

## JANE WONG

His one and only accomplishment. It's going to take a lot more than that to beat a man like Broadhurst, Rhonda. Broadhurst's poll figures shot up right after Golly announced he was running.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Because Broadhurst immediately flooded the media with ads denouncing Golly. This shows how scared Broadhurst is.

JANE WONG

Broadhurst is tough, Rhonda.

RHONDA WRIGHT

But not as tough as Dale Sully, Jane.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

Online Sample Reading Only

## SCENE

Press conference, one week later. Chuck is addressing an unseen audience of reporters. Golly and Sully are watching from the sidelines.

CHUCK

My platform is very simple. My administration will help the American People find happiness.

A ripple of laughter from unseen reporters. He points to one of the reporters.

CHUCK

The lady in the front.

JANE WONG

And just how will you do that, Mr. Mayor?

CHUCK

Please identify yourself. I want to get to know all of you nice people.

JANE WONG

Jane Wong of Fox News.

CHUCK

First I'll tell the American People to stop working so hard at jobs they hate. My administration will show them that it is more important to do work that you like than make a lot of money.

Golly winces. Sully watches with a deadpan. The laughter disturbs Chuck.

CHUCK

(Pointing to another reporter)

That man over there.

NEW YORK TIMES VOICE

John Upright, New York Times. Are you saying, Mr. Mayor, that Americans shouldn't work hard?

CHUCK

Not if it's making them unhappy.

The reporters laugh.

NEW YORK TIMES VOICE

Won't that compromise productivity? Undermine the capitalistic system?

CHUCK

It'll be worth it. Happiness is what our founding fathers wanted for the American People. They even put it in the Declaration of Independence. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We're doing OK with life and liberty, but pursuing happiness is another thing.

Chuck points to another reporter. Golly winces.  
Sully continues to stare stoically ahead.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Rhonda Right of Fox News.

CHUCK

Fox News? You must know my friend, Jane Wong.

RHONDA WRIGHT

(Begrudgingly)

Yes, I know her. Everyone wants to be happy. But how can any administration attempt to achieve that for the American People?

CHUCK

By increasing taxes.

A collective gasp is heard from the audience.

CHUCK

My opponent says that reducing taxes will make Americans happy. But I say increasing taxes is the way to happiness.

RHONDA WRIGHT

You're proposing a tax increase during an election campaign?

CHUCK

Best time to do it. It gives the American People a chance to vote against you if they don't like what you're saying.

RHONDA WRIGHT

What would you tax?

CHUCK

Everything that causes unhappiness



RHONDA WRIGHT

An unhappiness tax.

CHUCK

That's right. And tax forgiveness for things that promote happiness. For instance, we would eliminate taxes on vacation pay and sick pay. This would encourage companies to give their employees longer vacations and more time to recuperate from illness. This will make employees happier. But they'd still be unhappy going to work eight hours a day, five days a week, 50 weeks a year for most of their lives doing unpleasant work that they hated. So we'd impose heavy taxes on companies with unpleasant work. There's precedent. We already require companies to provide safe environments. Why not also require happy environments?

(Points to another person in the audience)

BBC VOICE

Bradford Benson, B. B. C. Isn't most work today inherently unpleasant?

CHUCK

Doesn't have to be. Companies could get rid of confining office cubicles and tediously boring assembly lines.

BBC VOICE

But confining office cubicles and tediously boring assembly lines promote efficiency.

CHUCK

Why should efficiency be more important than the workers' happiness? The unending drive for efficiency in this country is destroying minds and bodies. Companies should make work more challenging and engaging instead of more efficient. They should also provide swimming pools, gyms, and Ping-Pong tables for longer recreation breaks. Nurseries for workers with young children. Gourmet food in the cafeteria. And if after that employees still don't like the working conditions, they could quit and get a job with the Federal Work Force.

SEVERAL VOICES

What's the Federal Work Force?

CHUCK

The employer of last resort. A massive, government-funded program, that will offer work with exhilarating working conditions and high pay in all areas. Infrastructure construction, manufacturing, office work, day care, education, health care, fast food, the theater. The FWF will set the standards that all companies will meet if they hope to attract workers.

## VOICE CALLING OUT

Massive government-funded programs cost a lot.

CHUCK

You bet they do. And we will pay for it with the omnibus unhappiness tax. This will be a tax on anything and everything that promotes distress or unhappiness in our society. We'd heavily tax motorcycles with loud engines, ugly buildings, escalators that break down, banks and supermarkets with long lines, doctors with long waiting lists, all telephone-answering devices, airline seats with inadequate leg room, incomprehensible computer manuals, corporate rudeness of any kind. With so much man-made unhappiness in the world, the omnibus tax will be an unending source of money for our programs.

(Pointing to someone in the audience)

The woman in the yellow dress.

There's so much laughter now that Chuck can't hear the question.

CHUCK

What was the question?

The laughter grows.

CHUCK

I'm sorry. I can't hear you.

Chuck stands helpless, unable to continue.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

## SCENE

TV station, three weeks later. Wright and Wong are at the coffee table on the set. Golly and Sully are watching it on TV.

JANE WONG

Welcome to the Wong Hour, the news show that puts the right slant on the news. We have in our studio tonight former news anchor Rhonda Wright, who has returned to the field to cover the presidential campaign. I've asked Rhonda to join us and give us the inside scoop.

RHONDA WRIGHT

(Coldly)

Thank you, Jane. It's a pleasure to be back here on the set where I used to anchor the news.

JANE WONG

It's good to have you back, Rhonda. Tell us what the race in Iowa is looking like in the trenches.

RHONDA WRIGHT

This may turn out to be the funniest presidential race we've ever seen. We're now a month into the campaign and Chuck Golly is still giving speech after speech, promising to make the American people happy.

JANE WONG

And everyone is still laughing at him.

RHONDA WRIGHT

I'm all for being happy.

JANE WONG

He's got my vote.

They laugh

JANE WONG

But seriously, Rhonda, no one is taking him seriously and his polling figures are continuing to drop.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Yes, Rhonda. It's not looking good for the Golly campaign. The voters are also laughing at him for saying we should do only work that we like. Do you like your work, Jane?

JANE WONG

I love my work, Rhonda. Do you like your work?

RHONDA WRIGHT

I used to.

JANE WONG

Everyone at Fox News loves their work. So I guess we don't need any government handouts.

They break up laughing.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Golly did propose one thing I fully endorse, as I'm sure most Americans do. A huge unhappiness tax on loud motorcycle engines.

JANE WONG

Wait a minute, Rhonda. I like the loud noise my motorcycle makes.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Because it boosts your testosterone.

JANE WONG

I'm for taxing escalators that break down.

RHONDA WRIGHT

A little aerobic exercise is good for you.

JANE WONG

If we can't agree on what constitutes taxable unhappiness, how does Golly expect Congress to ever agree?

RHONDA WRIGHT

Maybe by taxing congressmen for legislation that makes Golly unhappy.

More laughter. Golly angrily snaps off the television and the Wright and Wong scene goes black.

SULLY

At least someone is enjoying this.

GOLLY

We gave Chuck too much freedom. We should have taken stronger control at the start of this campaign.

SULLY

He would have walked out on us. The only reason he agreed to run is because God told him what to do.

GOLLY

We've got to talk to Chuck.

SULLY

Won't do any good.

GOLLY

We can't let him keep on like this, Sully.

SULLY

Talk to him now and you'll end up fighting with God. God always wins.

GOLLY

He should be campaigning about all this injustice in this country.

SULLY

People with money think this is the most just country in the world.

GOLLY

Too many people working full time aren't making a living wage.

SULLY

A low minimum wage benefits more people than it hurts.

GOLLY

We're the richest country in the world. Yet millions go without medical care.

SULLY

People who already have insurance don't care.

GOLLY

What's going on in this country is immoral. This is what he should be hitting the voters with.

SULLY

Guilt doesn't win elections.

GOLLY

We've got to do something.

SULLY

We wait.

GOLLY

Until when?

SULLY

Until he discovers that he's not doing God's work.

GOLLY

And if that never happens?

SULLY

It will. And until it does, we wait.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

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## SCENE

City park, three weeks later. Victoria is sitting on a bench, reading the newspaper. Huffing and puffing, Golly enters and flops down besides her. She looks at him with amusement. Finally he catches his breath and painfully tries to stretch. Chuck enters, jogging in place to keep his heart rate up.

CHUCK

Another mile?

GOLLY

Love to, but I can see you're getting tired.

CHUCK

How about you, mom. Want to take me on.

VICTORIA

Unlike some people I know, I'm old enough to know that I'm too old.

CHUCK

You're pretty good for an old guy.

Chuck stops jogging, does a couple of stretches and sits down next to his father.

CHUCK

It's good to get out here, away from the hotel.

GOLLY

Early morning runs are good.

VICTORIA

Leisurely breakfasts are better.

CHUCK

Like to stay longer, but I've got a game with Sully.

GOLLY

We're taking a beating in the polls. The reporters have stopped coming to your rallies. If you could call them that.

CHUCK

It's been a disaster.

GOLLY

It hasn't been good.

CHUCK

Nothing we're doing is working.

GOLLY

You're telling voters something they don't want to hear. That they've been wasting their lives doing work they don't like. You're not supposed to like your work. That's why we've got retirement.

CHUCK

Retirement should not be the goal of life.

GOLLY

Unquestioning acceptance of unpleasant work is what's made this country great.

CHUCK

This campaign is going against everything I believe in. It's making me unhappy. I want to drop out.

GOLLY

I know, son. It's hard to keep on going when the going gets tough. But that's the difference between winners and losers. Winners don't quit. The first time I ran for office, no one thought I could win. But I did. Because I didn't give up.

CHUCK

Did that make you happy?

GOLLY

Happiness has nothing to do with it. What's important is that you keep on fighting until you win.

CHUCK

Why is winning so important if it makes you unhappy to keep on trying?

GOLLY

Winning is everything.



Why?

CHUCK

What do you mean why?

GOLLY

Why is wining everything?

CHUCK

That's a stupid question.

GOLLY

Why is it a stupid question?

CHUCK

Because the answer is obvious.

GOLLY

That's why everyone is so unhappy. They spend all their time working hard to achieve something, to win. That's Bad Golly and I don't do Bad Golly.

CHUCK

You can't live your life by doing only Good Golly.

GOLLY

It's what I believe in.

CHUCK

What you don't believe in is hard work. That's your problem.

GOLLY

William.

VICTORIA

I'm not going to let you quit this time.

GOLLY

I'm quitting this campaign.

VICTORIA

The hell you are.

GOLLY

I'm out of here.

CHUCK

GOLLY

(Blocking his escape)  
You stand here and listen to me.

CHUCK

Get out of my way.

GOLLY

(Grabbing him by the arms)  
You're going to win this primary. You're going to win this election. And you're going to be president of the United States.

VICTORIA

Let him go.

GOLLY

Do you hear me?

CHUCK

I'm late for my squash game.

Chuck pushes past his father and exits.

GOLLY

(Yelling after him)  
A lot of people are counting on you.

CHUCK (O.S.)

It's Bad Golly.

GOLLY

He did it again. Just walked out.

VICTORIA

It's for he better, William. He wasn't meant for this.

GOLLY

This was our chance.

VICTORIA

I didn't like what this was doing to our son. He was being humiliated.

GOLLY

That's no reason to quit.

VICTORIA

It was only going to get worst.

GOLLY

He's got no backbone.

VICTORIA

He's been turning more and more to God. It's all he ever talks about now.

GOLLY

Where is God now that we need him.

VICTORIA

This obsession of his is scaring me.

GOLLY

What do you think God's going to do -- tell him to shoot up a mall or blow up a bank?

VICTORIA

He could go off in some crazy direction because God told him to do something. And we'd be powerless to stop him. We shouldn't have talked him into running.

GOLLY

We didn't talk him into anything. God told him to run.

VICTORIA

See what I mean. Where did we go wrong?

GOLLY

We didn't go wrong. We've given that boy everything.

VICTORIA

He's never had to face any challenges. That's why he gives up on everything.

GOLLY

And here's another challenge he's not going to face.

VICTORIA

There's no talking to him. He's made up his mind and that's that.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

## SCENE

Squash court, that afternoon. Sully is whacking the ball alone. Each whack is a vicious, angry blow. He smashes the ball again and again and again. Finally Chuck enters and watches him.

CHUCK

Sorry I'm late.

Sully ignores him. He whacks the ball with even more anger.

CHUCK

What are you doing, pretending the ball is Broadhurst?

Sully ignores him. He continues smashing the ball.

CHUCK

I'm dropping out of the race.

Sully stops playing.

SULLY

You're what?

CHUCK

It's not my kind of thing.

SULLY

You're quitting?

CHUCK

Yes.

SULLY

You're giving up?

CHUCK

Don't go there, Sully. The president has already given me the lecture -- we're-not-killers, family tradition, responsibility to country. I'm out of here. Schedule a press conference.

Sully listens, realizing he has to change his tactics.

CHUCK  
I'm sorry.

SULLY  
You're making a wise decision.

CHUCK  
I am not happy.

SULLY  
Then you must quit.

CHUCK  
You agree?

SULLY  
If this is making you unhappy.

CHUCK  
I wish my father could see it that way.

SULLY  
It takes a lot of courage to quit just because something isn't making you unhappy.

CHUCK  
I don't know if it takes courage.

SULLY  
Of course it does. Especially after God asked you to run.

CHUCK  
I misunderstood Him.

SULLY  
God's testing you like he tested Job. He wants to find out what you'd do when the going got tough. I guess he's found out. I'll schedule the press conference.

CHUCK  
He wasn't testing me.

SULLY  
Did God tell you to quit?

CHUCK  
No.

SULLY

But he told you to run.

CHUCK

I told you. I misunderstood Him.

SULLY

Isn't that convenient?

CHUCK

You think I'm making that up?

SULLY

I think that's what you want to believe. God was testing Job. Job wasn't having any fun. But he kept his faith. If you don't care about failing God, that's your business. I'm not going to try to talk you out of it. That is between you and God. So when do we hold the press conference?

CHUCK

God should let us know when he's testing us.

SULLY

Then it wouldn't be much of a test. You're right about misunderstanding God. You did. But not in the way you think.

CHUCK

What do you mean?

SULLY

He had a lot bigger thing in mind for you.

CHUCK

Yes. I know. He's saving me for something big.

SULLY

You know what that is, don't you?

CHUCK

No.

SULLY

I do.

You do?  
CHUCK

Yes.  
SULLY

What?  
CHUCK

World peace.  
SULLY

World peace?  
CHUCK

SULLY  
God wants you to bring peace to the world. Which would make a lot of people happy.  
That's how you got confused.

I could achieve world peace?  
CHUCK

There's a way.  
SULLY

There is?  
CHUCK

SULLY  
It's time to talk to you about OOPS.

CHUCK  
I thought OOPS was classified.

SULLY  
God has top-level clearance. But no one else does so what I'm about to tell you must be kept secret. Do you understand?

CHUCK  
Yes.

SULLY  
Tell no one that we've been talking about this. Not even your mother or father.

CHUCK  
All right.

SULLY

OOPS is the way to achieve world peace. The only way.

CHUCK

It is? How?

SULLY

With our nuclear devices. We've got thousands of them. But only the president can authorize using them.

CHUCK

That sounds scary.

SULLY

That's why He chose you. Because only you have the courage of use OOPS. But you're dropping out.

CHUCK

I can't win.

SULLY

You could if you got tough. If you hit Broadhurst hard. With negative ads.

CHUCK

The Gollys don't do negative ads.

SULLY

I thought you wanted to serve God.

CHUCK

I do.

SULLY

Do you think Broadhurst will serve the Lord?

CHUCK

Broadhurst is an evil man.

SULLY

Is this what God wants? An evil man in the White House? Only you can stop Broadhurst. You have to warn the voters about the terrorist. The terrorists who want to blow up this country. And they will. If we don't stop them. With OOPS. Broadhurst doesn't have the guts to do that.



Chuck understands.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

13

Online Sample Reading Only

## SCENE

Hotel conference room, the next morning. Golly and Victoria are piling papers into boxes. Sully enters with Hemingway.

SULLY

We're making some changes in the campaign.

GOLLY

What are you talking about? I told you. Chuck's dropped out of the race.

SULLY

He changed his mind. We had a little talk.

VICTORIA

I don't like the sound of that, Sully.

SULLY

I showed him the way.

Chuck enters. He can see the surprised look on his parents' faces.

CHUCK

I guess Sully told you.

GOLLY

He says you're not quitting.

CHUCK

Yes. I'm staying with the campaign.

GOLLY

That's good, son.

VICTORIA

(Suspicious)

Why did you change your mind?

GOLLY

It doesn't matter why he changed his mind.

CHUCK

Sully said I'm the only one who can stop Broadhurst.

GOLLY

He's right, son.

VICTORIA

This is not your responsibility, Chuck.

CHUCK

Too much is at stake. I can see that now.

SULLY

We open our new campaign with this.

(Taking out a DVD and putting it into a player)

One of our new radio ads. The first voice you hear is Broadhurst's. It's from the acceptance speech he gave after winning his senate seat. Then we hear the voices of two actors, performing a few lines I wrote.

He turns on the player.

BROADHURST TAPED VOICE

I wish my parents could share this moment. They went to their rest in the last few years. But their example, their inspiration, their gift of open eyes -- open eyes and open mind and endless heart and world that doesn't have an end are bigger and more lasting than any words at all.

FRANK TAPED VOICE

What did he mean by that, Ester?

ESTER TAPED VOICE

I don't know, Frank. But as far as I'm concerned -- that man is too smart for our own good.

SULLY

(Turning off the player)

We knock Broadhurst off his high horse. Agreed?

GOLLY

What do you think, Vicki?

VICTORIA

You can't run something like that.

GOLLY

Hemingway?

HEMINGWAY

Broadhurst is a literate, well spoken man. You don't make fun of that.

GOLLY

Chuck?

CHUCK

We have to start attacking him.

GOLLY

I don't like these television spots. Never have.

SULLY

They're effective.

GOLLY

I know.

SULLY

It's fair commentary. This is how Broadhurst talks. And that kind of talk makes a lot of people uneasy. We're just dramatizing this.

GOLLY

He does talk like that.

SULLY

Broadhurst isn't holding back. His ads are making Chuck look like a fool.

GOLLY

All right. We run it.

SULLY

Good. We play the ad a couple of days and then we leak a story about how Broadhurst plagiarized material for his P. H. D.

HEMINGWAY

He was cleared of those charges.

SULLY

We're not saying he plagiarized anything. We're just saying he was charged. We'll be telling the truth.

GOLLY

The literal truth.

SULLY

The truth never the less.

HEMINGWAY

I don't like it, Mr. President. We'll be misleading the voters.

SULLY

That's what campaigns are supposed to do.

GOLLY

Hemingway is right.

SULLY

Don't you want to win?

GOLLY

We don't use this.

SULLY

But, Mr. President...

GOLLY

Come up with something else.

SULLY

Some of Broadhurst's fraternity brothers contacted me. They told me Broadhurst sucked up to his professors to get good grades. We can use that.

HEMINGWAY

He was valedictorian, for Christ sake.

VICTORIA

Phi Beta Kappa.

SULLY

We've got to do what we've got to do.

VICTORIA

The end doesn't justify the means.

SULLY

What other justification does the means ever have?

GOLLY

I don't want to do this either. Chuck doesn't stoop.

SULLY

And look what that's gotten us.

GOLLY

Let's see how we do with that radio spot.

SULLY

Broadhurst has been getting a lot of mileage out of his pacifism. We've got to undercut that. By warning voters about the terrorists.

HEMINGWAY

What terrorists?

SULLY

The suicide bombers who want to blow up the United States.

HEMINGWAY

A handful of extremists. They're no threat to us.

CHUCK

Listen to him. Sully knows what he's talking about.

HEMINGWAY

We are not going to terrify voters to win the election.

SULLY

You don't decide what we do.

HEMINGWAY

It's sure as hell not up to you.

GOLLY

Stop this, you two. We're all on the same team.

HEMINGWAY

This terror stuff is bullshit and you know it, Sully.

SULLY

Who the hell do you think you're talking to?

HEMINGWAY

I'm talking to you.

SULLY

The terrorists are gaining strength, making plans to attack us.

VICTORIA

Where did you get all of that from?

SULLY

The CIA warned Congress.

HEMINGWAY

No one sees it as an imminent threat.

SULLY

You're the imminent threat -- to our campaign.

HEMINGWAY

I'm getting sick and tired of all your...

GOLLY

This squabbling is getting us nowhere. Let's take a little time to cool off. We'll talk about this after dinner.

Golly exits. The others get up and prepare to leave with him.

SULLY

Chuck, could I speak to you for a minute?

Hemingway and Victoria look at Sully with suspicion and then exit, leaving Chuck alone with Sully.

SULLY

You've got to get rid of that guy. He's been leaking stuff to the media.

CHUCK

Hemingway wouldn't do something like that.

SULLY

That bitch Wong seems to know everything we're about to do. Who else could be tipping her off? It's sure as hell not your parents.

CHUCK

I don't know who's telling her stuff. But it's not Hemingway.

SULLY

We can't just...

CHUCK

I trust Hemingway. That's the end of it.

SULLY

There's another problem we've got to deal with. Broadhurst keeps showing up at events with his wife and kids. You don't have any. The American People don't trust bachelors.

CHUCK

There's nothing we can do about that.

SULLY

You've got to get engaged.

CHUCK

To win an election?

SULLY

It's a small price to pay.

CHUCK

I'm not ready for that kind of commitment.

SULLY

We're not talking about commitment. We're talking strategy.

CHUCK

I'm not involved with anyone. In that way.

SULLY

Then I'll find someone for you.

CHUCK

No woman's going to marry me just so I can win an election.

SULLY

You've got to be kidding. The world is filled with women who'll do anything to get ahead. And marrying the man destined to be president is one hell of a way for a woman to get ahead.



CHUCK

I'm not going to get married to a woman I don't know. Spend the rest of my life with someone I might not even like.

SULLY

You don't have to get married. Just engaged. After the election, you can break it off.

CHUCK

That's a terrible thing to do to someone.

SULLY

She'll be fine with it. These kind of women just want the publicity, not a lifelong commitment. It's a no-lose situation for both of you.

CHUCK

You've always got everything figured out.

SULLY

It's my job.

CHUCK

All right. We'll do it.

(Standing)

As long as you make it clear to the woman what the stakes are.

SULLY

Would I deceive someone like that?

Chuck starts to leave.

SULLY

We keep this a secret. Not a word to anyone, except your parents. And Hemingway, of course.

CHUCK

It's our secret.

Chuck exits. Sully dials his Bluetooth.

SULLY

(Talking on his Bluetooth)

Yea, it's me again... You're screwing us, Wong, and it's not right. Every time I turn on the television, I see Broadhurst and his goddamn family smiling at the camera.... Broadhurst is trying to make our guy look like a fag ... Chuck Golly is not a playboy. As a matter of fact, he's about to get engaged. That's off the record... yes...yes...

Go ahead, but don't quote me. Say a source close to the campaign.  
(Hangs up with a chuckle)

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

Online Sample Reading Only

## SCENE

Strategy suite, one week later. Victoria, Golly and Hemingway are reading copies of speeches. The speeches infuriate Victoria and Hemingway.

VICTORIA

These speeches are awful. We can't let Chuck do this.

HEMINGWAY

We don't have much control over what he does anymore.

GOLLY

Maybe we do have to warn the voters. There was a bombing yesterday.

VICTORIA

You're not going to give in to that son of a bitch, are you?

Sully enters with Chuck and snaps on the TV, but keeps it mute. The big screen reveals an endless stream of ads.

VICTORIA

These speeches are crap, Sully.

HEMINGWAY

They're bullshit.

SULLY

The bastards just bombed our embassy. We take advantage of big breaking news.

VICTORIA

A little bomb in front of the embassy? That's big breaking news?

SULLY

We're under attack.

VICTORIA

It wasn't an attack. It was just a goddamn suicide.

SULLY

How can you say that?

VICTORIA

Only the bomber was killed.

SULLY

It was an attack that failed. But it was still an attack. We can't ignore it.

CHUCK

Sully's right.

HEMINGWAY

This isn't the way to win, Chuck.

SULLY

You don't win by leaking secrets to the media.

HEMINGWAY

What the hell are you implying?

SULLY

I saw you having lunch with Wong today.

HEMINGWAY

I did not.

SULLY

In the Black Cat.

HEMINGWAY

I've never been in that place.

SULLY

You stopped talking when you saw me.

HEMINGWAY

This is utter bullshit.

SULLY

Where were you at lunchtime?

HEMINGWAY

I don't eat lunch. You know that's when I jog.

SULLY

Alone?

HEMINGWAY

Yes alone.

SULLY

So I guess we just have to take your word for it -- that you were jogging.

HEMINGWAY

What the hell are you up to?

SULLY

You're lying.

VICTORIA

Let the dirty tricks begin.

GOLLY

Enough of this. No one is lying. No one is playing dirty tricks. Sully thought he saw Hemingway and Wong but it was someone else.

SULLY

I saw them clearly. In the back of the restaurant.

GOLLY

Even if he was having lunch with Wong. So what? We've got to win her over to our side.

HEMINGWAY

Mr. President, I wasn't having lunch with Wong.

VICTORIA

(Indicating Sully)

I don't believe this son of a bitch for a minute.

GOLLY

Sully wouldn't be lying about this.

VICTORIA

You think Hemingway is lying?

GOLLY

No one is lying. It's a case of mistaken identity.

Wong's face appears on the big screen. Sully turns up the sound.

JANE WONG

Good evening. Welcome to the Jane Wong Show. Senator Broadhurst continues to lengthen his lead with voting only three weeks from today. But the big news tonight is romantic, not political. Presidential candidate and man-about-town Chuck Golly has started dating a powerful and beautiful woman.

Everyone turns to Hemingway.

JANE WONG

The name of the lucky woman is being kept secret. But we have learned, from a high-level source in the Golly campaign, that the engagement announcement will be made just before voting begins. The timing of the announcement undoubtedly is an attempt to ...

Sully snaps off the TV and the big screen goes blank as Sully looks at Hemingway with a self-satisfied smile. Golly and Chuck look at Hemingway with shock. Victoria looks angrily at Sully.

GOLLY

How the hell did Wong find out about the engagement? We were the only ones who knew about it.

(To Chuck)

Did you tell anyone?

CHUCK

No.

Golly looks at Victoria.

VICTORIA

No, I didn't either.

CHUCK

Sully told someone. The woman he's trying to fix me up with. Could she have done it?

SULLY

I haven't contacted her yet.

GOLLY

That leaves only you, Hemingway.

HEMINGWAY

I spoke to no one about this, Mr. President.

SULLY

This pretty much proves that Hemingway was having lunch with Wong.

GOLLY

We trusted you.

CHUCK

Maybe you let slip. In some conversation. With someone you trusted.

HEMINGWAY

No, I didn't.

GOLLY

We have to face facts, son. Sully saw him with Wong. And Wong found out about the engagement plans.

CHUCK

Why would he do it?

GOLLY

He didn't want you to run for president.

VICTORIA

Who told you that?

CHUCK

(To Hemingway)

Is that true?

HEMINGWAY

You didn't have any interest in foreign or national affairs.

CHUCK

Because I wasn't the president.

HEMINGWAY

You were doing a good job in Detroit. You were having a ball.

CHUCK

So you decided to sabotage my campaign?

HEMINGWAY

No.

GOLLY

He's been opposing everything we've been doing.

VICTORIA

Because he doesn't like your methods.

SULLY

He didn't think you could handle the job of president.

CHUCK

(To Hemingway)

You think I'm incompetent?

VICTORIA

No one has been more loyal to you than Hemingway.

CHUCK

Do you?

HEMINGWAY

You've been a very effective mayor.

SULLY

See how he's evading your question.

CHUCK

Do you think I have what it takes to be president?

Hemingway looks away.

CHUCK

So that's why you've been holding back.

GOLLY

Sully's been suspicious of him ever since the campaign began.

CHUCK

You did have lunch with Wong.

HEMINGWAY

I didn't.

CHUCK

Sully saw you.



GOLLY

I'm sorry it's come to this. But there's only one thing we can do.

SULLY

That's right.

VICTORIA

Chuck, be careful. That man is turning you against all the people you should be trusting.

GOLLY

I know it's a hard decision, son. He's been like a father to you.

CHUCK

I've got to think about it.

VICTORIA

You can't turn on him.

CHUCK

You're sure it was him in the restaurant?

SULLY

Positive.

HEMINGWAY

You're lying.

CHUCK

It's a pretty dark restaurant. If they were sitting way in the back, it's possible...

SULLY

I wouldn't be saying this if I wasn't sure, Chuck. It was Hemingway. He was talking to Wong and stopped talking when he saw me.

CHUCK

You didn't talk to them?

SULLY

Seeing them like that was enough. Why would he deny being with Wong if he wasn't doing something wrong?

HEMINGWAY

Because I wasn't there.

SULLY

You're going to the White House, Chuck. That's where the buck stops. You'll be making a lot of hard decisions. This is your first one.

VICTORIA

You can't trust this man.

GOLLY

Sully has no reason to be lying. But Hemingway does.

SULLY

Fire him.

GOLLY

You have no choice.

SULLY

Get rid of him. Now.

GOLLY

He's right, son.

VICTORIA

Don't listen to them.

CHUCK

(To Hemingway)

I'm not incompetent.

HEMINGWAY

I didn't say you were.

CHUCK

You betrayed me.

HEMINGWAY

I didn't.

CHUCK

I want you to leave.

VICTORIA

No.

CHUCK

Now. Get out of here.

Hemingway exits. Chuck is devastated.

GOLLY

I know that was a hard thing to do.

SULLY

You did the right thing.

GOLLY

(Getting up to leave)

I can't believe that he betrayed me.

VICTORIA

He's not the one who betrayed you.

Chuck and Sully exit.

VICTORIA

(Calling out to Sully)

Hemingway did nothing.

(To Golly)

Sully's the leak. This has all been a hoax to get rid of Hemingway.

GOLLY

Sully wouldn't do that.

VICTORIA

You trust that man?

GOLLY

Of course not. You can't trust any of them. They only look out for themselves. That's why it can't be Sully. Sabotaging this campaign would not be in his self-interest.

VICTORIA

You think Hemingway gains from this?

GOLLY

He thinks he's doing the right thing for Chuck. He's misguided and did a foolish thing.

VICTORIA

Sully tricked Chuck into conducting a fear campaign. And now he's tricked Chuck into getting rid of the only person who's had the balls to stand up against him. That man has taken complete control of this campaign.

GOLLY

I'm running this campaign.

VICTORIA

Sully lets you think that. Because it fits into his plan. Soon he'll be getting rid of you, too. Unless you get rid of him first.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

## SCENE

The TV station, three weeks later. Wright and Wong, are sitting at the coffee table on the set.

RHONDA WRIGHT

The tide has started to turn in Chuck Golly's favor.

JANE WONG

That's right, Rhonda. It's a totally new campaign. With totally new issues.

RHONDA WRIGHT

The latest polls show that the gap between the two candidates is closing fast. Golly has found Broadhurst's Achilles' heel. His pacifism.

JANE WONG

Golly and Sully have been hammering Broadhurst, warning voters that no pacifist is fit to be commander in chief when the country is under attack.

RHONDA WRIGHT

The country is in danger.

JANE WONG

Broadhurst says the country is in no danger.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Another terrorist has blown himself up. In front of a restaurant frequented mostly by Americans.

JANE WONG

These bombers are incompetent. All they do is end up killing themselves.

RHONDA WRIGHT

It's obvious that Dale Sully has finally taken control of everything.

JANE WONG

Hemingway was the conscience of the campaign. Now he is gone.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Getting rid of him was another brilliant move by Sully.

JANE WONG

What makes you think that Sully is behind all this?

RHONDA WRIGHT

My sources tell me it's Sully.

JANE WONG

My sources tell me Sully tricked Golly into firing Hemingway.

RHONDA WRIGHT

My sources tell me that Hemingway was leaking campaign secrets to the media.

JANE WONG

My sources tell me that you don't have very good sources.

RHONDA WRIGHT

My sources want to know what source told you about the engagement?

JANE WONG

You know journalists never reveal their sources. At least not the good ones.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Which means there's no reason for you to keep quiet. Tell us who the leak is. It's a chance for an exclusive. Your last one now that Hemingway is gone.

JANE WONG

Do I detect professional jealousy?

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

16

## SCENE

Strategy suite, one week later. The room is empty. Chuck and Sully come rushing in.

CHUCK

They're going crazy down there.

SULLY

My cell hasn't stopped ringing. The money is pouring in. Harrison will be dropping by tonight to congratulate you.

Golly enters.

SULLY

You should consider him for secretary of defense.

GOLLY

Consider who for secretary of defense?

SULLY

Harrison.

GOLLY

I was thinking of Becker.

SULLY

Not Becker. Harrison is the one. He will raise a lot of money for us.

GOLLY

You can't name Harrison for that. He's a major defense contractor.

SULLY

Couldn't have a better man for the job. We'll be privatizing a lot of military things. Where's Mrs. Golly?

GOLLY

She said she has a headache.

SULLY

She'll be there for Chuck's speech?

GOLLY

If I have to drag her.

SULLY

I want Chuck to be in the ballroom when Broadhurst concedes.

(To Chuck)

We better get back down there. The polls have just closed and they'll be calling this election early.

Sully and Chuck start to leave followed by Golly.

SULLY

Why don't you see how Mrs. Golly is doing?

GOLLY

I want to be down there with Chuck. She'll join us.

SULLY

I want Chuck by himself to show he's his own man. After Broadhurst concedes and Chuck goes to the podium, you and Mrs. Golly come in and take your seats in the hall.

GOLLY

What do you want, Chuck?

CHUCK

I don't want you to call me Chuck any more. Sully thinks it sends the wrong message. Call me Charles, when we're in public. And after I win, Mr. President. You better wait here, like Sully said.

Sully and Chuck exit. Golly puts on the TV. The big screen is filled with Wright's image.

RHONDA WRIGHT

(To the TV camera)

It's been a hell of a day with a lot of surprises. The pundits are predicting a landslide victory tonight for Chuck Golly. But the really big news came just before the voters started going to the polls. Chuck Golly announced the name of the woman he is going to marry. Jane Wong, former anchor of the news hour. Jane submitted her resignation minutes before the announcement. Jane is with us tonight, not as an anchor but as a guest, to give us all the details of her exciting courtship.

JANE WONG

It's good to be here, Rhonda.



RHONDA WRIGHT

I didn't even know you two were dating.

JANE WONG

We weren't. It was love at first sight.

RHONDA WRIGHT

When did you know?

JANE WONG

When he picked me up for our first date.

RHONDA WRIGHT

Where did he take you?

JANE WONG

To a political meeting. To meet Dale Sully. Sully asked me if I wanted to be first lady. I said, yes. And then Golly... Chuckie made me an offer I couldn't refuse.

RHONDA WRIGHT

What was that?

JANE WONG

His heart.

RHONDA WRIGHT

We'll be back to learn more about this incredible romance, after this.

An advertisement fills the screen. Golly snaps off the TV. He goes to phone, dials a number and waits as the phone rings. There's no answer.

GOLLY

(Hanging up)

Shit.

Victoria enters, leaving the door open. The distant sound of a ballroom filled with a cheering mob is heard.

VICTORIA

Lot of noise downstairs.

I was just calling our room.

GOLLY

Where is everybody?

VICTORIA

In the ballroom.

GOLLY

We should be down there. I guess.

VICTORIA

Sully wants us to wait here until Broadhurst concedes.

GOLLY

What does Chuck want?

VICTORIA

He agrees. And he wants us to stop calling him Chuck in public.

GOLLY

So it's come to this.

VICTORIA

How are you feeling?

GOLLY

Like shit.

VICTORIA

So Chuck is on his way.

GOLLY

You should be ecstatic.

VICTORIA

I suppose.

GOLLY

A burst of applause is heard.

You don't seem very happy.

VICTORIA

It's been a hard campaign .

GOLLY

VICTORIA

All campaigns are hard. But you're always happy when you win. What's bothering you?

GOLLY

He did what he had to do to win.

VICTORIA

He wasn't fair to Broadhurst.

GOLLY

When you're losing, fairness is an extravagance.

VICTORIA

Before you never would have said something like that.

GOLLY

I didn't get reelected, did I?

VICTORIA

You refused to compromise even though you knew it was costing you the election. I was never so proud of you.

GOLLY

And one of the worst presidents we've ever had was elected. Was that the right thing to do? Was it right to make the country pay for my principles?

More cheering is heard.

VICTORIA

Broadhurst hasn't compromised his principles. He's run a clean campaign.

GOLLY

Because he was winning. Damn it, Vicki. You should be celebrating what our son has accomplished. Not lecturing me.

VICTORIA

Broadhurst should be president.

GOLLY

What!

VICTORIA

He's not as liberal as you are. But at least he's competent. Chuck is not competent.

GOLLY

For God's sake, Vicki. You're talking about our son.

VICTORIA

You know he isn't competent.

GOLLY

I don't want to talk about this anymore.

VICTORIA

We can't ignore the fact that...

GOLLY

No. Enough.

VICTORIA

But...

Yelling and cheering, the loudest yet.

GOLLY

I said I don't want to talk about this anymore. That must be Broadhurst conceding. We can go downstairs.

He starts to leave.

VICTORIA

What is OOPS?

GOLLY

(Stopping abruptly)

What?

VICTORIA

I overheard Chuck and Sully talking about it. They stopped when they saw me.

GOLLY

It's nothing important. We've got to go.

VICTORIA

I want to know.

GOLLY

Why do you care?

VICTORIA

What didn't they want me to hear? I want to know about OOPS. William.

GOLLY

Operation Our Peaceful Solution.

VICTORIA

What?

GOLLY

That's what OOPS stands for.

VICTORIA

Sounds like the sarcastic name for a war plan.

GOLLY

They shouldn't have been talking about OOPS.

VICTORIA

It is a war plan.

GOLLY

It's a contingency plan.

GOLLY

It won't look good if we're not down there with Chuck.

VICTORIA

I'm not leaving this room until you tell me. A contingency plan to do what?

GOLLY

It's ancient history.

VICTORIA

A contingency plan to do what?

GOLLY

Damn those two.

VICTORIA

Tell me, William.

GOLLY

OOPS would force countries to negotiate. By using our nuclear advantage.

VICTORIA

What's that a euphemism for? Nuking countries?

GOLLY

I don't want to worry you with talk about this.

VICTORIA

Sully involved in a war plan? Nothing can make me more worried than that.

GOLLY

It was just political theater. To convince our adversaries into negotiating in good faith.

VICTORIA

Convince them with theater?

GOLLY

That's all diplomacy is. With a few incentives thrown in.

VICTORIA

Tell me how OOPS would work.

GOLLY

You're not going to let this drop, are you?

(Her look says no)

You want to know all the details?

VICTORIA

Blow by blow.

GOLLY

I don't think...

VICTORIA

Blow by blow.

GOLLY

When it became obvious that the other side had no intention of negotiating a settlement, we would have abruptly pulled out of the treaty banning the use of nuclear weapons. Then STRATCOM...

VICTORIA

Strategic Command. You were planning a nuclear war.

GOLLY

STRATCOM would have started war games, near the countries we were negotiating with. When our final offer was rejected, the target list would have been leaked to the media.

VICTORIA

And then what?

GOLLY

The rogue nations would start negotiating in good faith.

VICTORIA

And if they didn't?

Golly doesn't respond.

VICTORIA

You would attack them. With nuclear weapons.

GOLLY

It would never have come to that. Sully wanted to use OOPS during the Camp David talks. But even suggesting a nuclear attack would have been far too risky with someone like the ayatollah. So I killed it. OOPS is dead and buried.

VICTORIA

Sully was talking to Chuck about it today.

GOLLY

It doesn't mean anything.

VICTORIA

This doesn't bother you? Chuck talking about this. With a madman.

GOLLY

We'll straighten all this out once Chuck's in the White House.

VICTORIA

Chuck could miscalculate. Make a mistake. God knows what OOPS could lead to.

GOLLY

Chuck's not going to make a mistake. Not a mistake like that.

VICTORIA

He almost burned the house down playing with matches.

GOLLY

He was seven years old.

VICTORIA

He's still just a boy at heart.

A roar of clapping and chanting.

CROWD CHANTING (O.S.)

Chuck. Chuck. Chuck. Chuck. Chuck. Chuck. Chuck

GOLLY

Chuck's entering the ballroom. We've got to be there. He's our son, for Christ sake.

Golly exits reluctantly followed by Victoria.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK



## SCENE

Chuck's hotel room, later that night. Chuck is cleaning his shotgun. A knock on the door.

CHUCK

The door's open.

Victoria enters.

VICTORIA

So you couldn't sleep either.

CHUCK

Pretty exciting night.

VICTORIA

It was a very impressive victory, Chuck.

CHUCK

A lot of Good Golly.

Chuck aims the rifle, checking the gunsight.

CHUCK

They're predicting good weather for the hunt tomorrow. Won't be hunting for long, though. Sully wants to get to New Hampshire.

VICTORIA

I heard you talking to Sully about OOPS.

CHUCK

OOPS?

VICTORIA

Yes.

CHUCK

This isn't something we should be talking about.

VICTORIA

What do you think of it?

CHUCK

Sully said it was classified.

VICTORIA

I know all about it, Chuck. Your father told me.

CHUCK

It is one heck of a plan. Dad didn't want to use it, but I'm not afraid.

VICTORIA

Pretending you're going to use nuclear weapons is very dangerous.

CHUCK

I won't be pretending.

VICTORIA

You wouldn't actually order an attack. Would you?

CHUCK

Only way to prove we're not bluffing. That's what Sully says.

VICTORIA

Hundreds of thousands would die.

CHUCK

Fifty thousand.

VICTORIA

You've estimated the carnage?

CHUCK

Yes.

VICTORIA

This doesn't scare you?

CHUCK

The president has got to do what the president has got to do.

VICTORIA

My God, you're looking forward to it.

CHUCK

We should have done this years ago, when we were the only country with the bomb. Because we didn't, many more wars have been fought.

CHUCK

Do you realize how many people have died because we failed to act?

CHUCK

(Taking a paper from his briefcase)

One point nine million in the Sudanese Civil War. The Congolese Civil War killed one point seven million. The Khmer Rouge killed one point six million.

CHUCK

Ethiopia. One point four million.

CHUCK

East Pakistan. One point two million.

CHUCK

Nigeria. Rwanda. Darfur.

VICTORIA

You haven't thought this through.

VICTORIA

Terrible tragedies. But you can't

VICTORIA

You'd be killing innocent people.

VICTORIA

Women and children. Old, helpless people.

VICTORIA

Sonny, listen to me.

VICTORIA

Please.

CHUCK

No Christian country can stand by and let this happen if it can be stopped. We can stop it, but not with negotiations because they don't listen to us. Do you know why they ignore us? Because the war lords know that we can't hurt them personally. They just hide and the poor people in the countries are the ones who suffer. But the leaders won't escape OOPS. There's no place to hide when your entire city is blown up. They'll know that their death and the death of everyone they love is certain if they refuse to negotiate.

VICTORIA

You're talking about starting a nuclear war, for Christ sake.

CHUCK

Mom, don't take the Lord's name...

VICTORIA

Screw the goddamn Lord.

CHUCK

Mother.

VICTORIA

Millions and millions of lives will be sacrificed if you unleash this monster. No one will survive. It will be Armageddon.

CHUCK

(Savoring it)

Yes.

VICTORIA

Oh dear God.

CHUCK

That's why he chose me.

(Reciting)

"And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your hand."

(Not reciting')

The Rapture.

VICTORIA

The Lord didn't choose you for this.

CHUCK

Sully is the Messiah.

VICTORIA

Is that what Sully told you?

CHUCK

Oh, no. He doesn't realize he's God's messenger. But he is. All the signs are there. Out of all the people God could have chosen to run, Sully came to me because this is what God wanted. I enter the race late with little chance of winning but again God intervened through Sully and I won the primary. It's God's will that I win the general election. And after I take office?

VICTORIA

Armageddon.

CHUCK

This is how God wants to use me.

VICTORIA

No, Chuck.

CHUCK

God has given up on us. He wants to start all over again. From scratch.

VICTORIA

(Regaining her composure, she addresses Chuck as a mother would a child)  
Chuck, listen to me. When you believe in something very, very much -- the way you believe in God -- sometimes you see and hear things you think are coming from the outside but are actually inside your head.

CHUCK

A profound sense of calm came over me as I realized the Lord had chosen me for this mission. My heart was filled with a love and wonder I've never had before. I heard His voice as clearly as I'm hearing yours.

VICTORIA

There is no God.

CHUCK

Don't say that, mother. You must make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. You must accept Him as your savior.

VICTORIA

The Lord isn't speaking to you.

CHUCK

You won't be saved if you don't accept Jesus Christ. Sully believes. He wants us all to serve the Lord.

VICTORIA

Sully doesn't give a damn about God.

CHUCK

He loves God.

VICTORIA

Sully is an evil man.

CHUCK

No.

VICTORIA

He's poisoned your mind.

CHUCK

I won't listen to this.

VICTORIA

Damn that man.

CHUCK

Sully's right about you and dad. You're afraid to do the right thing.

VICTORIA

You can't use OOPS.

CHUCK

I must. I am the chosen one.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

## SCENE

Strategy suite, much later that evening. Golly and Sully are talking.

SULLY

We're in the middle of a goddamn campaign and he wants to go hunting. We should have gone to New Hampshire tonight.

GOLLY

We're only losing 12 hours.

SULLY

Every hour counts in a race like this.

GOLLY

It's a good photo op. Shows he's a gun lover and so confident he'll beat Broadhurst that he takes time off to hunt.

SULLY

I'd rather have the 12 hours.

GOLLY

We'll be in the air before noon.

Victoria enters.

VICTORIA

(Indicating Sully)

Get him the hell out of here.

GOLLY

Vicki.

VICTORIA

We've got to talk.

GOLLY

This isn't the time.

VICTORIA

Now. I want to talk to you now.

GOLLY

So talk.

VICTORIA

Not with him here. Get the hell out of here, you son of a bitch.

GOLLY

Have you gone out of your mind?

VICTORIA

Go.

SULLY

I think I could use some fresh air.

GOLLY

Sully, you don't have...

SULLY

I'll be back.

Sully exits.

GOLLY

Are you drunk?

VICTORIA

I haven't been more sober in all my life.

GOLLY

You've been drinking a lot lately.

VICTORIA

I tell you I am not drunk.

GOLLY

What's the matter?

VICTORIA

Our son. He's sick. Terribly sick.

GOLLY

He was fine, just an hour ago.



VICTORIA  
We have to do something.

GOLLY  
Is he throwing up? Fever?

VICTORIA  
It's his mind. He needs help.

GOLLY  
His mind is fine.

VICTORIA  
He's insane. Our son wants to do a terrible thing.

GOLLY  
What are you talking about?

VICTORIA  
Chuck thinks Sully is the Messiah.

Golly laughs heartily.

VICTORIA  
This isn't funny.

GOLLY  
Sully is effective. But I wouldn't go that far.

VICTORIA  
Chuck's talking about Armageddon.

GOLLY  
He's always talking about things like that.

VICTORIA  
He says God wants him to blow up the world. So God can start all over again.

GOLLY  
Crazy religious talk.

VICTORIA  
He could do it. With OOPS. If he's elected.

GOLLY

I told you. OOPS is just political theater.

VICTORIA

We have to wipe out a city to prove that we're not bluffing. That's what our son said.

GOLLY

Nonsense.

VICTORIA

They've even estimated how many people will die. Fifty thousand. We have to pull him out of the race.

GOLLY

After he has just won an incredible victory? By a landslide? He has done something that no one thought was possible. Support is pouring in. He will win New Hampshire. And then there's no stopping him.

VICTORIA

That's what I'm afraid of, for Christ sake.

GOLLY

We will have a mandate. To do the things I couldn't do.

VICTORIA

Will you listen to me, William? He wants Armageddon.

GOLLY

Chuck would never actually launch a missile.

VICTORIA

But Sully would.

GOLLY

No.

VICTORIA

Look at me, William. You know Sully would.

GOLLY

Only the president can do that.

VICTORIA

Chuck will do what Sully tells him to do. And what he will tell him to do will end the world.

GOLLY

He's my son. He will listen to me.

VICTORIA

He listens only to God. And Sully.

GOLLY

The Federal Work Force. This is our chance, Victoria.

VICTORIA

I don't give a damn about that. We are talking about the end of civilization.

GOLLY

That's not very likely.

VICTORIA

I have never pleaded with you. But I'm pleading with you now.

GOLLY

Please, Vicki.

VICTORIA

Pull him out of the race.

GOLLY

Don't do this.

VICTORIA

(Getting down on her knees)

Please, William. Please.

GOLLY

Get up.

VICTORIA

Please.

GOLLY

(Pulling her up)

Stop it.

She is sobbing.

VICTORIA

You haven't heard a word I've said.

GOLLY

I heard every word you said last night.

VICTORIA

You're so desperate to get back to Washington, you'll accept whatever that man wants. You're not the man I fell in love with almost 40 years ago. You're sacrificing our son and maybe the country to your obsession.

GOLLY

There are so many things I can...

VICTORIA

Have you no loyalty to your own son?

GOLLY

I don't have the luxury of putting his needs -- or my needs -- ahead of the needs of my country.

VICTORIA

Is that what loyalty is? A luxury?

GOLLY

A luxury people like us can't indulge in.

VICTORIA

I have never felt so alone as I do now.

GOLLY

You're not alone.

He goes to hug her.

VICTORIA

No. Stay away from me. You're not afraid of Armageddon?

GOLLY

If I was, I wouldn't let him run.

VICTORIA

And if he insisted on running?

GOLLY

I would do whatever was necessary to keep him from winning.

VICTORIA

You would?

GOLLY

If I had those fears. It would be irresponsible to do nothing. Tomorrow we fly to New Hampshire. We continue campaigning. And we give our son all the support we can.

VICTORIA

He needs our help.

GOLLY

We go to New Hampshire tomorrow.

VICTORIA

This little baby, who I held in my arms and loved so much, has grown into a ...

(She can't bring herself to say the word "monster.")

And still you want to go to New Hampshire.

Golly tries to put his arms around her. She pushes him away.

GOLLY

(Pleading)

Vicki.

VICTORIA

No.

GOLLY

(Pursuing her)

Everything is going to...

VICTORIA

Stay away.

Victoria exits. Golly pours himself a drink. Sully enters.

SULLY

Was she drunk?

GOLLY

Why the hell did you tell Chuck about OOPS?

SULLY

What's that got to do with her?

GOLLY

She thinks Chuck will activate it. Start a nuclear war.

SULLY

Shit.

GOLLY

Did you talk to him about activating OOPS? Did you?

SULLY

If negotiations stalled.

GOLLY

You told him he'd have to launch the missiles to prove we weren't bluffing?

SULLY

I said that might be necessary.

GOLLY

Jesus Christ, Sully.

SULLY

She's going to be a problem.

GOLLY

I'll talk to her.

SULLY

You've got to do more than that.

GOLLY

I'll take care of it.

SULLY

Everything we have done, all the work, all the money is at risk if she starts talking to reporters about OOPS.

GOLLY

She knows it's classified.

SULLY

We've got to discredit her.

GOLLY

I know how to handle her.

SULLY

Let a few of the reporters you trust know that she's been under a lot of stress. Tell them, off the record, that she's been drinking more than she should. That she's paranoid. That she's seeing creepy things on the walls.

GOLLY

She's not drinking too much.

SULLY

We must discredit her.

GOLLY

I'm not going to do that.

SULLY

Then get her out of the country. Until after the election

GOLLY

We will not abandon our son.

SULLY

And I will do whatever it takes to win.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

## SCENE

Park bench, later that evening. Bundled up against the cold, Hemingway and Vicki are talking.

HEMINGWAY

The president wasn't worried?

VICTORIA

He thinks he can keep Chuck in control.

HEMINGWAY

Do you think he can?

VICTORIA

No.

HEMINGWAY

Now Sully might not even be able to control him.

VICTORIA

What can we do?

HEMINGWAY

Not we. You.

VICTORIA

Chuck won't listen to me.

HEMINGWAY

You have to go public with this.

VICTORIA

OOPS is classified.

HEMINGWAY

I wasn't thinking of OOPS. You're his mother. Tell the voters that you can't vote for your own son. Because he's incompetent.

VICTORIA

I can't do that.

HEMINGWAY

If you do nothing, he will win.



VICTORIA

You can't ask a mother to turn against her son like that.

HEMINGWAY

You must.

VICTORIA

What kind of mother would do such a thing?

HEMINGWAY

It's the only chance you have of stopping him.

VICTORIA

He needs to be helped. Not ridiculed by me in the media.

HEMINGWAY

He needs to be stopped.

VICTORIA

It was terrifying to see the expression on his face when he was telling me about OOPS. The thought of unleashing this thing was exciting him.

She shudders.

HEMINGWAY

You've shivering.

VICTORIA

It's suddenly gotten so cold.

HEMINGWAY

I've got a blanket in the car. I'll go get it.

He exits. She starts sobbing. He returns with the blanket. She tries to hide that she had been crying. Sitting down next to her, he wraps the blanket around her shoulders.

VICTORIA

I'm glad you didn't go back to Detroit after what happened.

HEMINGWAY

I thought you might need a friendly ear before all this was over.

VICTORIA

I was filled with such dread when I found that man in our house, drinking brandy with the president. I knew something bad was about to happen. How could someone as evil as Sully get so much power?

HEMINGWAY

Evil people have a competitive advantage.

VICTORIA

I want to kill the son of a bitch.

HEMINGWAY

Many people in Washington want to do that.

VICTORIA

If Chuck did get elected, if he decided to unleash OOPS, he couldn't just order a nuclear strike on his own. Could he? I mean, other people in the administration must agree on such a drastic action. His cabinet. The speaker of the house. Someone.

HEMINGWAY

The launch is instantaneous. When he orders it. There are no checks. No balances.

VICTORIA

He can just wake up one morning and push the button, because God tells him now is the time?

HEMINGWAY

I don't know if it's a button or a key or a code he types out. But that's the way it's set up.

VICTORIA

Maybe I don't have to do anything. He could lose New Hampshire.

HEMINGWAY

He won't.

VICTORIA

There are other primaries he could lose. And even if he does get the nomination, he might not win the general election.

HEMINGWAY

Are you willing to take that chance?

She doesn't answer.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

Online Sample Reading Only

## SCENE

A field, the next morning. Golly, Sully and Chuck are standing together, with shotguns, looking in the distance for pheasants. The sound of a dog barking is heard.

CHUCK

The dog can't seem to find anything.

SULLY

No use staying, then. Let's go.

CHUCK

Give him a chance.

SULLY

Let's not drag this out. We've got a plane to catch.

CHUCK

Where's mom?

GOLLY

Getting her cell phone from the car.

CHUCK

I'll go get her.

Chuck exits.

SULLY

So, did you talk to her?

GOLLY

We talked.

SULLY

What did she say?

GOLLY

Look, Sully. Everything is going to be OK.

SULLY

I don't think so.

GOLLY

She's angry right now. But she'll calm down. In a while.

SULLY

That's not OK. I told you. We've got to do something.

GOLLY

Give her a little time.

SULLY

That woman is a loose cannon. She might be on her goddamn cell phone right now calling Broadhurst's people.

GOLLY

She wouldn't do that.

SULLY

There's no telling what that woman will do. I'm going to talk to her.

GOLLY

This isn't a good time for you to talk to her.

SULLY

Someone's got to take care of that bitch.

GOLLY

Don't you dare threaten that woman.

SULLY

We've got a crisis on our hands. For Christ sake.

GOLLY

She'll be all right, Sully.

Chuck and Victoria enter with their shotguns.

CHUCK

We're all set. Let's get out there and work the edge of that field.

Chuck, Golly and Victoria start to head off.

SULLY

Mrs. Golly, could I speak to you for a minute?

Golly stops with Victoria.

SULLY

Alone.

CHUCK

We better stay together.

SULLY

We'll catch up with you.

Chuck and Golly exit.

VICTORIA

So what do you want?

SULLY

Are you feeling better today?

VICTORIA

I'm feeling just fine.

SULLY

You're making me uneasy the way you're holding that shotgun.

VICTORIA

Am I?

SULLY

Yes.

VICTORIA

Are you afraid the gun might go off . By accident. That I might make a mistake.

SULLY

It should be pointed to the ground when you're not using it.

VICTORIA

There's nothing wrong with the way I'm holding my shotgun.

She lifts the gun so the barrel is pointing even more toward Sully. He pushes it to the side.

SULLY

We don't want any accidents, Mrs. Golly. Chuck's going to do well in New Hampshire.

VICTORIA

We don't need a madman in the White House.

SULLY

You think your son is a madman?

VICTORIA

You know damn well that's not the madman I'm talking about.

SULLY

We have a golden opportunity. A historic moment.

VICTORIA

A day of infamy is more like it.

SULLY

This is hardly Pearl Harbor. Though we did win a sneak victory.

VICTORIA

You are a smug, little bastard.

SULLY

You should be very proud of your son.

VICTORIA

I am ashamed of him. For listening to people like you. You're a political sociopath.

SULLY

You sit back with your lofty principles, looking down on people like me. A lot of sound and fury, signifying nothing. That's what you are. Impotent. You never accomplish anything because you achieve nothing. It's people like me who win elections and change the world instead of bitching about the way it should be. Because of people like me, your son will become president of the United States.

VICTORIA

I won't let that happen.

SULLY

I'll save you and your high-principled, worn-out husband a seat at the inauguration.

VICTORIA

Reporters are asking a lot of questions.

SULLY

They're always asking a lot of questions.

VICTORIA

I'm going to start answering them.

SULLY

I don't want you talking to reporters.

VICTORIA

I don't care what you want.

SULLY

You have nothing to say to the media.

VICTORIA

I beg to differ. I have information the media will find very interesting. We both know how to use the media. Don't we?

Sully pulls back with anger.

VICTORIA

Oops. Did I say something wrong?

CHUCK (O.S., YELLING)

The dog's getting birdie.

She exits in the direction of Chuck's voice.

GOLLY (O.S.)

Where?

CHUCK (O.S.)

Over there. By the trees.

GOLLY (O.S.)

Yes, I see him.

CHUCK (O.S.)

He's on a solid point.

Sully lifts his rifle and aims.

CHUCK (O.S., YELLING)

Rooster.



Off-stage, the sound of two shotguns firing is heard and then Sully fires.

CHUCK (O.S.)

Mother. Oh my God. Dad, mother's been hit.

GOLLY (O.S.)

Where are you?

CHUCK (O.S.)

She's bleeding.

GOLLY (O.S.)

I'm coming.

CHUCK (O.S.)

Help me. I can't stop the bleeding.

GOLLY (O.S.)

Here, use my shirt.

CHUCK (O.S.)

This is not Good Golly.

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

## SCENE

A podium, one week later. The big screen is filled with Wright's image.

## RHONDA WRIGHT

(Addressing TV camera)

We understand he's on his way down from his room on the 15th floor. A very sympathetic crowd is here waiting, eager to greet him. They know how difficult this must be for Golly after that terrible hunting accident. Authorities still don't know who fired the fatal shot and probably never will. It's hard to believe that Golly's coming here tonight, only hours after attending his mother's funeral. The tragedy has boosted his poll numbers. He's now 15 points ahead of Broadhurst. Pollsters are predicting an easy win for him in New Hampshire and some think he will get the nomination.

The sound of the crowd clapping and cheering.

## RHONDA WRIGHT

He's entering the hall now. He's not smiling or waving the way he usually does. This is obviously difficult for him.

Chuck enters with Sully and goes to the podium as the TV screen goes blank. Chuck motions for quiet.

## CHUCK

Thank you all.

The applause continues as Chuck waits, close to tears. Finally the applause fades and Chuck begins to read from a teleprompter, as Sully stands to the side, smiling.

## CHUCK

I buried my mother today in a grave many miles from here. But her optimism and good will and decency are in this hall and are in our hearts and will always define our party.

The audience applauds respectfully.

## CHUCK

My mother would have wanted me to tell you where I stand, what I believe, and where I will lead this country in the next four years. I believe the most solemn duty of the American president is to protect the American people.

More enthusiastic applause.

CHUCK

I will transform our military and stay on the offensive, striking countries that do not believe in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I will not hesitate to use the military and more frightening measures if rogue nations refuse to listen. No matter what the cost.

Even more enthusiastic applause

CHUCK

I will not fail. I cannot fail. Because I will be doing God's work.

The audience goes wild with applause and starts chanting.

CROWD YELLING

Chuck's our boy. Chuck's our boy. Chuck's our boy. Chuck's our boy.

The sound of the chanting slowly diminishes as

LIGHTS FADE TO BLACK

CURTAIN

Feb. 13 -- (22) ONE WEEK LATER Post-funeral speech

Feb. 6 -- (21) THE NEXT DAY Victoria Killed

Feb. 5 -- (20) EVEN LATER THAT EVENING H tells V to sabotage campaign

Feb 5 --- (19) MUCH LATER THAT EVENING Victoria confronts Golly on OOPS

Feb. 5 -- (18) LATER THAT EVENING Chuck reveals hopes for Armageddon

Feb. 5 -- (17) ONE WEEK LATER Chuck wins election

Jan. 29 -- (16) ONE WEEK LATER Victoria learns about OOPS

Jan. 22 -- (15) THREE WEEKS LATER Gap closes with new terror campaign

Jan. 1 -- (14) ONE WEEK LATER Sully gets Chuck to fire Hemingway

Dec. 25 (13) NEXT MORNING Sully takes over

Dec. 24 -- (12) THAT AFTERNOON Sully talks Chuck into staying in the race

Dec. 24 -- (11)THREE WEEKS Chuck tells father he is quitting race

Dec. 1 -- (10)THREE WEEKS LATER W&W make fun of Chuck's campaign

Nov. 9 -- (9) ONE WEEK LATERChuck presents platform

Nov. 2 -- (8) FOUR MONTHS LATER W&W Say Chuck's campaign is doomed

July 10 -- (7) TWO DAYS LATER Chuck says he will run

July 8 -- (6) LATER THAT DAY Sully suggests God wants Sully to run

July 8 -- (5)NEXT AFTERNOON Chucks tells mother he wants to quit politics

July 7 --(4) MEANWHILE W&W speculate on Golly running again

July 7 -- (3)NEXT MORNING H urges V to dissuade Chuck from running

July 6 (2) Sully proposes idea to Golly

July 6 (1 ) Wong looking for Golly in the woods