

Two Degrees

WILSON and Emma scene

(Wilson is prepping Emma for her speech in front of the Senate Committee hearing on climate change)

WILSON *(Opening Emma's folder.)* Yeah. You're going to have to edit this.

EMMA Define "edit."

WILSON Trim it. Practice economy.

EMMA That's all necessary.

WILSON It may be, but it doesn't mean it's necessary for the subcommittee to hear it.

EMMA It's important data. The findings are crucial.

WILSON You realize you're going to be speaking to a largely hostile room, right?

EMMA I don't think I would have used the term hostile.

WILSON I'm using it. Trust me: hostile works.

EMMA Fantastic.

WILSON OK. Forget hostile. How about... Easily bored by facts.

EMMA Facts are all I have. I'm a scientist. I bring you facts.

WILSON You're not just here as a scientist.

EMMA Well, that's what I am.

WILSON You're here to be an advocate.

EMMA I don't do advocacy. I hypothesize. I study. I collect data. I

present findings.

WILSON And you come to conclusions.

EMMA Yes.

WILSON And when you share your conclusions -- you advocate.

EMMA To a largely hostile room, apparently.

WILSON OK. Look. (*Beat.*) Pretend I'm them. Please. I'm listening.

EMMA OK. (*Clears throat*) "Hello. Thank you to Chairwoman Allen and other members --"

WILSON Yeah. Sorry. Let's skip that part. Fast forward a few...

EMMA "My name is Dr. Emma Phelps, and I'm from--"

WILSON Yeah yeah. Blah blah. How about just after your introduction.

EMMA Right. OK. (*Beat.*) "Since 1996, I've participated in large-scale, interdisciplinary ice core drilling in order to study both the causes and effects of climate change. Our recent findings, published in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, demonstrates that recent climate variability --"

WILSON Yeah. Here's the thing. Can we pause?

EMMA Again?

WILSON I think we need to have a clearer "big picture" statement. In real, human, terms.

EMMA OK... (*Beat.*) "While compiling annual climatological data remains an important part of ongoing climate research, that data is incomplete without ice core drilling projects. Our research presents conclusive data about the atmosphere and temperatures many tens of thousands of years ago, which then provides us a chilling picture of what we can expect to see in years to come."

WILSON OK. Wait. Bigger picture than that.

EMMA Bigger than that?

WILSON Clearer than that. What's the thing you're here to drive home? What's the thing you need these assholes to understand?

EMMA In a nutshell? ...That Greenland is going to waste away faster than any of us would have predicted? That it's not a fluke that Greenland's ecosystem is changing dramatically and alarmingly?

WILSON Yeah, but alarming to whom?

EMMA What?

WILSON Pardon me for being the asshole here, but that's what half of these guys are thinking. What the fuck do I care about Greenland? What's Greenland, anyway, except the world's worst marketing campaign?

EMMA (*Getting frustrated.*) Greenland's the canary, Erik. We're all down this great metaphorical mineshaft, and if Greenland goes, then the rest of us are fucked.

WILSON Well there you go. There's a introduction that'll turn some heads.