

Two Degrees

WILSON and EMMA scene 2

LOUISE exits, leaving EMMA stranded for a moment. EMMA turns and kicks a chair. Kicks it again. Kicks it over. She's breathing heavily, nearly hyperventilating.. After a moment, WILSON returns to the room.

WILSON Do I want to know about this?

EMMA No. Let's get to it. Come on. Let's go.

WILSON Hold on. Maybe you should take a minute.

EMMA I don't need a minute.

WILSON The panel can start without you.

EMMA I don't want it to -- let's go! You wanted me ready? I'm ready.

WILSON You're sure this is ready? Not...something else?

EMMA I'd really like you to stop trying to manage my state of readiness.

WILSON I manage. That's what I do. You're sure you don't need anything?

EMMA I need ... I need to know that they'll listen.

WILSON That's the one thing I cannot do.

EMMA I'd like to believe that it's not just shouting into the void.

WILSON I don't advise shouting, generally. *He hands her her jacket, generally helps to be her dresser and stylist during the following.*

EMMA I feel like I've never shouted enough. (Beat.) What is Louise's position, really?

WILSON Why do you ask that?

EMMA Trying to figure if I've been set up.

WILSON Set up... how?

EMMA To allow guys like Clay Simpson to win.

WILSON Guys like Clay Simpson only win if you let them.

EMMA You mean if Louise lets them.

WILSON She's not going to.

EMMA Nice that you can believe that.

WILSON I do. And she does.

EMMA Right.

WILSON The Senator's position has been very clear, as a champion of the environment, and as a supporter of green energy. But beyond that -- I'm not going to speculate. I'm being -- overly cautious, I suppose, in how I'm framing this. I operate in a world that relies on... circumspection. On measured language. On prudent and careful steps. You understand that -- right? I mean, doesn't your work as a scientist require the same thing?

EMMA I think there's a difference between skeptical inquiry and what you're describing.

WILSON There are a lot of interests to consider.

EMMA So why am I here?

WILSON Come on. You know why you're here.

EMMA Yeah? And why is that?

WILSON To say what needs saying. To say what she can't. Now. Are you ready?

EMMA nods. He checks a watch or device.

WILSON (CONT'D) Because we need to be there like two minutes ago.

He hands her all her things, and examines her, thoughtfully.

WILSON (CONT'D) You're sure you don't need to take a minute?

EMMA No. I'm ready.

WILSON That's right you are. Now remember: they're here to listen to you.

EMMA That's right.

WILSON So you take all the time in the world.

EMMA We don't have all the time in the world.

WILSON I know it. Now make them know it.

They begin to leave the antechamber, and WILSON pats her on the shoulder.

WILSON Good luck. Give 'em hell.