

BRIARTON PREP
"PILOT"

Written by
Nigel Campbell

WGA Registration Number: 1932503

Nigel Campbell
1114 N. Sweetzer Ave., Apt D
West Hollywood, CA 90069
703-408-8946
NigelEcampbell@gmail.com

TEASER

INT. CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - PRESS ROOM - NIGHT

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Banners reading "PRICE FOR PRESIDENT" and "PRICE/CAREY" are proudly displayed throughout the press room.

There's an excited murmur amongst the crowd of REPORTERS and PHOTOGRAPHERS as they wait. CAMPAIGN STAFF MEMBERS trickle into the room, joining them.

SENATOR VIVIAN PRICE (Black, powerful and telegenic, mid-to-late 40s) enters the press room. She's followed by her family: husband MARK PRICE (Caucasian, late 40s, handsome and distinguished) and their gorgeous 16-year-old biracial TWINS, AVERY (a girl) and FELIX. There's tension written on all of their faces.

The reporters can sense it. Something's about to go down.

Senator Price approaches the podium. The family stands behind her, a little off to the side. Senator Price addresses the crowd, steeling herself with a pained smile.

SENATOR PRICE

Good evening, my fellow Americans.
It is with much sadness and a heavy
heart that I am suspending my
campaign for President of the
United States.

The crowd audibly gasps. There are stifled moans from campaign staffers. The camera pans from Senator Price to a tight shot on twins, Avery and Felix.

SENATOR PRICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

This is a private matter and I will
not be taking questions now- or
ever- on this deeply personal
decision.

As she speaks Felix looks despondent: possibly hung over, guilty, and ashamed. On the other hand, his sister Avery is silently seething with rage.

We cut back to Senator Price, who's the picture of strength even as she fights back tears, her voice breaking.

SENATOR PRICE (CONT'D)

To my supporters, thinking of all of you has made this decision gut wrenching. It would have been the honor of my life to be your champion. But hear me now: it was never about me. It has always been about you. Don't give up the fight. Together you will achieve great things. Thank you, and may God bless the United States of America.

Senator Price steps away from the podium as a barrage of questions are fired in her direction. Her campaign staffers hug, some visibly weeping.

Senator Price embraces her husband and then her children. Felix hugs her tightly, but Avery barely manages to pat her mother on the back.

CUT TO:

TWO WEEKS LATER.

INT. HONDA UBER X - DAY

FOOTAGE of Senator Price hugging her children in the press room is suddenly in the corner of a SMARTPHONE SCREEN as a 16-YEAR-OLD GIRL speaks directly to camera. She's charismatic, high energy, and has a mischievous twinkle in her eye.

GIRL

Since you hungry tigers won't stop asking me about it, here's a new segment of "When Will Your FAVE?"-- and, of course, I'm talking about America's *almost*-First Twins, Felix and Avery Price, AKA Fave!

We pull back to reveal Felix rolling his eyes as he watches a YOUTUBE VIDEO featuring the girl on his phone. He's got HEADPHONES plugged in so only he can hear.

GIRL (CONT'D)

We were so prepped for these twin hotties to basically be American royalty and now clearly that's not happening! I, like all of you, want to know why. Felix? Avery? Someone needs to spill the tea. Expose the big mystery behind why your mom dropped out of the race two weeks before the election.

(MORE)

GIRL (CONT'D)

The kids *always* know--and We The People are oh so thirsty...

Felix pauses the video. His face has the same guilty expression as the night his mother ended the Presidential race. He puts his phone away.

We see Felix and Avery are sitting uncomfortably in the back of a Honda Civic Uber X as they make their way up a winding main drive.

Avery wears HUGE SUNGLASSES and looks out the window as the car passes a SIGN that says "**BRIARTON PREPARATORY ACADEMY, CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE, EST. 1856**"

AVERY

I can't believe we're back here. I was supposed to be starting at Sidwell Friends. Chauffeured around in a motorcade with a Secret Service detail. Meeting foreign dignitaries at State dinners. But instead of Air Force One, I'm in Steve's Uber.

Felix stares out of his own window and doesn't respond, but he pats Avery on the hand in an attempt to comfort her.

Steve, the Uber driver pipes up.

STEVE

Oh wow, I thought you two looked familiar! I love your mom! "Price for the People!"

Avery audibly groans. Steve doesn't notice.

STEVE (CONT'D)

I canvassed for her. She's the first Democrat I would have voted for in my life. I usually go Green. Why'd she drop out? Looked like she had it in the bag. Is it cancer or something?

AVERY

(to Felix)

I literally can't.

Felix nods and leans forward.

FELIX

Hey, Steve is it? Thanks for your support. It means a lot.

(MORE)

FELIX (CONT'D)

I'll be sure to pass it on to my mom. She doesn't have cancer. Her decision was personal, and we would appreciate some privacy and time as a family to deal with this transition. Cool? Awesome. Five stars.

Felix pats Steve on the shoulder and leans back in his seat.

Avery's PHONE rings and she looks at it. The screen reads **MOM**. She declines the call. Felix doesn't need to see the phone to know who the caller was.

FELIX (CONT'D)

You're going to have to talk to her at some point.

AVERY

Not today.

The car pulls to a stop.

STEVE

Here we are. Briarton Prep.

Steve jumps out of the car to retrieve their bags. The twins remain seated.

FELIX

Home sweet home.

Avery lowers her sunglasses.

AVERY

Does it count as a Homecoming if you're coming back a loser?

FELIX

We lost the election, but who says we can't still win? Nobody plays the Briarton game better than us.

The twins smile at each other as they exit the car.

AVERY

Don't drop my bags, Steve...

We see them from above as they enter the gates of Briarton Prep, luggage in tow.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. HALLWAY - HEMINGWAY BUILDING - DAY

Avery and Felix approach a DOOR with an embossed DOOR SIGN that reads **HEADMASTER THOMAS SCHAEFER.**

AVERY

Let me handle this. Schaefer loves me.

FELIX

By all means.

Felix goes to KNOCK on the door, but as he does the door opens. A strikingly handsome GUY (16-years-old) exits, accidentally bumping into Felix.

GUY

(Australian accent)
Sorry about that, mate.

He pats Felix on the shoulder and steps past him, flashing a megawatt SMILE at Avery as he exits down the hallway. She watches him leave.

AVERY

Holy Hemsworth. Looks like Briarton's got some new blood.

Felix gestures to the Headmaster's open door.

FELIX

Weren't you about to handle this for us? Or are you volunteering as tribute in the next Hunger Games?

Avery rolls her eyes as she enters the office, shoving Felix as she passes.

INT. HEADMASTER'S OFFICE - HEMINGWAY BUILDING - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

Avery and Felix are seated across from HEADMASTER THOMAS SCHAEFER.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

Avery, Felix, I'm sure you'd both prefer that the circumstances were different, but I'm delighted to welcome you both back to Briarton.

Avery plasters on a smile, pouring it on thick.

AVERY

And we're delighted to be here,
Headmaster. While we were certainly
committed to our mother's
Presidential aspirations, our
hearts have always been here in New
Hampshire.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

Wonderful to hear. And you, Felix?
How are you adjusting to this
sudden transition?

FELIX

Well, my sister expressed it so
eloquently. Happy to be back. Just
glad there's space for us. We know
how coveted spots at Briarton are.

AVERY

And speaking of space, I was
wondering where we're going to be
living. We missed the housing
lottery, but I did have my heart
set on one of those cozy singles in
Bronte House.

She smiles.

AVERY (CONT'D)

It's so close to chapel.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

Well, unfortunately, we're already
two months into the academic year
so prime housing accommodations
have been taken.

AVERY

Of course, but--

There's a knock at the door.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

Come in.

YOKO MIYASAKI enters the office. She's 17, East Asian,
gorgeous, and *seemingly* prim and prep school proper.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER (CONT'D)

Yoko, perfect timing!

YOKO

Good morning, Headmaster Schaefer.
Avery. Felix. Welcome back to
Briarton.

AVERY

(icily)
Thank you.

FELIX

Thanks, Yoko.

Felix eyes her up and down.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

Yoko's just returned from a
linguistics conference in
Manhattan. You're fluent in six
languages now, yes?

YOKO

C'est vrai.

FELIX

Always the cunning linguist.

The joke goes over Headmaster Schaefer's head, but Yoko and
Avery roll their eyes.

AVERY

Yoko, it's great to see you, but
we're *actually* in the middle of
sorting out our housing situation.

YOKO

That's *actually* why I'm here. I'm
assuming you want to live in Bronte
House.

AVERY

(suspicious)
That would be ideal assuming the
accommodations were appropriate.
Why?

YOKO

We have a new student. I know
you've probably been too busy on
the campaign trail to keep up with
entertainment news, but are you
familiar with Ashley Hayes?

Felix raises an eyebrow, suddenly intrigued.

AVERY
The YouTuber?

 YOKO
And Instagram, Snapchat, Vine--
R.I.P. She's pretty much a social
media phenom.

 AVERY
And she's at Briarton? How?
Admission's based on test scores
not vlogs.

Headmaster Schaefer speaks up.

 HEADMASTER SCHAEFER
Miss Price, that's not how we speak
about our fellow students.

 AVERY
Sorry. What does this have to do
with me?

 YOKO
You'll be rooming together in
Bronte House.

Avery's eyes widen.

 YOKO (CONT'D)
Ashley's hit a bit of a rough
patch. While she's here focusing on
her education, we think you'll be
the perfect person to help her
adjust to our structure. And I'll
be your Head Prefect, so I can help
ensure that things go smoothly.

Avery turns her attention to Headmaster Schaefer.

 AVERY
I'm flattered by your faith in me,
Headmaster, but perhaps Ashley
would be better suited to some
place more aligned with her
needs...like a psych ward--

 FELIX
I think what Avery's trying to say--

 AVERY
Don't speak for me--

FELIX

Is that we have some concerns regarding our privacy. Living with an..."influencer" isn't exactly what we signed up for.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

I appreciate your concerns and we've talked to Ashley about the importance of discretion. She's been warned not to cross the line.

Headmaster Schaefer directs his attention to Avery.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER (CONT'D)

Avery, we need you to do this. You and Ashley are both lightning rods for attention and I think you're uniquely qualified to empathize with each other.

YOKO

(sweetly)

Plus, you've always been such a team player. We're a family here at Briarton and I know you'll come through for us.

Avery sighs as she begrudgingly agrees.

AVERY

Fine.

FELIX

Cool. So, where am I staying?

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

A single room happens to be available for you in Chaucer House.

AVERY

What?!

FELIX

Score!

INT. HALLWAY - BRONTE HOUSE - DAY

Avery and Yoko make their way down the hallway to Avery's new room. They're dragging Avery's bags. OTHER GIRLS pass them and crane their necks to gawk at Avery. She attempts to ignore them.

YOKO

Give them a few days and they'll stop staring.

AVERY

Let them stare. I've had mouth breathers critiquing my hair, my clothes, my posture, and my speaking voice for over a year. I'm used it.

YOKO

Right. But you're back at Briarton. Those stares aren't curiosity. They're pity and a lot of schadenfreude.

AVERY

I didn't realize you cared.

YOKO

I don't.

There's a beat as they continue to make their way down the hall. Yoko breaks the silence.

YOKO (CONT'D)

I have to say, I'm surprised you acquiesced so easily to your housing arrangement. I expected a tantrum.

AVERY

No need for a tantrum. I'd prefer a negotiation.

YOKO

The decision's been made. The deal is done.

AVERY

Not between you and me.

Yoko stops, turning to face Avery.

YOKO

What did you have in mind? If this is about you becoming a prefect those spots have been filled.

AVERY

Don't worry. I'm not expecting you to abdicate your throne. Also, the monarchy isn't my preferred form of government anyway.

YOKO

So what are you saying?

EVERY

I'm saying, if I'm going to live with bootleg TMZ and keep her contained for the good of Briarton, I want to be rewarded for it.

YOKO

How so?

EVERY

Clear my path. I'm a Fourth Former now. Fifth former year, I want to be Head Prefect of Bronte House-- and I'll be taking your room. The year after that I want to be Sixth Form Body President.

YOKO

So you want to be *me*? What do I get out of it?

EVERY

Well, you haven't been elected Sixth Form President yet.

YOKO

I don't need your help to make that happen. It's a done deal.

EVERY

Is it?

A beat.

EVERY (CONT'D)

Here's the thing, Yoko: I don't want to be you. I want to be *me*. The predestined, self-actualized version of me. If I can't run the country, I can certainly run this school--but I'm willing to wait my turn. I'll help you reach your goals and you help me reach mine.

Yoko looks at Avery, stunned, then begins to laugh.

YOKO

Your ego is...embarrassing. I don't even begrudge your ambition. You're just delusional.

Avery maintains her poker face.

YOKO (CONT'D)

Let me be clear. Your mother wasn't elected. You're not the President's daughter. You're a joke. A national disgrace by familial association. You have no leverage. You have no power. You make no demands of me. Are we clear?

The women are at a stand-off.

AVERY

Crystal.

YOKO

Do as you're told and, maybe, I'll consider clearing your path as opposed to actively impeding it. Disappoint me and you may want to consider transferring to another school.

Avery takes this in, stonefaced, as they arrive at her door. She opens it.

INT. AVERY'S ROOM - BRONTE HOUSE - DAY

Avery and Yoko enter the bedroom.

YOKO

Ashley, I'd like to introduce you to your new--

ASHLEY HAYES spins around. She's the GIRL from Felix's YouTube video! We see that she's in the middle of filming something on her SMARTPHONE, which is attached to a TRIPOD.

ASHLEY

Jesus, can I please get a lock on this door?! I'm in the middle of shooting.

AVERY

Shooting? Pipe down, Greta Gerwig.

Avery steps forward, setting her bags down.

AVERY (CONT'D)

I'm Avery, your new roommate.

ASHLEY

I know who you are. Shouldn't you be getting lost in the woods with your mother? Maybe try Chappaqua in New York.

AVERY

(icily)

I don't hike.

Yoko steps between them.

YOKO

Ladies, let's not get off on the wrong foot. I think you'll find you have a lot in common. I'll see you both at the Hall for Seated Meal.

AVERY

Wait, that's tonight?

YOKO

Don't be late.

Yoko blows them both a kiss as she exits.

Avery and Ashley turn and face each other, sizing each other up at a standoff.

EXT. CHAUCER HOUSE - DAY

Felix heads up the steps of Chaucer House. PIERCE COLLINS calls out to him from behind.

PIERCE

The prodigal son returns!

Felix breaks into a big smile as he turns to face him. Pierce, 16, ripped, and impossibly preppy with an *American Psycho* glint in his eye, envelops Felix in a tight bear hug.

FELIX

What's up, Pierce? Ow. You've been working out.

PIERCE

(breaking the hug)

I know, dude, look at me, I'm a snack.

Felix laughs.

PIERCE (CONT'D)

I joined my brother's lacrosse training camp at Penn this summer after I wrapped up my internship. Those dudes are ripped. I'm talking studs. Jake's got like 20 pounds on me now. I may slip him a tapeworm over Christmas break.

FELIX

Good to see that sibling rivalry remains healthy. How'd the internship go? You didn't bankrupt my dad's company so that's a plus.

They head up the stairs.

PIERCE

(joking)

You kidding? I'm running the place between classes. They're gonna rename it Price-Collins Capital.

Felix laughs as they enter Chaucer House.

INT. CHAUCER HOUSE - COMMON AREA - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Felix and Pierce enter Chaucer House's wood paneled common area. Other male students mill about. Some study in comfy leather chairs.

PIERCE

Thanks for setting that up by the way. The D.C. branch is cool. Met a lot of people. Got to know the city.

FELIX

No problem. Sorry I was M.I.A.

PIERCE

It's all good. You were on the campaign trail. Careful though, your dad loves me. I might be your boss some day.

FELIX

(laughs)

I think I'm safe. You and Jake will be back in Texas fighting over the family business soon enough.

FELIX (CONT'D)
You living here in Chaucer?

PIERCE
Yeah, which is convenient...

Pierce throws an arm around Felix's shoulder and speaks conspiratorially as he leads him to a quiet corner.

PIERCE (CONT'D)
Because now we can get back in
business, partner.

FELIX
I don't know. I'm trying to keep my
nose clean.

PIERCE
No one's worried about your nose.
The election's over. The heat's off
you.

FELIX
And I've got a clean slate.

PIERCE
That's debatable. Memories are long
here.

FELIX
What were you thinking?

PIERCE
Demand is still high for what you
and I supply. And I think the
quality is substantially higher
when you're involved.

FELIX
You have what we need?

PIERCE
Of course.

Felix sighs.

FELIX
Meet me tonight after Seated Meal.
We'll talk.

Pierce smiles as Felix heads out of the common area. Pierce calls after him, playfully cat-calling.

PIERCE

Good to have you back, buddy. I missed you! You look good!

Pierce's PHONE rings. He pulls it from his pocket and the screen reads: **JAKE**. Pierce's face darkens as he answers it, quietly.

PIERCE (CONT'D)

Hey bro, how's Houston?

INT. AVERY'S ROOM - BRONTE HOUSE - DAY

Avery's unpacking and getting her room settled. She goes to hang a PHOTO on the WALL.

ASHLEY

I'm going to need that wall.

AVERY

Excuse me?

ASHLEY

That wall. It's a clear white surface. It's my backdrop for my videos.

AVERY

Well then I suggest you create a backdrop on your side of the room.

ASHLEY

Look, I assume you've seen my content--

AVERY

Regrettably.

ASHLEY

My subscribers expect a certain level of quality and consistency.

Ashley gestures to the window.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

See the way the light comes through that window? Between the hours of 8 am to 2 pm, I can shoot against that wall without the assistance of artificial light--meaning I won't have to set up lighting equipment in our room and store it in our closet.

AVERY

Oh, so you using this wall is you being a considerate roommate?

ASHLEY

Basically.

AVERY

Wow. Okay. How many subscribers do you have?

ASHLEY

17.8 million. And counting.

AVERY

That's really impressive. I should've had you leading my mother's social media team.

Avery smiles sweetly before dropping the hammer.

AVERY (CONT'D)

Listen, I'm sure your loyal subscribers will happily watch you eat Tide Pods in the dark. Point being, I'm taking this wall.

Avery turns and thumb tacks the photo smack in the center of it. Ashley's face goes red with anger. She steps to Avery, getting in her face.

ASHLEY

You should think really hard about whether you want to make me an enemy. My reach goes very far--and you're such an interesting subject.

Ashley grabs her LAPTOP and exits the room as Avery rolls her eyes.

Avery sighs and lays down on the bed, frustrated. There's a KNOCK on the door.

AVERY

(yells)

Tell her she can build a damn wall as long as her subscribers pay for it.

There's a second knock. Avery gets up and opens the door.

It's OLIVIA BONALY (16, Black, stunning beauty). She and Avery lock eyes.

Avery slams the door in her face and crosses the room. Olivia opens the door and enters. She's carrying a TENNIS RACKET.

OLIVIA
I'm gonna let you have that one.

AVERY
That's kind of you, Olivia, thank you.

Olivia sets down the tennis racket.

OLIVIA
I'm sorry. For the election, for--

AVERY
For dropping off the face of the planet? I've been calling and texting you for weeks. By the way, you should turn off your "read" receipts.

OLIVIA
There's been a lot going on.

AVERY
Oh, did your life fall apart? Were you completely embarrassed and devastated for the entire world to see?

OLIVIA
Yeah, kind of.

AVERY
Wow--and people call me self-absorbed.

OLIVIA
I guess you haven't heard.

AVERY
Heard what?

OLIVIA
My parents. They're getting a divorce.

Avery immediately softens.

AVERY
Wait. What?

OLIVIA

They tried to keep it quiet, but I'm pretty sure his mistress planted the story.

AVERY

Mistress? Your mom's a supermodel. She's literally the most beautiful woman on the planet. Naomi Campbell is shook. Who the hell would your dad leave her for?

OLIVIA

You know how he'd been researching his latest novel in Paris?

AVERY

Yeah, he'd been sort of MIA, but that's not uncommon.

OLIVIA

Apparently he was doing a deep dive into the editrix of French *Vogue*.

AVERY

What?! So not only did she leak it to the press, she *is* the press.

OLIVIA

I'm guessing she has a way with more than words.

AVERY

O, I'm so sorry.

Avery embraces her in a warm hug.

AVERY (CONT'D)

When did you find out?

Avery hasn't released the hug.

OLIVIA

The story broke last week. *Women's Wear Daily*--which is so tacky because my mother's been so good to them.

Avery slowly lets her go.

AVERY

Not to beat a dead *whore*, but if you didn't find out about your parent's divorce until last week where were you when my mother's campaign went to hell?

OLIVIA

(angry)

Are you serious right now? Your ability to make everything about you is astonishing.

AVERY

It's a gift, but don't deflect.

OLIVIA

Deflection? I'm not on trial. I'm your best friend. I'm trying to apologize to you!

AVERY

I understand that, but I feel like you're guilty of more than you're saying.

OLIVIA

What are you talking about?

AVERY

You're not being honest with me! I didn't hear from you for two weeks after my mom dropped out of the race--

OLIVIA

Which I explained--

AVERY

And I didn't hear from you for two weeks prior that. Why? Is it Felix? I know you two have been sneaking around in hubs all over the campaign trail. Or at least you were...

OLIVIA

He told you that?

AVERY

He didn't have to tell me. I know you both.

Olivia sighs, deflated.

AVERY (CONT'D)

What happened? Did he cheat on you?
And you decided to ignore us both?
We're twins not a two-for-one
special.

Olivia stands up.

OLIVIA

I can't do this with you.

AVERY

If he cheated on you, I will cut
his balls off. I'm totally fine
with being responsible for carrying
on the family line.

OLIVIA

Please stop.

Avery has an epiphany.

AVERY

Was it Leila? That tacky princess.
She's always around--

OLIVIA

I have to go to practice. I'll see
you at Seated Meal.

Olivia heads for the door, grabbing her tennis racket.

AVERY

Wait, can we--

Olivia exits.

AVERY (CONT'D)

(trails off)
Go together?

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. CHAPEL - DAY

LEILA KASHANI (16, Persian, magnetic and warm) stands alone in the chapel as she finishes performing a stirring piece on her VIOLIN.

There's a round of APPLAUSE and she looks up. It's Felix. She smiles.

LEILA
Coming to confess your sins?

FELIX
You already know most of them.

He approaches and gives her a hug. She gives him a kiss on the cheek.

LEILA
Good to see you. How's *Khaleh* Vivian?

FELIX
She's...she'll be okay.

LEILA
My mother called her a few times, but she's trying to give her some space.

FELIX
I think that's probably best for now. She'll bounce back.

LEILA
I know she will. How's Avery?

He smiles.

FELIX
She's Avery. No all night phone calls for the two of you?

LEILA
(sarcastically)
Surprisingly not. I'm sure we'll get together and braid each other's hair later.

FELIX

I bet.

LEILA

I'm actually not worried about Avery. I'm worried about you.

FELIX

Why?

LEILA

Because you keep everything bottled up. You always have.

He gestures to the chapel.

FELIX

That's what confession is for. Speaking of, have you seen Father Harris? Schaefer wants me to join the student vestry.

LEILA

Nice try. Don't change the subject. Look, I know whatever went down with your mom and the election is private, but we're practically family. You can talk to me.

FELIX

There's nothing to say.

LEILA

Oh yeah. Then why did you ask me to lie?

Felix's face goes cold.

FELIX

What are you talking about?

LEILA

Last month when I was in D.C. for the concerto. You came to my hotel and you asked me to say that you were with me the entire night.

FELIX

So? I needed an excuse to tell my parents.

LEILA

Yeah, but you had one. You were with Olivia.

FELIX

No, I wasn't.

LEILA

Don't lie to me. She's a fragrance heiress, I know her perfume. It was all over you that night.

FELIX

You need to let this go. She's not involved in this.

LEILA

Involved in what?!

FELIX

You know what, Leila? Maybe this kind of crap is why you and my sister don't get along. You're way too similar.

He turns to leave. She grabs his arm, stopping him.

LEILA

If you're caught up in something you're going to need help. Let me help you. I've got resources.

FELIX

I'm aware, Your Highness.

Leila's stung.

LEILA

You don't have to be mean. You came to me because you trust me. And no matter how many times you've given me reason not to, I still trust you.

He gently touches her shoulder.

FELIX

Everything's going to be fine. If you see Father Harris, tell him I stopped by.

He heads off, but turns back to face her as he walks away.

FELIX (CONT'D)

You sounded wonderful.

Felix turns and exits the chapel. Leila watches with a look of worry.

EXT. LAKE WENTWORTH - DAY

OLIVIA tears down a path in the woods, TENNIS RACKET still in hand. It's like she's running until she can't run anymore and she finally ends at the lake. She collapses at the lake's edge, breathing heavily. She's so consumed in her thoughts and in catching her breath that she doesn't notice the NAKED GUY swimming in the water.

She suddenly hears a splash and looks up to see Aussie SETH MURRAY (16) wading in the water. (It's the same hottie Avery and Felix crossed paths with entering Headmaster Schaefer's office.)

SETH
Tennis court's that way.

He gestures in the direction she just came from with a smile.

OLIVIA
Thanks...I needed a break.

SETH
Hop in. You'll feel better.

OLIVIA
It's November. Isn't the water freezing?

SETH
It's refreshing.

OLIVIA
I don't have a suit.

SETH
Me either.

There's a devilish twinkle in his eye.

SETH (CONT'D)
(sincere)
I can give you some privacy if you want to be alone.

OLIVIA
You were here first.

He swims to the lake's edge and starts to get out. Olivia turns to give him some privacy, though it's clear she'd love to take a peek.

He pulls on his JEANS.

SETH
Want me to leave?

OLIVIA
You don't have to. It's a free
lake.

He pulls on his JACKET, but remains shirtless underneath. He sits down on the ground next to her and pulls a JOINT out of his jacket pocket and lights it.

He holds the joint out to her offering her some.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
No thanks.

She raises her racket.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Practice.

SETH
You're Olivia, right? Fourth form?

OLIVIA
Yeah. Sorry, it's a small school, I should know your name.

SETH
I'm Seth.

OLIVIA
Seth. Right. I've sort of been keeping a low profile. I'd heard we had an Aussie exchange student, I just didn't realize you were so...

She clearly wants to say HOT.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Australian.

He smiles.

SETH
I get that a lot. I rode my motorcycle into town and got gross so I needed a dip to clean off.

OLIVIA
Again. Very Australian.

SETH
Wait till you meet my wallaby.

He grins.

SETH (CONT'D)
What brings you to the lake?

OLIVIA
It was a better option than
decapitating the tennis team.

She looks at him for a moment as he takes a smooth hit off
the joint.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Actually, can I have some of that?

He passes her the joint. She inhales and immediately coughs.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
(croaks)
It's been a while.

He laughs as he takes the joint back from her.

SETH
What's got you so amped up?

OLIVIA
You know my name, but you haven't
heard?

SETH
(playfully)
Consider it a credit to your "low
profile." I'm not keyed in on all
the good gossip yet.

She chuckles with a sigh.

OLIVIA
My parents are getting a divorce
and the press is all over it. "The
Pulitzer Prize winning novelist and
the supermodel-heiress call it
quits." It's pretty sensational.
And then there's everything else
with me...

She suddenly stops herself.

SETH
What's happening with you?

OLIVIA
It's nothing. Just the usual grind.

He nods, seemingly letting it go.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Sorry, I'm not usually so...open.

SETH
Blame the pot. It makes some people
chatty. I like it.

He smiles at her and she smiles back.

EXT. HURSTON BUILDING - DAY

Avery waits in the COURTYARD in front of the HURSTON
Building, annoyed, as Felix casually strolls up.

AVERY
You're late.

FELIX
I got caught up.

AVERY
Let me guess, with Leila or Olivia?

FELIX
I haven't seen Olivia.

She rolls her eyes.

AVERY
So Leila. Wow. This day keeps
getting better.

FELIX
Can we not do this? Let's just get
the green light on our class
schedules.

He heads towards the Hurston Building, Avery close behind
him.

AVERY
You know, big brother, I think your
brain could have benefited from ten
more minutes in the womb. I don't
think you fully baked.

FELIX
That was ten minutes of freedom
I'll never get back.

INT. LOBBY - HURSTON BUILDING - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Avery and Felix enter the building. STUDENTS gawk as they pass. The twins ignore them.

AVERY

I spoke to Olivia. I know what you did.

Felix looks at Avery, suspicious.

AVERY (CONT'D)

What? Did you think you could bounce back and forth between her and Leila and she wouldn't find out.

FELIX

You don't know what you're talking about.

AVERY

I know everything. Always.

Felix ignores her.

AVERY (CONT'D)

Olivia's a TEN. She's serving you Yara Shahidi by way of Serena Williams. Don't mess it up over some bootleg royal.

FELIX

Why do you hate Leila so much? We've known her forever.

AVERY

I don't hate Leila, she barely warrants my attention.

FELIX

You could've fooled me.

AVERY

Stay focused on the issue at hand.

FELIX

Which is?

AVERY

That you can't keep it in your pants and you're going to ruin this for the both us.

(MORE)

AVERY (CONT'D)

Olivia's my best friend. Your bad behavior directly impacts my relationship with her.

FELIX

What about my relationship?

AVERY

So you're acknowledging you have one?

FELIX

Whether I'm involved with Olivia, Leila, or the entire girl's field hockey team--

AVERY

Woof...

FELIX

Is none of your business.

AVERY

None of my business? That is *never* true...

They enter the REGISTRAR'S OFFICE and the door closes behind them.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

Headmaster Schaefer crosses the courtyard with the GROUNDSKEEPER. He points to a set of HEDGES.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

...And we'll need those hedges trimmed. They'll start to thin as the weather gets colder.

Headmaster Schaefer notices Ashley sitting on a BENCH working intently on her LAPTOP. She's clearly very focused on the task at hand. Students pass by and she's somewhat oblivious to her surroundings.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER (CONT'D)

One moment.

The groundskeeper nods as Headmaster Schaefer approaches Ashley.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER (CONT'D)

Ms. Hayes--

Ashley looks up, startled, and immediately shuts her laptop. He notices.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER (CONT'D)
Hard at work?

ASHLEY
It's just a personal project.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER
Hopefully not one that's
interfering with your studies.

ASHLEY
I'm a good multi-tasker.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER
Without a doubt. How are you
adjusting to the change in your
living situation?

ASHLEY
It'll take some getting used to,
but it's been...inspiring.
Creatively.

She smiles.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER
I'm happy to hear it. Ms. Price is
a special young woman.

ASHLEY
She certainly is.

There's a glint of mischief in her eyes, but Headmaster Schaefer doesn't notice.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER
Well, I'll let you get back to your
project.

He gestures to the groundskeeper who's TRIMMING THE HEDGES.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER (CONT'D)
I've got one to complete of my own.

ASHLEY
Good luck with your hedges. Enjoy
your day!

He nods and heads back to the groundskeeper as Ashley opens up her laptop and smiles at the unseen screen devilishly.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
 (to herself)
 I certainly will.

INT. BERNHARDT THEATRE - DAY (LATER)

Avery makes her way down the center aisle of the school's empty theatre. She's clearly looking for someone.

AVERY
 (calling out)
 Javier?...Javi? I heard you were rehearsing.

No answer. She climbs onto the STAGE and crosses, heading BACKSTAGE.

INT. BACKSTAGE - BERNHARDT THEATRE - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Avery approaches the DRESSING ROOM door from backstage and OPENS it, KNOCKING as she enters.

AVERY
 Javier, are you--

Avery's shocked to see JAVIER RAMOS (16, Latino, sexy) in a BARELY CLOTHED sexy embrace with a MALE and a FEMALE student.

AVERY (CONT'D)
 Oh! Here. You're here. All of you.
 I'll come back.

Avery starts to leave, but Javier calls after her.

JAVIER
 Whoa, Avery. Hold on a second.

Javier pulls on some PANTS and hurries out the door. He shuts the door behind him, leaving he and Avery alone backstage. He's SHIRTLESS, naturally.

AVERY
 Sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt your...casting couch situation.

JAVIER
 Oh, it's not like that. They've already been cast. What's up?
 Welcome back!

AVERY

Thanks. I was actually looking for you because I need a copy of your play. Congratulations, by the way, I heard about your workshop at Williamstown.

JAVIER

Thanks--it was really informative. I got a good sense of what I needed to work on. Have you caught the acting bug?

AVERY

No. I'm leaning more into, say, script analysis.

JAVIER

Come on, you've been on the national stage for the last year. You've got presence. You understand stakes.

AVERY

Right. Which is why I think my talents are better suited for the political stage here at Briarton.

JAVIER

Well, if you change your mind, you know where to find me.

He smiles and looks at her intently.

JAVIER (CONT'D)

You'd make a captivating muse.

They lock eyes for a beat. All warning signs to the contrary, there's chemistry there. Avery snaps out it, slightly flustered.

AVERY

So about your play?

JAVIER

I'll get you copy.

AVERY

Thank you.

She turns to leave, but has an idea.

AVERY (CONT'D)
Speaking of muses. Do you know my
new roommate, Ashley Hayes?

JAVIER
I've seen her around. Snapchat's
not really my thing.

AVERY
Well, she's got a following and I
think she's looking for a creative
outlet--and something to get her
out of our room. Maybe you two
should meet.

JAVIER
I'm down.

AVERY
Great.

She starts to head off. He stops her in her tracks.

JAVIER
But only if you seriously consider
acting. You really would be
luminous under a spotlight.

Avery smiles, but doesn't turn back to face him.

AVERY
Bye, Javi.

She heads back into the theatre as Javier smiles.

EXT. BRONTE HOUSE - DAY

Olivia and a now fully clothed Seth approach Bronte House.

OLIVIA
This is me. What house are you in?

SETH
They put me over in Chaucer. I like
it. Met some nice mates.

OLIVIA
I'm glad. Thanks for listening--and
for the herbal remedy for my bad
mood.

They laugh.

SETH

I'm around--if you need an ear. Or
a remedy.

OLIVIA

Thanks.

She smiles broadly and suddenly we're seeing Olivia and Seth from a distance--laughing and clearly enjoying each other's company.

It's revealed that we're seeing them from Felix's perspective. He sees Olivia laughing and smiling with Seth, scowls and walks away.

He pulls out his phone and texts Avery: **"Olivia's fine. Don't bug me about this again."**

He sends the text and angrily walks away.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. RECREATION CENTER - LAUNDRY PICK-UP STATION - EVENING

Olivia grabs her GARMENT BAG from the STATION ATTENDANT with a smile.

OLIVIA
(to the attendant)
Thank you.

She turns and heads towards the Recreation Center exit and is surprised to see Avery enter.

AVERY
There you are!

OLIVIA
I don't have time for this.

Olivia heads past her, not stopping. Avery follows. They exit.

EXT. RECREATION CENTER - EVENING (CONTINUOUS)

Olivia hurriedly crosses campus, clearly trying to ignore Avery, who's close behind.

AVERY
I looked for you at the tennis courts. You skipped practice.

OLIVIA
Wasn't feeling up to it.

AVERY
And then I remembered you always pay to get your dresses steamed before Seated Meal--

OLIVIA
Yep.

AVERY
And you always wait till the last minute to pick them up.

OLIVIA
You got me.

Avery grabs her arm, gently.

AVERY

Can you stop?

Olivia stops, turning to face her.

AVERY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about earlier. You're right. I have a talent for making it all about me while simultaneously being all up in your business.

OLIVIA

It's an impressive skill.

AVERY

Can I at least get credit for memorizing your self-care routine?

Avery smiles, knowing Olivia can't stay mad at her for too long. Olivia relents.

OLIVIA

(smiling)

You're forgiven.

They start to walk across campus, now side-by-side.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

How are things going with your roommate?

AVERY

We're both alive. For now.

OLIVIA

I'm surprised they paired you with her. You know she's made videos about you and Felix?

AVERY

Yeah, but we're click-bait. She's just feeding the machine for profit.

OLIVIA

It's creepy. You're not concerned?

AVERY

Ashley can be managed. Besides, the campaign spent a fortune on media training--

OLIVIA
And you kind of like the attention.

Avery considers this for a beat.

AVERY
(smiling)
Yes. Yes, I do.

They laugh as they approach a BENCH. Olivia sits down, the garment bag in her lap. Avery joins her.

OLIVIA
So do you want to talk about what happened?

AVERY
What do you mean?

OLIVIA
The election. Your mom? Do you know why she dropped out?

Surprised by the question, Avery gathers herself.

AVERY
Of course I do, but, you know, it's private. Politics. It's not that I don't trust you, I just would rather...talk about you and Felix.

Olivia's seemingly startled by the mention of her and Felix.

OLIVIA
What?

AVERY
I know, I know. I'm leaving it alone. But I spoke to him--

OLIVIA
Ave, you've gotta stop...

AVERY
I spoke to him--and I set him straight. He is going to respect you or deal with me.

OLIVIA
(relieved)
I appreciate the backup, but I don't need protection--thank you.

AVERY
 (mischievously)
 Well, you might not, but wait till
 I see Leila.

OLIVIA
 Oh my God--you are too much.

They laugh as they get up from the bench and head towards their dorm, BFFs on solid footing once again.

INT. AVERY'S ROOM - BRONTE HOUSE - EVENING

Avery enters her room as music BLARES. Ashley's on her LAPTOP completely distracted. Avery desperately looks for a remote or something to turn the music down, then suddenly CLAPS her HANDS twice. The music immediately stops. Ashley spins around.

AVERY
 Hey, can we talk?

ASHLEY
 Is this about your Tide Pods? They
 were delicious.

AVERY
 That's funny. I do enjoy a
 callback. Listen, why don't we
 start fresh?

Ashley's suspicious.

AVERY (CONT'D)
 I admit I didn't come in with the
 best attitude because I'm not a big
 roommate person, but the situation
 is what it is and I think we should
 be strong women and make the best
 of it.

ASHLEY
 Great.

AVERY
 Great.

ASHLEY
 So do I get the wall?

Avery inhales and exhales, willing herself not to choke this chick.

AVERY

We should talk about that. I haven't given you or your work enough credit. It takes a lot of discipline to create content everyday and build an audience. I mean, my God, you shoot, you self-direct, you edit. I couldn't do it.

Ashley seems touched by Avery's sincerity.

ASHLEY

You probably could.

AVERY

You're right, I probably could, but I wouldn't.

They laugh. Is that mutual respect we see?

Avery goes to the wall and pulls down the PHOTO she tacked on to it.

AVERY (CONT'D)

I say we keep the wall clear for now. You shoot your videos during your free period--and maybe we can talk to Yoko about creating some sort of workspace for you here in Bronte.

ASHLEY

That sounds...very reasonable. Thank you.

AVERY

You're welcome.

Avery goes to her CLOSET and pulls out a DRESS. She looks it over. Ashley begins to type on her computer.

ASHLEY

You know my subscribers have been so hungry for info about you--

AVERY

I've noticed.

ASHLEY

And I spent the entire afternoon putting this together...

Ashley pulls up a VIDEO on her computer as Avery crosses over to her, still holding the dress.

On the laptop we see a SCREENCAP titled "**All About Avery Price: My EVIL ROOMMATE.**" It's got Avery's FACE--complete with DEVIL HORNS. It's ready to be published.

Avery sees it and laughs.

AVERY

The horns are a nice touch.

ASHLEY

(playfully)

I was just about to enjoy the fruits of our proximity and then you had to ruin everything by going all Miss Congeniality on me! I can't publish this now because then I'm the asshole.

AVERY

(smiling)

Sorry to disappoint you!

Avery crosses back over to her closet to continue looking for the right outfit.

ASHLEY

It's okay. You know...I actually would have voted for your mom. Right now, I'd vote for you.

AVERY

Well, I'm not running for anything. Yet. Also, we're really going to have to set some parameters on this in-house paparazzo situation.

She turns to face Ashley, who's back fiddling on her computer.

AVERY (CONT'D)

Can I ask you something personal?

ASHLEY

I suppose, since we're buds now.

AVERY

There's a video floating around on Twitter of you beating the crap out of Kylie Jenner. What was that about?

ASHLEY
 (suddenly animated)
 Bitch stole my lip kit deal!! I'm a
 self-made woman. That was business!

Avery nods, appreciatively.

AVERY
 Fair enough.

Avery notes Ashley's CASUAL CLOTHING.

AVERY (CONT'D)
 Are you going to get dressed for
 Seated Meal?

ASHLEY
 I'm gonna skip it. I'm over being
 gawked at.

AVERY
 Oh honey, they're always gonna
 look. Let's put on a show.

Avery smiles and Ashley looks intrigued.

EXT. MAIN HALL - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Students cross the campus courtyard as they funnel into the
 Main Hall.

We see Felix come out from behind some BUSHES with an
 anonymous smiling FEMALE STUDENT. He straightens his JACKET
 and TIE and tucks his SHIRT into his PANTS.

FELIX
 You've clearly been working on your
 forehand.

FEMALE STUDENT
 Practice makes perfect. You should
 come to my next match--

FELIX
 Thanks, I'll see you around.

He leaves the girl, abruptly, and heads towards the Main
 Hall.

INT. BRONTE HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

We see a GLOVED HAND open the door to Avery and Ashley's room.

INT. AVERY'S ROOM - BRONTE HOUSE - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

From the perspective of the intruder we see them cross the room to Ashley's OPEN LAPTOP.

The VIDEO "**All About Avery Price: My EVIL ROOMMATE**" is still pulled up on the SCREEN.

The gloved hand clicks **PUBLISH**. The video is now **LIVE** and we see the HITS accumulating fast. Uh oh.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. DINING ROOM - MAIN HALL - NIGHT

Students mill around the Dining Room in the Main Hall, socializing before taking their seats at their assigned FACULTY TABLES for Seated Meal. Every student is formally dressed--the guys in jackets and ties (no jeans!) and the girls in skirts and dresses.

Though mandatory, Seated Meal is a chance to see and be seen, and everyone shows up looking their best for the occasion.

The students talk amongst themselves when suddenly Avery and Ashley enter the Hall. It's like there's a spotlight on the pair and everyone notices, staring at the powerful duo as they pass.

Avery and Ashley are dressed to nines as they strut through the Hall with authority. Are these BOSSES strutting in slo-motion? Probably. They're putting on a show.

Pierce, always emboldened, approaches the girls and throws his arms around each of their shoulders.

PIERCE

Ladies, I hear you're roommates.
Shall we see if there's room for a
third?

AVERY

Pierce, do you have the time?

He goes to look at his watch, but before he can answer--

AVERY (CONT'D)

Doesn't matter. Times up.

Avery removes his arm from her shoulder.

PIERCE

(confused)
Huh?

ASHLEY

Get off me.

Ashley worms her way out his grasp. Pierce is embarrassed, but quickly recovers.

PIERCE

Sure, sure.

He calls out to an invisible (nonexistent) friend and walks away.

PIERCE (CONT'D)
'Sup, broseph!

Avery spots Javier and gestures to Ashley.

AVERY
Come here, I want to introduce you.

Avery ushers her over to Javier.

AVERY (CONT'D)
Javier, this my *friend* that I mentioned. Ashley Hayes. Social media superstar and, I suspect, an actress.

JAVIER
Oh, wonderful to meet you officially. Do you act?

AVERY
Yeah, I guess, among other things.

JAVIER
Done any theatre?

AVERY
I'm more acclimated to streaming media.

JAVIER
Hmm. Cute.

Ashley and Avery share a glance as their interaction with Javier is interrupted by Leila. He's clearly overjoyed to see her.

JAVIER (CONT'D)
Princess!

He engulfs her in a big hug. Avery rolls her eyes as she whispers to Ashley.

AVERY
Practice your curtsy.

Leila ends her hug with Javier.

JAVIER
Let's talk later? I'm hoping you can compose something for me.

LEILA
Of course. We'll talk.

Javier rushes off, winking at Avery as he passes. Leila turns her attention to her.

LEILA (CONT'D)
Avery. Welcome back! How are you?

Leila gives Avery a brief awkward hug, which Avery doesn't return.

AVERY
You know, I've been better. My plans changed *really* suddenly, but it's brought me back to you so what do I have to complain about?

Avery gestures to Ashley.

AVERY (CONT'D)
Do you know Ashley? Sorry, I'm just jumping back into this so I don't know who knows who. Ashley, Leila Kashani. Exiled Iranian royalty and our resident princess.

Leila's clearly annoyed, but not surprised by Avery's attitude.

LEILA
(deadpans)
We know each other. Hi, Ashley.

ASHLEY
Hi. So apparently you two go back?

FELIX (O.S.)
The three of us, actually.

Felix swoops in and throws his arm around Leila, kissing her on the cheek. Avery's blood boils.

Felix addresses Ashley.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Hi, I'm Felix. Avery's better half. But you know that already based on your extensive coverage of us.

Ashley isn't phased.

ASHLEY

That's true. I'm thorough. You guys
make it impossible to look away.

Ashley smiles, but Avery isn't amused. Suddenly Avery's face
lights up.

AVERY

Oh look, it's Olivia.

Felix and Leila turn to see Olivia. She looks stunning. Avery
sidles up next to them.

AVERY (CONT'D)

Finally, someone worth talking to.
She looks great. Doesn't she Felix?

Suddenly Seth Murray enters, approaching Olivia.

AVERY (CONT'D)

Ooh. So does he.

Avery gives Felix and Leila a Cheshire cat smile.

AVERY (CONT'D)

Ashley, let's go say hi.

Avery and Ashley saunter off towards Olivia and Seth.

LEILA

Your sister is such a bitch.

FELIX

We all have our moments.

Leila rolls her eyes and walks away, leaving Felix alone.

INT. DINING ROOM - MAIN HALL - NIGHT

Avery excitedly approaches Olivia and Seth, Ashley right
behind her.

AVERY

Girl, I'm mad at that dress!

OLIVIA

Thank you! It was a peace offering
from my father. It didn't work.

AVERY

But it works! Hi, I'm Avery.

She extends her hand to shake Seth's. He returns it.

SETH

Hey, Seth. Hope it's not a sensitive subject, but my family and I supported your mum. Sorry for what happened.

AVERY

Thank you. That means a lot.

Ashley steps forward.

ASHLEY

Hey, Olivia. Seth.

Ashley's attention is laser focused on Seth. Avery notices.

AVERY

That's what I get for joining the party late. You guys all know each other.

ASHLEY

Well, Seth and I have Chemistry together.

AVERY

I bet you do.

SETH

I think they just threw the newbs in class together so we wouldn't get lonely.

Seth directs his attention to Ashley.

SETH (CONT'D)

I watched a few of your YouTube videos. They're hilarious. I sent them to my dad. He thinks you're a riot.

Ashley's genuinely flattered.

ASHLEY

Oh, that's amazing. Dads aren't usually my audience.

SETH

Well he's a film director so he's always on the lookout for fresh faces.

ASHLEY

Oh. Well. I'm fresh. Faced.

Ashley laughs, embarrassed--and possibly smitten with the Aussie? Avery notices and doesn't want Olivia being cock-blocked.

AVERY

Alright, well let's go be fresh at our table. Enjoy dinner, guys!

She ushers Ashley away.

ASHLEY

See ya!

Olivia's not jealous--if anything she's amused. Seth smiles at her.

SETH

The two of us are assigned to the same table. Wanna sit?

OLIVIA

Yes, let's--

Suddenly it's as if Olivia can feel eyes boring holes into her back. She turns around and locks eyes with Felix. This is a huge moment. It's almost like the room stops.

These two are connected.

The moment is interrupted by HEADMASTER SCHAEFER.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

Ladies and gentlemen, dinner is about to be served. Please go to your faculty tables and be seated.

Seth grabs Olivia gently by the hand. She breaks eye contact with Felix. Seth leads her to their table.

INT. DINING ROOM - MAIN HALL - NIGHT

Avery and Ashley are seated at a table with Headmaster Schaefer and other students including Pierce. There's ONE OPEN SEAT at the table.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

Where's Yoko Miyasaki? There's a sixth former assigned to lead each table discussion and she's late.

AVERY

(sweetly)

I'm sure she's on her way. Yoko's nothing if not responsible.

He motions to Avery and Ashley.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

I'm happy to see that you two are getting along so well. I had a feeling you'd be a good match.

AVERY

You've got great instincts. What can I say?

Headmaster Schaefer turns his attention to Pierce.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

Pierce, I've been meaning to ask about your brother. I was notified he'd withdrawn--

PIERCE

(cutting him off)

From lacrosse? Yeah, he tweaked his ankle. He's a baby. He's doing some PT and then he'll be back at it.

Headmaster Schaefer looks at him, puzzled. Pierce doesn't break eye contact.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

That's not what I--

At that moment Yoko arrives. She's clearly flustered and looks from Headmaster Schaefer to Pierce.

YOKO

I'm sorry I'm late. There's a problem. One that might require some disciplinary action.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

Can it wait until after we've all eaten?

YOKO

No, Headmaster. Unfortunately, I think this has to be dealt with now.

Yoko pulls out her SMARTPHONE.

YOKO (CONT'D)

One of our students has published an inflammatory video on her social media platforms. It's potentially libelous and reflects badly on Briarton.

Yoko plays the video: **"All About Avery Price: My EVIL ROOMMATE"** fills her smartphone's screen.

YOKO (CONT'D)

It's currently going viral. Millions have viewed and shared it already. I'm sure you'll be receiving calls from the media and Ms. Price's parents imminently.

Students start to whip out their PHONES. Avery looks around, surveying the scene.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

Oh dear God. Ms. Hayes, did you post this?

ASHLEY

No! I didn't. I swear!

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

How did it end up on your social media accounts?

ASHLEY

Well...I made the video, but I didn't post it!

There's a murmur amongst the students. Every student with a phone is watching the video.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

I was just letting off some steam. It was a joke. I didn't publish it!

Olivia comes to the table and puts her hand on Avery's shoulder, protectively. Olivia's holding her PHONE.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

There are consequences for this type of action, Ashley.

OLIVIA

Yeah, specifically from Black Twitter. They are COMING for you, girl.

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

Our consequences are more immediate. Your social media privileges are suspended indefinitely.

ASHLEY

What?! That's my business. My livelihood. I didn't post that video!

HEADMASTER SCHAEFER

The decision's been made.

Ashley is furious. She's about to either kill someone or burst into tears. Maybe both.

ASHLEY

I hate this place!

She gets up and storms out of the Hall.

Avery looks around the room, meeting the stares of the other students--Pierce, Yoko, Olivia.

Multiple students have their PHONES trained on Avery, blatantly RECORDING HER.

For a moment, it looks like she might be embarrassed--like she'd crack under the weight of their stares, but then her expression changes.

She's emboldened. She looks at the Headmaster, speaking loudly so that those around her can hear.

AVERY

Well, that was eventful. But we shouldn't allow the media's preoccupation with me and my family to interrupt our time-honored tradition of the Seated Meal. It's been too long since I've been able to engage with my Briarton family on the pressing issues that concern us and our world. Shall we eat and get to it?

Avery raises her glass. A defiant, unreadable smile crosses her face.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. FELIX'S ROOM - CHAUCER HOUSE - NIGHT

Felix watches "**All About Avery Price: My EVIL ROOMMATE**" on his LAPTOP when there's a KNOCK at the door. He yells towards the door.

FELIX

Come in.

Pierce enters. He's wearing a BACKPACK and carrying a PRINTER.

PIERCE

You skipped out on dinner, bud. You missed quite a show.

FELIX

I just caught the after show.

PIERCE

Your sister's trending.

FELIX

Not for the first time. She's tough. She can handle herself.

Pierce responds with a puzzled ambiguous look. He sets down the printer.

PIERCE

This is for you.

FELIX

You shouldn't have.

PIERCE

It was yours first. It deserves to be with its proper owner.

FELIX

You got everything else?

PIERCE

Yep.

Pierce pulls out BLANK WHITE I.D. CARDS, SHEETS OF HOLOGRAMS, and multiple STATE TEMPLATES.

PIERCE (CONT'D)

I'll have a magstrip encoder and a laminator by the end of the week.

FELIX

Great.

PIERCE

You're not wussing out on me, are you?

FELIX

Nah. IDs are easy money. And I got a good look at real IDs from all over the country while I was on the campaign trail.

Felix pulls out a LEATHER BOUND BOOKLET showing IMAGES of STATE IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Even got a few tips from Secret Service on vetting.

PIERCE

So we're back in business?

FELIX

We're back in business.

Pierce smiles his *American Psycho* smile as Felix chuckles.

INT. AVERY'S ROOM - BRONTE HOUSE - NIGHT

Avery enters her room to find Ashley lying down on her bed. It's clear Ashley's been crying.

AVERY

Hey.

ASHLEY

I didn't do it. I didn't post the video.

AVERY

I believe you.

Ashley slowly sits up, surprised.

ASHLEY

You do?

AVERY

Yeah. But Olivia's right. You're getting dragged by Black Twitter. Avoid your mentions.

She smiles. Ashley responds with a pained laugh.

ASHLEY

What am I gonna do?

AVERY

I guess no posting videos for a while? Let Schaefer cool off?

ASHLEY

If I don't post I lose my audience. They move on to the next shiny thing.

AVERY

I don't envy that kind of pressure.

ASHLEY

Please, you were about to be First Daughter. Malia can't even smoke a blunt.

They laugh.

AVERY

You're right.

ASHLEY

Don't you want to find out who did this?

AVERY

Sure. But more for your sake than for mine. I've got a pretty thick skin at this point.

ASHLEY

You know, if it were a video about me or it was some random commenter, I wouldn't care--but this is...this is questioning my integrity. And I'm being punished for something I didn't do. I need to get out of here.

AVERY

Have you talked to your parents?

ASHLEY

My mom. She won't let me leave. She's the reason I'm here in the first place--even though *I'm* paying for it. She controls my money. She said it was this or boot camp. I figured I'd rather have a degree.

AVERY

It's funny. I didn't want to be here either. I came back a loser. I felt like I was going backwards instead of forward.

ASHLEY

You didn't lose anything, your mom did.

AVERY

She didn't lose, she quit.

Avery takes a beat, surprised by her own response.

AVERY (CONT'D)

And I don't even know why. She didn't even offer a reason. I hate that. I hate it so much.

Avery tears up. A beat.

AVERY (CONT'D)

I hate her. I hate my mother.

Ashley and Avery sit--sharing their respective pain--in silence.

EXT. BRONTE HOUSE - NIGHT

Yoko sneaks out of Bronte House. She looks around, searching for someone.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Over here.

Yoko turns towards the voice. She looks at the person coldly.

YOKO

Do you have it?

A MALE HAND gives Yoko a FLASHDRIVE.

YOKO (CONT'D)

That's the only copy? Nothing in the Cloud?

Pierce Collins steps forward into the light.

PIERCE

Honor among thieves. You posted the Avery video like I asked, and I got you the only copy of you flashing your Yoko Nono while you were away at your "conference."

YOKO

Why did you want me to post that video? What's your problem with Avery? Or is it Ashley?

PIERCE

(ignoring her questions)
Sleep tight, Yoko.

He turns and walks away, a cold expression on his face. Yoko watches him leave.

INT. AVERY'S ROOM - BRONTE HOUSE - NIGHT

Avery and Ashley laugh as they watch the **"All About Avery Price: My EVIL ROOMMATE"** video on Ashley's LAPTOP.

AVERY

This is funny! You're talented. Where'd you find these clips, you stalker?!

ASHLEY

They're everywhere. You're easy to track. My audience can't get enough of you. Or your hot brother.

Avery gives her a creeped out look. Ashley raises her hands in mock submission.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

For the record, I'm out of the Felix and Avery business. R.I.P., Fave.

AVERY

Thank you. I feel bad for your fans though. I'm so compelling.

ASHLEY

Subscribers. I don't use the F
word.

Ashley gets up to grab a BOTTLE OF WATER from the MINI-
FRIDGE.

Avery scrolls through the video with the MOUSE. There's
footage of the entire Price family on the campaign trail.

AVERY

I mean, it's mean, but I look
great. Do you have these stored?

ASHLEY

Yeah they're logged by source. CNN,
NBC, randoms with phone footage,
Fox News--

AVERY

Oof. I'm sorry you subjected
yourself to that.

Suddenly something catches her eye.

AVERY (CONT'D)

Wait. What was that?

She rewinds the footage to a clip of she and Felix shaking
hands with the public. She peers at it closely.

In the clip, a MALE STRANGER whose face isn't entirely
visible, slips an ENVELOPE into Felix's hand. For a brief
moment it looks like Felix and the man make EYE CONTACT.
Felix sticks the envelope in his COAT POCKET.

Avery pauses the video.

AVERY (CONT'D)

Can you tell me when and where this
clip was shot?

ASHLEY

Yeah...

Ashley crossed back over to Avery and the laptop. She clicks
a few buttons and pulls up her CLIP SOURCE LOG in her EDITING
SOFTWARE.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

This was CNN footage in Washington,
D.C. on October 6...

AVERY

Two weeks before my mother ended
her Presidential campaign.

Avery rewinds the video a few frames to Felix taking the envelope and making eye contact with the man. She FREEZES the video on this moment.

AVERY (CONT'D)

(mutters to herself)

Felix, what are you up to?

EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT

Felix stands under a street lamp in the courtyard.

Olivia arrives.

OLIVIA

We can't meet up like this. It's
after curfew, we'll get in trouble.

FELIX

I know. I'm sorry.

Olivia shivers. Felix rubs her arms to warm her.

FELIX (CONT'D)

You okay?

OLIVIA

I'm fine.

He doesn't look convinced.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I will be. We've just gotta keep
our distance. Avery--

FELIX

She doesn't know anything.

OLIVIA

I know. She's bluffing. Pretending
like she knows what happened, but
she's got no idea.

FELIX

It's gotta stay that way.

Olivia nods.

OLIVIA
I hate lying to her.

FELIX
Me too.

OLIVIA
I'm sorry.

FELIX
It's not your fault. It's my fault.

OLIVIA
It's our fault.

A beat.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
It doesn't matter. This just has to
end. It can't go any further.

FELIX
No one else can know. No one can
know what we did that cost my mom
the election.

Their eyes lock. We pull out from the pair standing silent
under the street lamp in the cold New England night.

END OF PILOT