

9
NED
DAVE

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NED. (*Entering with urgency:*) Let's go, Dave.

DAVE. What—?

NED. Let's go. Is there a back exit? Is there a secret passageway? (*Seeing it:*) We can sneak out the balcony! We can jump off the balcony. Let's jump off the balcony, Dave.

DAVE. Ned—

NED. I can't go on with this. I, I don't even know what I've done. I was just trying to, I just wanted to keep my job. I wanted to be allowed to do my job. So I—god—I made a pact with the Devil.

DAVE. (*Feeling guilty of that, too:*) Yeah.

NED. I signed the Devil's book. I followed his instructions. I went on television and pretended I was an extra on *Hee-Haw*. I told the world I was a brainless, vacant man with no idea how to be Governor. And they believed me. Did Paige show you my results, from the focus groups?

DAVE. No—

NED. The public is convinced, Dave; they're absolutely convinced I'm an idiot. And they're okay with that. And they're okay with Lulu, who's very sweet, but knows nothing about government. They're okay with two people who know nothing about government running the government. And I did that. And what's *worse*: Paige told me that people... (*It's painful:*) that people liked Lulu more than they liked me, because they thought she was just as ignorant as I was, but she had more enthusiasm. They thought I was stupid, Dave. But that I wasn't happy about it.

DAVE. Ned.

NED. How do you... ? Where do you go from there? (*Beat. The worst thing of all:*) And *now* they want me to *campaign* for her.

DAVE. I know.

NED. Actually get her *elected*. As Lieutenant Governor. Which means, if I ever die, she becomes Governor. Which means... I can never die.

DAVE. I don't think that's what it means.

NED. I want to die, Dave.

DAVE. You don't want to die.

NED. I want to at least have the option. *(Beat.)* My god. Why the hell did we ever get involved in politics?

DAVE. That's a good question. *(Realizing:)* Actually, that is a good question. *(Not having a bright idea yet—just wondering why NED picked this masochistic profession.)* Why did you? Why did you go into politics?

NED. *(Beat. A simple hope, but spoken by someone who believes his opportunity to realize it has passed:)* Because I believed that... government, when... when it worked right... could do something good.