

SCANDAL

"¿Y Tu, Livvie, También?"

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

OLIVIA POPE uses a laser pointer to evince a county-by-county map of Ohio. She's watched by a menagerie of White House staff, including PRESIDENT FITZGERALD GRANT and CYRUS BEENE.

OLIVIA

You're down a bit in Cuyahoga County. Numbers are still strong in Franklin and Montgomery. Some more slippage in Hamilton. Whether or not this becomes a trend --

CYRUS

Why does it matter? We've got another four. Fitz never has to hit the trail again.

OLIVIA

Midterms, Cyrus.

FITZ

And I don't want to be a lame duck.

CYRUS

Every second-termer is a lame duck.

FITZ

I want this to matter. Everything we do, from this point forward -- it has to matter.

Cyrus locks his eyes on Fitz's face, nods his head.

OLIVIA

It will.

CYRUS

So how do we keep the base, without alienating Indies?

OLIVIA

Team up with Williamson and Hutchens. Polar opposites on most things, but not on outsourcing.

FITZ

So we push initiatives to bring jobs home. Get our congressional candidates on-board.

OLIVIA
Beef up tax breaks, promote trade reform, extend visas, create grants for research and development.

FITZ
Basically, "re-shoring."

OLIVIA
It's a safe platform, and if you make it part of the national lexicon it'll be hard for special interests to stonewall.

Olivia's cell phone RINGS. She glances at the Caller I.D. -- "EDISON DAVIS"

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Let's break for lunch. Then we'll put together a hit list.

Olivia strides out into:

THE HALLWAY

She answers her phone:

OLIVIA
Edison.

EXT. ARLINGTON CEMETARY - SAME

EDISON DAVIS, in formal attire, stands at the edge of a military funeral. He speaks on his cell phone, UNIFORMED ATTENDEES in the b.g.

EDISON
Liv. We need to talk.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

OLIVIA
Not mincing words, I see. I'm in the middle of something.

EDISON
This is usually the time you eat lunch, isn't it?

Olivia rolls her eyes, composes herself.

OLIVIA
How long will it take?

EDISON
How long do you have?

OLIVIA
I'll give you fifteen. Tell me
where.

EDISON
I'm just finishing up a burial at
Arlington.

OLIVIA
I'll meet you halfway.

END INTERCUT

She hangs up, takes a fleeting glance back at Fitz -- who's
now chatting with Cyrus.

EXT. NATIONAL MALL - TEN MINUTES LATER

Edison waits in front of the VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL, each
hand holding a hot dog. As Olivia approaches him from the
northeast, he offers one to her -- which she accepts.

EDISON
Extra mustard, no ketchup. Just
the way you like it.

OLIVIA
You've got a job for us?

EDISON
Am I that transparent?

OLIVIA
You wouldn't have pulled me away
from Fitz if it wasn't urgent.

Edison shows her an iPhone photo: A HISPANIC WOMAN (late-
forties), posing for a desk-shot in her power suit.

EDISON
I assume you know who Scarlett
Santiago is.

OLIVIA
Former San Antonio mayor. Running
for Ellsbeck's seat in the Twenty-
Third. What did she do?

EDISON
Gave birth to a little brat.

OLIVIA
I'm sorry?

EDISON
Her daughter, Kaitlin. Loves to
dish it out online.
(beat)
The academy's principal has
received complaints from one
student's parents. He's been
taunted via the Internet, just
because he's homosexual.

OLIVIA
And she's going to torpedo Mommy's
chances at becoming a
congresswoman. Terrible.

She takes a bite out of her hot dog.

EDISON
So you see why Kaitlin's parents
want to keep this under wraps. Can
we count on you?

OLIVIA
Fitz has me running tri-weekly
strategy sessions.

EDISON
Remember the Buccaneers, Liv?
Never bet against Keyshawn.

OLIVIA
Hey, I love my Raiders. So now
you're collecting.

EDISON
You said any client, any case -- as
long as it doesn't involve murder.

Olivia holds her hot dog to her mouth, positions it...

OLIVIA
Send 'em in.

...and licks a glob of mustard off the bun.

ROLL OPENING TITLE SEQUENCE

ACT ONE

INT. POPE & ASSOCIATES CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Olivia stands at one end of a conference table. She's flanked by ABBY and HUCK, both of whom are seated. Edison sits across from them, alongside Olivia's newest clients.

OLIVIA

You've been a very, very bad girl.

KAITLIN SANTIAGO (15) -- Latina, dressed in trendy clothes -- slouches, arms folded; she looks as though she'd rather be anywhere else. Olivia's gaze, however, is focused to Kaitlin's left.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

But we'll get to that. First, we need to deal with your daughter.

SCARLETT SANTIAGO, who sits to the left of her daughter -- and looks even more striking in person than in her campaign photo -- radiates indignation.

SCARLETT

Wait, are you saying it's my fault she's running amuck in cyberspace?

OLIVIA

Uh, yes. You're competing for a federal office. Anything done by your children, your priest, your neighbors -- all of it is a reflection on you.

SCARLETT

What do you want me to do... implant a video camera in my daughter's skull?

Scarlett's husband, MARK -- Latino (late-forties), professional attire -- turns to Edison.

MARK

Ms. Pope is supposed to be working for us... not assassinating my wife's character.

EDISON

Olivia's the best in town, Mark. Trust me on that.

SCARLETT

She's also a registered Republican.

EDISON

Money isn't red or blue, Scarlett.
You need her.

OLIVIA

Great. Then we're all in
agreement.

(redirects)

Kaitlin. What happened with this
kid?

KAITLIN

Nothing! We were just joking with
him about his clothes.

OLIVIA

What do you have against his
clothes?

KAITLIN

They're fruity.

SCARLETT

Kaitlin!

KAITLIN

Everything Gabeen wears is pink and
red. And you can tell from his
voice that he's gay. He's on the
skating team. It's funny to
watch... he's a walking cartoon.

ABBY

Is that why you "anonymously"
started this page on Facebook?

Abby turns her laptop toward Kaitlin, displays a FACEBOOK
PAGE on the browser:

"QUEEN GABEEN"

A photo of a student, GABEEN FAZIL (15) -- Middle Eastern,
soft and petite features for a male. He poses for the
camera, garish and animated; his wardrobe is bold and
colorful.

Several POSTS and MESSAGES, many of them mean-spirited, line
the page from top to bottom.

KAITLIN

How did you -- ?

HUCK

I know how to do magical things
with CPUs and FourSquare.

KAITLIN

Fine. We'll take it down.

SCARLETT

You started a website about him?

KAITLIN

No one was supposed to find out it
was us.

MARK

Well, they did.

HUCK

Everything you create on the
Internet can be traced back to you.
I'm guessing Gabeen or his parents
know someone who was able to track
IP addresses.

KAITLIN

Why's this such a big deal?

SCARLETT

I'm a candidate for the House of
Representatives! That boy's
lifestyle is all the media will
ever ask me about.

KAITLIN

Well, sorry for ruining your life,
Mom! It's not like you even care
about mine!

Kaitlin gets up, storms out. Scarlett rises, calls out:

SCARLETT

Get back here, young lady!

Scarlett slumps down into her chair. Mark addresses Olivia:

MARK

Can you make this go away?

OLIVIA

Possibly. But we're going to need
your daughter's cooperation.

Mark looks at his wife... who buries her forehead in one
palm.

INT. POPE & ASSOCIATES BULL PEN - HALF AN HOUR LATER

Olivia and Abby review a media kit with Scarlett -- dossiers of pundits, journalists, activists, and lobbyists.

"EVERYBODY WANTS TO RULE THE WORLD" by Tears For Fears PLAYS OVER the next four scenes as a MUSICAL MONTAGE.

OLIVIA

We'll beat the Talking Heads to the punch. If they catch wind of this, it's going to be Carrie Prejean all over again.

ABBY

Except with an actual seat in Congress at stake.

SCARLETT

I'm fully aware of the stakes. I have to keep the gays happy -- and the NRA, and the tree-huggers, and the holy rollers. If I say what I really think, I risk pissing off another delegation.

OLIVIA

Too bad, so sad.
(pointedly)
How many party chairs and trial attorneys would kill for the chance you're getting?

SCARLETT

So what do you suggest?

OLIVIA

Reach out to GLAAD, the HRC, GPAC. Do photo-ops. Make some speeches on tolerance.

SCARLETT

Won't that appear a little... I don't know... opportunistic?

OLIVIA

Better to be seen as a backslapper than someone who spawned a demon seed.

MARK

If that's how you really feel, then why are you even working with us?

OLIVIA
Edison didn't tell you I lost a
bet?

They don't look amused. Olivia turns completely serious.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
Kaitlin made a mistake. But that
doesn't warrant pitchforks and
torches. She is, after all, still
just a child.

SCARLETT
Has anyone ever told you how you're
going to make such a kind and
nurturing mother someday?

OLIVIA
My ovaries can hardly wait.

The two women give each other Looks of mutual guile.

INT. OLIVIA'S OFFICE - LATER

QUINN slaps a stack of teen magazines in front of Kaitlin,
while Kaitlin's parents look on. Olivia scrolls through the
screen on her iPhone.

QUINN
Start reading.

KAITLIN
What are these?

OLIVIA
(not looking up)
All the latest magazines people
your age are supposed to enjoy.
Pick three. You're going
Hollywood, kid.

KAITLIN
Huh?

QUINN
If the press catches you mingling
with Young Hollywood, it ups your
coolness factor. That, in turn,
renders your mother cool.

SCARLETT
I like it.

KAITLIN

I don't. Do you know how lame
that'll make me look?

OLIVIA

(looking up)

No more lame than you do right now.

She displays her iPhone, so the Santiagos can see. A tabloid
headline:

"CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE'S DAUGHTER A BIGOT?"

A split-screen image of Kaitlin and Scarlett... and rather
unflattering shots of them, at that.

MARK

How did they find out?

OLIVIA

Gabeen got to them before we did.

KAITLIN

I look horrible in that picture.

Scarlett shakes her head, dumbfounded. Olivia just closes
her eyes in exasperation.

INT. OLIVIA POPE & ASSOCIATES CORRIDOR - LATER - WALKING

Olivia finishes up a phone conversation, as Abby strolls
alongside her -- carrying a carton of Chinese food.

OLIVIA

Great. I'll be expecting to hear
from her before the show goes live.

Olivia ends the call. Abby lifts some chopsticks filled with
golden egg noodles and crab chunks, aims them toward Olivia's
mouth.

ABBY

More *yi mein*?

OLIVIA

Don't mind if I do.

As Olivia takes another bite, her phone RINGS. She answers
it:

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Olivia Pope.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - SAME - WALKING

Cyrus struts down a stately corridor, accompanied by STAFFERS.

CYRUS

Liv, the president needs to talk to you.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

OLIVIA

I already told you, Cyrus. I'm not your full-time spin doctor anymore.

CYRUS

Olivia --

OLIVIA

I have other clients. None of them are Head of State, but they still have important lives.

CYRUS

I'm sure they do.

OLIVIA

I emailed Lauren a follow-up memo with more talking points, and a sample itinerary.

CYRUS

Fitz just wants another sit-down. A chance to --

OLIVIA

Bye, Cyrus.

She hangs up the phone, as Abby feeds her another mouthful of crab and noodles.

INT. POPE & ASSOCIATES BULL PEN - LATER

Huck types at his computer, pulls up Gabeen's online HIGH SCHOOL RECORDS.

OLIVIA

What's this guy's story?

HUCK

Way ahead of you, Liv. No disciplinary actions, 3.4 GPA, serves on Crestwood Academy's student council.

(MORE)

HUCK (CONT'D)
 Family background is clean too. No skeletons to speak of.

OLIVIA
 Everyone has skeletons. Even high schoolers.

HUCK
 Not this one.

OLIVIA
 Dig deeper. Find some.

As she heads toward the adjoining office, Abby blocks her path.

ABBY
 What did you just say to the Santiagos about their daughter?

OLIVIA
 I don't know, Abby. Remind me.

ABBY
 Gabeen. He's just a child, too.

OLIVIA
 A child who's living in the wrong town.

Olivia makes her way around Abby, who sighs.

END MUSICAL MONTAGE

INT. OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

Fitz stares at a PHOTO of him and his late son, Jerry, on a fishing trip. He sips from a mug of coffee, solemn.

Cyrus sets down a plate of peanut butter crackers. Takes a seat next to his boss and friend -- a cup of tea in hand.

CYRUS
 Peanut butter makes everything better.

FITZ
 Thanks, Cyrus. But I'm not hungry.

CYRUS
 Suit yourself. If you change your mind...

Cyrus pops a cracker into his mouth. He notices Fitz staring longingly at the image of his deceased offspring.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

If something ever happened to Ella... I don't know what I'd do.

FITZ

I wouldn't wish it on anyone. Not on Sally, not on Reston...

CYRUS

That's the one wish James always had... that our daughter would outlive us both. A parent should never have to lose their child. Never.

Fitz doesn't respond. A solitary tear forms as he continues staring at the photo.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

You've heard about the Santiago girl? Her cyber-bullying fiasco?

FITZ

Louise briefed me. I'd hate to be her mother right now.

CYRUS

We have an opportunity here.

FITZ

Not today. Let it play out. It's not my job to teach other people's children a lesson.

CYRUS

Fitz... that's one more seat the Dems could flip. If we're going to control the House --

FITZ

Not today, Cyrus.

Cyrus backs off, sips from his cup of tea.

CYRUS

I just thought you'd want to know... Liv is taking the Santiago case.

Fitz looks up; all color leaves his face.

CYRUS (CONT'D)

Ethan found out... through the rumor mill at the capitol gym.

(beat)

You don't want to drag her family through the mud. I get that. But if you do speak out, think of the dialogue we'd start. Think of all the LGBT youth we'd be helping.

FITZ

I think I will have some of that peanut butter now.

Fitz picks up a cracker, slowly brings it to his lips.

INT. OLIVIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Olivia checks out one digital image after another on a camera phone. They depict:

A giant "LETTER K," etched across a glass window pane in red; miniature X's dot each corner of the Letter K.

She hands Kaitlin's camera phone back to her. Scarlett and Mark appear distraught.

OLIVIA

Do you have any idea who did this?

KAITLIN

No. It was there when I woke up this morning.

SCARLETT

How would they even know which bedroom was hers?

OLIVIA

You don't exactly live in a gated community. Anyone could have been observing your house.

MARK

It's Glover Park. Things like this aren't supposed to happen there. When we relocated to D.C. last year, my partners at the firm told me it's a safe place to raise children.

KAITLIN

Does that mean somebody's watching me while I sleep?

OLIVIA

Well, it's clear you can't be alone there. At least, not right now.

She calls out into the bull pen:

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Huck! Quinn!

Huck and Quinn join them in Olivia's office.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Kaitlin, my friends are going to escort you wherever you go. They'll attend your classes. Stay with you at night.

KAITLIN

Great. Babysitters.

HUCK

Don't worry. We'll buy you plenty of candy and soda.

SCARLETT

How am I supposed to campaign when I'm worried about my daughter's safety?

OLIVIA

Quinn, why don't you take Kaitlin for some breakfast. Huck, call her teachers so she can get a head start on her homework for tomorrow.

Quinn and Huck usher Kaitlin out of the office. Olivia faces the distraught parents.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

If I were you, Madame Mayor, I'd focus a little less on the poll numbers and a little more on your child's emotions.

MARK

We hired you to save this race for us. Polling is a part of that.

SCARLETT

(to Olivia)

You think I'm a bad mother, don't you? You think I don't care what happens to my children?

OLIVIA

I think --

SCARLETT

Well, I do care. I'm doing this for them.

OLIVIA

I think you need to be prepared for the likelihood that your opponent might be willing to drag Kaitlin into the mud along with you.

MARK

Gaby has children of her own. She wouldn't do that.

OLIVIA

Don't be too sure.

Abby pokes her head into the office.

ABBY

Liv. President Fitzgerald is on the phone for you.

OLIVIA

Pardon me.

She excuses herself into:

THE BULL PEN

Olivia takes the phone from Abby, speaks into it:

OLIVIA

Mr. President.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - SAME

Fitz sits at his desk, wears fresh clothing.

FITZ

Livvie... the Santiago campaign?
Really?

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

Olivia paces around the room, focused on the president's words.

OLIVIA

It's just business.

FITZ

You know that De La Rosa's my horse.

OLIVIA

Santiago's raising a teenage girl who got in over her head. It's not just this one House seat... it's a family's life we're talking about here.

FITZ

Then perhaps Mayor Scarlett should have considered that before she subjected her loved ones to the Georgetown meat grinder.

OLIVIA

Fitz, I'm cleaning.

FITZ

Edison Davis put you up to this, didn't he?

OLIVIA

He's a close friend of the Santiago family.

FITZ

You don't think I already knew that? He's trying to prevent another Jenny Nystrom incident. Who else is he going to call?

OLIVIA

I already told you, it's just business.

FITZ

And bullying a classmate for being gay? Hardly becoming of a Democratic candidate's offspring. Even when said Democrat is running in Texas.

OLIVIA

It's more complicated than that. And you should know how complicated life gets.

FITZ

Jerry had a gay friend.

Olivia stops in her tracks; she's speechless.

FITZ (CONT'D)

From school. I met him, several times. Personable, intelligent, down-to-earth. An upstanding young man. We had a few spirited debates about the issues... but he was a good buddy to my son. Jerry would have fought tooth-and-nail to defend him against such bigotry.

OLIVIA

Kaitlin Santiago is not a bigot!
(recomposes)
Fitz, I know your loss has been terrible. But this is a gray area.

FITZ

Well here's what's not so gray,
Livvie: keep working on this case,
and you're out.

Olivia looks constrained... and a little baffled.

OLIVIA

I'm out? What does that mean?

FITZ

You're out of the Oval Office.
You're out of the Red Phone Tree.
(beat)
And you'll be out of my daily life.
That includes nights.

Olivia closes her eyes, inhales.

OLIVIA

You do what you need to do. In the meantime, I've got to prevent some lives from being destroyed.

Olivia hangs up on him. Fitz appears flabbergasted.

END INTERCUT

Olivia gazes through the glass partition, watches a dejected Kaitlin follow Quinn and Huck into the elevator.

Sympathy lingers in Liv's eyes.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. POPE & ASSOCIATES OFFICES - DAY

Olivia brings in two baskets of sandwiches and pita chips.
Abby sits in front of a computer,

OLIVIA
What did you find?

ABBY
Huck looked up Gabeen's instant messaging handle before he and Quinn left. Gabeen posts at a LGBT forum for teens... goes by "TastyCake98."

OLIVIA
Not exactly a wallflower, is he?
So what kind of trail has he left?

ABBY
Apparently, the other teens at this message board don't know his true identity. Check out what his screen name is stirring up.

OLIVIA
(reads)
"Look at that bitch's brat of a daughter, trying to malign some poor gay Arab kid. And her mother is too cowardly to support marriage equality or adoption for same-sex couples. Do we really want that sleazy ho infiltrating the progressive caucus? This is what happens when straights breed too much. Only in Texas, huh? LOL"

She gazes farther down the webpage.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
And then he posts a hyperlink to one of the many dignified outlets covering this breaking news story.

ABBY
He knows what he's doing. Look at all the responses generated by his initial post.

OLIVIA

It's deliberate. He mixes formal vocabulary with teen slang. Being pointed while speaking the language of his peers.

ABBY

A rabble-rouser with a brain.

OLIVIA

I hope you're ready to eat and run.

ABBY

Why? Where are we going?

OLIVIA

Back to school.

Olivia dunks one of her chips in a mini-container of hummus.

EXT. CRESTWOOD ACADEMY - A FEW HOURS LATER

Abby watches the main exit like a hawk. Olivia stands next to her, checks her watch.

ABBY

Show me the picture again.

Olivia unfolds a color printout of GABEEN FAZIL.

OLIVIA

It's a lily-white student body.
Shouldn't be too hard to spot him.

The dismissal bell RINGS. As STUDENTS pour from the school's exit, hustle out of the building -- Olivia and Abby scan the crowd.

GABEEN FAZIL -- even more adorable than in his picture -- scampers down the steps. He says goodbye to some FRIENDS.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Move in.

Olivia and Abby make a beeline for the adolescent, wait until he's walking alone. Almost immediately, they sandwich him.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Gabeen?

GABEEN

Who are you?

ABBY
Just a couple of "sleazy hoes."

GABEEN
Is this some kind of joke?

OLIVIA
I'm not in a very comical mood
today... "TastyCake98."

Gabeen stops in his tracks. Busted.

GABEEN
I -- I don't know what you're
talking about.

OLIVIA
Save it. We know you've been
talking smack about Kaitlin
Santiago's mama. The congressional
candidate who opposes same-sex
marriage and gay adoption.

GABEEN
How did you -- ?

ABBY
We're very good at what we do.

OLIVIA
Whoever put you up to this is not
on your side, Gabeen.

Gabeen looks away... but Olivia grabs ahold of him -- gently
but firmly -- and forces the teen to face her.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
You need to stop this right now. I
know that people your age are all
about youthful indiscretions and
adolescent debauchery. But you're
playing with a very dangerous game
of fire. It's the same game played
by hackers and embezzlers and
assassins and terrorists.

GABEEN
Are you calling me a terrorist?

OLIVIA
You know I'm not. And you
definitely won't like getting in
the ring with us.

(MORE)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Did you know that the Ancient Romans would stab a losing gladiator with a trident, and the whims of their bemused crowd determined whether he'd be granted mercy -- or have his entrails yanked out like spaghetti from a pasta platter. Well, buddy, you do not want to become the spaghetti in our pasta platter.

(enunciates)

That's why you need to stop this right now.

GABEEN

Leave me alone!

He breaks away from them, sprints toward the buses. Abby looks at Olivia, as though to say "Nice going."

INT. WHITE HOUSE BEDROOM - DUSK

Fitz takes off his suit jacket. As he rolls up the sleeves of his dress shirt, MELLIE comes in behind him.

MELLIE

Fitz?

FITZ

Mellie, please. I've had a long day, and I need a break. Cyrus has scheduled a teleconference with the Laotian Prime Minister in a few hours --

MELLIE

Then you should release some of that tension.

She begins to massage his shoulders. Fitz extracts his wife's hands from his body -- and, with firmness, places them down by Mellie's sides.

FITZ

I'm assuming you came in here to chat about Santiago.

MELLIE

The more she hems and haws...

FITZ

...the worse she'll make herself look. All on her own. I'm not going after her.

MELLIE

Don't you want Gaby to keep that seat for us?

FITZ

Of course I do. And I'm confident she will.

MELLIE

That stupid kid will get over it. I'm sure Monica Lewinsky has, by now.

FITZ

I'm not going to be responsible for bringing two teenagers into this cesspool of a world we've chosen to involve ourselves in. Life will throw plenty of other cruel surprises in front of them.

MELLIE

You mean like how Austin lost one of his best friends. Our son.

Fitz gives her a cold, hard stare.

FITZ

Don't even go there, Mellie.

MELLIE

Jerry was a major ally to the gays. And you've gotten more of their support than any other Republican president in history. It's what he would want.

Her words only incite additional flinches from the president.

FITZ

Too soon. Leave him out of this.

MELLIE

Olivia Pope is working for them, you know. Cyrus told me.

She's going too far...

FITZ

Olivia is irrelevant to this discussion.

MELLIE

Oh, you'd like that to be the case, wouldn't you? But you brought her into our lives. And even though you say it's over, she's still finding ways to cripple your legacy.

FITZ

Yeah, because Livvie's the one who's been screwing my new vice-president for the better half of a decade. Oh, wait... that isn't her, is it?

Mellie faces him, her face flushed with pain.

FITZ (CONT'D)

As far as I'm concerned, during these next four years you are nothing more than a mannequin to me. Do you understand?

(leans in)

Just a mannequin.

He lets those words hover in the air -- then high-tails it out of the bedroom.

Mellie sits on the bed, speechless. Then, she turns around, looks at the night stand...

MELLIE

Bastard.

...and yanks a lamp right out of its outlet. Flings it straight across the room -- where it smashes against the wall into a million pieces.

INT. POPE & ASSOCIATES BULL PEN - NIGHT

Huck and Quinn return to the office, as Olivia and Abby work on their laptops.

HUCK

Kaitlin's having dinner with her parents and younger siblings.

ABBY

The court order for their security detail should arrive within the next day or so.

QUINN

We've got a couple of hours before we have to go back.

OLIVIA

Well, Abby and I got to meet Gabeen Fazil.

ABBY

Ambushed him just as he was getting ready to catch the bus home from school.

HUCK

How'd he react?

OLIVIA

Genuinely shocked that we'd caught him. One of two things is happening here. Either someone assured Gabeen he could get away with being an instigator.

QUINN

What's the second option?

Olivia hesitates.

OLIVIA

He's trying to make a statement. And he thinks he can get away with doing so while hiding behind a faceless screen name on a computer.

QUINN

So let's say he's not acting alone. Who'd be putting him up to it?

OLIVIA

After that Facebook page went up, perhaps someone in the De La Garza campaign offered him a treat. Told Gabeen that if he helped to bait their opponent's daughter, there'd be something in it for him.

(beat)

Maybe they even approached him anonymously.

Huck sits down at his computer, logs in.

HUCK

But how would they have known
Gabeen was being picked on in the
first place?

OLIVIA

Good question.

Pulls out a dossier with a PHOTO of GABRIELE DE LA GARZA
(late-thirties) -- Hispanic, borderline glamorous.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Gabriele De La Garza. Mayor Pro-
Tem of the Pecos City Council...
overseeing a tiny city of barely
nine-thousand. Knew she couldn't
primary out Mike Garber in the
Eleventh, so she targets the
adjacent district. Howard Ellsbeck
is awaiting trial, so he can't
really endorse her to be his
successor.

QUINN

She needs all the help she can get.

ABBY

But she's got decent ties with the
Tea Party and establishment
conservatives.

OLIVIA

De La Garza still has to impress
swing voters. We've been vetting
Crestwood's student body... did you
know that nearly forty percent of
its enrollment consists of families
with ties to businesses and
politicians based in Texas?

QUINN

So Crestwood must have its very own
Deep Throat lurking in that high
school locker room.

Olivia and Abby both give her a Look.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Sorry. That came out a lot
raunchier than I intended.

HUCK

Um, Liv... I think you're going to
want to see this.

Olivia peers over his shoulder.

HUCK (CONT'D)

I finally got linked to this Arab boy's medical records. A friend of a friend hooked me up. Look at what he's been seeing the doctor for.

Huck scrolls down the screen. Olivia sees various electronic documents stored in a database. They pertain to:

PREPARATION FOR EVENTUAL ELECTROLYSIS

SESSIONS WITH A GENDER THERAPIST

OLIVIA

Oh, God.

She looks at her colleagues.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

This Arab boy is really an Arab girl.

They gaze at a scanned...

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION -- it advocates Hormone Replacement Therapy for Gabeen Fazil.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. OLIVIA'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

Olivia stands in front of the mirror, clad in her bathrobe. Just as she finishes blow-drying her dampened hair...

Her phone RINGS. Caller I.D. says "ABBY"

OLIVIA
Talk to me, Abby.

INT. DAVID ROSEN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - SAME

Abby covers herself with only a bedsheet. She whispers:

ABBY
David's decided to play.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

OLIVIA
What are you talking about?

ABBY
He left extra-early this morning. While David was in the shower, I peeked at his SmartPhone.

OLIVIA
Nice to see how much trust exists in your relationship.

ABBY
He was asking a lot of questions about the Santiagos last night. He'd been browsing through some Justice Department pages of court cases. Prosecuting minors.

OLIVIA
Oh, crap.

ABBY
He's planning on taking down Kaitlin.

OLIVIA
I'll be at the office within the hour. But, Abby, one question...

ABBY
Yes?

OLIVIA
 (whispers, pointedly)
 If David's gone, why are you
 whispering?

ABBY
 (keeps whispering)
 I don't --
 (regular tone)
 I don't know.

END INTERCUT

Olivia ends the call. Then, takes a good look at herself in the mirror.

INT. ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - A COUPLE HOURS LATER

Olivia appears in the doorway of DAVID ROSEN's office. David looks up, papers scattered all over his desk.

OLIVIA
 She's not even eighteen yet.

DAVID
 Nice to see you too, Olivia.

OLIVIA
 You can't rip apart the world of a
 minor like this.

DAVID
Harkey vs. LaPlante says otherwise.

OLIVIA
 That involved a middle school drug
 ring. This is totally different.

DAVID
 No, it isn't. If an up-and-coming
 politician's daughter is prosecuted
 in federal court for cyber-
 bullying, it means we, as a
 country, are taking a stand against
 shameful behavior. We're rejecting
 the lax attitudes toward allowing
 juvenile miscreants to hide behind
 the anonymity of the Information
 Superhighway in their systematic
 efforts to terrorize others. We're
 forcing even the Washington elite
 to be held accountable for
 intimidation.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

And it means we are endorsing justice for the LGBT community.

OLIVIA

Then request that Kaitlin Santiago make restitution. But get one of your associates to settle it out of court. Don't drag her mother into the fray.

DAVID

Her mother's already in the fray. And when something like this gets placed front-and-center in the national headlines, it will force our president to weigh in.

OLIVIA

So you're exploiting a misguided adolescent woman -- making a public example out of her -- all to further a political agenda?

DAVID

That's what I'm doing. Anything else?

OLIVIA

You need to pay more attention to your girlfriend's needs.

Olivia storms away. David harbors a thoughtful gaze.

INT. POPE & ASSOCIATES CONFERENCE ROOM - A FEW HOURS LATER

Olivia sits at a roundtable with the Santiagos, Abby, Quinn, and Huck. DARK-SUITED SECURITY PERSONNEL stand outside the glass walls.

OLIVIA

I see your security team came through.

MARK

They're good.

KAITLIN

They're annoying.

QUINN

It's for your own protection. There are a lot of wackos out there.

OLIVIA

Overnight polls have been pretty discouraging. You've dropped ten points among likely voters in your district.

SCARLETT

I don't understand. Why is this Rosen-character so hell-bent on targeting us?

OLIVIA

It's a cost-benefit analysis. Even if the GOP keeps that seat, Rosen feels a sense of justice will have been achieved by letting Kaitlin take the fall.

Kaitlin appears terrified.

KAITLIN

Am I going to jail?

SCARLETT

No, *mija*. You're not.
(to Olivia)

You said something earlier about the Fazil boy being used as a pawn.

OLIVIA

Edison Davis has been feuding with Ellsbeck ever since they served in the House together. Hollis Doyle resents the fact that Edison now controls the Senate. And Edison is pissed that Doyle's the one grooming De La Garza -- not to mention the shadow support which Ellsbeck has provided them with.

Scarlett runs some fingers through her bangs.

SCARLETT

But Ellsbeck's hated by everyone now. Shouldn't his support be hurting De La Garza?

OLIVIA

Not necessarily. There's nothing illegal about working behind-the-scenes to line up endorsements, or clearing the primary field.

HUCK

Ellsbeck might be headed to the penitentiary... but he's still got pull.

OLIVIA

And now, playing the race card is just icing on top.

MARK

How can it be racially motivated? Scarlett's running against another Latina.

OLIVIA

Yes, but De La Garza brought down a black mayor.

Scarlett shakes her head, still not getting it.

SCARLETT

A corrupt black mayor -- and that should only hurt her with African-Americans.

OLIVIA

When that corrupt black mayor was also a Democrat, it hurts you.

QUINN

(to Scarlett)

And what better way for De La Garza to take the heat off herself than by linking you to controversy with a transgender Arab-American teenager?

Olivia sharply glares at Quinn, who turns sheepish.

SCARLETT

Wait... Gabeen is transgender?

(to Kaitlin)

Did you know that?

KAITLIN

You mean he's a cross-dresser?

QUINN

No. The transgender community is comprised of both transvestites...

OLIVIA

Those are the cross-dressers.

QUINN

...and transsexuals -- people who were biologically born in the wrong body, and will only feel truly comfortable by having gender reassignment surgery.

MARK

So if Gaby's involved, she's decided to shake up the liberal base. Make waves.

SCARLETT

Waves that might submerge us.

OLIVIA

She also lacks name recognition. Yes, she took on the Good Ole Boys' Club -- but her constituency is one-hundred-and-fifty-times smaller than yours. She needs every advantage she can get.

HUCK

Hence her recent endorsement from Senator Martinez.

Abby's eyes remain glued to her laptop.

ABBY

We've got bigger problems than that.

SCARLETT

I don't see how. Martinez is popular among women... a group with which I hold double-digit leads over Gaby.

ABBY

That's not what I'm talking about. The blogosphere is buzzing about this. Every major news outlet is gearing up to crucify Kaitlin.

Kaitlin buries her head in her arms... just as her text-messaging BEEPS. She comes up for air, checks it.

SCARLETT

Kaitlin, what did I say about texting when we're with Ms. Pope?

Kaitlin's face turns white. She drops her cell phone, appearing sick to her stomach.

MARK

Mija, what's wrong?

Kaitlin doesn't answer. Olivia rises, walks over to the teenager. Confiscates her cell phone. Takes a look at the text.

OLIVIA

Not good.

She displays a TEXTED IMAGE for Scarlett and Mark to see.

A photoshopped IMAGE of Kaitlin, embedded within the body of the text message... and a bloody dagger has been digitally impaled straight through the girl's neck.

The caption underneath reads, in blood-splotched letters:

"DIE, BIGOT!"

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. POPE & ASSOCIATES CORRIDOR - CONTINUED

Olivia watches through the glass wall, a faraway look in her eyes...

ON CONFERENCE ROOM

Kaitlin is immersed in an emotional flurry of tears, as her parents try to comfort her.

RESUME OLIVIA

She dials "DAVID ROSEN" on her cell phone; it RINGS -- then goes to VOICEMAIL. Olivia leaves a message:

OLIVIA

David, it's Olivia. Will you at least meet with the Santiagos? No tricks... just honest discussion. Call me back.

She hangs up, resumes her somber observation of the distraught Kaitlin.

INT. WHITE HOUSE PRESS ROOM - HOURS LATER

Fitz makes a speech in front of ASSORTED MEDIA from his podium.

FITZ

All young people have the right to feel safe, both in our schools as well as in the sanctity of their own homes. And it's simply not acceptable when our American youth find themselves harassed by nameless, faceless thugs. Be it ethnicity, gender, religion, or sexual orientation -- our differences as Americans should be respected and celebrated, not objectified and castigated.

(beat)

My late son, Jerry, had several friends who belonged to the LGBT community. I may not always see eye-to-eye with all of them on every issue, but I go out of my way to honor their individuality and character.

(MORE)

FITZ (CONT'D)

I call upon former Mayor Scarlett Santiago to repudiate her daughter's irresponsible actions, and encourage a dialogue that will empower Americans to embrace what makes us all so unique from one another.

INT. OLIVIA'S OFFICE

Olivia watches the president on her TV SCREEN.

OLIVIA

Fitz...

She dials him on her cell phone; it goes to VOICEMAIL. Olivia leaves a message:

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Fitzgerald Grant, you're better than this. Call me back. Immediately.

She slams the phone shut, strides into:

HUCK'S OFFICE

Huck and Abby watch the president's speech through STREAMING VIDEO online.

OLIVIA

So you've seen it?

HUCK

He found an opportunity. Ran with it.

OLIVIA

That was not the man I know. Something else is going on with him.

ABBY

Have you tried talking to Fitz?

OLIVIA

I can't be sure he'll return my call.

ABBY

What about Mellie?

OLIVIA

What about her?

ABBY

Appeal to her hunger for power.
Maybe she can make him see reason?

OLIVIA

I don't know. They're not exactly
on the best of terms...

HUCK

They're pretty much stuck together
until Fitz leaves office. And they
both know it.

Olivia chews on that thought.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST SITTING HALL - LATER

Mellie directs Olivia to lounge upon floral-patterned
furniture of the posh parlor.

MELLIE

As I imagine you can understand,
Fitz isn't able to see you tonight.

OLIVIA

I'm sure he isn't. But you're the
one I wanted to talk with.

MELLIE

Oh? And what can I do for you,
Olivia?

OLIVIA

I just find it slightly
coincidental that President
Fitzgerald would condemn the
Santiago family less than forty-
eight hours after finding out I've
taken them on as clients.

MELLIE

Jerry believed strongly in gay
rights. My husband is honoring our
son's memory.

OLIVIA

Mmm.

She takes a sip of tea.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Let's approach this from a
different angle, Mellie.

MELLIE

Such as?

OLIVIA

Gabeen Fazil -- the student Kaitlin Santiago and her friends bullied -- is transgender.

MELLIE

You know this for a fact?

OLIVIA

I have it on good authority.

MELLIE

So does he... or she... still like boys? Or is she... he... into girls?

OLIVIA

They aren't mutually-exclusive. But I shouldn't have to educate the First Lady on transgender issues.

MELLIE

Mmm.

She sips her own cup of tea.

MELLIE (CONT'D)

So what are you proposing?

OLIVIA

Gabeen is culpable too. He's been trolling against the Santiagos on messageboards -- and yes, we have evidence of that. So you leak it, get your allies to speak out against Gabeen, and we shore up support among Fitz's base in time for the midterms.

MELLIE

And Santiago has a fighting chance in the special election.

OLIVIA

It would've been a tough race, regardless.

Mellie takes a much longer sip from her teacup.

MELLIE

Nope. No sale.

OLIVIA
You don't see the benefit?

MELLIE
Oh, I do. But it'll make my
husband look like a flipflop.

OLIVIA
Which he hasn't already done?

MELLIE
Not in public. Sorry, Olivia --
you hitched your wagon to the wrong
mule. And we've hitched ours.

As Mellie rises, so does Olivia.

MELLIE (CONT'D)
I think we're done here.

OLIVIA
Why did you take this meeting?

MELLIE
I beg your pardon?

OLIVIA
You obviously had your mind made up
before I even opened my mouth. So
why bother to meet with me?

MELLIE
Because...
(leans in)
...I thought it would be
appropriate to deliver the news
myself. How Fitz's original
"flipflop"... was because of you.
Just in case you were still under
any delusions that you and my
husband share common interests.

OLIVIA
And you'd know all about delusions,
wouldn't you, Mellie?

Olivia makes an abrupt exit... leaving Mellie to smirk, amid
another sip of tea.

INT. OLIVIA'S OFFICE - AN HOUR UNTIL DUSK

Olivia stares out her window... the WASHINGTON MONUMENT
towers over the D.C. skyline.

Her cell phone RINGS. Olivia picks it up off her desk, answers it:

OLIVIA

Hello.

INT. DINER - SAME

JAKE BALLARD sits at a booth for one, picks at food from his early-dinner plate.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

JAKE

Liv. I thought I'd check in on you.

OLIVIA

Why?

JAKE

Because I keep up with the news. I've watched this Santiago saga unfold... it must be occupying all of your time.

OLIVIA

How did you know I'm working with Scarlett Santiago?

JAKE

I read the blogs. Look, for what it's worth... I think everyone's being childish. Is there anything I can do... anything?

Olivia sinks into her desk chair.

OLIVIA

Do you still have the president's ear?

JAKE

You want me to try planting some seeds?

OLIVIA

He's letting his son's death cloud his judgment.

JAKE

His son's death... and his frustration toward you.

OLIVIA
That too. But Fitz shouldn't be basing his career moves on personal feelings. Regardless of whether it's grief... or betrayal.

JAKE
I can try. Can't promise it'll work, though. Olivia...
(beat))
I miss you.

OLIVIA
Bye, Jake.

END INTERCUT

She hangs up, smashes her forehead into her fist.

A KNOCK on the door. Olivia looks up, sees Quinn standing in the doorway.

QUINN
Liv, we've got to get down to Rock Creek Memorial. Now.

OLIVIA
What happened?

QUINN
It's Kaitlin.

Olivia leaps to her feet.

INT. ROCK CREEK MEMORIAL - HOSPITAL ROOM - AN HOUR LATER

Olivia and Quinn enter Kaitlin's hospital room. The teenager -- eyes bloodshot and head bandaged -- groggily holds her mother's hand. Mark turns to their visitors.

OLIVIA
How...?

MARK
It was after school. They were walking Kaitlin back to the van... and some punk just came out of nowhere. Hit her with a rock, and took off.

OLIVIA
What did the doctor say?

MARK

A very light concussion,
fortunately. It could have been
worse.

Kaitlin looks up at Scarlett, who holds back tears as her
daughter sheds them.

KAITLIN

Lo siento, Mama...

SCARLETT

(hushes her)
No te preocupes, hija preciosa.

OLIVIA

(to Mark)
Have they caught the perp?

MARK

No. The kid was too fast.

OLIVIA

We're assuming it was a kid.

Mark appears forlorn. Olivia looks back at Quinn, who wears
helplessness on her face.

HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Olivia brings Scarlett some coffee, sits down next to her.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

There were witnesses who saw
Kaitlin get attacked. This could
work to our advantage.

Scarlett merely stares down at the floor.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

You go public as a protective
mother who abhors the senseless
violence committed against your
first-born daughter. Flip the
script on De La Garza's camp, and
then --

SCARLETT

I can't.

OLIVIA

You have to respond. I know it's
painful, but things will only get
worse if you don't.

SCARLETT

I know...

She connects her gaze to Olivia's, voice shaky.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

I think I need to drop out of this
race.

Olivia absorbs the news, constrained. She joins Scarlett in
staring down at the floor.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. POPE & ASSOCIATES CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Olivia sits across the conference table from Gabeen and Gabeen's parents -- her father, MURAT (late-forties), and her mother, SAHIBA (mid-forties). Tension in the room is thick.

OLIVIA

I understand the toll this has taken on your family --

SAHIBA

Do you, Ms. Pope? Because the last time I checked, you represent the entitled little delinquent who started all of this. Who isn't even here with her parents.

OLIVIA

The Santiagos are at the hospital. Kaitlin was attacked earlier... presumably, by someone sympathetic to your daughter's story.

Gabeen shares shocked reactions with her parents. To Olivia:

GABEEN

Who told you?

OLIVIA

We have our sources.

(beat)

And the Santiagos are willing to formally apologize... if Gabeen appears with them, offering Kaitlin a public gesture of forgiveness.

MURAT

Our child is a person, not a prop.

OLIVIA

We understand Gabeen's struggles --

SAHIBA

No, I don't think you do.

Olivia tries to make eye contact with Gabeen, but the teen averts Olivia's gaze.

SAHIBA (CONT'D)

Less-enlightened members of our culture expect gay people to have sex-change operations.

(MORE)

SAHIBA (CONT'D)

They try to coerce or force it...
thinking it will somehow make a
homosexual Arab "normal."

MURAT

Members of my side of the family --
and Sahiba's side -- have stopped
speaking to us altogether.

SAHIBA

It's taken years of therapy to get
our daughter to a point where she
doesn't want to slit her wrists on
a daily basis. Where she actually
has friends, and enjoys activities
at school. Your phony little olive
branch can't erase all of the
heartache that's led up to this
point.

OLIVIA

It's fair to assume we'd be doing
this solely out of self-interest.
But Gabeen's hands aren't clean
either. He...

(corrects herself)

...she has egged on my clients. I
don't think the world would be so
sympathetic if that came out.

MURAT

Are you threatening my daughter?

OLIVIA

No one wants this to become a
mudfight. I'm simply pointing out
how --

GABEEN

She doesn't need to threaten me.

They all look at the adolescent, who locks her eyes onto
Olivia.

GABEEN (CONT'D)

Ms. Pope, do you know what it's
like? Not being able to use a
bathroom or locker room where you
feel comfortable. Not being able
to wear the clothes you like,
because you're scared of what other
people might say or do.

The transgender teen holds back tears.

GABEEN (CONT'D)

When I watch TV or movies, I don't see myself in any characters. And that means no one else does, either. Do you know what it's like to dread finishing school, because you're terrified of the reactions from people who you'll work with someday? And raising kids...

Gabeen is physically shaking, but keeps her voice clear.

GABEEN (CONT'D)

I'm never going to have a "normal" life. That's how this affects me.

(beat)

How does it affect you, Ms. Pope?

Olivia swallows, doesn't take her eyes off this articulate teenager.

OLIVIA

When I was in high school, I had a close friend who was a bully. She mocked one of our classmates -- laughed at her tomboy wardrobe, her so-called "butch" personality, and how she rarely ever socialized with all of us girls.

Gabeen hangs on every word.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Then, one day, things went too far. My friend put her hands on her victim, and it escalated. The student, who we later found out was female-to-male, had to be hospitalized. Broken ribs, fractured jaw, one shoulder fully dislocated with the other halfway there. My friend ended up bruised too... but not nearly as badly.

(beat)

She got expelled. And I never spoke to her again.

GABEEN

Every day, I worry about something like that happening to me.

OLIVIA

And that's when I realized how this "friend" was never truly my friend.

SAHIBA

Why are you telling us this, Ms. Pope?

OLIVIA

You both obviously love your daughter. You give her far more support than many parents in your position would. But Kaitlin Santiago has suffered for her bad judgment.

GABEEN

Not the way I have.

OLIVIA

I don't see why all this suffering has to continue.

(beat)

We're not asking you for an instant commitment, Gabeen. But please... think about it.

Gabeen remains stoic, but nods faintly.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - AN HOUR LATER

Cyrus enters, approaches Fitz -- who's sitting at his desk.

FITZ

Just got off the phone with Jake Ballard. He, in so many words, suggested I back away from the Santiago firestorm.

CYRUS

You think Olivia put him up to it?

FITZ

I know she did.

(beat)

Cyrus, I don't see how I can ignore this. Gaby De La Garza is a rising star in the GOP. And if Scarlett Santiago slides into office, she could steal the middle from us.

CYRUS

So what are you thinking?

FITZ

I hate putting young people in the crossfire. But, after it's gone this far, how can we pass it up?

CYRUS
Sometimes, Fitz, you disgust me.

Fitz goes pale, does a double take.

FITZ
I beg your pardon?

CYRUS
You keep Mellie around, even though she's an unstable bitch. You keep Nichols around, even though he's made you into a fool. You look the other way with Ballard, even though he MURDERED MY HUSBAND.

Fitz is rendered speechless. Cyrus takes a moment, smothers his anger before continuing:

CYRUS (CONT'D)
And you're exploiting my people, in the process.

FITZ
"Your people?"

CYRUS
Trivializing the actions of some ignorant girl who views gay Americans as nothing more than comedic objects. And the fact that you'd even consider tearing apart the life of a young person who's struggled with gender identity for sixteen years...

Shakes his head.

CYRUS (CONT'D)
You're better than that, Fitz.

Cyrus walks out. Fitz rises, makes his way over to a coffee table. Picks up the PHOTO from his and Jerry's fishing trip... and just gazes at it.

INT. POPE & ASSOCIATES CORRIDORS - LATER - WALKING

Olivia strides past her offices, talks on her cell phone:

OLIVIA
So he's not backing down?

INT. VEHICLE - DRIVING - SAME

Jake drives through the streets of D.C., responds via his car phone:

JAKE
Not as far as I could tell. I tried.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

OLIVIA
Yes... yes, you did.

JAKE
I hope it works out.

OLIVIA
I hope so, too.

END INTERCUT

As Olivia hangs up, Huck steps out into the hallway... flags her down.

HUCK
Liv, we've got another problem.

He ducks back into his office. She follows him.

HUCK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Olivia enters, all business.

OLIVIA
Huck, this better be important.
Clock's ticking --

HUCK
I've been monitoring Kaitlin's
Facebook profile. It's gotten
really bad.

OLIVIA
How bad?

HUCK
Hyperlinks galore, all leading to
other sites where people are
bashing on her. It's ugly. Double
extra ugly.
(makes eye contact)
Everyone across the blogosphere is
calling her "Hate-Lin."

Olivia catches a glimpse of Huck's COMPUTER SCREEN -- one nasty message after another.

OLIVIA

I'll call her parents --

HUCK

Kaitlin just posted a goodbye message on her profile. Probably from her hospital room.

(beat)

She's going to take her life, Liv.

Olivia reacts.

POPE & ASSOCIATES CORRIDORS - MOMENTS LATER - RUNNING

Olivia sprints down the hallway, on her cell phone:

OLIVIA

Kaitlin Santiago, Room Four-Twenty-Eight. She's suicidal -- you need to get someone in there... NOW!

Olivia slams her phone shut, runs faster.

INT. ROCK CREEK MEMORIAL - HOSPITAL ROOM - HALF AN HOUR LATER

Olivia dashes into Kaitlin's hospital room. She sees an adjoining bathroom door open, a long shower hose sprawled across the tiles.

A MEDICAL TEAM surrounds Kaitlin, tends to an IV hooked into her arm. The barely-conscious teenager wears an oxygen mask.

Scarlett and Mark Santiago are in tears. They approach Olivia, who's quivering.

SCARLETT

She tried to take her life, in the shower...

Scarlett collapses into her husband's arms, completely loses it.

Olivia herself appears sick to her stomach, almost ready to collapse.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

INT. KAITLIN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Kaitlin wakes up, sees her parents sitting by her side. She reaches out to them; both of them clasp her hands.

The teenager turns... sees Olivia standing there.

OLIVIA

Welcome back. We were worried about you.

KAITLIN

I'm... sorry. For everything.

SCARLETT

Sweetie, if you want me to quit... I'll quit. No political office is worth losing you.

Kaitlin shakes her head.

KAITLIN

I just... want everything... to go back... to the way it was.

MARK

I don't think it ever will.

TEEN VOICE

But we can try... to make it better.

The Santiagos see Gabeen standing in the doorway; her parents shadow her.

OLIVIA

I arranged for a visitor. You two needed to see each other, in person.

Gabeen walks over to Kaitlin's bedside, gazes at her with sympathy.

GABEEN

You really hurt me.

KAITLIN

I... didn't mean to. I... never thought it would... go this far.

GABEEN

None of us did. And I don't think you're a bad person, either.

KAITLIN

Thank... you.

OLIVIA

Here's what we're going to do. I want the two of you to speak out about this experience. On-screen, together. Joint interviews. Let the public know what really happened.

SAHIBA

You can't force Gabeen to --

GABEEN

Mom. Let her finish.

OLIVIA

Any number of organizations will give you a national platform. GLAAD. GLSEN. PFLAG.

(to Scarlett)

Your future constituents won't care if your daughter supports LGBT rights. As long as you stick to your guns when it comes to defending your principles.

SCARLETT

I'll stick to my guns. No pun intended.

MURAT

I don't know how I feel about you using our daughter to further your political career.

MARK

At this point, I think it's something we should be turning into a teachable moment. I don't want to see anyone else's kids have to endure what ours just went through.

Murat and Sahiba exchange glances. They muster tentative smiles at the Santiagos.

GABEEN

(to Scarlett)

And could you quit throwing us
under the bus when you're
campaigning?

(beat)

I'm not naive. I know you can't
openly support same-sex marriage,
where you live. But at least meet
us halfway.

SCARLETT

You mean civil unions?

OLIVIA

And anti-bullying legislation. And
employment nondiscrimination.

GABEEN

The haters in your district
probably aren't going to vote for
you... no matter what you say. But
most people -- in most places --
are decent when you just talk
honestly with them.

SCARLETT

I think we can work something out.

OLIVIA

You can't quit this race now,
Scarlett. Even if you don't win...

She looks back and forth between Kaitlin and Gabeen.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Many of De La Garza's supporters
are pretty fringe. We can't let
them forget. No matter who wins
this election -- we can't tolerate
things like this happening... over
and over again.

Olivia separately makes direct eye contact with both Scarlett
and Gabeen. They all get it.

INT. POPE & ASSOCIATES CONFERENCE ROOM - TWO DAYS LATER

Olivia finishes up a phone conversation, as Abby, Huck, and
Quinn gather around the television set, which BROADCASTS in
the b.g.

OLIVIA
 It's airing right now. Call me
 back, to let me know we're good.
 Thanks, David.

She ends the call, switches to "CYRUS" on her phone's contact list. Dials.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
 Cyrus.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - CROSS HALL - WALKING

Cyrus answers his phone.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

CYRUS
 Yes, Olivia?

OLIVIA
 Turn on the news. Make sure Fitz
 sees it.

CYRUS
 Would you mind telling me what -- ?

OLIVIA
 Just do it.

END INTERCUT

She ends the call, as the Gladiators turn their attention to:

A PRESS CONFERENCE, already in progress.

INSERT TELEVISION SET

Scarlett speaks from a podium. Behind her, both Kaitlin and Gabeen -- as well as Mark and the Fazids -- stand side-by-side.

SCARLETT
 (amid her speech)
 Young people are among our
 country's most precious resources.
 Our children -- they give us new
 ideas, new perspectives, new hope.
 Eventually, a time arrives when we
 realize how the way we've been
 doing things -- the way we've been
 thinking about ourselves and the
 people around us -- has to evolve.
 (MORE)

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

Respect, understanding, compassion, education... and courage. These are truly American qualities we must strive to promote. Democrats, Republicans, Independents... or, if we simply haven't figured out what we are, yet.

She turns around, trades smiles with Kaitlin.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

My daughter has made mistakes. She misjudged one of her classmates. Her words were harsh, crude, and thoughtless... yet, not truly reflective of how she actually thinks. But she is also willing to learn from her peers. They are willing to learn from each other.

(beat)

No two people are going to agree on every issue 100% of the time. But actually listening to a dissimilar perspective held by your fellow human being...

She makes eye contact with Gabeen.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

...and doing your very best to meet them halfway --

Gabeen smiles back at her.

SCARLETT (CONT'D)

-- isn't that truly the American way?

APPLAUSE from the crowd. Olivia glances around the room at her colleagues.

HUCK

You did good, Liv.

OLIVIA

I hope so.

She watches Scarlett soak up the audience's accolades...

INT. OVAL OFFICE - SAME

...as does Fitz. And he gazes back down at Jerry's photo on his desk.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN - THE NEXT DAY

Olivia stares out at the landscaping of crabapple trees and colorful flower beds.

Fitz approaches her, stands alongside his lover.

FITZ

Latest polls are out. Scarlett Santiago is running neck-and-neck with Gaby De La Garza again. I guess we're in for one nail-biter of a race.

OLIVIA

Courtesy of "The Fixer." You're welcome.

He holds back a half-grin.

FITZ

You wouldn't budge. Even if it meant losing me.

OLIVIA

I knew you'd come around.

FITZ

Did you? Because it felt like you were putting your work before us.

OLIVIA

Be fair. You've had to do the exact same thing. For at least five years now, by my count.

FITZ

Fair enough.

He places one hand on Liv's shoulder. She bristles, but doesn't shrug him off.

FITZ (CONT'D)

Why this?

OLIVIA

"This?"

FITZ

This particular fight. This special election, involving people to whom you have absolutely no connection. I could hear it in your voice, a week ago.

(MORE)

FITZ (CONT'D)

And I can see it in your eyes, even now.

(beat)

What happened?

OLIVIA

It was me.

FITZ

I'm sorry?

OLIVIA

I was Kaitlin.

She turns, faces him.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

We had a transgender student at our high school. And when my friends ganged up on her... I joined them. One little detail I held back from Gabeen and his parents.

Fitz reacts, as Liv closes her eyes.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I never got violent. It wasn't personal. It was stupid and frivolous and trivial and cowardly of me. I was doing what everyone else was doing. Trying to fit in. Running with the in-crowd.

FITZ

High school brings out the worst in us.

OLIVIA

If I had just... cared. Told my "friends" to knock it off. Stood up for my fellow human being. Made an attempt to get to know... him.

She opens her eyes, stares at Fitz.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

I could have made a difference.

FITZ

Who says you didn't?

OLIVIA

I guess that's why, on some level, within some obscure morsel of logic rolling around inside my brain... I saw myself in Kaitlin. I was Kaitlin. And if I had given up on her... I would have been giving up on myself.

Olivia looks back at the spacious lawn.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

At some point, you just have to put your foot down. Force the adults to act like adults... especially when some of the kids are acting more adult than their elders.

She returns her gaze to him.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

And I'm sorry if I acted like you weren't important to me. You must know I don't feel that way. But I will not apologize for involving myself in a situation that could have ended with a much more brutal outcome.

FITZ

Livvie, if my son was here with us right now... he'd tell you to never apologize for doing what you know is right.

He strokes Olivia's neck.

FITZ (CONT'D)

How do we go back? To the way it was.

OLIVIA

We don't.

He hugs her close to him, as they simply admire the beauty of the afternoon.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW