

The Vote

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SCENE 1

In a sparse conference room with a faded motivational poster that reads “Today Is The Greatest”, Eva a woman in her mid thirties wearing a smart business skirt outfit, slaps her hands down on a elegant oval wooden table . A red speaker phone dances on the table.

Hank a man in his thirties wearing a disheveled suit, darts a very startled look at her.

EVA

(Slight Russian accent)

We have to call in six minutes or neither side will have anything!

HANK

Where are the chairs?

EVA

Consul-general doesn't want us comfortable in the least I guess. And you've been comfortable WAY too long.

HANK

We've been over it and over it and I don't think we even need to decide this.

Eva slaps her hands on her hips.

EVA

Well I'm sticking to my guns. Canadian--

HANK

How did they lay claim to it? The combination... I say it's against the Geneva convention.

They both start to slowly circle around the table with Eva in pursuit of Hank

EVA

You are against the Geneva convention.

HANK

You need to loosen up.

EVA

You'd like to think.

HANK

Oh I got one for us.

EVA

Please no. I'll have you shot.

HANK

How do you stop bacon from curling in the frying pan? Take away its broom!
(laughing)

EVA

The ambassador of extra cheese... Five minutes.

HANK

I know all the Canuck jokes.

EVA

I need a box of wine with a metal straw.

Hank turns, walks up to Eva putting his hands out right up to her head then pulls back.

HANK

That face, the face.

EVA

It's my emotional support scowl.

(pause)

Is that an Amazon prime suite? Come here, you Americans.

Hank eases tentatively into Eva's personal space again.

HANK

This coming from the perfume comet.

Eva grabs the knot of Hanks tie, yanking it cinching it tight.

EVA

I've taught you how to tie this trinity knot style.

HANK

So why all the diplomatic effort on this one vote? After all this...

EVA

We need a resolution.

BAP, BAP! The door handle jiggles from the knock.

EVA

We are not to be disturbed!

Hank spins away to the other side of the table with Eva in a measured chase.

HANK

So if I don't vote, no peace?

EVA

If you don't vote right, there's no peace.

HANK

Well there's no need to go nuclear now.

EVA

Only as a last resort my dear, only as a last resort.

HANK

We don't need to be at the brink. I don't understand why this vote is so important now?

EVA

I know you don't, that's the problem.

HANK

I just don't think isolationism is the way to go right now. We have free trade, everybody gets what they want, what they need.

EVA

What they want, what they need?

HANK

Well one of the two is enough.

EVA

This vote could very likely be the future of mankind.

HANK

Come on, like you know something I don't? It's just a-- We have no secrets?

EVA

I keep secrets by forgetting everything you tell me.

HANK

Negotiating over how or why we are negotiating? Most never make it this far. We're lucky. We're going to doom the future of mankind to no personal time and trips to the emergency room. See I know.

EVA

A lot can come out of it. Generations of ideas, empires built, international commerce, agriculture to feed the world, gas and oil reserves or even new servant robots that can tie a tie.

HANK

You are defiantly entering your villain era.

EVA

Four minutes.

Hanks arms shoot up into the air

HANK

This is tyranny!

EVA

Well you can't say you are presented with to many options.

HANK

If I do vote yes, you can guarantee delivery on your end?

EVA

(laughing)

Delivery on my end? It will be my souvenir to you becoming an adult American.

HANK

Oh, so I'm just a tourist in your no taste suppression embargo?

EVA

That's who we are, tourist of the trade. And I remember every souvenir that's tipped my tongue dear.

HANK

No way, you're a Russian doll of vodka shots.

EVA

What I need or what I want?

Eva quickens her loitering hunt of Hank.

EVA

My memory is a series of your passport stamps in invisible ink.

HANK

Ok, we shall see Siberian smile. Here we go. Category foreign affairs.

EVA

Is that what you call it?

Hank point his fingers all around the conference room while mouthing laser shooting sounds.

HANK

Oh look it's the daily double. Foreign affairs, Babushka!

EVA

Americans are the only ones who do not realize they are foreigners. Ever notice that comrade.

HANK

Jerusalem!

EVE

Shakshuk, you couldn't handle the spicy tomato.

HANK

Istanbul.

EVA

Kahralti, you almost choked on an olive. I didn't choke on your olive.

HANK

Funny, very funny...Tehran.

EVA

Khubz and jam, strawberry like you were twelve. The tooth fairy still has a couple of quarters for you.

HANK

Paris!!

EVA

Tartine and coffee, black, extra sugar.

Eva steps up her pace dragging a finger slowly on the table top behind her.

HANK

You'll never get this one, you were so, so hung over. Damascus.

EVA

Easy peasy... Makdous and peta bread.

HANK

Tegucigalpa...

EVA

We agreed never to talk about Tegucigalpa remember? But I do remember having eggs and refried beans for breakfast.

HANK

I looked for three hours for a test.

EVA

You came back with an onion!

HANK

The village market lady said it would work, guaranteed.

EVA

You, bobbing for onions. Ha!

HANK

Come on, it was an exciting escape through the jungle.

EVA

Gonorrhea, Gonorrhea, Gonorrhea! Who gets put on the no fly list for Gonorrhea!

HANK

I swear I didn't know the stewardesses were sisters. They made it up, they made it up. You know they made it up. Before your time anyway.

EVA

Bang your shoe on the desk and see if I care. But it is time, three minutes.

The loud roar of a jet dopplers over the
conference room ceiling.

EVA

You're in the jungle baby.

HANK

I just don't feel like voting yet.

EVA

How did you get this job? Does your father own the United States or something?

HANK

I've done most everything right.

EVA

Then why is my ring tone for you the Beastie Boys Sabotage.

HANK

Yeah you're not perfect, your idea of mood music is Iron Man by Sabbath.

EVA

A girl knows what she wants.

HANK

Getting to know you is like investigating someone until you know they're guilty.

EVE

And you before the wryly smiled fem fatal in your Bezos special.

HANK

This vote makes no sense, it doesn't have to happen now.

EVA

You're wearing the suit, can you deliver?

HANK

That's it,, I'm calling a Buenos Aires!

EVA

You'll be committing suicide. The red, white and fool.

HANK

And you will be dooming the Italians into an unthinkable quality of life that is no better.
All that culture gone.

Eva suddenly hops up on the table in one jump.
Twist her arms out in a flare and flashes a
wicked smile.

EVA

You are already so, so far behind.

Eva triple clacks her heels on the table top.

Hank shakes his head as he looks up briefly from his phone screen as he stabs it with his finger.

HANK

The La Cumparsita!

EVA

You really want to lose don't you.

Eva hikes her skirt up and pulls Hanks up onto the table top.

Hank grunts as he straightens his posture.

EVA

You want to use one of your two remaining minute to maybe work out first?

HANK

I have won before.

EVA

We had to jump out of a plane mid back-cross step, but I digress, lets tango!

HANK

I prefer to think of it as saving the world.

EVA

They won't even have a chance to say goodbye.

Hanks pokes his phone and tango music starts to flow out as he drops it on the edge of the table.

HANK

Let the master moves begin!

EVA

You're going off the table gaucho.

Eva laughs and abruptly rushes up to Hank grabbing him hand to hand pulling him close to her cheek to cheek and launches into a tango stride pushing him close to the edge of the table.

Hank spins at the last minute intertwining his legs with Eva's raising her hand above there heads as he begins to spin and twirl her in the middle of the table.

Eva suddenly lets go sending Hanks to the edge.

EVA

Ready to vote?

Hanks stutter steps balancing on the brink of the table lip.

HANK

Never!

Eva glides over grabbing Hank back into her bosom tight, cheek to cheek.

Spinning from the edge she turns Hanks head face to face with hers and moves in for a kiss holding them both perfectly still.

EVA

You want to vote real bad right now don't you?

Eva grabs around Hank clutching his buttocks pulling him into her bumping and holding him front hip to hip.

EVA

Ah, you want to vote yes, yes, YES!?

HANK

Disturbingly I sense the same thing on you. What the hell is that?

EVA

It's a small microwave gun that will melt your brain into borscht if you don't vote yes. Times up what's it going to be? Everything you've ever dreamed of depends on it, it is finally time. I have to make the call now.

HANK

They just don't go together.

EVA

This is the future.

HANK

I guess I need more time.

EVA

That is it, I've had enough of the capitals of the world. So Now!, instead of just at all, do you want EXTRA pineapple on your Hawaiian pizza or not, Cause That Is What We Are Having!

HANK

Oh hell why not, I can always pick it off.

EVA

You are not picking it off.

BAP, BAP!

Eva and Hank both turn exasperated towards the door.

EVA AND HANK

What?!

VOICE (O.S.)

We got tired of waiting. Jimmy Johns is in the Italian ambassadors office. When you're ready.

THE END