

## 32. The Campaign

*(In a Senator's office. At the desk is the senator's campaign coordinator. At present he/she is going over some files and not happy about what he/she sees. #1 pushes the intercom.)*

- #1: **Mathews, get in here.**  
*(Mathews enters. He/she is an aide.)*
- #2: **You rang?**
- #1: **What is this?** *(Throws the file on the floor.)*
- #2: *(Looks at it.)* **The latest election poll figures.**
- #1: **So you're not a total idiot. Now, why don't you pick them up and read them to me.**
- #2: **Why?**
- #1: **Because I said so.**
- #2: *(Opens the folder and reads.)* **"Senator Campbell – sixty-five percent, Congresswoman Meyers – thirty percent, City Councilman Frye – five percent."**
- #1: **Good, you can read. Now, what's wrong with those figures?**
- #2: **Nothing as far as I can see.**
- #1: **Look again and compare them to last week's numbers.**
- #2: *(Checks both pages.)* **Oh, I see. Our numbers have remained the same, Meyers gained a point and Frye's lost a point.**
- #1: **Now answer me this, if Frye lost one point, why did Meyers get it and not us?**
- #2: **You're joking, right?**
- #1: **Do you hear me laughing?**
- #2: **It's one point. We have sixty-five percent of the vote, we're leading by thirty-five percent, what difference could one point swapped between second and third place possibly mean?**
- #1: **Maybe it means that someone is not doing his/her job.**
- #2: **Hey, my team has the Senator on the verge of his widest**

re-election margin ever. So don't even insinuate that I'm not doing my job!

- #1: **I'm not insinuating anything, I'm stating a fact. If your team was doing all it could, that one point would have gone from Frye to us.**
- #2: **It's one point!**
- #1: **And what if she keeps gaining points?**
- #2: **There's five weeks until the election. If she gained a point a week and we lost a point a week, it would still be a landslide.**
- #1: **So that's how you see it?**
- #2: **That's exactly how I see it! Congresswoman Meyers is going to lose, and she's going to lose big.**
- #1: **I don't want her to "lose big," I want her to be humiliated!**  
*(Silence.)*
- #2: **Why?**
- #1: **Listen to the wind. Senator Campbell, in the not-too-distant future, is probably going to be president. I want it known that anyone who stands in his way will be crushed. Not beaten, crushed! It all comes down to power.**
- #2: **Whose power? His or yours?**
- #1: **What are you implying?**
- #2: **Come on, if the senator becomes president, you'll most likely be a high ranking administrative official. That's where your power is.**
- #1: **Maybe, but that's my concern. Yours is Meyers.**
- #2: **Fine. I'll take care of it.** *(Starts to leave.)*
- #1: **Where are you going?**
- #2: **I thought you wanted me to take care of Meyers.**
- #1: **I do and here's how we're going to do it.** *(Pulls out a folder.)* **I've been given some information that Meyers had a baby ten years ago and it died shortly after birth.**
- #2: **It's not a secret.**
- #1: **But what everyone doesn't know is that Meyers was**

suspected of neglect by the police.

#2: Where did you get that information?!

#1: Where do you think?

#2: Since I've never heard that before, I'm forced to believe that you made it up.

#1: Very good.

#2: What are you planning?

#1: Somehow this information is going to "leak" out. Then we'll sit back and see what happens.

#2: You're insane.

#1: Not at all. Most people won't believe it, but it will cause some doubt. And that doubt will translate into falling numbers.

#2: What do you think? That there's not going to be a denial?

#1: Of course there will be, but it doesn't matter.

#2: The woman lost a child. Something she'll never get over and you want to destroy the rest of her life. Just like that? Where's your conscience?

#1: Who are you, Jiminy Cricket? I do, what is necessary to get the job done. Get used to it. That's the way things work.

#2: And the Senator's OK with this?

#1: The senator doesn't know.

#2: He'll blow a gasket.

#1: Of course, and that's the beauty of all this.

#2: What?

#1: The senator will be furious. He'll launch an investigation, I'll tell him an over-zealous worker released it, we'll fire the jerk, the Senator will apologize and everything will be fine. Except that the damage will be done. It's perfect.

#2: And who's the patsy you plan to fire.

#1: *(Stares at #2.)* Don't worry, you'll be well compensated.

#2: WHAT?!

#1: As long as you keep your mouth shut.

#2: Let me get this straight, you're going to ruin Congresswoman Meyers and me for the sake of a few percentage

points that don't mean anything?

#1: In a New York minute. I don't care about Meyers...or you. You're both pretty insignificant.

#2: I don't think so.

#1: We're not paying you to think.

#2: As of this moment, you're not paying me at all. *(Starts to leave.)*

#1: Where do you think you're going?

#2: To let the Senator know what kind of lunatic is on his staff.

#1: Don't try it. First, he won't believe you and secondly...I'll destroy you.

#2: You can try.

#1: No, I can do it...and you know it. Now, get out. You're fired!

#2: Fine, you fired me, I quit, I really don't care. I'm out of here. But let me tell you one thing. If I go down, you're going with me.

#1: What movie did you pull that tired cliché from?

#2: Go ahead, be as glib as you want, but you haven't heard the last from me.

#1: Oh, I'm sure I have. Excuse me. *(Pushes an intercom button.)* Security, I'm having a problem. Could I get some assistance? Please? *(To #2)* Have a nice day.