RED, WHITE & ROYAL BLUE

Screenplay by
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Based on the novel
by Casey McQuiston

FINAL SCRIPT based on FINAL MIX
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01 EXT. THE MALL - DAY 01

FADE IN on TENS OF THOUSANDS gathered on the MALL.

REPORTER (V.O.)
It was a storybook ceremony today inside Westminster Abbey--

01A OMITTED 01A

01B INT. WESTMINSTER ABBEY - DAY 01B

PHILIP and MARTHA exchange rings in front of the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY and a crowd of smartly dressed onlookers.

REPORTER (V.O.)
--where the future King of England, Prince Philip, Duke of Cambridge married his childhood sweetheart, Lady Martha Fitzroy.

01C EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - BALCONY - DAY 01C

We find PHLIP and MARTHA alongside Philip's younger siblings PRINCE HENRY and PRINCESS BEATRICE, waving at the crowds and having a jolly time together.

REPORTER (V.O.)
Thousands came to cheer the couple and to cheer the Prince's younger brother, Prince Henry, known affectionately as "Prince of England's Hearts." And their younger sister Princess Beatrice, whom all the world adores.

01D EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - DAY 01D

REPORTER (V.O.)
The wedding reception boasts a who's who of international guests, including--

We CUT TO Archive footage of ALEX CLAREMONT-DIAZ waving to a crowd at a rally.

REPORTER (V.O.)
--Alex Claremont-Diaz, the charismatic son of the American President.

01E INT. LUXURY CAR - DAY 01E

Alex and Nora in their wedding finery ride to Buckingham Palace. Nora is watching the coverage on her phone as Alex nervously fidgets.

REPORTER (OFF)
--Also representing the U.S. is Nora Holleran, the Vice President's Granddaughter.

NORA
She's talking about us!

REPORTER (OFF)
Mr. Claremont-Diaz is sometimes referred to as "the American Prince Henry."

Nora smiles at that.

ALEX
(turning to Nora)
Hey here's an idea--how about we skip the party tonight and go do touristy things instead?

NORA
No, are you crazy? I wanna see Buckingham Palace, don't you?

Alex shrugs.

NORA
Okay, you've been yucking my yum all day. What's going on with you?

ALEX
It's the whole Prince Henry comparison thing. He's spent his entire life attending fancy events like this. He's trained for this. I feel like if I use the wrong fork at dinner they'll eat me alive.

01F EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY 01F

Alex and Nora leave their car and walk toward the front entrance.

01G INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY 01G

They step inside the main entryway, where many of the wedding guests have gathered. A passing waiter offers them champagne. Alex takes one but Nora declines.

NORA
Just remember you're smart and charming and everyone loves you.

Alex downs the drink.

01H INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY 01H

Alex and Nora find themselves near the end of a receiving line. Philip and Martha follwed by Henry and Bea slowly make their way down the line, greeting their guests.

Henry and Bea, shaking hands with guests. Henry whispers to Bea--

HENRY
When the revolution happens it will be because of this wedding.

BEA
Oh shut up, Henry and get into the spirit of the thing--Oh, hello.. Hi..

HENRY
Hello..
(turning to Bea)
The cake alone cost 75,000 pounds. They practically had to break the doors down to get it inside. It's obscene.

Bea SMACKS Henry in his stomach.

OVER TO Nora at the end of the receiving line as she SMACKS Alex, uprighting him out of his ostrich position--

NORA
You're not going to want to hear this, but that Prince Henry is so yummy.

ALEX
Nora, no! He's a such a snob.

NORA
I dunno, man. If I was going to go for a rich white boy, that is the rich white boy I'd go for.

ALEX
But he’s the worst kind of rich white boy. So smug and entitled.

NORA
He’s a prince, Alex. He’s literally entitled.

Back to Henry and Bea, who are getting closer.

BEA
Oh, you know what is obscene--is how attractive the President’s son is. Have you ever met him?

HENRY
Yes, a few times. He’s very...animated.

Back with Alex and Nora--

ALEX
He’s the world’s rudest person.

And then to Henry and Bea.

HENRY
He’s the world’s most irritating person.

And to Alex and Nora.

ALEX
Also, I swear that he is not 6’ 2”.

Then Henry and Bea arrive. Bea and Alex greet each other as Henry shakes the hand of an older dignitary.

HENRY
It’s wonderful to see you.

Bea excitedly greets Nora--

BEA
I have heard so much about you. You’re sticking with me tonight, come on.

And with that, Bea pulls Nora away.

Now it’s Alex’s turn to be greeted by Henry. Alex nods politely--

ALEX
How’s it going?

But Henry walks on, totally ignoring him. CLOSE on Alex, shocked at the snub.

Alex shakes his head and makes his way inside, alone.

1 Omitted 1

2 OMITTED 2

3 OMITTED 3

4 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - BALLROOM - DAY 4

Alex sips his drink, watching the other guests from afar.

He re-enters the ballroom, swiping a scotch from the bar that was meant for another guest. Alex navigates the guests and sinks back into a sofa, scanning the party. His eyes land on...

Prince Henry standing by himself next to the ENORMOUS WEDDING CAKE.

Alex takes a swig and walks in Henry's direction --

5 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - BALLROOM - DAY 5

Alex approaches with his drink still in his mitts.

ALEX
Henry, wassup! Long time no see.

HENRY
Alex.

ALEX
Killer wedding, man.

HENRY
I'm glad you're enjoying yourself.

ALEX
Oh, who doesn't love a little Mozart?

HENRY
Actually, it's Schubert.

Alex places his drink on the cake table and leans on it.

ANGLE ON top of cake, looming above the room. It WOBBLES SLIGHTLY from the impact of Alex's body.

ALEX
Although you gotta wonder how many families you could feed with what this cake cost.

HENRY
Probably not as many as if we put your shoes on auction.

ALEX
Rude.

Alex grabs his drink again, accidentally grazing the side of the cake, pulling back a big handful of frosting. He tries to lick, then wipe it off, then finally decides to just go with it.

ALEX
Tell me something, Your Majesty...

HENRY
Yes, Alex.

ALEX
Did your parents send you to snobbery school or does looking down on people just come naturally to you?

HENRY
Well in your case, I would say it's rather inevitable.

ALEX
We are the same height!

HENRY
If you say so, Alex. Great to see you.

ALEX
You too, Your Majesty.

HENRY
It's "Your Royal Highness", "Your Majesty" is reserved for the King.

ALEX
Oh, thank you for the etiquette lesson.

HENRY
You are desperately in need of one.

Henry turns to leave when--

ALEX
You know what.

Alex grabs his shoulder, accidentally getting icing all over Henry's tuxedo. Henry and Alex look at the mess simultaneously, then...

ALEX
I am so sorry.

Alex hands Henry his glass so he wipe off the mess, but he only makes it worse. Henry shoves the glass back at Alex, spilling the booze all over Alex. Henry then takes a handkerchief out and begins wiping down his filthy lapel.

ALEX
Here, let me...

Alex hands the glass back to Henry again and grabs the handkerchief from him to wipe. Henry grabs it back and the begin to tussle over it and the cleaning until finally Henry has enough and shoves Alex away, causing Alex, drunk and off-balance, to fall backward toward the WEDDING CAKE. Eyes wide with panic, he reaches for Henry to catch himself, which ends up pulling Henry toward him.

WIDE SHOT: The wedding in full swing, at the top of the frame, Alex and Henry falling toward the cake.

SLOW MOTION: Alex and Henry topple toward the cake.

SLOW MOTION: The wedding guests turn their attention toward the imminent disaster. Chief among them are the BRIDE and GROOM.

SLOW MOTION: Nora turns her head in Alex and Henry's direction. The look on her face: oh shit.

SLOW MOTION: Alex and Henry land on the cake table, sending the massive confection toppling over.

THEN BACK TO NORMAL SPEED AS they land on the floor in an avalanche of white buttercream.

Prince Philip, furious--

PHILIP
Henry!

Alex and Henry share a look. They slip in the frosting as they try to get up.

Then, from amongst the guests, a WAITER takes out his phone and starts taking pictures.

BACK TO ALEX AND HENRY AS they EMERGE FROM THE MESS. Henry gets to his knees and flicks icing and cake from his hands. IMAGE FREEZES and we catch a doozy of a candid photo of the two on the ground, covered in cake, as we --

6 OPENING TITLES 6

Saul Bass-style animated credits detailing the British tabloid news coverage of the fiasco. We also use the titles as a way of introducing each of the characters in the story--delineating between the Americans and the Brits. THEN --

7 OMITTED 7

7A OMITTED 7A

8 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY 8

WIDE SHOT of Alex sitting in the middle of the storied room. In a chair beside him sits ZAHRA BANKSTON, (40's, non-White), the White House Deputy Chief-of-Staff. And before him, stood behind the Resolute Desk is--

PRESIDENT ELLEN CLAREMONT (55, White), a compact and iron-nerved Texan who presently does not look at all happy.

Silence for a moment as she stares at him, as if trying to decide whether or not she could get away with killing him. Then --

ELLEN
Darlin' you have done some pretty stupid things in your day. But this--

ALEX
Takes the cake?

ELLEN
Did you hear that, Zahra? He's opening with a joke.

ZAHRA
Maybe he can host the Correspondents' Dinner next year.

ALEX
I'd be down.

ZAHRA
No.

ELLEN
I sent you to London with some pretty simple instructions: represent the family at the royal wedding and don't cause an international incident.

ALEX
Henry shoved me.

ELLEN
An urge I currently share with the prince. We have spent the last three years negotiating a new trade deal with His Majesty's government.

ZAHRA
Thousands of hours, gallons of tea.

ELLEN
Before this weekend, I had a higher approval rating than the Prime Minister. Hell, I was out-polling the Spice Girls. And overnight, you've managed to undo all that.

ALEX
Ma, by next week no one will be talking about this anymore. And really, no reasonable person is going to even pay attention to that article...

Zahra starts a video on her iPad, showing it to Alex.

ON THE IPAD, we find the UK PRIME MINISTER at their podium at the 10 Downing Briefing Room.

PRIME MINISTER
The British people deserve better from our closest ally than this juvenile stunt. And it certainly casts a pall over our negotiations.

BACK IN THE ROOM -- Zahra closes her iPad. Alex looks up at his mother.

ELLEN
I'm on the ballot again in 14 months, and I need the farming exports and manufacturing jobs that this deal provides to take to Midwest voters.

ALEX
I'd argue you don't actually need the Midwest and there's a path to re-election without the you don't want to hear from me today.

Ellen stands and heads for door --

ELLEN
What I need from you, sunshine of my heart, is some good old-fashioned damage control. Zahra will explain everything.

As Ellen is in the doorway --

ALEX
I'm really sorry, Mom.

ELLEN
I know you are, baby. That's why I need you to fix it.

With that, Ellen leaves. Once Alex and Zahra are alone, she starts whacking him with a couch cushion.

ZAHRA
Asshole!

ALEX
Zahra!

After a brief scuffle...

ZAHRA
You're flying back to London tonight.

ALEX
What??? Why???

ZAHRA
To undo all the damage you've done. The White House and the Palace are going to release a joint statement explaining that what happened at the wedding was a complete misunderstanding--

ALEX
Which it was.

ZAHRA
--and despite rarely having time to see one another, you and Prince Henry are in fact close personal friends and have been for the last several years.

ALEX
Zahra.

ZAHRA
(pulling a file from her portfolio)
This is a fact sheet on Prince Henry. Memorize it.

ALEX
(looking at it)
He is not six foot two. And does he get a fact sheet for me?

ZAHRA
Yes. And I can assure you that making it was one of the most depressing moments of my career. And I once saw Mitch McConnell eating a banana.

Zahra gathers her things and heads out of the room.

ALEX
(following)
Can I just point out that the Royal Family are purely figurehead, they serve no elective role whatsoever?

ZAHRA
Unlike you, whose role is clearly spelled out in “Article Nothing” of the U.S. Constitution.

She heads out into --

8A INT. WHITE HOUSE - OUTSIDE OVAL OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 8A

ZAHRA
And you’re going there to work. No hookups, no partying. You can hate Prince Henry all you want, but the minute you see a camera, you better act like the sun shines out of his ass and you have a Vitamin D deficiency. And there is no getting out of this.

ALEX
Oh yeah? What if I set myself on fire?

ZAHRA
We'd ship the ashes to Heathrow.

And with that, she's off, leaving Alex in the dust.

9 OMITTED 9

10 OMITTED 10

11 INT. COMMERCIAL FLIGHT - BUSINESS CLASS - NIGHT 11

Alex and Amy mid-flight. Amy holds the Henry fact sheet.

ALEX
Mother: Her Royal Highness, Princess Catherine, Duchess of Edinburgh. Firstborn child of His Majesty, King James III.

AMY
Did you know she started her own climate nonprofit? That's pretty cool.

ALEX
Do you wanna swap jobs this weekend?

AMY
No one in their right mind would ever give you a gun. Henry's father, go.

ALEX
Arthur Fox, beloved English stage and film actor, died of cancer three years ago.

AMY
I remember that. What's the name of Henry's dog?

ALEX
David. I mean, really--who names a dog David?

AMY
You know I have a Shih Tzu named Jonathan.

ALEX
Yeh, I still maintain that's weird.

AMY
That's my son you're talking about.

ALEX
He is super cute.

AMY
He is. You wanna see some pictures?

ALEX
Yeah, a hundred percent.

AMY
Oh yeah.

-- We see vignettes of London captured on Alex's phone. The Tower of London, Big Ben, Southbank...

The likes, follows and comments going through the roof on his socials.

12 OMITTED 12

13 EXT. KENSINGTON PALACE - DAY 13

The Land Rover comes to a stop in front of the palace. A Palace Attendant opens the door for Alex to step out. Alex looks around at the grounds--lush and green, the stables are elaborate and elegant. He's slightly awed by it all.

A tall South Asian man in an impeccably tailored suit approaches. He is SHAAN SRIVASTAVA.

SHAAN
Mister Claremont-Diaz, welcome to Kensington Palace. Shaan Srivastava, Prince Henry's equerry.

Alex throws his arms around Shaan.

ALEX
Nice to meet you, Shaan. Didn't expect to be back in England so soon.

SHAAN
No one is more mystified than I.

ALEX
So what exactly is an “equerry?” Do you handle the horses?

SHAAN
I am His Royal Highness’s personal attendant.

ALEX
So you’re the butler?

SHAAN
I am not the butler, I am the equerry.

ALEX
And back we go to my original question: what is an equerry?

SHAAN
Me.

The SOUND of a SPORTS CAR approaching.

A VINTAGE JAGUAR comes roaring through the gates, Henry at the wheel wearing sunglasses and an impeccable suit.

SHAAN
Ah, here comes His Royal Highness now.

Henry brings the car to a stop right in front of Alex.

ALEX
You’ve got to be joking.

Henry gets out, giving his shirt cuffs a good tug as he goes.

HENRY
Alex. It’s good to see you. Sober.

SHAAN
One of our photographers will now take some pictures of His Royal Highness welcoming you.

ALEX
Don’t I get to shower and change first?

SHAAN
(pronouncing it “shed-yule”)
I’m afraid we’re on a very tight schedule, sir.

ALEX
Oh, wouldn't want to screw up the "shedyule."

SHAAN
You must stand to the right of His Royal Highness.

ALEX
Is that protocol or is that just his good side?

HENRY
(to Shaan)
Shall we do this?

SHAAN
Yes, sir.

And with that, Alex moves over to Henry's right. Shaan begins direct them and the photographer.

Alex and Henry pose for photos, hands clenched in what's meant to be a hand-shake. Through clenched teeth:

ALEX
My NDA is bigger than yours, I want you to know that.

HENRY
You're wearing lifts. I know that too, sweetheart.

Photographer gets a juicy photo of Alex's shocked reaction.

HENRY
Are we finished here?

SHAAN
Yes, Your Royal Highness.

Henry walks away with Shaan and the rest of his team following.

PUSHING IN ON ALEX. This won't be fun.

ALEX
Dick.

15 OMITTED 15

16 INT. POSH HOTEL SUITE - DAY 16

Alex and Henry sit next to each other on a sofa--Alex once again to Henry's right (camera left). Several ROYAL ATTENDANTS scurry about making last minute adjustments to Henry's hair. Alex runs his fingers through his own hair.

ALEX
Hey Shaan, you think maybe I could get a little...?

SHAAN
You're fine.
(to the Attendants)
Thank you.

The Attendants walk away. Henry hands Shaan his phone.

HENRY
Thank you Shaan.

SHAAN
Whenever you're ready.

THEN --

ROUGHLY CUTTING as Alex and Henry give back-to-back interviews. The interviewer keeps changing but it all gets sewn together into a single coherent interview.

At first, they're sitting as far from each other as possible when --

INTERVIEWER 1
Can you two scooch in a little closer together?

Reluctantly, they do.

INTERVIEWER 1
Now you have been mates since you met at the Melbourne Climate Conference several years back, is that correct?

HENRY
Yes, yes, we hit it off instantly, like we'd known each other all our lives.
(turns to Alex)
Right?

ALEX
...Yup.

Then, with INTERVIEWER 2 --

INTERVIEWER 2
Wonderful. So Alex, what do you think of jolly old England?

ALEX
I really love it here. I've been a few times since my Mom was elected. I love the people, the beer, the dogs that wear the sweaters...

HENRY
Well actually we say "jumpers."

ALEX
I love how all your outlets have those little light switches on them. Except for in the bathroom. There's no outlets in the bathroom...

HENRY
(enjoying himself a little)
Alex has very strong opinions. And he shares them, loudly.

ALEX
What three words would I use to describe Henry? White. Blonde. And... British.

HENRY
One thing I most admire about Alex is his willingness to admit when he's wrong. A wonderful, wonderful trait to have.

ALEX
You don't know this, but Henry does the best freestyle raps.

HENRY
--Well.

ALEX
Go on, do a little for them.

HENRY
No. That's not why we're--

ALEX
She wants to hear it.

Alex doing his version of Henry rapping, as--

HENRY
Don’t you do an incredible Barbra Streisand impression?

Alex LAUGHS it off.

HENRY
Voice of an angel this one, really.

ALEX
I love hanging out with this guy.

Alex reaches over and playfully punches Henry in the arm harder than he probably should. Henry just smiles.

Then, quickly --

INTERVIEWER 3
Now I have to ask this...

INTERVIEWER 2
...because it’s all anyone is talking about...

INTERVIEWER 1
...how on earth did you end up on the floor...

INTERVIEWER 4
in Buckingham Palace...

INTERVIEWER 5
...covered in cake?

Alex is about to answer when --

HENRY
Actually it happens more often than you’d think at the Palace. In the reign of Queen Victoria, they were having food fights all the time.

ALEX
Vicky... Classic.

17 OMITTED 17

-- Exterior shot of a red brick Children’s Hospital.

18 INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - DAY 18

Alex and Henry are talking to a group of kids. Henry points to Alex. Lots of photographers.

HENRY
Do you know who this is?

Kids shake their head “no.”

HENRY
Well his mum is the President of the United States. And my mum is the Duchess of Edinburgh. Which means that his mum outranks my mum, what do we think of that?

The kids giggle with delight. Alex cannot help but smile.

21 INT. CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY 21

Alex and Henry continue their tour, photographers and security once again in tow.

ALEX
Do you visit this place a lot?

HENRY
Every couple of months. Never with photographers, though.

Alex is about to say something when BANG! What sounds like gunfire down the hall. Amy grabs both Henry and Alex and shoves them through the nearest door into --

22 INT. SUPPLY CLOSET 22

--as Alex trips over a mop and one of Henry’s legs and they go crashing down together into a clattering pile of bedpans.

AMY
Stay down.

She closes the door. Alex has landed on top of Henry.

HENRY
Get. Off. Me. You’re sitting on my leg.

ALEX
Are you serious right now.

Alex pulls himself off Henry, but they're wedged in together, legs entangled. They struggle but it's useless. Alex slips down next to Henry's side. They are essentially spooning. Henry looks for a place to put his hands but the only place is on Alex's arm.

Henry tries his best to sit up, but the space is so tight and then there's still the question of their arms. In the end, he has no choice but to get comfortable. They are both keenly aware that their bodies are pressed next to each other. Their breathing starts to sync up. It isn't entirely unsexy.

HENRY
Santal 33.

ALEX
Yeah?

HENRY
Makes sensse.

ALEX
What do you mean by that?

HENRY
It means you have good taste, Alex.

ALEX
Thanks.

HENRY
And why do you dislike me?

Alex is caught off guard by this question. He turns to look at Henry. Now Alex is on his back and Henry's on his side. Their faces are right next to each other.

ALEX
Climate Conference in Melbourne. First night party. I went to introduce myself to you and you looked at me like I had head lice. Then you turned to your equerry and said, "get me out of here."

HENRY
I didn't realize you'd heard that.

ALEX
So you do admit that's a douchey thing to say.

HENRY
I could have been nicer. Alright, what else?
(once Alex doesn't answer)
It couldn't have just been the conference.
(when Alex doesn't answer)
Oh my God, it is. It is, isn't it?

ALEX
Don't minimize it.

HENRY
How could I possibly? It's already as minimal as it gets. Are you seriously telling me that one meeting, years ago, in which yes, I admittedly acted ungenerously towards you has occupied such a vast mental and emotional space in your head?

ALEX
Ok sure, when you put it like that. But it was my first foray into the world as a public figure and I was really scared and you could of helped me and you didn't.

HENRY
You're right. I'm sorry I was a prick to you. It's no excuse, but I was a prick to everyone in those days. My father had died a few months before and the Palace insisted on parading me around.

CLOSE ON ALEX absorbing this information.

HENRY
For the record, I didn't say "get me out of here." I said, "I need to get out of here." Which is a different thing entirely.

ALEX
Oh. Well now I feel like I need to apologise.

The door suddenly opens.

AMY
Threat neutralized. Some kid brought fireworks for his friend.

ALEX
When you say "neutralized...?"

AMY
It's good he's already in a hospital.

19 INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - DAY 19

Alex animatedly telling a story to a group of kids. He is dressed as a strawberry. He waves the children goodbye and heads to the door where he sees --

20 INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - PRIVATE ROOM - DAY 20

ALEX'S POV: Henry standing next to a YOUNG GIRL'S BED. She wears a cap over her bald head. Henry's talking sweetly to her.

She laughs. ANGLE ON Alex, watching this.

23 EXT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - DAY 23

Alex and Henry emerge from the front entrance and approach their waiting cars. Photographers are cordoned off in the distance.

ALEX
Well we survived it. That means we never have to see each other again.

ALEX
Wrong. You're expected at my New Year's party.

HENRY
No, I hate New Year's.

ALEX
Wow. Most people would kill to get an invite to my party.

HENRY
That's perfect. They can kill me and then I won't have to go.

They can't help but smile.

HENRY
I think we're supposed to shake hands now.

They shake. We HEAR the sound of CAMERAS CLICKING.

ALEX
I know, I know. Stand to your right. Okay, well I need to get out of here. See you in a few months, Your Majesty.

Henry fights a wave of irritation as Alex turns toward his waiting car.

ALEX
Later, Shaan.

He stops, looks at the cameras and with the most shit-eating of grins, gives them his best presidential wave.

RACHEL MADDOW (O.S.)
But I think it's telling, that in it, no matter how silly the so-called cake-gate controversy may be, and it is very silly.

IPAD FULL SCREEN - RACHEL MADDOW - NEWS BROADCAST

RACHEL MADDOW (ON IPAD)
You can already see the potential outlines of what the President Claremont's campaign could be about next year, right?

10 EXT. WHITE HOUSE - TRUMAN BALCONY - NIGHT 10

Alex's father, Congressman OSCAR DIAZ (55, Latino) sitting on a wrought iron chair, smoking a cigar *watching Rachel Maddow* on his Tablet. Dialogue in italics will be spoken in Spanish.

RACHEL MADDOW (ON IPAD)
And in so far as it concerns the President's trade deal with Great Britain. Well, the first son's charm offensive this week has helped his mother's campaign.

In walks Alex--

ALEX
Hey dad.

OSCAR
Hey, *mijo*.

ALEX
I watched your committee hearing on the flight home.

OSCAR
Yeah, you and three other people.

ALEX
You should be tougher on those agribusiness mofos.

OSCAR
Well, maybe I can get you to push them in a cake for me?

Oscar chuckles at his own joke.

OSCAR
What you got against him anyway? I mean he seems like a nice enough guy.

ALEX
Oh come on dad. He's, he's elite and privileged and lives in a palace.

Oscar reaches over and brushes his hand across Alex's shoulder.

ALEX
What, what's that?

OSCAR
Just brushing that old working class chip off your shoulder.

ALEX
Hey, you and mom taught me to question authority.

OSCAR
Mmm meanwhile <u>you're</u> now elite and privileged and live in a palace. And your mom is the epitome of authority. It's funny how life works.
(both looking at the view)
Speaking of your mom's authority. Don't tell her I was smoking.

24A <u>INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY</u> 24A

Alex is leaving with a takeaway coffee. He passes a table on his way out and--

MALE VOICE
Alex!

ANGLE ON MIGUEL RAMOS, a reporter in his late 20's working at a table. He is handsome, direct, charming.

ALEX
Hey Miguel. What's up?

MIGUEL
ACD, slumming it in Shaw. Got a minute?

ALEX
Yeah, I could hang.

Alex sits across from Miguel.

MIGUEL
Nice damage control this weekend. I had no idea you and the prince were such good friends.

ALEX
Yeah, well...neither did I.

They smile and then look suddenly awkward. There's clearly something going on between them but before it gets too weird--

MIGUEL
Hey, do you mind if I put on my journalist hat on for a sec?

ALEX
Only if you actually have one of those journalist hats like they do in the old movies.

MIGUEL
Promise I'll wear it for you sometime. Is your mother's campaign nervous the Republicans are going to nominate Richards?

ALEX
The only Republican who makes us nervous is Abraham Lincoln and I doubt he's running.

MIGUEL
You see? This is why I ask you these things because you give me quotes like that. You have to let me use it.

ALEX
Not a chance, Miguel.

MIGUEL
You are such a tease. How about “sources close to the President?”

Alex is tempted, but--

ALEX
I’m gonna pass.

MIGUEL
Bueno, lo intenté.
(then)
Deberiamos de vernos pronto. Off the record, of course. *Hace mucho, no?*

ALEX
Yeah, well...*la esquela ha estado locura últimamente*.

MIGUEL
Yeah, you’re always running at full speed. *Es lo que te hace encantador. Eso las pestañas.*

Miguel actually renders Alex speechless. If he weren’t Mexican, he would blush. Then...

ALEX
I should get going. *Que bueno verte*, Miguel.

MIGUEL
Lo mismo, Alex.

Alex hustles off and Miguel watches him go.

25 OMITTED 25

26 INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX’S ROOM - NIGHT 26

Alex is at his desk, studying. His phone buzzes.

CLOSE ON PHONE: a +44 number has texted him a photo of Alex at an event with a beautiful woman on his arm. You always pose for photos with your right hand in your pocket. Are you having a wank?

Alex looks at his phone, not at all certain who sent this. THEN, another text: It’s Henry, by the way.

ALEX
How did you get my number?

HENRY
MI6. (Not kidding.)

Followed by an image of 'Spy Kids'.

Alex rolls his eyes, but does save the number: HRH Prince Dickhead, followed by the Poop Emoji.

27 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OUTSIDE OVAL OFFICE - DAY 27

Alex is walking through the West Wing offices when he spots a copy of PEOPLE opened to a photo of Henry on a beach with his arm around a beautiful young woman in a bikini. Alex snaps a photo, then starts typing.

CLOSE ON THE PHONE: he's texted the photo to Henry along with: You have a lot of moles. Is that a result of the inbreeding?

As Alex types -- WE SEE images from PEOPLE magazine appear around him, defaced by playful doodles he's made on his phone.

27A OMITTED 27A

28 INT. GEORGETOWN LECTURE HALL - DAY 28

Alex in a lecture, taking notes on his computer. An iMessage alert from Henry pops up on his screen, linking to a *Daily Star* Tweet: "Is Alex Claremont-Diaz going to be a father?" Then we see Henry's text: But we were ever so careful dear.

Alex laughs out loud, eliciting a "shhh" from the student next to him.

ALEX
Sorry.

TEXTING MONTAGE: We then follow Alex through his autumn, catching snippets of their text exchanges as Henry appears and disappears into frame.

29 ALEX JOGGING ALONG THE POTOMAC -- 29

ALEX
I hate the tie you're wearing in Vogue. It's so boring. What do you have against color anyway?

HENRY
Grey is a colour, thank you.

29A OMITTED 29A

ALEX'S DRESSING ROOM --

Alex at the mirror dressed for a black tie event.

HENRY (V.O.)
Just received a parcel of your mum'ss old campaign t-shirts. Is this your idea of a prank?

ALEX (V.O.)
The next box is full of thongs.

HENRY (V.O.)
I first read Zadie Smith as a teenager--

24 GEORGETOWN LECTURE HALL -- 24

Alex is a lecture, taking notes. The student sitting next to him slides her phone towards him.

ALEX (V.O.
You absolutely have to read *Another Country* by James Baldwin--

HENRY (V.O.)
The Picture of Dorian Gray--

ALEX (V.O.)
And *Love in the Time of Cholera*--

CLOSE ON PHONE -- a gif of Alex punching Henry in the arm during their interview.

HENRY (V.O.)
Also *Madame Bovary*.

ALEX (V.O.)
I'm sending you a copy.

Alex laughs, rolls his eyes, shakes his head and gets back to taking notes.

29B WHITE HOUSE RESIDENCE LIVING ROOM -- 29B

Alex and Nora watching 'Some Like It Hot' on the TV.

Henry crosses the TV and sits down, talking animatedly. Though they do not look at each other.

HENRY
That’s the thing no one understands about Byron’s poetry. He was single handedly responsible for every romance ever written in the past two centuries. And that’s not even considering his personal life.

ALEX
I’m blocking you for the rest of the night.

HENRY
He had London under his spell--

HENRY VANISHES IN A SWIRL OF MONARCH BUTTERFLIES.

30 INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT 30

CLOSE ON A TURKEY staring at us from behind the bars of a crate. THEN --

Alex snaps a photo and sends it to Henry.

HENRY (O.C.)
Good God, man, what have you done?

ALEX
So there’s this American tradition where the President pardons a turkey before Thanksgiving.

HENRY (O.C.)
I don’t understand, don’t you have to commit a crime to be pardoned?

ALEX
Don’t look too closely at it. I found out that they keep the turkey in a luxury hotel suite the night before the ceremony. I mean, can you think of anything more wasteful?

Alex lays a blanket over the crate.

HENRY (O.C.)
Perhaps this conversation?

ALEX
Anyway, I convinced my mother's staff to keep it at the White House and they put the little asshole in my room!

Alex crosses to the other side of the bed. As he does Henry appears on Alex's bed eating from a box of Jaffa cakes.

While in the same shot, they never look at each other.

HENRY
Don't ask mommy for a pet if you can't take care of it.

ALEX
Why are you awake?

HENRY
Because some bellend called me at three in the morning to talk turkey.

ALEX
What's a "bellend?"

HENRY
Look it up. I'm also a world class insomniac. I'm in bed, with my dog, watching *Bake Off.*

ALEX
It never occurred to me that the royal family watches television.

HENRY
Well, we all share the same password.

ALEX
You're more of a human than I thought.

They both turn on their side, facing in.

Unlike before, this time they ultimately do interact with each other.

HENRY
Wow, Alex, that's so flattering.

ALEX
No, I just mean...you don't act like the kind of person who would name his dog "David."

HENRY
Well he’s named after Bowie.

Alex looks at Henry as if he were actually in the room.

ALEX
Wait, seriously? That’s way cooler. Why not just call him Bowie, then?

HENRY
It’s a bit on the nose, don’t you think?

ALEX
Have I surprised you in any way?

HENRY
Nope. You are just as ghastly as I imagined.

TOP SHOT: CLOSE ON Alex as he turns away from Henry, looking up. A moment, then--

HENRY
I’m hanging up now.

ALEX
No, I’m hanging up on you.

HENRY
Fine, have it your way.

CONTINUE TOP SHOT ON ALEX, not moving. Then --

HENRY
That’s what the big red button is for.

Alex smiles, turns back to Henry.

WE ANGLE to reveal Henry’s not there.

ALEX
Good night.

Alex hangs up. He looks at the phone a moment, then settles back into his bed.

He THWACKS a cushion over his head to the loud sound of the turkey GOBBLING.

-- SHOTS of WASHINGTON DC and the WHITE HOUSE at CHRISTMAS time.

30A INT. ZAHRA'S OFFICE - NIGHT 30A

Zahra at her desk, working on her laptop. Alex appears at her door.

ALEX
Has anyone on the campaign actually read my Texas strategy memo?

ZAHRA
What Texas strategy memo?

ALEX
I think I have my answer.

ZAHRA
Alex this isn't a really good time, I have a ton of work, can you just-- Yeah, just make yourself at home kid.

Alex comes in and plops down onto her sofa.

ALEX
Okay, here's the deal: I wrote a fourteen-page memo detailing how we can win in Texas next year. I spent weeks working on it. I think its a viable plan that you should take seriously. I emailed it to senior campaign staff three weeks ago and I've heard *nada*.

Zahra sits beside Alex.

ZAHRA
Did anyone ask you to write this memo?

ALEX
No. I took the initiative.

Alex reaches into his bag and pulls out a copy of his memo.

ZAHRA
Yeah. If there's one thing people on the campaign hates, it's when the candidate's family takes iniative.

ALEX
Zahra, there are good ideas in there. I really want to help.

ZAHRA
You do help. You are genuinely useful.

ALEX
Yeah, for like photo ops and New Year's parties and stupid shit like that. But I can do so much more...Will you please read my memo?

ZAHRA
Fine.

Zahra snatches Alex's memo.

ALEX
Thank you.

ZAHRA
Get the hell out of my office.

Zahra then returns to her desk and her work. Alex stands and heads to the door.

ZAHRA
Oh, one more thing--has your new buddy the Prince confirmed for your New Year's party?

ALEX
Zahra, did you not just listen to my entire soliloquy?

ZAHRA
Alex, I've got the Prime Minister coming in town next month for a visit. You want to help your mother's campaign? Make sure Prince Henry comes to your party. People like him more than they like you.

ALEX
(out the door)
Well they wouldn't if they knew him. Later!

Zahra looks down at Alex's memo.

31 OMITTED 31

32 EXT. WHITE HOUSE - TENT ON SOUTH LAWN - NIGHT 32

Establishing the huge party tent that has been installed for the event. Limos lined up the drive. Then we go to --

33 INT. PARTY TENT - NIGHT 33

It's a HUGE party. Over 300 young people, all dressed up. A cool vibe permeates. We catch --

Alex and Nora looking amazing as they move through the crowd. Guests nod and raise glasses to their host.

Partygoers snap disposable cameras of fellow revellers as VIPs sip champagne and martinis around private tables and dance platforms.

33A INT. PARTY TENT - NIGHT 33A

ANGLE ON Alex and Nora nearby, moving past minglers. They look up at this and --

ALEX
Ah, look who it is?

Through the revelers on the dance floor, we REVEAL PERCY OKONJO (24, Nigerian-British) in a bright floral patterned satin bomber. Percy is just as impressive as his clothes.

Behind him saunters --

HENRY, looking dashing in a simple dark blue suit with a bright coppery-mustard tie. He approaches with a knowing smirk on his face. All four meet.

ALEX
Nice tie. Rockin' the orange.

HENRY
Orange? You must be colourblind? This is obviously copper.

ALEX
You are so annoying.

HENRY
Nora, this is my best mate Percy Okonjo, who has been begging me for an introduction since the wedding.

PERCY
Miss Holleran, you are the most exquisite woman I have ever seen in my life. I would love to procure for you the most lavish drink in this establishment.

NORA
Well, it is an open bar and a free-ish country so only the Secret Service can stop you.

Percy follows Nora to the bar. Alex slings an arm around Henry's neck.

ALEX
I've been drunk since Christmas. You gotta catch up.

Alex pulls Henry toward --

34 INT. PARTY TENT - VIP AREA - NIGHT 34

THROUGH THE CROWDED VIP AREA, we spot Alex and Henry talking animatedly on a VIP sofa.

Suddenly a glammed up FLIRTY GIRL slinks herself on the sofa across Alex's legs. Her arm around his neck.

FLIRTY GIRL
How're you doing?

ALEX
I'm good, how're you?

She extends a hand just noticing but not recognising the Prince.

HENRY
(a little startled)
I'm uh, Henry.

And with that--the music switches up.

FLIRTY GIRL
(to Alex)
Oh my god, we've got to dance, come on.

She grabs Alex's hand, tugging him towards the dancefloor. He turns back to Henry--

ALEX
You not going to dance?

HENRY
You go ahead.

Henry left alone sipping his martini on the sofa, surrounded by socialites all grooving to the music, doing their thing.

35 INT. PARTY TENT - NIGHT 35

Alex is dancing his fool head off with the FLIRTY GIRL. Nora and Percy are nearby, having a blast. Alex looks out across the ballroom to find HENRY ALONE AT THE BAR. Posh wallflower.

36 INT. PARTY TENT - BAR - NIGHT 36

Alex approaches Henry, placing a friendly hand on his shoulder.

ALEX
You don't dance?

HENRY
The ballroom lessons didn't exactly cover this.

ALEX
It's all in the hips. Loosen up!

Alex reaches down and places both hands on Henry's hips. Henry instantly tenses at his touch.

The song crossfades into "Get Low" by Lil Jon. Alex throws his hands up in the air and starts to dance as Henry stares at him blankly.

ALEX
Oh my God, this is the song of my childhood! You're dancing!

Alex grabs a bottle of champagne from across the bar then Henry's arm and drags him into the roiling sea of people.

37 INT. PARTY TENT - NIGHT 37

The party rages. Lights and music blasting at full capacity.

We then find Alex, drunk. He's surrounded by strangers, dancing his ass off. Nora and Percy are dancing nearby. Also Henry, who subtly bops to the music while swigging directly from a bottle of champagne. Then --

HENRY
(re: the lyrics)
Sorry. Did he just say "'til the sweat drop down my balls?"

Alex laughs at this ridiculously endearing question. As he's pulled away by a girl wanting to dance.

WIDE SHOT of the Party Guests, dancing. At one of the "Get Lows" in the lyrics, the crowd suddenly drops to the floor, leaving only Alex and Henry standing, staring at each other from across the dance floor. The crowd then rises again, obscuring them.

LATER: CLOSE ON the DJ'S HANDS switching up the track --

DJ
Ten seconds 'til midnight everyone!

INSIDE THE CROWD, Alex is dancing with Henry, Percy and Nora-- The crowd cheers --

VARIOUS SHOTS OF THE CROWD: *Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one.* CONFETTI CANNONS EXPLODE, the crowd erupts!

As we hit the collective 'Happy New Year!'--

A YOUNG WOMAN grabs Alex for a kiss. The FLIRTY GIRL from earlier sees this, and wants in. She pulls Alex in for an even sexier midnight kiss.

Henry, crestfallen, turns and walks away. Alex looks up just in time to see Henry disappear into the crowd.

ALEX
Henry!

Alex makes his way through the crowd, everyone's hands are on him, wanting a piece of Alex Claremont-Diaz.

37A OMITTED 37A

38 EXT. WHITE HOUSE - KENNEDY GARDEN - NIGHT 38

HENRY, standing under an evergreen tree amid the snow, staring up at fireworks, the Washington Monument behind him.

ALEX (O.C.)
What are you doing out here?

ANGLE ON Alex approaching.

HENRY
Wanted to get some air.

ALEX
Did I do something wrong?

HENRY
Do you ever wonder who you'd be if you were an anonymous person in the world?

ALEX
I was an anonymous, working-class kid for most of my life. And then my mom became president. Who would you be?

HENRY
I'd be a writer. I'd live in Paris. I'd certainly date more.

ALEX
Yeah, because it's so hard for a prince to get a date.

HENRY
People I date don't interest me. And the people who interest me, I can't date.

ALEX
Oh my god, Henry, I have no idea what you're talking about.

HENRY
Christ, you are as thick as it gets.

Henry grabs Alex by the back of the head and KISSES HIM DEEPLY. Alex is at first surprised, but once he understands what is happening, starts to kiss Henry back.

Henry pulls Alex closer to him and they kiss longingly. In the moonlight, snowy White House grounds, they look so right together.

Eventually, they pull apart. Alex stares at him, stunned. Henry looks at him, panic growing in his chest, genuine fear crossing his face.

HENRY
I'm sorry.

Henry turns and runs away.

PUSHING IN on Alex, who stands in the snowy garden, utterly gobsmacked by what just happened.

39 OMITTED 39

40 OMITTED 40

41 INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT 41

Alex, stretching on the floor in winter jogging clothes, he grabs his phone and texts Henry: Are you alive?

ON THE TV -- Governor Richards makes a speech about manufacturing jobs in the mid-west, live on CNN.

42 OMITTED 42

-- Richards full screen on TV, continuing his debate speech.

43 INT. NORA'S OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT 43

Nora with a group of colleagues, watching the debate. Food and beers on the table. They're playing a debate-watching drinking game. We hear Richards say the word "prosperity."

NORA
Prosperity!

They all chug their beers. Alex appears in the doorway.

ALEX
Hey Nora.

NORA
Hey, what's up?

ALEX
Got a minute?

From the look on his face, she knows this is important.

She takes her beer and leads him out of the conference room and into --

43A INT. NORA'S OFFICE - NIGHT 43A

She sits down at her desk. Alex follows her in. We see the conference room and the debate through the glass wall behind Nora.

NORA
OK, what's going on?

ALEX
So...funny thing happened on New Year's Eve. Henry kinda kissed me?

From the conference room, we hear Nora's colleagues yell at the TV.

NORA
I totally and privately called that.

ALEX
Oh shut up Nora, you did not.

NORA
Hey, it's my job to analyze data and he has never once checked me out and I'm what some men would consider exquisite. So from where I'm sitting, Henry's...

ALEX
Kinda gay?

NORA
More like the first 50 rows of a Gaga concert kinda gay.

ALEX
But he's always dating a different girl.

NORA
Oh honey, Princes aren't allowed to be gay, you should know that.

Alex notices the beautiful flowers on her desk.

ALEX
Did I forget your birthday?

NORA
Not yet. Remember Henry's friend Percy?

ALEX
Are you into him?

NORA
I'm not <u>not</u> into him. Right now i'm more into getting female identifying candidates elected into congress. But he does have a good taste in florists.
(then)
Anyway, okay, tell me more about this kiss. Did you like it?

ALEX
He grabbed my hair in a way that made me understand the difference between rugby and football.

NORA
I'm going to take that as a yes.

ALEX
It wasn't unpleasant, just surprising.

NORA
I mean, you have been wanting him to dick you down forever.

ALEX
WHAT?!? WRONG!!! NO NO NO NO NO!!!

Alex takes a seat on the sofa. Nora joins.

NORA
OK. Allow me to lay out some observations for you. Extrapolate as you wish. First, you've been, like completely obsessed with Henry for years.

ALEX
I have not been...

NORA
Do not interrupt me.

NORA
You've been long-distance text flirting with him all day every day for months. You spent the entire New Year's party straight-up ignoring the who's who of hot young women in order to talk to Henry. And he kissed you and you liked it. So, objectively...what do you think that means?

ALEX
I don't know.

Nora lowers her head. Roaring with frustration.

NORA
Come on!

ALEX
I don't know, I don't know.

Alex gets on his feet.

ALEX
Okay... I can wrap my head around being low-level into guys. But I am really confused about being into Henry.

NORA
How many guys have you been with?

One of Nora's co-workers walks into her office, grabs a folder from her own desk and scurries out.

ALEX
Two. Once in high school, and once...with Miguel Ramos.

NORA
(too loudly)
The Politico reporter?!

ALEX
Shut up.

NORA
Didn't see that coming.

Nora close with Alex at her desk --

NORA
What was that story there?

ALEX
(with a shrug)
We once made out on the campaign...drunk...fully naked...in a hot tub. I get the feeling he wants me back in that hot tub but, you know, he's a journalist.

NORA
Right. Yeah. Closeted princes are much safer.

Someone knocks on the glass to signal to Nora that she really does need to come back into the conference room. She signals back that she's coming.

NORA
Yes well, do you two have any more appearances coming up?

ALEX
He's supposed to be my guest to the dinner for the Prime Minister next month. He can't ignore me all night, can he?

NORA
(as she's leaving)
I guess you'll find out.

ALEX
Nora, come on!

44 OMITTED 44

45 OMITTED 45

-- The White House lit up at night.

46 INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST ROOM - NIGHT 46

All eyes on Ellen and the BRITISH PRIME MINISTER as they are anounced and enter --

Ellen and the first family have their photograph taken. Alex's mind is elsewhere.

TIME CUT to Alex standing alone anxiously watching the distinguished guests pour in. When --

MIGUEL (O.C.)
Alex! Nice tux. *Que guapo.*

ANGLE ON MIGUEL RAMOS standing in front of him.

ALEX
Hey Miguel. Thanks. You too.

MIGUEL
So I read your Texas campaign memo.

ALEX
How? That was super confidential.

MIGUEL
I'm a journalist, Alex. I quite literally have my sources.

HENRY WALKING IN, looking like a young James Bond in his immaculate tuxedo.

MIGUEL
Anyway, I think you've got some good ideas.

ALEX
(back in the room)
Thanks, Miguel.

MIGUEL
The campaign putting your memo into action? Because they should. Is this the year that the democrats finally flip Texas?

Alex is about to answer but he's entranced by Henry being photographed --

MIGUEL (O.C.)
Earth to Alex.

ALEX
(distracted)
Yeah, we're gonna flip Texas. Good to see you, Miguel.

Alex walks away. We stay on Miguel, watching him go.

46A OMITTED 46A

47 OMITTED 47

48 OMITTED 48

49 INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST ROOM - NIGHT 49

--Alex approaches Amy.

ALEX
I need your help.

AMY
Where's the threat? Do we need to clear the room?

ALEX
What? No. I just need to talk to Henry. In private.

Their POV: Henry talking with an OLDER COUPLE across the room.

Amy flashes a look of understanding at him.

AMY
The best I can do is the Red Room. You take him any further and his security team will taser you.

50 INT. WHITE HOUSE - RED ROOM - NIGHT 50

Alex waits alone. Trying out the perfect suave and sophisticated pose to greet Henry. The door opens and Henry slips in.

HENRY
Look, I know I owe you an explanation. My behavior has just been appalling--

ALEX
Shut up, stop talking.

Alex grabs Henry's face and kisses him deeply. It takes Henry a second or two to realize what's happening. Once he does--

HENRY
Wait a minute, wait a minute!

Henry looks at Alex to make sense of this sudden twist and then grabs him and kisses him back and THEY GO AT IT, BABY! Alex shoves Henry against the nearest wall. It's not the sweet, furtive kiss from New Year's--it is raw and aggressive and hot--like they're trying to eat each other.

Just then --

AMY (O.C.)
Alright fellas, time's up. We need to get you back to--

The door opens.

AMY
Oh ... god!

They quickly break apart, pretending to be casual.

51 INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST ROOM - NIGHT 51

Alex and Henry re-enter the party, standing a little too close to one another than they should.

ALEX
So are you still...?

HENRY
Like Stonehenge.

ALEX
Your royal hardness. Or Big Ben.

HENRY
Nelson's column.

ELLEN (O.C.)
There you are.

ANGLE ON Ellen and The Prime Minister.

ALEX
Hi ma.

ELLEN
Prime Minister, this is my son Alex.

PRIME MINISTER
It's good to see you and His Royal Highness on better terms. And not on the floor.

ALEX
Yes, Prime Minister. Henry and I are much happier against walls.

CLOSE ON ALEX'S HAND GENTLY GRABBING HENRY'S ASS.

Henry jumps at this.

PRIME MINISTER
Everything all right?

HENRY
Yes. Very excited to be here.

ELLEN
Hopefully we'll get through tonight without any more scandals from these two.

ALEX
The night is young, ma.

Ellen glares at Alex.

ELLEN
Please, Prime Minister--

As she escorts the Prime Minister away.

ALEX
Okay, so here’s what we’re gonna do.

HENRY
Yes tell me.

ALEX
You’re gonna stay at least five hundred feet away from me for the rest of the night.

HENRY
Sensible plan.

ALEX
I’m not done.

HENRY
Of course you’re not.

ALEX
And then at midnight, you’re going to come to my room on the second floor of the residence where I am going to do some very bad things to you.

And with that Alex charges away, leaving Henry with the bluest balls on the planet.

51A OMITTED 51A

52 INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT 52

Alex undoes his tie when there’s a KNOCK at the door. Alex goes to the door, opens it --

Henry stands there, his head resting on the door frame, looking utterly devastating.

ALEX
You’re late.

Alex goes to close the door on him but Henry stops it with his hand, pushing it open. In one elegant move, Henry steps in, closes the door, grabs Alex by the waist and pulls him into a deep kiss. Henry pushes Alex against the back of the sofa and begins unbuttoning his shirt, kissing down his neck and chest.

HENRY
To be clear: this changes nothing between us.

ALEX
I was about to say the same thing.

HENRY
No you weren't. That's impossible.

They topple back onto the sofa. Alex moves over to one end and Henry gets on top of him. They kiss like mad.

ALEX
When did you start to...?

HENRY
Fancy you? Melbourne Climate Conference. First night party.

ALEX
Wow, you had a lot going on that night.

HENRY
Tell me about it.

ALEX
I really thought you hated me.

HENRY
I hated how good you looked.

Henry unbuttons Alex's pants. He moves down, out of frame. We stay on Alex until we CUT TO --

-- A TIME LAPSE over the WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

53 INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT 53

Alex and Henry lie on the sofa. Alex's clothes are askew. Henry's still fully dressed. Henry notices an old silver key dangling from a chain around Alex's neck.

HENRY
What's that?

ALEX
Key to my family's house in Austin. I started wearing it when we moved here.

HENRY
Hmm. You know I don't think I've ever owned a key in my entire life.

ALEX
No such thing as a locked door when you're a prince, I suppose.

HENRY
Well, you'd be surprised.

ALEX
Just to put it out there...

HENRY
Yes?

ALEX
I guess you could say I'm...bisexual.

HENRY
Noted. Ah...Just to put it out there, I am as gay as a maypole.

ALEX
(chuckling)
I have no idea what a maypole is. Are they known for their homosexual tendencies?

HENRY
Oh god yes. Notorious. Notorious for it.

Alex entwines his fingers with Henry's.

ALEX
I wouldn't mind doing this again.

HENRY
Me neither. We just have to keep it very casual, of course.

ALEX
Oh, obviously. The press and all.

HENRY
I just can't afford for you to fall in love with me.

ALEX
Oh get over yourself, your majesty.

HENRY
No, that's not what I meant when I said--

HENRY
It's Your Royal Highness, I don't know how many times I have to tell you that--

Henry kisses Alex. Then --

HENRY
I should probably get going.

Henry stands, moves to the door. He turns and--

ALEX
I guess I'll see you...

HENRY
You know I was thinking...

ALEX
No, you can.

HENRY
You go..

ALEX
Please, you first.

HENRY
There's this charity polo match in Windsor next month that my mate Percy's foundation organizes. I was wondering if you might want to be my guest.

ALEX
Oh. Umm.. I don't know how to play polo.

HENRY
Damn. Well, I suppose that will be alright, seeing as you won't be playing. I will. You'll be watching. On the sidelines.

ALEX
Great. That's probably safer for everyone.

HENRY
Agreed.

Henry holds Alex's look from the doorway. Smouldering. As he closes the door Alex collapses into the couch. A grin wide across his face.

54 EXT. POLO GROUNDS - VIP SECTION - DAY 54

CLOSE on a POLO BALL getting WHACKED by a MALLET. THEN --

A pack of riders on horseback racing toward it. One of these players is Henry, who swings his mallet at the ball and WHACK! It goes flying.

We find Alex arriving in his J Crew finest. Him watching the match.

ALEX'S POV: Henry, looking unbelievably fit in his skintight polo outfit, urging his horse across the field with the power of his thighs, his arm muscles stretching and flexing with each swing of the mallet, his arse bouncing hard in the saddle.

BACK TO ALEX, who has never been so jealous of a saddle.

All of the above starts to crescendo with intensity. It is INTERCUT with --

55 OMITTED 55

56 INT. POLO GROUNDS - TEAM TENT - DAY 56

Alex and Henry enter the small changing area. The walls lined with saddles, riding crops, bridles, and reins.

Henry grabs Alex and kisses him. They attack each other, pawing and kissing. Alex can't decide where to put his hands because he wants to put them everywhere at once. The SOUNDS of people just outside the tent seems to add to the urgency.

Alex lifts henry onto the counter, starts unbuttoning Henry's trousers and YANKS them down as there's --

One final WHACK of the polo mallet striking the ball.

57 EXT. POLO GROUNDS - TEAM TENT - DAY 57

Alex and Henry emerge from the tent, attempting to make themselves look as tidy and nonchalant as possible.

HENRY
Are you hungry?

ALEX
Yeah, I could eat.

The WHIRL of an airplane engine takes us to PARIS drenched in soft afternoon light, as we settle on a --

58 INT. BISTRO IN PARIS - DAY 58

Alex and Henry at a private table in the back. Their meals are gone. Two espressos before them.

ALEX
There's something I've been dying to ask you.

HENRY
Which other famous boys have I shagged?

ALEX
There's two things I'm dying to ask you.

HENRY
Alright, let's start with the first.

ALEX
Do you have a last name?

Henry is charmed by that question.

HENRY
Actually I have several. The official family name is Hanover-Stuart. My father's surname was Fox. So my full name is Henry George Edward James Hanover-Stuart-Fox.

Alex whistles in amazement.

ALEX
And I thought Alexander Gabriel Claremont-Diaz was a mouthful.

HENRY
(with a wink)
He is.

59 EXT. PARK IN PARIS - DUSK 59

Alex and Henry walk through a park. Their security detail follow.

ALEX
Does anyone in your family know about you?

HENRY
My sister Bea's the only one I've told. My mum probably suspects. My brother Philip is completely oblivious.

ALEX
And what about His Majesty the King?

HENRY
Grandpa's a cold-hard realist. He sat me down on my 18th birthday and told me not to let any selfish desires I might be harboring reflect poorly on the crown.

ALEX
That is some bullshit.

HENRY
It's my life.

ALEX
Doesn't mean you have to accept it.

HENRY
I was four years old when I realized that everyone in my country knew my name, but I would never know theirs. Prince Henry belongs to Britain. Henry Fox has to belong to himself or else he'll vanish.

ALEX
Can't he ever belong to someone else?

HENRY
Only momentarily.

Alex looks at Henry in this moment of vulnerability. He reaches for Henry, who pulls away.

HENRY
Not here.

A SHOT of a boat moving down the Seine. Paris's buildings silhouetted against the evening light.

60 INT. HOTEL ROOM IN PARIS - NIGHT 60

Alex looks out the window--the glow of Paris reflecting on his face. He smiles, then laughs at where he finds himself and with whom. Henry appears into frame behind Alex, wrapping his arms around him. They look out the window together. Then...

HENRY
I think we should make love tonight.

ALEX
Oh! I mean, yeah I'm down. But I mean who says "make love" anymore? Are we gonna like listen to Lana del Rey when we do it?

HENRY
All right, all right...

They laugh and kiss. Then--

ALEX
It's just...who's gonna do what? Because I'm...I've never...

Alex's language fails him and he ends up resting his head on Henry's chest.

ALEX
I'm so not playing this cool right now.

HENRY
I went to an English boarding school, dear. Trust me--you're in good hands.

They kiss. Then, while staying close on our TWO SHOT, Alex and Henry silently start to undress.

First their jackets come off. Then their shirts. Alex unbuttons Henry's.

HENRY
Careful. The buttons are quite sturdy.

ALEX
Rigid.

It's the first time Alex has seen Henry shirtless. He takes in an eyeful, then Henry takes Alex's hand and places it on his chest. Alex feels Henry's heart beating, then he moves his hand up to Henry's shoulder, then to his bicep. All the while locking eyes with him.

REVERSE ANGLE as we trace Henry's hand down Alex's back.

BACK TO TWO SHOT as Henry and Alex remove the rest of their clothes OFF CAMERA. They look at each other, taking in the sight of one another, smiling and continuing to stare a hole into each other.

CLOSE ON their fingers entwining. CLOSE ON Alex's hand on Henry's hip.

Henry reaches forward, lifting the key around Alex's neck in his palm.

Alex moves Henry back toward the bed. They fall back, kissing madly, their faces and bodies entwined.

The rest of the scene will be composed of medium shots. Their faces and torsos are all we see. The sexual action happens off camera. Throughout, we stay focused on their faces.

Henry reaches down out of frame and slowly guides Alex inside him. Deep inhale from Henry, deep exhale from Alex. Alex slowly starts to make love to Henry. They stare at one another, as if in amazement at this moment.

ALEX
I can't believe how wrong I was about you.

HENRY
Most people are.

They kiss and continue to make love.

61 INT. HOTEL ROOM IN PARIS - NIGHT 61

Alex and Henry in bed, holding each other, their legs entwined.

HENRY
Is there any part of you that wishes you weren't the son of the President? Or that your family wasn't in politics?

ALEX
I actually wish I could help out more. It's gonna be a tough campaign.

HENRY
You really do love it, don't you?

ALEX
Yeah I really do. To devote your life to helping others? To know that what you do has a meaningful impact on people's lives? I know it's my life's work.

HENRY
Is there any part of you that doubts?

A moment, then--

ALEX
My father was 12 when my *abuela* brought him and his sister over from Mexico. You may not understand this, but in America, if you're an immigrant with a "Z" in your last name, there's not a lot of people in positions of power that look like you, or sound like you. I've been given a chance to be someone in the world my father didn't see when he was growing up. You can't know what that means.

Henry kisses Alex's shoulder.

HENRY
I'm learning.

62 OMITTED 62

-- An airplane cuts through the evening sky.

63 INT. COMMERCIAL FLIGHT - BUSINESS CLASS - NIGHT 63

Alex travels home. Lost in thought.

64 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - DAY 64

Alex in a chair facing Ellen at her desk.

ELLEN
Did you tell Miguel Ramos we had a plan to flip Texas?

ALEX
What?!? No!

Ellen picks up her iPhone and reads.

ELLEN
Sixteen tweets today, all linking to his new article.

ALEX
He really tweets too much.

ELLEN
“Mr. Claremont-Diaz, a student at Georgetown Law, is playing an active role in the campaign’s new Texas strategy.” I was unaware my campaign had a new Texas strategy. Can you please tell me what it is.

ALEX
If your campaign had read my memo you’d know. All I said to Miguel is that Texas is competitive and we intend to win it. I didn’t think that he’d write an article about it--

ELLEN
Well he has. So now we have to explain to everyone that we don’t in fact have a new Texas strategy.

ALEX
You do have a Texas strategy, you just won’t implement it. Why aren’t you registering a million new voters?

ALEX (CONT'D)
Why aren't you firing up the youth vote, building a grassroots movement? Why aren't you fighting for your home state, ma?

ELLEN
I am fighting for my administration, and for the people who can't afford to have Jeffrey Richards become president. And I will not be the first woman to lose re-election to this office.

Ellen picks up a red folder and tosses it across the desk toward him.

ALEX
What is that?

ELLEN
Our latest internal polling. Richards is killing me in the Rust Belt. That's where we need to focus, not Texas. You're being idealistic when I need you to be realistic.

ALEX
Is that why you got into politics? To be realistic? Do you think that's what the people really need right now?

ELLEN
I do not need a lecture from you about idealism. I was 28 when I was elected to the State Legislature. I had 150,000 constituents. Now I have 330 million. They need me to be realistic so they can be idealistic. If you don't understand that, then you have a lot to learn about politics, kiddo.

Then--

ELLEN
You are no longer allowed to speak to the press, do you understand me?

ALEX
Yes, Madam President.

Alex heads to the door, but stops just as he gets there.

ALEX
27.

ELLEN
What?

ALEX
You were 27 not 28 when you won your first election. Ask any of the women who work for you. They'll be able to tell you that.

Alex leaves. Ellen sits there, looking at the fabled room she calls her office.

65 OMITTED 65

65A INT. ZAHRA'S OFFICE - DAY 65A

Zahra is at her desk. Ellen appears at the door. Zahra stands.

ZAHRA
Madam President. Do you need me for something?

ELLEN
What's the deal with this campaign memo?

66 OMITTED 66

67 OMITTED 67

68 INT. WHITE HOUSE - RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 68

Ellen and Oscar curled up on the sofa. Before them is a box filled with photos and press clippings from her career. Also campaign paraphernalia from all her past races. She studies them all.

ELLEN
Oh, I remember that.

Alex walks in, backpack slung over his shoulder.

ALEX
What's all that?

ELLEN
My first Texas campaign. Your grandmother saved everything.

OSCAR
Every press clipping, every button, every flyer.

Alex sits down next to them and looks through it all. Ellen holds up Alex's memo.

ELLEN
I read your memo. Good work. We're sending you to Texas.

ALEX
Really???

ELLEN
You'll have a shoestring budget. You'll eat fast food for every meal.

OSCAR
You'll work 18 hour days. And you'll love every minute of it.

ELLEN
So what do you say?

ALEX
When do I start?

Pushing in on a smiling Alex as we --

BEGIN EMAIL/CAMPAIGN SEQUENCE in which we follow Alex on the campaign trail while he and Henry exchange emails.

-- Shots of beautiful Texan countryside and sprawling farmland.

ALEX (V.O.)
Dear Henry. Greetings from the Lone Star State...

70 OMITTED 70

71 INT. TEXAS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY 71

Alex meets with a group of young volunteers in the bare-bones campaign office they have opened.

ALEX (V.O.)
...It's hard to put into words how exciting it is to be back here, working to get my mom re-elected.

72 INT. TEXAS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY 72

Alex is giving an on-camera interview while giving a tour of the headquarters to a visiting journalist. He shows them a chart on the wall indicating the goal of 1 million new voter registrations by election day.

ALEX (V.O.)
The energy here is electric and I think we can make a real difference. The only thing that would make it even better is if you were here.

-- Alex studies a Texas map on the wall.

HENRY (V.O.)
I can't think of single way to start this email, except to say..You're incredible.

-- CLOSE ON a 'CLAREMONT, HOLLERAN' campaign signs pitched into someone's front yard. There's a whole row of them lining a residential street.

-- CLOSE ON someone sticking a 'I'm with Ellen' bumper sticker to their car.

-- Alex volunteering at a voter registration table.

HENRY (V.O.)
But should I also tell you that when we're apart your body comes back to me in my dreams? That I can feel your skin against mine and it makes every bone in my body ache?

78B INT. TEXAS HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT 78B

Alex and Amy play cards in his hotel room. Burgers, fries, and a bottle of red wine beside them.

ALEX (V.O.)
Henry, seriously. I'm out here giving my all for my mother.

-- Alex in the middle of a contentious call at the campaign headquarters.

ALEX (V.O.)
I can't have smut filling my inbox--

-- Alex speaking with dock workers.

ALEX (V.O.)
Corrupting my mind and bulging my pants like this.

-- Alex talks to a local community at a picnic.

ALEX (V.O.)
You know I am incorrigible, so don't incorrige me.

73 INT. HOTEL KITCHEN - DAY 73

Alex helps to do the dishes as he talks with two workers.

HENRY (V.O.)
I'll behave. By the way--

74 OMITTED 74

78A INT. TEXAS HOTEL CORRIDOR - DAY 78A

Alex (with Amy) walks down a corridor and encounters a HOUSEKEEPER coming out of a room. She recognizes him and he stops to talk to her. He takes her phone and uses it to take a selfie of them.

HENRY (V.O.)
--we call them "trousers", not "pants," dear. But in this case both seem to apply. Also, from all the photos you're posting--

74A INT. TEXAS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY 74A

Alex eats pizza with campaign volunteers.

HENRY (V.O.)
It really makes me want to visit.

ALEX (V.O.)
Yes! I was just thinking that--

-- Alex gives an on-camera interview to a group of reporters in front of a farm.

ALEX (V.O.)
--I want you to come and see it one day. There's so much I want to show you. I think you'd really like Austin most especially.

80A INT. TEXAS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY 80A

Alex steals a quiet moment to check his phone. He reads something wonderful from Henry and smiles.

I want to see your mouth covered in barbeque sauce and then I wanna lick it off.

77 EXT. TEXAS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY 77

Alex and other volunteers hand out flyers. One woman gives him the finger as she passes.

HENRY (V.O.)
Wait, don't they have napkins in Texas?

78 INT. TEXAS HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT 78

Alex alone on his bed, watching the news where Henry is at a ribbon cutting.

HENRY (V.O.)
I wish I could but my duties keep me here. It's becoming increasingly difficult attending mindless ribbon cuttings--

78D INT. WHITE HOUSE - RESIDENCE - NIGHT 78D

Ellen and Oscar watch Alex giving a TV interview.

HENRY (V.O.)
--While you're out there changing the world. I'll be damned, Alex, but I miss you.

76 INT. TEXAS HOTEL GYM - DAY 76

Alex runs on a treadmill.

ALEX (V.O.)
Dear Henry. I miss you too. I'll admit this to you and no one else--

ALEX (V.O.)
--for all my big talk and all my certainty, I'm secretly afraid I'm going to let my mother down.

78C INT. TEXAS HOTEL ROOM - BATHROOM - DAY/NIGHT 78C

Alex practices his Convention speech, the text taped to the mirror before him.

HENRY (V.O.)
I understand what you're saying and I believe what you're describing is called "impostor syndrome."

-- Alex standing on the back of a pickup truck, speaking to a crowd of young people.

HENRY (V.O.)
But I know that you are not an impostor.

80 INT. TEXAS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - DAY 80

Alex returns to the chart measuring new voter registrations.

ALEX
We just hit a million voters!!

Alex high fives his team as they cheer. They've far exceeded their goal of 1 million and are still growing.

HENRY (V.O.)
I'm reminded of one of my favourite quotes from *Sense and Sensibility.* "It isn't what we say or think that defines us--

75 INT. TEXAS HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT 75

Alex returns to his room, exhausted. He collapses face-down onto his bed.

HENRY (V.O.)
--But what we do." And I think what you're doing is amazing. So keep going.

79 OMITTED 79

79A OMITTED 79A

END OF MONTAGE

-- WE SEE a map of Alex's route from Texas to New York.

-- JOY REID reports live from the MSNBC studio --

JOY REID
We're going live to the Democratic National Convention in Brooklyn, New York, where Alex Claremont-Diaz is addressing the crowd. Let's listen in...

80B EXT. BARCLAYS CENTER - NIGHT 80B

FOOTAGE of the Barclay's Center in Brooklyn.

ALEX (V.O.)
My mom has inspired me every day.

81 INT. BARCLAYS CENTER 81

Broadcast footage of the Democratic National Convention in all its craziness. We end with Alex onstage, delivering his speech to the convention. He is confident and poised and laser focused.

ALEX
She has passed down to me a faith in America that always looks to the future, not back at the past. Her vision for America has you at the center. Your hopes. Your values. Your future.

82 INT. NEW YORK HOTEL - BAR - NIGHT 82

Alex sits at the bar nursing a drink when Miguel appears beside him.

MIGUEL
Bien hecho, cabron. Great speech.

ALEX
Hey, Miguel.

MIGUEL
You looked really good up there.

ALEX
Thanks.

MIGUEL
You know, we're both staying at this hotel tonight...

ALEX
Tell me something...do you honestly believe that we're ever hooking up again?

MIGUEL
Well I don't anymore. Is there a problem between us, Alex?

ALEX
Yeah. The problem is you sandbagging me and my mother's campaign on your little wannabe *Washington Post* website, claiming we had a plan to flip Texas.

MIGUEL
Which you do, and have enacted, and confirmed as much when we spoke about it on the record.

ALEX
Well the only thing that I'm confirming tonight is that you're an asshole. Feel free to use that quote. *Buenas noches, cabron*.

Alex gets up and turns toward the entrance to the bar only to discover --

HENRY walking in. Their eyes lock and Alex rushes to them, trying to chill his excitement.

ALEX
What are you doing here?

HENRY
Bit of skullduggery. Amy helped me plan it.

Alex then turns to look at Miguel at the bar, fuming from their interaction and staring directly at them.

ALEX
We need to get up to my room right now.

83 <u>INT. ALEX'S NEW YORK HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT</u> 83

Alex and Henry burst into the room and start going at each other, kissing and hurrying out of their clothes.

84 INT. ALEX'S NEW YORK HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT 84

Later, they cuddle on the sofa in bathrobes. The remnants of room service dinner on the coffee table before them. They eat chocolate mousse from a glass.

ALEX
Have you ever cooked for yourself?

HENRY
Once, unsuccessfully.

ALEX
Have you ever been on Grindr?

HENRY
Once, unsuccessfully.

ALEX
Do you vote?

HENRY
Not allowed.

ALEX
What? That’s insane.

HENRY
Them’s the rules.

ALEX
What’s your faavorite movie?

HENRY
Oh, In the mood for love.

ALEX
I’ve never seen it.

HENRY
God, sometimes I forget how uncultured you Americans are. It is only the swooniest movie of all time.

ALEX
Swooniest? Is that even a word?

HENRY
Yes, of course it is.

ALEX
Have you ever had your heart broken?

HENRY
The day my dad died.

Alex sets the desert down and rests his hand on Henry's side.

85 INT. ALEX'S NEW YORK HOTEL ROOM - MORNING 85

Alex and Henry asleep in bed, WHEN --

A POUNDING ON THE ROOM DOOR AND --

ZAHRA (O.S.)
Alex Claremont-Diaz, it is almost seven. You have interviews to do. Let's get going!

Alex bolts up, awake.

ALEX
Henry, wake up.

Alex shakes Henry, who groans and slowly wakes. The banging continues.

ALEX
Shit, shit, shit!

HENRY
What's going on?

ZAHRA (O.S.)
Come on, let's get your mother re-elected!

HENRY
Oh shit.

Alex and Henry jump out of bed.

86 INT. NEW YORK HOTEL - HALLWAY - SAME 86

Zahra pounds on the door, then listens at it. The faintest sound of speaking.

ZAHRA
Is there someone in there?

ALEX (O.C.)
Be right with you, Zahra!

ZAHRA
That's it, I am coming in.

She uses her key to open the door and steps inside --

87 INT. ALEX'S NEW YORK HOTEL ROOM - SAME 87

REVERSE ANGLE on Alex’s naked behind as Zahra barges in, instantly shielding her eyes.

ZAHRA
Put clothes on now.

Alex pulls on some clothes while Zahra does a quick visual sweep of the room -- empty wine bottle, late night room service, and a bed slept in by two.

ALEX
There’s no one here, Zahra.

ZAHRA
Yeah right, where is she?

ALEX
Zahra, no one is here.

ZAHRA
Oh really...

Zahra picks up Henry’s phone from the night stand.

ZAHRA
Well that “no one” left her phone in here.

Zahra charges to the bathroom, looking for her culprit.

ALEX
Okay, so she left her phone in here. Big deal, Zahra.

ZAHRA
Where is she? Hello, hello--

ALEX
Let me get dressed and I’ll meet you downstairs.

ZAHRA
Hello...Litle missie.

ALEX
Zahra please, it’s all chill.

ZAHRA
It’s all chill? You hook up with some rando the night before your mother’s acceptance speech. You don’t have her sign an NDA, of that I am certain.

ZAHRA (CONT'D)
And then you let her bring her phone in here, transmitting god knows what to god knows who. Yeah, Alex, yeah. That is really chill.

Then, a LOW BUMP in the closet. Zahra makes a beeline for it, opening the door to reveal Henry standing there in his boxers and his unbuttoned shirt on. His cheeks are crimson with embarrassment. But he is a prince, after all. So he stands up straight and says--

HENRY
Good morning.

Zahra starts to go through some kind of mental and mechanical meltdown, like a computer in a death spiral.

ALEX
Zahra, breathe...

ZAHRA
Don’t you tell me what to do!

ALEX
Do you want to sit?

ZAHRA
(barely lucid)
Yeh, yeh yeh.

ALEX
Tell me where you wanna go.

Alex helps sit her on the bed.

ALEX
Here? Oh, there?

ZAHRA
Fine, fine. I’m fine!
(composing herself)
How long has this been going on?

ALEX
Since New Year’s.

ZAHRA
Oh god. And who knows about this?

ALEX
Literally no one but you. And the Secret Service.

HENRY
And Percy.

ALEX
Right, and Nora.

HENRY
Oh, and I told my sister.

ALEX
Aw, I didn't know that.

HENRY
Yeah, she was really happy for us.

ALEX
I can't wait to see her again. She's really--

ZAHRA
Alright, shut up ok, the both of you. I need to think.

ALEX
Please don't tell my mom.

ZAHRA
Seriously? Alex, we're in a hotel crawling with reporters, in a city filled with cameras, on the precipice of the biggest event of the campaign in a race so close it could be arrested for assault and you're asking me not to tell your mommy on you?

ALEX
I haven't told her yet.

ZAHRA
Ah gee kid, I'm sorry to interrupt your process of becoming. But you're the one who decided to put your dick into the heir to the British throne.

HENRY
Technically, I'm the spare.

ZAHRA
(to Henry)
Not talking to you, sir.
(to Alex)
Ok. Would it make any difference if I told you not to see him again?

ALEX
No.

ZAHRA
Every time I see you it takes another year off my life. Alright, I'm going downstairs and you'd better be dressed and in the lobby in five minutes so we can get your mother re-elected.

ALEX
I'll be there.

She swiftly turns on Henry.

ZAHRA
And as for you, Little Lord Fuckleroy. You get your ass back to merry ol' England right now. I want you chewing on a goddamned crumpet by sunset. And if anyone sees you leave this hotel, I will Brexit your head from your body, you got me?

HENRY
Loud and clear.

Zahra turns to leave, then stops, turns to face Henry once again and awkwardly curtseys.

ZAHRA
Your royal highness.

She then turns and storms out of the room. Alex and Henry left in shock.

87A OMITTED 87A

88 EXT. OUTSIDE OVAL OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON 88

-- Alex outside the Oval Office. He KNOCKS on the door.

ELLEN
Yeah, come in.

89 INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON 89

Ellen is stood by her desk as Alex opens the door.

ELLEN
Hey.

ALEX
Do you have a few minutes?

ELLEN
Sure darlin'. What's up? You look very serious.

Alex walks in, closing the door behind him.

ALEX
Yea. I've been, um, I've been figuring some things out about myself lately. And it's, um, relevant to the campaign, in a way.

Ellen takes a breath.

ELLEN
Okay.

ALEX
I've met someone.

ELLEN
Is that all? Honey, that's great. But why would that be relevant to the campaign? She's not a Republican, is she?

ALEX
No. She's also a "he." And "he" happens to be Henry.

ELLEN
As in the Prince of England?

ALEX
Yeah.

Ellen picks up her phone.

ALEX
Oh, I'm --

A moment, then --

ELLEN
We're going to need some pizza.

89A OMITTED 89A

90 OMITTED 90

90A INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT 90A

Alex and Ellen sit on the sofa, cuddled up with each other. Pizza and beer before them.

Ellen kisses his temple.

ELLEN
So are you gay? Bi? Fluid? Pan? Queer?

ALEX
Cool it, mom. I'm bi.

ELLEN
All right. You know, the "B" in LGBTQ is not a silent letter.

ALEX
Yes, thank you, mom.

ELLEN
I mean if I'd had more warning, I could have made you a PowerPoint presentation but..can I give you some advice?

ALEX
Yeah of course.

ELLEN
You need to figure out if you feel forever about him before you take this any further. A relationship like this will define your life.

ALEX
I don't know if we're there yet, mom. I don't know if we ever will be.

ELLEN
One more thing...we didn't go over this particular type of partnering when we had "the talk," which is on me for making assumptions.

ALEX
Okay...

ELLEN
I just want to make sure you know you need to wear a condom if you're having anal intercourse.

ALEX
(sitting up)
Oh my God.

ELLEN
We can talk about getting you on Truvada. And if you're bottoming, you need to the HPV vaccine. I can have HHS send over some brochures...

ALEX
You are ridiculous. I cannot believe they give you the nuclear codes.

Then...

ELLEN
And you have to tell your father.

ALEX
Ugh. I don't know. This is uncharted territory for us.

ELLEN
When you're a parent, every day is uncharted territory. And when your child is Alex Claremont-Diaz, you get used to the exceptional.
(then)
I love you.

They rest their foreheads against each others.

ALEX
I love you, too.

90B INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGH 90B

Alex in his walk-in closet. Amid all his suits and fancy clothes, he pulls out a storage box. Inside are all his "hangout clothes" from his life in Texas--shorts, tank tops, baseball caps. He slips one on.

ALEX (V.O.)
Dear Henry. Well, I just came out to my mom. I was never afraid of her rejection. I was afraid that she would see me differently than before. But, now I realize that's exactly the point. And then I told my dad, and he'd already figured it out. Anyway, my parents bought a vacation house after my mother's book was published.

ALEX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I'm headed there to chill over Labor Day weekend with my dad and Nora.

91 EXT. TEXAS ROAD - DAY 91

Alex drives a Jeep across a stretch of Texas blacktop, Nora riding shotgun, Henry and Percy in the backseat. The doors and roof are off of the Jeep, the wind whipping through Alex's hair, a pair of Ray-Bans on his face. He's young and tanned and free.

ALEX (V.O.)
My dad suggested that I invite you. Do you wanna come? Please say yes. (PS, Nora says to bring Percy.)

91A OMITTED 91A

92 EXT./INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - DAY 92

Alex, Henry, Nora, and Percy approach the house through the backyard, each carrying bags. Oscar stands in the open sliding doorway to greet them as they walk inside.

ALEX
Watch out! Here comes the British invasion!

OSCAR
Hey hey! Welcome to *La Casa Blanca Oeste*!

Alex grabs the sound system remote --

ALEX
Dad, what is this music? It's so not the vibe.

HENRY
It's great to see you again, sir.

OSCAR
What's with the "sir?" Please, call me "Congressman."

Henry laughs.

HENRY
Well in that case, you can call me "Your Royal Highness."

OSCAR
Who's ready to party?

Alex switches the music over --

ALEX
This is what we should be listening to.

The beat kicking in-- As Henry's attention is drawn to a cluster of Alex's family photos.

93 EXT. COUNTRY HOUSE - DAY 93

Alex, Henry, Nora, and Percy play volleyball. Oscar in a chair, cigar in his mouth and a margarita in his hand, playing referee.

93A EXT. COUNTRY HOUSE - DAY 93A

Alex and Henry together in a hammock, each with a book.

93B OMITTED 93B

93C OMITTED 93C

94 OMITTED 94

95 OMITTED 95

95A INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT 95A

Alex, Henry, Nora, Percy walk into the charmingly run-down bar. Henry is dressed in some of Alex's old clothes and a baseball cap. He looks like a true Texan. Henry looks around, completely charmed.

95B INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT 95B

The quartet at a table holding tequila shots in their hands. There are about a dozen other patrons inside. Amy and several other Secret Service and Royal Security stand guard.

They down their tequila shots. Nora and Alex grab their limes and suck. Henry and Percy follow their leads. We realize that Henry is already a bit drunk.

ALEX
(to Nora)
Wait'll he finds out about the karaoke machine.

HENRY
No, I am definitely not doing karaoke.

CUT TO:

96 INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT 96

Henry microphone in hand, standing on the tiny stage, singing Queen's "Don't Stop Me Now." The rest of the patrons, all crowded in front of the stage, start to cheer as Henry gives them his most royal Freddie Mercury.

ANGLE ON Alex, Nora, and Percy at their table, cheering them on.

ANGLE ON HENRY, giving it his all, having the time of his life. He locks eyes with Alex and smiles deliriously.

REVERSE ON ALEX, staring back at Henry with eyes that can only be described as love.

96A INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 96A

Oscar is preparing breakfast as Alex comes in, pretty hungover. Through the plate-glass windows, we SEE Nora and Percy enjoying coffee together in the sun.

OSCAR
Lazarus wakes.

ALEX
Need help?

OSCAR
Not as bad as you do. Coffee's fresh.

He pours Alex a cup.

OSCAR
Henry's still sleeping?

ALEX
He did karaoke last night. Plus half a dozen tequila shots.

OSCAR
(laughing)
I gotta be honest. I thought because he was a prince, he'd be a little more of a candy ass.

ALEX
He's tougher than he looks. So you like him?

OSCAR
What's not to like?

ALEX
I wasn't sure if you would need to, like, have a Catholic moment about it.

OSCAR
Please. Have some faith in your old man. You are, after all, talking to the patron saint of gender-neutral bathrooms in Austin you little shit.

Oscar turns back to Alex.

OSCAR
You know your mom and I were a stupid idea too. We were just babies when we had you. Nobody thought we'd make it. Look at us now. Sometimes you just gotta jump, and hope you're not standing on a cliff.

97 OMITTED 97

98 OMITTED 98

98A EXT. PLATFORM - PRIVATE LAKE - DAY 98A

--Henry lays in the sun on a floating platform in the middle of a lake. At peace.

Alex emerges from the water, pulling himself onto the platform and shaking his wet hair all over Henry.

ALEX
Shower time!

HENRY
God, you are such a cretin. No get off.

Alex, happy with his prank, lays down next to Henry.

ALEX
I've been thinking.

HENRY
I seriously doubt that.

ALEX
(mimicking him)
"I seriously doubt that." I've been thinking about how my life is going to be a lot different after the election.

HENRY
How so?

ALEX
Well, my mom'll hopefully be in office again, and we won't have to worry about winning any more national elections. And I'll have a lot more freedom. Until it's my turn to run for office, of course.

HENRY
Of course.

ALEX
And I thought maybe next summer we could come back here for like a couple weeks. We can be naked and have sex anywhere on the property we want. We can walk through Austin holding hands and it won't even matter if anyone sees us. I can take you around to all the places I grew up and you can get to understand my life a little more.

CLOSE ON HENRY'S FACE -- he knows it will always matter.

ALEX
I've never felt this way about anyone.

Henry sits up, looking out at the water.

ALEX
It's like there's a rope attached to my chest and it keeps pulling me toward you. And it feels so right.

Henry's face tightens into a grimace of emotional pain. It's as if all the joy is draining from his body.

ALEX
What I mean to say is...Henry, I love--

Henry DROPS INTO THE WATER and we follow him--surrounded by the murk, the faint tendrils of daylight still visible. He holds his breath for as long as he can, then swims away from us.

Henry emerges. Alex now stood up on the platform behind him.

ALEX (O.C.)
Henry? Henry! Where are you going?

Henry swims to shore, not daring to look back at Alex, who grows more and more distant in the background.

99 INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT 99

Henry lies awake with the lights out.

100 INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT 100

Late at night, Henry (fully dressed) watches Alex sleep, regret etched onto his face. He then grabs his bag and leaves.

101 OMITTED 101

-- The Royal Jet takes off.

102 INT. ROYAL JET - NIGHT 102

Henry in his seat. He takes out his phone and starts to type a message to Alex but decides against it.

102A INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - FRONT HALLWAY - DAY 102A

Henry walks into the front hallway of KENSINGTON PALACE the next morning and is attended by several members of staff. His beagle DAVID rushes to greet him.

HENRY
Hello David. Hi, it's so good to see you.

104 EXT. KENSINGTON PALACE - GARDENS - DAY 104

Henry and Bea walk along the pebbled path of Kensington Palace Gardens, shaded by an archway made of trees.

BEA
What happened in Texas?

HENRY
I ended things with Alex.

BEA
Oh, Hen. I'm so sorry. Did grandpa find out?

HENRY
Not this time, but...I felt myself getting too close. And I didn't want to break his heart.

BEA
What about your heart?

They turn into a formal garden area awash with the violet tones of lavender.

BEA
Have you thought about calling mum?

HENRY
Last I heard from mum, she was off saving elephants in Botswana. Perhaps I ought to grow some tusks.

BEA
God, she'd better not abdicate. Or find herself at the top of a staircase with Philip around.

HENRY
It's all so silly, isn't it? The idea of royalty in the 21st Century? It's so antiquated. Sometimes I wonder if what we do has any meaningful impact on people's lives.

BEA
Well cheer up...at least you'll never be king.

They laugh, then --

BEA
(reaching for his hand)
Do you love him?

ANGLE ON HENRY. Of course he does, but --

HENRY
What difference would it make if I did?

He offers her a smile, then turns and walks away.

102B INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - MUSIC ROOM - DAY 102B

In the palace's MUSIC ROOM, Henry quietly plays the piano. His phone vibrates on a nearby table.

CLOSE ON THE PHONE: Henry has an incoming call from Alex. He lets it ring.

102C OMITTED 102C

102D INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - DINING ROOM - DAY 102D

Henry, in his DINING ROOM, sits in a horribly dull meeting with Philip, Bea, and a group of old men in suits, droning on and on. His phone illuminates--Alex is calling. He flips the phone over. We notice that Bea clocks this.

102E OMITTED 102E

102F INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - HENRY'S BEDROOM - DAY 102F

Henry at his desk, reading *The Guardian* on his laptop. A photo of Alex greets him along with the headline: "The Future of American Politics?" Henry closes the laptop.

103 OMITTED 103

104A INT. WHITE HOUSE - ALEX'S ROOM - NIGHT 104A

Alex and Nora lay on top of his bed.

ALEX
He won't answer my texts or take any of my calls. Has Percy heard from him?

NORA
Percy said that Henry sometimes goes into his cocoon phases and the only thing to do is just wait it out.

ALEX
I can't "wait it out", I'm going crazy here.

NORA
Well you have air miles. Go to London. Get your man.

ALEX
What if he won't see me?

NORA
At least you'll have your answer.

105 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - HENRY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 105

Henry in bed, reading. Rain against the window. A KNOCK at the door. Henry turns quizzically and--

HENRY
Yes?

An ATTENDANT steps inside.

ATTENDANT
Sir, Mr. Claremont-Diaz is at the gates. He insists on seeing you.

106 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - GALLERY - SAME 106

Henry comes out onto the gallery, looking down at the front hall. ANGLE on Alex standing downstairs, drenched from the rain and looking like he hasn't slept in days.

ALEX
Can we please talk?

BACK ON HENRY, not at all pleased.

107 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - HENRY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 107

Henry charges into the room and Alex follows. The storm outside intensifies.

HENRY
I'm going to let you say what you need to say and then I would like you to leave.

ALEX
What's going on, Henry? A week ago we were happy and then you disappear without a word? I think you at least owe me an explanation.

HENRY
I have done nothing but explain myself to you this past year. I don't know what more you want me to say. And I don't appreciate you barging in here in the middle of the night.

ALEX
Well I'm sorry I can't turn my feelings off as easily as you.

HENRY
Do you honestly think this is easy for me?

ALEX
What else am I supposed to think? You won't talk to me. All I know is I'm the one here willing to fight for us.

HENRY
Because it costs you nothing.

ALEX
I've been losing my mind this week because the man I love has vanished from my life without an explanation. I flew across an ocean. I stormed a fucking castle to look you in the eye and tell you that I love you, knowing that you wouldn't say it back. So no, Henry, in fact this is costing me everything. If this is over, I at least deserve to know why.

Henry recoils as through he's been punched in the chest. He turns to face the fire, regaining himself.

Henry violently turns to face Alex.

HENRY
Oh for Christ's sake, Alex! For once I wish you could see me for who I am, and not who you want me to be. Sometimes I don't think you know me at all. I'm not like you. I can't afford to be reckless. I wasn't raised by a loving, supportive family like you were.

HENRY (CONT'D)
I have centuries of history bearing down on my shoulders. My life is the crown and yours is politics and I will not trade one prison for another. I can love you and want you and still not want that life. I'm allowed, all right, and it doesn't make me a liar--it makes me a man with some infinitesimal shred of self-preservation, and you don't get to come here and call me a coward for it.

Henry turns back to face the fire.

ALEX
I would never call you a coward. We can figure out a way to love each other on our own terms, no one else's.

HENRY
That is simply not possible and you know it.

Alex closes his eyes in disappointment.

ALEX
Fine. I'll leave. And you can live in your tower and protect your heart for the rest of your life. And nothing will ever happen to you. But, Henry, nothing will ever happen to you. So if you want me to go, you have to tell me to leave.

HENRY
Please don't make me.

ALEX
It's the only way you're getting rid of me because I would never leave this room if I didn't think there was any hope of holding on to the happiness that I found with you. And if you think otherwise, then you don't know me. So tell me to go, Henry, and I promise I'll walk out that door and trouble you no longer.

HENRY (O.C.)
Wait.

CLOSE ON HENRY'S FACE -- illuminated on one side by the fire and by the reflection of the rain splattered window on the other. He turns to face Alex.

HENRY
There's something I want you to see.

108 EXT. KENSINGTON PALACE - PALACE GATE - NIGHT 108

Henry leads Alex out of the palace and through an exterior alleyway. They approach a solid wrought-iron door. Henry reaches into a hollowed out ledge against the palace wall and produces a hidden skeleton key.

Henry opens the door and nods for Alex to pass through.

Henry shuts the gate and Alex follows Henry.

109 INT. V&A MUSEUM - NIGHT 109

Henry leads Alex through the darkened museum, passing spotlit statues, stopping at his favorites. In the half light, the room feels magically alive.

HENRY (V.O.)
When I was a boy, my father used to bring me here. Early in the morning before the museum opened. Now, I like to come at night.

Our camera gently sails around the room, as if caught on a breeze, catching their faces.

HENRY (V.O.)
In here, at night, no one else is around to gawk at you or try and take your picture. You can slip in between the statues like a shadow.

They continue on. Henry is more peaceful and contented than we've ever seen him. Alex watches him as if seeing him really for the first time, with a look that can only be described as love. The glowing statues surround and protect them.

When Henry speaks, it's with a soft voice, as if trying not to break the spell.

HENRY
When I was younger, I would dream of taking somebody I loved here and he'd love it as much as I did, and we'd dance right here amidst all these statues. Just a daft pubescent fantasy.

Henry starts to continue on but Alex stops, pulling out his phone. PERFUME GENUIS performing a cover of Elvis Presley's "Can't Help Falling In Love" starts to play. The music turns Henry back toward Alex, who smiles at him, offering his arms up to dance.

Henry, bashfully stands in place. Alex begins to sway, his gravitational pull getting stronger on Henry. Finally, face to face, Henry puts his arm around Alex's waist. They dance amid the statues. The music, their love, their hope filling this vast and holy space.

THEN --

HENRY
Please be patient with me. And I promise I will try to be brave for us. Because when they write the history of my life, I want it to include you and my love for you.

ALEX
History, huh? Bet we could make some.

They continue dancing. MUSIC CONTINUES AS WE CUT TO--

109A INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - HENRY'S BEDROOM - DAY 109A

Alex and Henry sleep, Alex spooning Henry. Henry wakes, smiles.

110 OMITTED 110

110A OMITTED 110A

111 OMITTED 111

112 OMITTED 112

113 OMITTED 113

114 OMITTED 114

115 INT. PRIVATE AIRSTRIP - DAY 115

Alex and Henry slowly, reluctantly approach a waiting private jet.

HENRY
I want you to have some part of me until you can have all of me again.

Henry pulls his SIGNET RING off his finger and places it into Alex's palm. Alex then removes the key and chain from around his neck and hands it to Henry.

CLOSE ON the key and chain coiling into Henry's hand.

ALEX
Now we're even.

The jet engines start. It's time for them to part. Alex looks around. There are guards keeping a perimeter and no one else. He risks it and pulls Henry into a deep embrace. Into his ear --

ALEX
I love you. I'll be as patient as you need.

Reluctantly, they pull apart.

HENRY
Go win an election.

Henry turns and pushes us back to his waiting car, tears now fully flowing from his face, and Henry not doing a damned thing to stop them.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

116 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - HENRY'S BEDROOM - DAY 116

Henry stirs awake with his dog David, to the sound of VOICES and FOOTSTEPS moving rapidly in the hallway. Something is wrong.

117 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - DRAWING ROOM - DAY 117

Henry walks in to find Bea with Shaan and a handful of PALACE ADVISORS, all huddled around a coffee table, which is strewn with newspapers. They look up as Henry walks in, the staff rising to bow for him.

HENRY
What's going on? Is it Grandpa?

Bea quickly moves to Henry. She sits him down.

BEA
Your emails to Alex have been hacked. They were posted overnight to Reddit.

BEA (CONT'D)
The *Mirror* and the *Sun* ran them this morning. And now security photos of the two of you at the V&A have been popping up.

Henry, his world imploding. He looks up at her.

HENRY
How many of our emails?

BEA
All of them. I'm so sorry, Henry.

HENRY
I should call him.

SHAAN (O.C.)
I'm afraid you can't, sir.

ANGLE ON SHAAN.

SHAAN
I've taken the liberty of confiscating your phone as a precaution.

HENRY
You've done what?

BEA
They've taken my phone and laptop, as well.

HENRY
No. You can't do this.

SHAAN
Orders from the Palace, sir.

HENRY
No, I give the orders in this palace.

The LEAD PALACE ADVISOR, stern and unyielding, steps forward.

PALACE ADVISOR
These orders are from Buckingham Palace, sir. It is believed that this is the work of certain rogue elements within the media.

HENRY
Can we at least get a message to him? To the White House?

SHAAN
I've tried my contacts within the White House with no luck. They may be speaking to Downing Street, but they are not speaking to us.

Henry buries his face in his hands. Bea wraps her arms around him.

118 OMITTED 118

-- WE SEE News Coverage of the rapidly unfolding "scandal."

A British journalist reports on the email leaks.

BRITISH NEWS PRESENTER 1
The emails, which the *Mirror* is calling "The Waterloo Letters," detail the months-long romance between Prince Henry and Alex Claremont-Diaz, the son of American President Ellen Claremont.

The channel flicks to MSNBC and Rachel Maddow.

RACHEL MADDOW
As details emerge about Alex Claremont-Diaz's relationship with the prince, the White House is trying to stay on message.

We SEE VIDEO of Ellen in the Oval sitting next to the JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER, taking questions from the press.

RACHEL MADDOW
This is obviously a critical time for the President in her re-election bid. Polls have her in a dead heat with Governor Richards.

The channel changes to JOY REID on MSNBC.

JOY REID
Now we have Miguel Ramos of Politico, who was the first American journalist to break this story...

Alex sat in bed watching the Don Lemon interview on his laptop.

JOY REID
...And who has written extensively about it in the week since the leak.

On the laptop: Across from JOY REID on split screen is a suited Miguel, being interviewed.

JOY REID
I have to ask you, Miguel...why is this anyone's business? After all, Alex Claremont-Diaz is a private citizen.

MIGUEL
He isn't at all a private citizen. He's playing an active role in his mother's campaign.

Alex shakes his head in disbelief.

JOY REID
Well don't public figures have a right to privacy?

MIGUEL
They do, but these emails clearly show a pattern of obfuscation around this relationship and it's my job to examine and contextualize them.

Alex leans forward. Is he serious?

JOY REID
I'm curious, Miguel--these emails were posted to Reddit at 11:54pm Eastern Standard Time on Sunday night and your first article was posted at 2:30am Monday morning. How did you have time to read nearly 72 emails, write an article, and publish it all within two and a half hours?

MIGUEL
(feeling caught)
I'm not sure what you're getting at...?

JOY REID
Are you really that quick or did you perhaps have advance knowledge that this leak was going to happen?

And with that Alex closes his laptop.

We then find ourselves in --

118B OMITTED 118B

118C INT. WHITE HOUSE - SMALL BRIEFING ROOM - DAY 118C

--where we find Alex at a podium giving a speech.

ALEX
Good morning.
(beat)
Henry and I have been together since the beginning of this year. As many of you have already read, we have struggled every day with what this means for our families, our countries, and our futures.

As the speech continues, we SEE --

--Henry in the BACK OF A CAR, arriving at the ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE.

ALEX (V.O.)
And while neither of us is naive about what it means to be public figures, we never imagined our most private and intimate thoughts, fears, and truths would become fodder for public examination.

Henry's door opens and he is greeted by a frenzy of flash bulbs and two dozen photographers calling out "Prince Henry!", as he's rushed inside.

ALEX (V.O.)
What was taken from us this week was our right to determine for ourselves how and when we should share our relationship and queer identities with the world.

-- And we're back with Alex at the podium

ALEX
(beat)
The truth is every queer person has the right to come out on their own terms and on their own timeline.

--KENSINGTON PALACE Philip yelling at Henry, pacing behind him, his face red, veins popping out of his forehead.

ALEX (V.O.)
They also have the right to choose not to come out at all.

--Shaan and a group of PALACE ADVISORS talking to (lecturing) him on his options.

ALEX (V.O.)
The forced conformity of the closet cannot be answered with forced conformity in coming out of it. This isn't about shame, this is about privacy and the fundamental right of self-determination...

We return to Alex at the podium.

ALEX
...Which are exactly the principles on which the struggle for queer liberation has always been fought.
(beat)
But there is another truth that is much simpler:

-- WE CUT TO FLASHBACK MOMENTS of Alex and Henry together.

-- Looking affectionately at each other at the polo game.

ALEX (V.O.)
I fell in love with a person who happens to be a man...

-- Talking animatedly by firelight.

ALEX (V.O.)
...and that man happens to be a prince. He has captured my heart...

-- Gleefully running between statues at the V&A.

ALEX (V.O.)
...and made my life immeasurably better.

-- Leant up against a tree, kissing in a forest.

ALEX (V.O.)
I love His Royal Highness, Prince Henry George Edward James Hanover-Stuart Fox.

118F INT. ZAHRA'S OFFICE - DAY 118F

Alex's speech plays on the television in Zahra's office.

ALEX (ON TV)
I hope one day we will have the opportunity to be public about our relationship on our own terms.

ALEX (ON TV) (CONT'D)
(a beat)
Thank you.

We find Alex and Zarah as slumped on the sofa, a scotch in each of their hands. The speech ends and Zahra turns off the TV.

ZAHRA
Great job. I'm proud of you.

ALEX
Is it still possible I've cost my mom the election?

ZAHRA
Yes.
(then)
But it's also possible that you've just won her the election. We'll find out next week.

ALEX
I hope Henry was watching. I could feel him watching. He does this thing when he's worried. Furrows his eyebrows. It's the cutest thing. God I miss him...

ZAHRA
Oh my God!

She gets up, goes to her desk, pulls a phone from a drawer and dials a number. After a moment--

ZAHRA
Shaan Shrivistava, this is Zahra Banskston. Look, I know we said we'd only use these phones in an emergency. Well, welcome to that emergency. I've got the First Son in my office mooing over the prince like a cow in labor and I'm not going to get any work done until you put these two lovesick homosexuals on the phone with one another. I don't care what any of those wrinkled white men at Buckingham Palace have to say about it, I want you to march your skinny, perfect ass over to the prince, hand him your phone or so help me God, you will never see me naked again.

ALEX
Wait, what???

ZAHRA
(into the phone)
I thought you might see it my way. Yes we'll hold.
(to Alex)
You might be lousy at keeping secrets, kiddo, but I'm not.

ALEX
Zahra I could kiss you.

ZAHRA
Touch me and die.

119 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - MUSIC - DAY 119

Find Henry at the piano, playing the Cantata as Shaan enters, holding an iPhone. Henry stops playing, looks at the phone in Shaan's hand and takes it.

HENRY
Hello?

ALEX (ON PHONE)
Baby.

Henry breathes for the first time in days.

HENRY
Alex? Oh my God. Are you alright?

ALEX (ON PHONE)
I'm hanging in there. Are you okay?

HENRY
No. No, I'm not okay.

ALEX (ON PHONE)
You know what, I'm coming to London tonight.

Conversation continues as we CUT AHEAD TO --

120 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - STAIRCASE - DAY 120

Henry rushes down the stairs as Alex rushes up them. They meet in the middle, kissing and falling down onto the steps together.

ALEX (V.O.)
Just hold on until I get there. We'll figure this out.

HENRY (V.O.)
Hurry. Please.

ALEX (V.O.)
I'll break the sound barrier for you.

121 INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - MUSIC ROOM - DAY 121

Henry plays the Bach Cantata as Alex sits on the floor nearby, listening. There's a section in the piece that vaguely sounds like "Yankee Doodle" and this time, Henry actually plays that melody, which gets a laugh from Alex.

Alex gets up and sits next to Henry on the piano bench. Alex plunks out the start of "My Country Tis of Thee" and, since it's the same melody, Henry finishes the phrase by playing "God Save the King." Then...

ALEX
Have you heard from your grandfather yet?

HENRY
Not a word. Part of me wonders if their entire strategy is to deny I ever existed.

ALEX
They can't keep you locked away forever.

HENRY
We really need to get you a book on English history.
(a beat)
I feel so lost right now. They used to call me the 'Prince of England's Hearts' and now it feels like everyone hates me.

ALEX
They still love you.

HENRY
They loved the idea of me and now they are faced with the reality.

Henry reaaches for Alex's hand.

HENRY
Your speech was beautiful. It made me proud to be your boyfriend.

ALEX
I'm always proud to be your boyfriend.

HENRY
Oh sorry, I'm white and upper class. So my affection comes with strings.

ALEX
Oh speaking of boyfriends on strings, you'll never guess who Shaan is dating...

With a KNOCK, Shaan appears at the door.

SHAAN
Excuse me, Sir. The King wishes to see you. Both of you.

ANGLE on Henry and Alex, looking at each other and --

122 OMITTED 122

123 OMITTED 123

124 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - KING'S RECEPTION ROOM - DAY 124

Henry and Alex stand in unison with Bea in the huge and imposing room. Philip also waiting, sits a little away, refusing to make eye contact.

The only sound is the ticking of a clock.

ALEX
You know, it's not too late to get out of here and fly to the Maldives.

HENRY
Tempting. But I think it's time I stood up for myself. Might as well start at the top.

PHILIP
The less you say, the better it will be for you.

Henry looks at Philip.

HENRY
I do not need your advice, Philip.

PHILIP
Yes, well you continue to make a mockery of yourself, and in return--

-- The double doors at the end of the room are opened by an attendant and THE KING walks in. His grandchildren freeze at the sight of him, bowing for him. Henry nudges Alex to follow suit. The King doesn't acknowledge this obeisance and heads directly to his stately desk where he lights a cigarette. He gestures for them to be seated.

He considers speaking, but decides to keep them waiting, instead approaching his bar to pour himself a large whiskey neat. As he does--

THE KING
During the Second World War, our intelligence services initiated a clandestine "disinformation" campaign against our enemies. While we employed it as a wartime necessity, there are a number of unscrupulous governments who routinely concoct wholesale fabrications about prominent people in order to further their own national interests. I wonder, Henry, do you suppose that might explain these unseemly reports?

CLOSE ON HENRY. The choice is before him. This is the moment.

HENRY
It's all true, Grandpa.

The King absorbs that blow with great dignity. He steps forward. Standing behind Philip.

THE KING
Nevertheless, I have directed palace communications to issue a firm denial of these accusations.

HENRY
They are not accusations--they are the truth.

THE KING
It's a truth from which I am determined to protect you.

HENRY
I don't want your protection, I want your support.

THE KING
It is not yours to decide which of the two you will get.

HENRY
I am as much a part of this family as anyone here and I deserve to be happy.

THE KING
Oh Henry, no one is suggesting that you don't deserve to be happy, but--

PHILIP
But to throw away your future because of one mad infatuation--

The King clears his throat, silencing Philip, then returns to his desk. His back to his family, he listens.

HENRY
Have you read our emails, Philip?

PHILIP
God no.

HENRY
Well if you had, you would know this is more than just a mad infatuation. Alex and I love each other. Deeply.
(taking Alex's hand)
And we are committed to each other. Deeply.

The King faces Henry and Alex, and makes his way to his seat beside Philip.

THE KING
I have read your emails, Henry. All of them. They leave no doubt that your love is genuine. Occasionally vulgar, but genuine.

Henry and Alex cast surprised and cautious glances at The King.

THE KING
However, your primary responsibility is not to your heart, but to your country. And anything other than maintaining the traditional royal image is out of the question.

ALEX
Why is it out of the question?

The King looks at Alex.

THE KING
Mr. Claremont-Diaz, let me disabuse you of the idea that your contribution to this conversation is in any way welcome. You are party to this problem, not to its solution.

HENRY
Then I'll ask it then: why must we maintain a traditional royal image?

THE KING
Because--because, because the nation simply will not accept a prince who is homosexual.

A ROYAL ADVISOR gingerly enters the room, crosses to The King.

THE KING
Yes Tommy, what is it?

His advisor whispers into his ear.

ROYAL ADVISOR
There's a very large crowd gathering outside.

The King looks at his Advisor.

As this is happening, Alex reaches his hand over for Henry's. He allows him to take it.

THE KING
Well how many people?

The Advisor whispers the answer into his ear.

ROYAL ADVISOR
Several thousand, sir, and growing.

The King stands, as does his family.

THE KING
Right, that's settled then.

HENRY
What is it that we've settled?

THE KING
You're all to go home immediately and await further instructions.

As Bea stands, her attention is drawn to the window.

BEA
What's going on outside?

THE KING
Henry, Bea...there's a car waiting to take you back to KP.

Bea goes to the window, looking out.

BEA
Oh my God. Henry, look at this.

THE KING
Henry, Bea. Kensington Palace immediately. And take the American with you.

Henry rushes to the window.

BEA
(on her phone)
Apparently there's crowds gathered in Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham.

Bea peels away.

BEA (O.C.)
Cardiff, Edinburgh, and Liverpool...

FROM OUTSIDE THE WINDOW LOOKING IN: Henry looks out at the Mall. Reflected in the glass, we see several thousand people gathered. Rainbow flags, Union Jacks, and even a few American flags as far as the eye can see. People with signs saying "HENRY + ALEX 4EVER" and "FREE HENRY" and "FIRST SON OF OUR HEARTS."

CLOSE ON HENRY from outside -- the dawning on his face that he is more than tolerated...he is loved.

HENRY
I will no longer be the prince of shame and of secrets.

Henry turns to face The King.

HENRY
Starting today, the world will know me for who I am--and not who you want me to be.

He extends his hand. Alex smiles and makes a beeline over to Henry.

PHILIP
No, you can't go out there.
(crossing to the King)
Grandpa, tell them that they can't go out there.

Henry and Alex look at each other. Hope and love filling the space between them. Henry looks over at The King, who knows he's been beaten.

CLOSE on The King's face, humbled and a bit awed by this declaration.

THE KING
Henry, my boy. Are you sure this is what you want? There is no turning back if you go out there now.

HENRY
I certainly hope not.

Henry looks at Alex.

HENRY
I love you.

ALEX
I love you more.

HENRY
I think that's up for debate.

They kiss then Henry faces the balcony, faces his future.

Henry and Alex step out onto the balcony, and the crowd goes wild. They smile and wave at the adoring crowds.

125 OMITTED 125

-- ELECTION NIGHT COVERAGE. On MSNBC Rachel Maddow reports on the election results, now in its final moments.

RACHEL MADDOW (V.O.)
Well it has been a long election night. The entire race now hangs on Texas. It is possible we just minutes away from knowing who the next president of the United States will be.

TITLE: ELECTION NIGHT - AUSTIN, TEXAS

TITLE: CLAREMONT: 233 ELECTORAL VOTES; RICHARDS: 265 ELECTORAL VOTES

RACHEL MADDOW (ON TV)
With 265 electoral votes Governor Richards has swept Pennsylvania, Ohio...

We leave Rachel Maddow and follow --

126 INT. VIP SUITE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 126

Alex and Henry enter the quiet hum of nervous energy. High-level staffers everywhere, all on computers or phones. Alex is very uptight.

ALEX
Let's find my dad.

HENRY
Breathe, Alex.

ALEX
I'll breathe when we win.

They make their way into the living room to find Oscar, Nora, and Percy watching election coverage on TV. The map of the United States is currently a sea of RED.

HENRY
Crikey, that's a lot of red.

ALEX
It's all going to come down to Texas.

HENRY
(joining them, fascinated)
Remind me how this works again. We're the blue team, right?

OSCAR
What did they teach you at that fancy private school? You just say the word, I'll get you enrolled at UT Austin.

Alex turns and leaves the room.

RACHEL MADDOW (ON TV)
All eyes have turned to Texas. The president's home state. Texas of course has 40 electoral votes, which means very bluntly and simply. It's easy to do the math here. Whoever wins Texas is going to win the White House.

As Alex wanders into --

127 INT. VIP SUITE - BEDROOM - NIGHT 127

--where we find Ellen huddled with ZAHRA and a SPEECHWRITER. Ellen marks up a piece of paper with a pen. The look on her face suggests she isn't working on a victory speech.

ALEX
Hey ma.

ELLEN
(barely looking up)
Hey hun.

ELLEN
(to Zahra)
I want to say something like, "this campaign was never about just me. It was about the country we hope to leave to our children."

They continue their work as Alex turns and heads back into --

128 INT. VIP SUITE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 128

Alex walks the halls to the sound of --

RACHEL MADDOW (ON TV)
You may remember that it was her son Alex Claremont-Diaz who was the driving force in turning her campaign's focus to Texas. And some poeple said that was to the detriment of the cmapaigns ability to carry the so-called Rust Belt states.

ALEX
(to Henry)
Will you take a walk with me?

Henry gets up, taking Alex's hand.

RACHEL MADDOW (ON TV)
Tonight. It was a bold gamble to focus on Texas. We're going to see tonight if it paid off.

Alex and Henry go out into --

129 INT. VIP SUITE - HALLWAY - NIGHT 129

--past the Secret Service agents guarding the room. They walk halfway down the corridor. Alex leans against the wall. Henry stands lovingly close.

ALEX
I think my mom's working on a concession speech.

HENRY
You fought hard. And it isn't over yet.
(then)
You still haven't noticed my tie.

Alex takes a good look at Henry's tie, then smiles.

ALEX
Yellow roses.

HENRY
I read it was a thing in Texas. I thought it might bring you some luck.

ALEX
My God, I'm so grateful you're here.

Henry wraps his arms around Alex and holds him, Alex burying his face in Henry's chest. THEN --

SHRIEKS OF JOY emanate from the suite. Alex looks up at Henry, then grabs his hand and they race down the hall --

130 INT. VIP SUITE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 130

-- where they discover the room has exploded in celebration. Everyone is cheering, jumping, hugging, crying.

On the TV: "CLAREMONT RE-ELECTED"

The look on Alex's face isn't joy, it's shock. He immediately starts crying. He and Henry are pulled into a hug by Ellen. She whispers into Alex's ear --

ELLEN
Thank you.

Then --

130A INT. BALLROOM STAGE - NIGHT 130A

Ellen, Oscar, Alex, and Henry step out onto the stage, smiling and waving to the crowd. The flush of victory on the Claremont-Diaz faces and a timid, yet very real smile on Henry's face.

ELLEN (V.O.)
There are people who will tell you that elections don't matter. But try telling that to the auto worker in Michigan who worries whether or not their plant will be shut down.

130B OMITTED 130B

130C INT. BALLROOM STAGE - NIGHT 130C

As Ellen giving her victory speech, we eventually push past her onto Alex and Henry.

ELLEN
And tell that to the transgender high school student in Mississippi, voting for the very first time. Elections do matter because they give you a voice!

Alex reaches down and takes Henry's hand, who looks at first to quickly panic and then relaxes and smiles.

ELLEN (O.C.)
And your voice is blended tonight with the voices of millions of Americans, all across this country. Millions of Americans just like you--

-- BACK TO the VIP SUITE LIVING ROOM.

As Ellen is pulled away from Alex and Henry, to prep for the very speech we are hearing.

ELLEN (V.O.)
...Open-hearted, fearless and alive to a bolder, brighter, braver future.

Henry looks at Alex.

HENRY
What do we do now?

ALEX
Do you still have my key on you?

FADE TO BLACK.

131 OMITTED 131

132 OMITTED 132

133 EXT. ALEX'S CHILDHOOD HOME - NIGHT 133

Alex and Henry ride like teenagers through a classic American suburb. Alex veers off the road and onto his family's front lawn, pulling off an expert dismount. Henry, a little less adeptly, follows suit. They stand in front of their house catching thier breaths. The nieghborhood is quiet at this time of night.

Alex unlocks and opens the front door. Henry joins him in the doorway.

ALEX
We won.

HENRY
We won.

ALEX
After you.

Henry enters. Alex follows and closes the door behind them as --

HENRY
Wow, you really are working class, aren't you?

The CAMERA rises up the front of the house as the lights inside come on.

ALEX
Oh, shut up your Majesty. Do you want me to give you the tour of the house?

HENRY
Yes darling, lead the way.

The CAMERA soars over the rooftop and to the star-filled sky above, to the sound of Henry and Alex's laughter.

134 OMITTED 134

135 OMITTED 135

THE END *