

GEORGE

I want Sloane in my office now!

SECRETARY

Ah, Mr. Dupont!

INT. GEORGE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - PAST

George marches in and is taken by surprise-

ELIZABETH

(re: Secretary)

She's good, isn't she?

GEORGE

You'll look at the wording. Well, I'm sure the President of one of the most powerful representative groups on the hill, will be honored that Her Majesty has agreed to look at the fucking wording!

ELIZABETH

Did you consider that my lack of enthusiasm might demonstrate to them that I'm protecting their int-

GEORGE

Don't feed me that crap and call it ice cream. What's going on with you?

ELIZABETH

Remember when you interviewed me? Eons ago. You asked if I could represent a client whose position I vehemently disagreed with.

GEORGE

So what?

ELIZABETH

Foolishly, I told the truth, I said 'No.' Not for money, respect, nor professional integrity. I thought I'd just blown the interview. The next two and a half words out of your mouth were 'You're hired'.

GEORGE

What I didn't tell you is that you're supposed to have grown out of that infantile, save-the-world idealism by your second year!

ELIZABETH

I do whatever it takes to win because I only fight for causes I actually believe in-

GEORGE

You're suddenly a proponent of gun control?

ELIZABETH

The current system is so porous, it floats.
The Heaton-Harris Amendment is necessarily extensive to redress it.

GEORGE

I thought you had to 'look at the wording'-

ELIZABETH

I know very well what it says.

GEORGE

When did this happen? I don't remember you ever caring one way or the other about gun control?

ELIZABETH

I guess my position solidified somewhere between Columbine and Aurora. Right now, background checks only apply to sales from federally licensed gun dealers. Leaving any twobit thug or head-case free to procure a thirty-eight special from a gun show, the internet, or his buddy from the Bowl-o-rama. Heaton-Harris puts a full-stop to this stupidity, and about time too.

GEORGE

Christ, Liz, this isn't any old client waltzing through the door, this is the Gun Lobby. No, something happened - someone you know was a victim of a gun crime.

ELIZABETH

Nonsense. I formed an opinion.

GEORGE

You're a champion of the free market. You abhor taxation and frivolous government spending, meddling, patronizing-

ELIZABETH

I would hardly categorize responsible gun control as frivolous-

GEORGE

Kenyans! For Christ's sake, you rep Kenyans!

ELIZABETH

To stop our all-consuming government from looting one of their few sources of income. There's a cause I can get behind. And what's wrong with Kenya? We're about to close Len Davies with a field trip there.

GEORGE

Is that a promise or a threat? I can just picture the good Senator being boiled in a cauldron with all these natives dancing around him.

Elizabeth puts her head in her hands, despairing.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Get some Fortune 500 clients. Your colorful representations are the cause of a lot of industry back-chat this firm's good name can do without.

ELIZABETH

Could it do without the thirty grand a month retainer?

GEORGE

You bully people, Liz. You're a bully, with your unorthodox tactics and endless supply of inflammatory quotes. Senior Partners are banging on my door fearing for our rep, and that's something I can do without.

ELIZABETH

You're hardly a stranger to "unorthodox tactics". It'd be quicker to list the Congressmen you haven't strong-armed, threatened or blackmailed. I apply tactical, creative, ethical methods, and that's how I sleep at night.

GEORGE

Really, Sloane? Those little pills in your purse are the kind that lull you to sleep?

Elizabeth's eyes narrow. He's crossing a line.

ELIZABETH

My point: we're different animals in the same cage. And I still win, which is why the Gun Lobby just walked through our front door-

GEORGE

And you sent them straight back out of it! You're right! The only reason you and your team of sneaker-wearing ragamuffins are still here is that your arrogant pranks might generate enough buzz to attract clients like the Gun Lobby. Meaning, if you don't personally dedicate yourself to their cause, the partnership won't really have any use for you. Your billings for this firm's reputation is a trade they'd be happy to make. Now go away, re-read that amendment, and start telling the world how goddamn extensive it is!