

THE POLITICIAN

Season 1, Episode 1

Payton & River

INT. BARKLEY HOME - DAY

RIVER unlocks a safe. He retrieves a gun and brings it to the formal dining room. He sits, holding the gun, looking at it.

Suddenly PAYTON storms in through the front door.

PAYTON
River! River!

RIVER
I'm in here.

Payton makes his way to the dining room. River hides the gun.

PAYTON
You traitor. You back-stabbing son of a bitch! You know how important this is to me. How dare you run against me!

RIVER
Oh, I know. Uhh, listen. Calm down. I can explain this.

PAYTON
No, no, no. You calm down, okay? I have the floor now. Since when have you even wanted to be the president? This wasn't-- this wasn't even your idea, was it?

RIVER
No, it was Astrid's. I didn't--

PAYTON
Mm. Mhmm.

RIVER
She said I had to do it if I had a shot of getting into Stanford, and, I mean, I had to do something to get my parents off my back.

PAYTON
Yeah, screw you. Do you not understand that you're gonna beat me? Okay. You're better looking than me, right? You're more popular. You're co-captain of the lacrosse team. So...

RIVER

You're blowing this thing way out of proportion.

PAYTON

You know the moment you win I'm gonna tell everyone that we had sex and that you're living a lie. So... there's that.

RIVER

Payton.

PAYTON

I'm warning you. Do not screw with my dream. Alright? I'm on a singular path. 'Kay? You're not gonna get in the way, or I swear to God I will make you pay, okay? So don't mess with me, River! Are we clear?

RIVER

I've never seen you like this. I don't recognize this person.

PAYTON

Well I don't care, okay? I'm not a box. Right? I don't need to have four sides for you to look at and approve of, okay? I have -- I have feelings, River.

RIVER

These aren't feelings. You're just hysterical.

PAYTON

Well, this is the true me. This is who I am. I'm a winner. I will win at all costs. I know what my future's gonna be. And I know how to get there. And I will not be stopped.

Payton storms out.