

*Enter ROSE breastfeeding AMY. She removes the goggles/ear phones and the hologram appears.*

PRESIDENT (CONT..)

"But surely you understand they are bound to have questions, the people are just not used to this," I have been advised. So, my hard working, intelligent, good hearted, red blooded, *American* people, I have one question for you as a nation to ponder: Why?

ROSE

Wow. (To AMY) Not wrong though...

*AMY starts to fuss. ROSE begins bouncing and sshhing. Switches breasts in the next line*

ROSE (cont)

Okay okay, I'll put on your favorite show, if you insist.

*the "screen" shifts to the opening credits of a Real Housewives with a futuristic vibe. Enter KEVIN.*

KEVIN

Hey girl

ROSE

(turning down the TV)

Hey boy

KEVIN

Just caught the speech on NPR. You watch it?

ROSE

You mean *The American People* speech? Oh yes. Ballsy.

KEVIN

I mean, she really just...I mean it was

ROSE

I know, ballsy.

KEVIN

Ovaries-y

ROSE

That's how I like my eggs

KEVIN

*(leans over the couch and kisses her)*

I like your eggs

ROSE

Weird

KEVIN

Yeah, that came out creepier than I thought it would. But, seriously, I don't know how to feel.

ROSE

What do you mean?

KEVIN

I mean, as a man. It sounded a little *Handmaid's Tale* to me.

ROSE

Well, obviously you've never read *The Handmaid's Tale*.

KEVIN

It was a book?

ROSE

It was. And it's more like the scenario we're just coming out of.

KEVIN

I could be a Handmister though

ROSE

Sounds like an infomercial for someone with really dry hands.

*Stops breastfeeding*

KEVIN

How's Amy?

ROSE

I think she wants Daddy *(handing baby over)*

KEVIN

*(takes AMY)*

Gladly. Hey Big girl, how was your day? Oh yeah? Well, she's a tough boss but we like her anyway.

ROSE

Yeah right. If anyone's the boss it's this little one. The boss of feedings and sleeping and my nipples.

KEVIN

I thought I was the boss of your nipples.

ROSE

You've been demoted. How was your business meeting?

KEVIN

Business-y. We're going to start carrying that Tempranillo after all.

ROSE

Good choice. It's a very confident wine.

KEVIN

See. That's why we need you back so much! Who talks like that?

ROSE

Ah, only the pros... (*I miss it too*)

(*beat*)

KEVIN

How was single parenting?

ROSE

Good. We took a bath, read the same book three times, Amy went down easily, and then Jack and I stayed up and plotted your demise.

KEVIN

Oh, I think our fearless leader has that handled. Did she really use those words, *fearless leader*?

ROSE

She did. She also said *hogwash*.

KEVIN

She's a psycho. And just like that our baby's asleep. I'll be back.

*KEVIN exits. ROSE sits back down on the couch. Changes the channel. Drinks wine.*

*Enter KEVIN. He crosses to the kitchen and pours himself a glass of wine. Oooh, the new Grenache...*

ROSE

I like a wine that talks back.

KEVIN

Rose, the Rosé wine whisperer.

ROSE

That Pinot Noir rosé, now that's a wine that only whispers back. But I don't like secrets.

KEVIN

Point taken. What are you watching now?

ROSE

Real Housewives. One of the women on there just said, "I literally died." It's like, no, you didn't.

KEVIN

She didn't. Real Ghostwives. Now, that's a show I could get into

ROSE

Right. *(looks him up and down)* Well, look at you! Look what the 90s dragged in

KEVIN

I wore this in case it got cold

ROSE

Come as you are

KEVIN

I get it. What about you, Princess Jasmine?

ROSE

Are you saying that cuz I'm wearing baggy pants?

KEVIN

N...

ROSE  
Cuz that's racist

KEVIN  
To whom?

ROSE  
Middle Easterners, genies...

KEVIN  
Oh, I thought you were going to say black people

ROSE  
Yeah, but how many black people do you know are named Princess Jasmine?

KEVIN  
Quite a few actually

ROSE  
Yeah quite a few

KEVIN  
No, I was saying that 'cuz you're sitting on this Mexican blanket.

ROSE  
Damn! Let's cover all the bases! Insult the Indians now!

KEVIN  
I think you mean Native Americans

ROSE  
Shut

KEVIN  
No I was saying that because it looks like a magic carpet!

ROSE  
What does?

KEVIN  
The blanket. The Mexican friggin blank...it's literally called a Mexican blanket!

ROSE

Oh...Princess Jasmine

KEVIN

Yes. Rose!

ROSE

So now you're insulting the elderly? And I'm the dumb one from Golden Girls?!

KEVIN

Except your name is Rose, so that's on you

ROSE

True

KEVIN

Anyway...*Princess Jasmine*...

ROSE

Ohhh...I love it when you're patriarchal...

KEVIN

Princess...

ROSE

Keep saying that like you had to steal your dinner. They're not paying you enough.

KEVIN

What?

ROSE

Aladdin! He was a petty thief

KEVIN

Who was Robin Williams?

ROSE

Genie. May his soul rest...*(they both do an obnoxious religious like hand gesture)*

KEVIN

'Cuz that's who I remember. Ooh! And Gilbert Godfrey!

ROSE

Yes! *(another obnoxious religious like hand gesture)*

KEVIN  
Who names a baby *Gilbert*?

ROSE  
We should watch *Aladdin*!

KEVIN  
I have other ideas...

ROSE  
Interested in this whole new world that's happened already since your baby was born? Wanna see if the magic carpet matches the drapes?

KEVIN  
I get it. Weird. Now shut up

ROSE  
You don't tell me...

KEVIN  
Shhh...shut the hell up

*They begin kissing passionately as the lights fade*

Scene Four  
THEN

*Lights up on EMMA ROSE sitting on the couch nervously. HANDYMAN pokes his head around the curtain that is where their door should be.*

HANDYMAN  
Knock knock?

EMMA ROSE  
*(Jumps up)*  
Oh, hello there

HANDYMAN  
You called for a handyman? To fix this door, I presume?

EMMA ROSE  
Yes, thank you! Please come in.

HANDYMAN

Now, do you have the actual door or do I need to pull one from my truck?

EMMA ROSE

Oh, it's here (*grabs door. HANDYMAN helps her*)

HANDYMAN

It's okay little lady. I got it. (*Beat*) Pulled right off the hinges, huh? (*Chuckles*) Must've been a fun night!

EMMA ROSE

Oh. Yes. Well, it was already broken and hanging off.

HANDYMAN

Just needed a little assistance, huh?

EMMA ROSE

I suppose so...

HANDYMAN

*(begins inspecting and assembling the door)*

Must've been a fun night indeed. I haven't had a night like that since my school days

EMMA ROSE

Oh.

HANDYMAN

Man of the house at work?

EMMA ROSE

Sorry? Oh, yes, he is

HANDYMAN

Got any kids?

EMMA ROSE

Yes. One.

HANDYMAN

Just one, huh? Must be 'cuz you're so young. Girl or boy?

EMMA ROSE

Boy



HANDYMAN

Ah. That'll age you. Least that's what my mom said did her in!

EMMA ROSE

Oh.

HANDYMAN

Yep, my mother had four boys. Didn't look half as healthy as you.

EMMA ROSE

Do you have children?

HANDYMAN

Wife wants 'em. Only a matter of time I guess

EMMA ROSE

I guess so

HANDYMAN

in school?

EMMA ROSE

Sorry?

HANDYMAN

Your boy. He at school?

EMMA ROSE

Oh. Yes.

HANDYMAN

Man, must've been a number done on this door! Sheesh!

EMMA ROSE

*(embarrassed)*

Oh. Yes.

HANDYMAN

What? Your old man a professional boxer or something?

EMMA ROSE

*(embarrassed chuckle)*

Oh, no

*(Beat. Handyman finishes the door)*

HANDYMAN

There you go. Good as new.

EMMA ROSE

Thank you so much. What do I owe you?

*(beat)*

HANDYMAN

You have any soda?

EMMA ROSE

Sorry?

HANDYMAN

Like in the drug store...folks are keeping them in their fridges nowadays.

EMMA ROSE

Oh, no, sorry

HANDYMAN

No problem. I'll be right back. Cherry or chocolate?

EMMA ROSE

Oh, I don't need

HANDYMAN

Don't be silly, little lady. I'll be right back

*HANDYMAN exits. EMMA ROSE stands, nervously tidying up the room, looking at the clock, out the window, etc. Time goes by. Silent stage. She lights a cigarette, fidgets, etc., but doesn't lock the door. She doesn't want to be rude, after all. Enter HANDYMAN with two sodas from the drug store, in their glasses, whipped cream and all.*

Here ya go. I've been wanting a cherry soda all day.

EMMA ROSE

Did you go to the drug store? Don't they need their glassware back?

HANDYMAN

Ah, my buddy is Berkholdts.

EMMA ROSE

As in, Berkholdts' Drugs?

HANDYMAN

Yep, I'm heading there after this, so I'll bring these right back. Just been wanting one. *(Beat)* So...?

EMMA ROSE

Sorry?

HANDYMAN

So, which is it, silly little girl, cherry or chocolate?

EMMA ROSE

Oh, I really shouldn't

HANDYMAN

Nonsense you really should

EMMA ROSE

Sir, I'd like to

HANDYMAN

Reginald

EMMA ROSE

Sorry?

HANDYMAN

Reginald is my name. What's yours?

EMMA ROSE

My...?

HANDYMAN

...Name. You really are a beautiful woman.

EMMA ROSE

Oh, thank you, sir. Well, my na

HANDYMAN

Name, Beautiful. What's your name?

EMMA ROSE

Emma

HANDYMAN

Emma...

EMMA ROSE

My name is Emma Rose

HANDYMAN

That's a beautiful name. Anyone ever told you that before?

EMMA ROSE

I

HANDYMAN

Say, Miss Emma Rose...

EMMA ROSE

Sir..

HANDYMAN

...Reginald

EMMA ROSE

Sir..

HANDYMAN

Reginald

EMMA ROSE

Reginald

HANDYMAN

Yes, Miss Emma Rose?

EMMA ROSE

I'm a married woman

HANDYMAN

Of course. *Mrs.* Emma Rose. (*charming chuckle or smile*) Cherry or Chocolate?

EMMA ROSE

Oh, mister

HANDYMAN

Reginald...

EMMA ROSE

Reginald. I really have to get back to my things. If you would let me know what I owe you, sir

HANDYMAN

Of course, Emma Rose.

*(beat)*

This one's on me...

EMMA ROSE

Oh, no sir! I couldn't possibly

HANDYMAN

I just put a door back on its hinges

EMMA ROSE

Sir, please I HAVE to pay you

HANDYMAN

Cherry or chocolate?

EMMA ROSE

Sir?

HANDYMAN

These sodas are getting warm. Please choose one.

EMMA ROSE

Mister, please

HANDYMAN

Cherry or chocolate?

*(beat)*

Cherry or chocolate?

*(beat)*

I'm not leaving until you choose one or the other

EMMA ROSE

Sir

*(HANDYMAN comes in close to EMMA ROSE)*

Reginald

HANDYMAN

Reginald

EMMA ROSE

Cherry or chocolate?

HANDYMAN

...chocolate.

EMMA ROSE

Here. Drink it.

HANDYMAN

I'm sorry?

EMMA ROSE

Drink your drink. Do it, like I told you.

HANDYMAN

*(EMMA ROSE drinks)*

That's good. Do you like it?

HANDYMAN

Yes, it's very good.

EMMA ROSE

Tell me again, Emma Rose

HANDYMAN

It's very good, sir

EMMA ROSE

Reginald

HANDYMAN

Reginald. It's very good, Reginald. Thank you.

EMMA ROSE

HANDYMAN

You're welcome, Emma Rose. Drink the whole thing now. You don't want it to go to waste.

EMMA ROSE

I'm honestly not that thirsty, sir.

HANDYMAN

Well, when did that ever matter? Drink it all gone now.

*(She finishes it. He watches her)*

Would you like the cherry soda too?

EMMA ROSE

Oh, no, but thank you.

HANDYMAN

Go on, drink it

EMMA ROSE

You've been wanting one all day, you said.

HANDYMAN

Yes, I have. Drink it.

EMMA ROSE

So I couldn't possibly

HANDYMAN

Drink it.

*(EMMA ROSE drinks the cherry soda)*

That's a good girl.

*(She finishes it. He watches her. He has complete power. Time slows down. Then suddenly, like a switch, he is all business)*

Now, you have a good day, m'am. Don't tell your husband you got this door fixed for free, now. You buy yourself something nice instead, ya hear?

EMMA ROSE

Thank you, sir.

## HANDYMAN

You're welcome, Miss Emma Rose. You sure are welcome. Now, you have a good day, and remember our little secret.

*HANDYMAN exits. EMMA ROSE stands in shock for a moment. Then, she rushes to the sink and begins scrubbing her hands and face. Wipes herself off with her clothing.*

*Lights down.*