

23 CONTINUED:

23

M/W

"Your Job is Politics"

Senate - Harper

GUBER

Unfortunately, the deal I struck with your attorney was for you to remove it immediately. You didn't take it off till this morning.

SHERYL

I removed it first thing, before school started.

GUBER

Excellent, what a shame that doesn't constitute "immediately," collect your things if you brought them back in, Ms. Holt, you're suspended.

SHERYL

What?

GUBER

Please be gone "immediately," let's see if you get the meaning of the word this time.

SHERYL

My lawyer's going to be back in here so fast.

GUBER

I look forward to seeing her, right now I have a class.

And Guber heads off. OFF Sheryl, stunned, we:

CUT TO:

START

24 INT. DUNGEON - DAY

24

Senate, alone, preparing for the day. Harper enters. He holds a long look. Finally--

HARPER

Lauren asked why I didn't fire you when you shot that gun off in class. Know what my answer was?

SENATE

They were blanks?

Harper's not in the mood for Senate's jokes.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

SENATE (CONT'D)

(re: his joke)

Sorry.

HARPER

(strict)

I've already made my position clear... I thought you used bad judgment on this one. As a compass... in the future... you have to remember your job more than anything else... is politics. That may suck. But that's the way it is. No matter how great a teacher you may be, no matter how loved you are by your students... if the parents don't like you... you're gone. Their decisions may not be informed, most of the time they're not,... but they control.

SENATE

Is that what guides you as a principal?

HARPER

I'm not here to debate you, Harry, I'm just giving you information you need to have. So for once, just shut up and listen.

A beat.

HARPER (CONT'D)

The only reason you still have a job... is because there aren't enough other people out there who want it.

(then)

But you know what, Harry? I do believe that's going to change. Word's gonna get out... what we get to come in and do every day... it's pretty fucking great.

(then)

Here's the irony, I know you like irony. The more teachers we have like you... the more students we'll have wanting to become teachers. The supply will go up... and then parents will throw teachers like you out.

A beat.

END
(CONTINUED)