

WILL

For the moment, your people can have their jobs. Like I said, I have to wait to make the move because there was a press release. But when I hire the new EP, who I will hire by hiring them myself-- whoever it is is going to get to interview the new people.

MACKENZIE

All right. Well, I appreciate that. They're really good, Will. You're gonna want to keep them. Don't just dump them because of-

WILL

They'll get a fair chance.

MACKENZIE

Okay.

WILL

I haven't started my script.

MACKENZIE

I'll get out of your way. There's nothing that's more important in a democracy than a well-informed electorate.

WILL

You know you're still on this side of the door.

MACKENZIE

When there's no information or, much worse, wrong information, it can lead to calamitous decisions and clobber any attempts at vigorous debate. That's why I produce the news.

WILL

We're all grateful to you.

MACKENZIE

You're spinning out of control.

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WILL

No, I'm not.

MACKENZIE

You're terrified you're going to lose your audience and you'd do anything to get them back. You're one pitch

meeting away from doing the news in 3-D.

WILL

This isn't nonprofit theater. It's advertiser-supported television. You know that, right?

MACKENZIE

I'd rather do a good show for 100 people than a bad one for a million, if that's what you're saying.

WILL

What is it you're talking to me about right now?

MACKENZIE

I've come here to produce a news broadcast that more closely resembles the one we did before you got popular by not bothering anyone, Leno.

WILL

I think Jay and I would rather be employed, if it's all the same to you.

MACKENZIE

It's not all the same to me, you punk. I've come here to take your IQ and your talent and put it to some patriotic fucking use. And where does it say that a good news show can't be popular?

WILL

Nielsen ratings.

MACKENZIE

We're going to do a good news show and make it popular at the same time.

WILL

That is impossible.

MACKENZIE

Between your brains, charm, looks, and affability and my -

WILL

Refusal to live in reality.

MACKENZIE.

expertise in producing you-- -

WILL

It's impossible, Mac! Social scientists have concluded that the country is more polarized than at any time since the Civil War. The Civil War.

MACKENZIE

Yes, people choose the news they want now, but--

WILL

People choose the facts they want now. So what you've just described is impossible.

MACKENZIE

Only if you think an overwhelming majority of Americans are preternaturally stupid.

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WILL

I do.

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MACKENZIE

I don't. And if you let me, I can prove it. You know what you left out of your sermon? That America is the only country on the planet that, since its birth, has said over and over and over that we can do better.

It's part of our DNA. People will want the news if you give it to them with integrity. Not everybody, not even a lot of people-- 5%. And 5% more of anything is what makes the difference in this country. So we can do better. What?

WILL

I'm thinking. Yeah, that whole speech did nothing for me.