

Louise, Arthur, Paige

(He does.)

LOUISE. This is a very difficult time for all of us.

ARTHUR. She'll say something dark and foreboding. Now if I hold up the blue card—

(He does.)

LOUISE. Gosh I love this country.

ARTHUR. She'll say something patriotic. And if I hold up the green card—

(He does.)

LOUISE. Oh, that sounds expensive!

ARTHUR. She'll say something money-related. But the amazing thing is when we put them all together. Let's pretend we're doing an interview; Paige, you're the reporter. *(He sets everyone in their positions: LOUISE on the sofa, facing PAIGE, who's also on the sofa. ARTHUR stands behind PAIGE, "out of camera range.")* And I want you to ask her any question you can think of. No softball, okay? I want you to see what this lady can do;

PAIGE. Okay.

LOUISE. Okay!

PAIGE. Uh, "Miss Peakes—"

LOUISE. Hey there!

(PAIGE is a little surprised by LOUISE's very friendly version of being an interviewee, but she makes an attempt to respond genuinely. ARTHUR, as always, is amazed by LOUISE's natural ease and personability.)

PAIGE. Hi—

LOUISE. How are you doing?

PAIGE. *(Again, not expecting that, then responding:)* I'm doing great.

LOUISE. You look great.

PAIGE. Uh, thanks. I wanted to ask you—

LOUISE. Uh-huh.

PAIGE. Governor Newley has expressed some concern about a shortfall in funding for public education in our state.

LOUISE. Oh! Okay.

PAIGE. Could you tell us how you, as Lieutenant Governor, would aim to solve a gap like that in the budget?

LOUISE. *(As positive as ever:)* Well, thanks for asking! And I'll tell you—

(ARTHUR holds up the purple card.)

Things are looking pretty grim right now.

(Green card.)

Sometimes I don't have enough money for lunch.

(Yellow card.)

But the future looks brighter than ever.

(Blue card.)

Because this is America!

PAIGE. Oh my god.

ARTHUR. What did I tell you?

PAIGE. Oh my god.

LOUISE. Isn't that fun? Boy, if I knew politics was just saying whatever popped into your head, I would have gotten into it a long time ago. Let's do the red card!

PAIGE. What's the red card?

(The Hallway door opens; DAVE and NED enter.)

DAVE. Hello, folks.

ARTHUR. Dave, Governor.

LOUISE. Hey there! Hi! Louise Peakes.

DAVE. *(Pleasantly:)* Yes, it's, it's good to meet you. Every time. *(To ARTHUR:)* We don't mean to interrupt.

ARTHUR. Not at all.

LOUISE. We've been practicing the color system.

DAVE. The color system?

PAIGE. You see these cards?

(As she says this, she holds up the red card. LOUISE automatically responds.)

LOUISE. I'm not a massage therapist.