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Talking Politics

By Max Feldman

Lights up on three hip liberal friends: Jack, Tyler, and Stevie, discussing the latest political goings-on.

JACK

Ugh, can you believe this stuff with the border wall? The guy is straight up insane.

TYLER

Not as insane as when he literally shut down the government! We need to get him out of office.

JACK

Worst president ever, am I right??

STEVIE

So true, and yet, despite what we read in the news every day, we can never really understand what's going on in the president's head, you know? Like, who *is* the president?

TYLER

That's actually a great point, Stevie, like, what kind of person would knowingly separate innocent children from their parents? I mean, who *is* this guy?!

STEVIE

Yeah, that's what I'm saying. Who *is* he? Like, what is his *name*?

Brief pause.

JACK

Excuse me?

STEVIE

What is the president's *first and last name*?

JACK

(suspicious)

We know his first and last name.

TYLER

Stevie, do you not know who the president is?

STEVIE

It's just crazy how you read about the horrible things he's doing and yet, at the end of the day, when somebody asks you, "who currently holds the office of the presidency?"... there's really no clear answer.

TYLER

Donald Trump.

STEVIE

What's that now?

JACK

The president is Donald Trump.

STEVIE

Well whatever his name is, we need to get him out of office.

TYLER

His name is Donald Trump!

JACK

Did you seriously not know that?

STEVIE

(now self-conscious)

Well... I mean... if you'd asked me "who is the president?" and given me a multiple choice, I probably could have picked out Donald Trump. As long as none of the other options sounded super presidential or anything.

TYLER

Super presidential?

STEVIE

Like, if one of the names was "George Washington" or "Ellis Island" or "The American Flag," I would have said those were the President. Otherwise, I would have gotten Trump no problem.

Tyler gets a news alert on her phone.

TYLER

Oh god, did you guys see this? The New York Times just reported that Trump's going to ban trans people from serving in the military.

JACK

Goddammit, what country are we even living in anymore?

STEVIE

Yeah, what is this, Germany?

TYLER

... are you saying that because Trump is like Hltler?

STEVIE

What? No, I'm just saying, what country is this, Germany? Portugal? India? Surinam? The Federated States of Micronesia? Spain? Who knows!

JACK

America. We're living in America.

STEVIE

Not with this guy in the oval, am I right?

TYLER

I mean, yes, but not like that.

STEVIE

You said it yourself, Jack, what country are we in? What continent? What hemisphere?
There are no easy answers in a time like this.

TYLER

Stevie, you should know where you live.

STEVIE

Know where I *live*? I don't even know who I am anymore!

Tyler and Jack pause suspiciously.

STEVIE

(cautiously and curiously)

Am I... Am I Mark Ruffalo?

TYLER

No, you're Stevie, you moron!

JACK

Jesus.

Jack takes out a muffin and starts snacking.

STEVIE

Jack! How can you eat at a time like this?

JACK

Ugh, I hear you. It's hard to have an appetite with all the *disgusting* news happening 24/7.

STEVIE

No I mean like, how can you eat? How does eating work? I don't know how to do it.

Stevie takes out a hamburger.

STEVIE

What am I supposed to do with this? I'm starving. Somebody please help me!

TYLER

Stevie how in God's name do you not know how to eat.

STEVIE

Times being what they are with this *madman* in the oval, I just never got the hang of feeding myself.

Stevie passes out from hunger.

JACK

Oh god. He's passed out from hunger!

TYLER

What do we do?

JACK

(looking around)

Is anyone a doctor?

Stevie pops up.

STEVIE

That's such a good question. Is anyone a doctor? You'd think some people would be, but then again, with this *raving lunatic* in the oval, you just can't know for sure.

Stevie drops dead.