

SCENE TWELVE

WASHINGTON D.C. THE WHITE HOUSE. THE OVAL OFFICE.

Wilson, Catt, and Paul all sip tea in silence. An Aide stands in the background. It is incredibly awkward.

Alice gets up from the couch, putting her cup down in loud frustration.

She paces, struggling to not talk.

Catt makes threatening eye contact, trying to silence Paul, who is near speaking.

Another hushing.

Alice turns to the window, after another pause.

ALICE PAUL

Have you thought about turning around the desk?

WOODROW WILSON

Of course not. It's always been this way.

ALICE PAUL

"It's always been this way," is a lazy excuse. For a lot of things. And I think it's funny that your back is turned to the people you represent. Is funny the right word?

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT

Please remember our conversation.

ALICE PAUL

I do, and the more I think about how patronizing it was, the angrier I get.

WOODROW WILSON

Perhaps the two of you would like a moment to confer. Aren't you both here as representatives of--?

ALICE PAUL

That's the thing, President Wilson. Isn't it? Representatives. Representation. While you sit here willfully oblivious to the lives of the citizens you refuse to look at, I can see women walking down Pennsylvania Avenue. I see a street full of people you do not represent, because they didn't vote for you.

WOODROW WILSON

An entire political party failed to vote for me, Miss Paul. Yet I still represent them.

ALICE PAUL

They had the opportunity to play the game. They lost and live with the consequences.

WOODROW WILSON

You're from New Jersey, aren't you, Miss Paul?

ALICE PAUL

I am.

WOODROW WILSON

Well, you should be very proud of your state's history and traditions. The first college football game ever held was a match between two New Jersey sides - Rutgers and Princeton University. When I was President of Princeton, I went to every football match, and let me tell you that I always felt full of pride. Those young men represented me, and the community in which I participated. I need not be on the field to know that I was represented. And furthermore, those young men were the ones best suited for the contest. What good would a gentleman like myself wield upon that sphere? It would be counter-productive, selfish of me, to insist I stand on the field when better men could do the job at hand.

ALICE PAUL

I suppose then we have different estimations of our own skills. I'm not an old man. I'm ready and willing to fight my own battles. Whereas you hate women.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT

Miss Paul! I am so sorry, Mr. President.

"#14 I Love Women"

WOODROW WILSON

(very light)

Oh, it's fine, it's fine. I understand because I have children. I can only guess you're joking, Miss Paul. Trying to get a rise out of me? I've seen it happen so many times. But you must trust...

OH, I LOVE WOMEN, YES IT'S TRUE
I MARRIED ONE, SOON TO BE TWO
OH, I LOVE WOMEN, CAN'T DENY
WOULDN'T EVEN LISTEN IF YOU TRIED