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MORGAN STYLES

Why do I feel threatened by your confidence?

The University President does not respond, yet her expression reinforces Morgan's concern. Dean Dr. Percy Falls breaks the chill.

DEAN PERCY FALLS

Chairperson Morgan Styles may one day wish to be Dean Morgan Styles? Yes?

Morgan is really feeling the pressure.

WALLY RICKS

Or University President Morgan Styles? Now that sounds good, doesn't it Ms. Styles?

Gloria Benton gives a disappointed look to Wally who doesn't seem to be under her spell.

DEAN PERCY FALLS

Of all the meetings you choose to forget, why did you attend this one?

WALLY RICKS

(aware of the President) Dean Falls, I take my position as Dean of Students very seriously and for you to imply, in front of our University President differently, is insulting.

GLORIA BENTON

I don't need Dean Falls implications to form an opinion. I know all about you, Wally Ricks.

Gloria Benton has heard enough. She stands as she turns to look down upon Morgan.

GLORIA BENTON

Find me a reason to dismiss Professor Beacon! Will you please?

Morgan understands the seriousness of her request and when she agrees, the University President exits the Deans office. Wally gives Morgan a smirk but Morgan is worried.

INT. BEACON'S COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

The classroom contains VINTAGE FURNITURE, classically constructed. With the OLD BLACK BOARD and the 1862 BATTLE TORN FLAG hanging on a wall, the school room feels one hundred and forty years old. On another wall is Beacon's favorite PICTURE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

There is a test underway. About TWENTY COLLEGE STUDENTS are bent over their FINAL EXAMS. Everyone is serious, even if they do not appreciate the choice of MUSIC coming from a corner BOOMBOX. Civil War Music is being played, specifically THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC.

PROFESSOR BEACON is completely into the music as he paces across the front of the room, he sings, hums and reacts to the song. From Beth Rutledge's point of view, Beacon seems crazy. Beth exchanges reactions with two friends. WILLIAM FREEMAN, 21, is African-American and RAMON DELGADO, 21, is Mexican-American, the kids all fight back a laugh as Ramon imitates the professor.

Now Beacon begins to talk, as if someone was beside him.

PROFESSOR

Tell me, do you ever get tired of hearing this Abe?

The Professor seems happy with what ever answer he just received.

PROFESSOR

Oh yeah! I didn't think so.

Professor Beacon picks up the music and sings. William and Ramon can hardly work.

WILLIAM

Can you say "distraction"?

Everyone who hears William agrees, except Beth who is totally focused on her test.

INT. MORGAN STYLES OFFICE - NIGHT

Morgan is working hard at her desk. Her floor lamp provides the only light in the otherwise dark office. She hears something.

WALLY RICKS

(OS) Can I come in?

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