

THE REALITY

By Mikki Russ

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Characters:

Trump-Someone similar to The President should play the role

TV Director-Male. 30s-40s

TV Producer-Male 30s

*The scene opens with TV Director and TV Producer in chairs facing President Trump in an office. Trump is at a desk listening to a pitch by the TV executives.*

TV Producer: Mr. President, thank you for giving us some of your time today. I know how valuable it is.

TV Director: But you will not be disappointed. I think you will find what we have to discuss, very compelling. Very compelling indeed.

Trump: Go on.

TV Producer: As you know, having done your stint on reality TV with The Apprentice, one has to look forward in the storyline of the drama they are currently in.

Trump: I'm not in a drama.

TV Director: No, no of course not. This is actual reality, obviously, but in an alternate reality we might have an opportunity.

Trump: Are you talking about a parallel universe or something? That's not great.

TV Producer: We saw what you did with Sheriff Joe Arpaio, and we were interested in- *(TV Producer looks at TV Director for reassurance)* what this could mean for Americans. American television audiences in particular.

TV Director: What a marvelous time to be alive. It's truly an honor Mr. President *(Trump sits up in his chair and adjusts his jacket proudly).*

TV Producer: Through your vision, and dedication-you helped to alleviate a man of a judicial burden that you found to be repugnant. Arizona's own Sherriff Joe Arpaio was simply an individual trying to execute his duties as the lead lawman of the land. When the feds got involved, you knew he was being persecuted. It was you who had the steely nerve to free that man from his binds. Who else was going to be the hero? Who else was going to decisively step in and forge a path towards exoneration if not you?

TV Director: And it is precisely that fortitude that we see launching us into a show called "Pardon Me." *(TV Producer and TV Director beam at each other in marvel of their genius).*

TV Producer: It's obviously too late to film the Arpaio pardon, but we have some wonderful footage that we plan on making a montage out of for opening credits. Hell, it'll keep Arpaio in the spotlight too. I know he's a modest, private man, but maybe he deserves a little recognition going forward. Maybe we seal him right into proud American history.

Trump: Would Arpaio be some sort of co-star?

TV Director: Yes! If you want that we can arrange for-

Trump: Two stars of the show? Confusing. Not great. Bad idea.

TV Producer: Agreed! Arpaio will be nothing more than just a catalyst. For you. Only you. And we can launch into a show where there will be a panel of possible pardonees. The shot will open with you seated at a desk and the accused will be seated before you all in a row.

Trump: What will they be accused of?

TV Producer: All kinds of things! And not just accused, I don't mean to parse words sir, but these people will have been convicted of lots of things. Actually convicted, so that they would need a presidential pardon. We have one episode in mind where there are four convicts. One is a child abuser who really likes young boys and-

Trump: Hold on. Likes little boys? Can we kill him? Live on TV?

TV Director: He was in possession of materials in that vein. Illegal materials. That particular crime doesn't usually mean the death penalty. Not usually. We actually were thinking of having him scuttled off to prison for life. He is obviously not on the short list for a pardon. He's there as filler. He doesn't get a pardon. He gets locked up.

Trump: So we could then.

TV Producer: There are crimes where the death penalty is implemented. Would you be interested in perhaps televising some executions?

Trump: Do you know the saying 'if it bleeds it leads' boys? I'm glad to be the television expert in the room. I know everything about television. I know most things.

TV Producer: What types of crimes are you thinking we should execute over, Mr. President? I mean, on the show specifically.

Trump: Well, there's probably a few Hollywood actors I could put on the list. Jerks. Blowhards that like to go on different shows and ridicule me. Stupid. People are fed up with it.

TV Director (*beat*): Seriously??

Trump: Sure. You can look some of them up in my tweets. I was made for winning. I win. It's what I do.

TV Director: What about some of those fat cats on Wall Street that break the law and the backs of the working poor? Or at least some of them from 2008 when-

Trump: Seriously??

TV Producer (*Nervously*): I believe my colleague here is just interjecting some humor into our discussion. And, it's fair to say that none of the networks are going to sign off on live executions. I mean, as of yet anyway. So. I am thinking we just flesh out what kind of program we can launch. I am confident it will be spectacular. You, Mr. President. A panel of poor, bereft fools who have chosen their fate by committing a crime and an audience in absolute adoration of your swift, judicial, lightning strikes.

Trump: Judicial lightning strikes. Like the electric chair?

TV Producer: No, no. I think, more like, like a euphemism. It's symbolic. You are the lightning. You are the one who can pardon or not pardon.

Trump: But there will be some heroes that need a pardon. Like Joe Arpaio? Someone the audience can appreciate. Good people.

*(TV Producer and TV Director exchange looks).*

TV Director: Of course. Of course that would be our goal.

TV Producer: Our thinking is that when your time in office is over...

*(Trump snorts derisively).*

TV Producer (*Realizing he should choose his words carefully*): After both terms, of course, Mr. President...we think we may be able to premier your next foray into television superstardom.

Trump: Yes, if my term ends, I would do another project. The best project. A project that's tough and smart. Like me. Something big.

TV Director: You aren't thinking your term is...concluding prematurely are you? Because the timeline on this-

Trump: No! Of course not! That would be dangerous. If my term were to end it would not be smart for the country. It is not yet known if it's actually constitutional for my term to end.

*(TV Director and TV Producer sit in stunned silence).*

Trump: Frankly, anyone who doesn't see that is weak.

TV Director: Why wouldn't it be constitutional for your -assumed- two term tour to end?

Trump: I have committees. The committees look into things. That is something they are looking into. I have very strong committees. FDR had four terms.

TV Director: He had four terms before the constitution was amended to limit president's terms to two terms, so that's kind of...a thing.

Trump: The amendment itself was made in a bad, bad way. If we discover how to undo the bad things, we will. We have to take care of it. It's gonna be huge.

TV Producer: In what way would you undo the bad things, as you say?

Trump: There are judges and committees, panels, if you will. They are amazing. I don't have any lightweights on my staff.

TV Director: What would be the advantage to eliminating any term limits?

Trump: Think big. Imagine a world where the American people do not have to be worried. They don't have to worry what their future holds, because someone who is very smart and tough is winning for them. The problem is that every so often, the platforms switch and no one knows what they are getting. The American people are fed up. In business we call that market instability. I want to stabilize the market for the perfect consumer. The American public.

TV Producer: And you are the stabilizing factor!

Trump: When you wake up morning after morning, year after year, and the president is still the same president you have ever known. How beautiful. How absolutely reassuring. Amazing. It's great.

TV Director: Kind of like, how it is in North Korea?

Trump: Don't be stupid. Their leader is an absolute disgrace. What a moron. Who would ever vote for him or watch his TV show? He isn't a president. He's a loser. Worthless. Weak.

TV Director: You make an excellent point, Mr. President...about the viability of North Korea's Dear Leader. Who would ever watch that show? (*Forced laughter*) I mean right?

TV Producer: What are you going to do in regards to elections? Would we still have them?

Trump: Sure. We need to be smart. We need a better way. A way that isn't bad. We will have the best elections. People should vote on their phones. Like American Idol. That would be tremendous.

TV Director: Press code 35631 if you vote for Trump? Wouldn't that be rife for possible tampering?

Trump: Who would tamper with a presidential election? We are all good Americans, and we have always been innovators. Aren't we here, innovating right now? You gotta be on the cutting edge. We are going to have a whole new world open up to us. The best world. The greatest world.

TV Producer: And...as fellow innovators...we will be right there with you. Innovating.

TV Director: Are we innovating away the election process?

TV Producer: I think it's important to keep in mind that as people who work in this medium, we would have unprecedented access, if you will, to history unfolding. We could air history actually being made. (Turning to Trump) You would give us absolute access, wouldn't you Mr. President?

Trump: Would we be doing one show or two?

TV Director: What do you mean?

Trump: Well, you came here to pitch your show idea titled "Pardon Me". And now we are on to the reshaping of America's future. The best future possible.

TV Producer: I don't see why they have to be mutually exclusive. The first half of the show might be you giving out your presidential pardons, while the last half of the show could be you talking about the direction you are taking the country. We could meet these panels, and judges and committees. They could be featured-

Trump: Stop. I don't want to film the panels, the judges or committees. Zero filmed panels. Unless you blur out their faces. Filming that is no good.

TV Director: I mean, they are civil servants for the most part, so the public would be entitled to-

TV Producer (*Trying to cut TV Director off and address Trump*): Absolutely. We can edit in whatever manner you wish. I want you to have absolute faith in us, sir.

Trump: Very good. Terrific.

TV Producer: OK! So, I feel like we have really made some headway here. I can't tell you how excited we are to move on this deal. I think we can get our people with your people in the next week or so and talk contracts. Huge, terrific contracts. The best contracts, I think you would agree, Mr. President.

*(All stand before parting ways and they shake hands).*

Trump: It's been a tremendous day for you. For America. Classy. Good talk.

*(Trump exits and leaves the two TV execs alone).*

TV Director: Am I...did we...what is happening?

TV Producer: What's happening? I just locked you in to a deal you almost pissed away! I just opened every door imaginable to you. You and I are going to be icons after this thing we've created. You somehow missed all that?

TV Director: Oh, is that what happened? See, I was momentarily unable to hear anything over that screeching sound of you tearing at the fabric of the country.

TV Producer: Are you even listening to yourself? Check it out. If you want to make it. I mean, if you want to have a future, I am handing it to you. What we just did here today will be a part of the larger picture. A scope you can't even fathom. Your daughter's daughter's daughter will still see your name in her history book. We are visionaries. I need you to keep your focus. By next week we will have some paperwork in order, and you are getting ready to get paid. Big money. Money you never even imagined. The country will soon get a front row seat to take in all the action.

TV Director: Ah *(beat)*. I always thought the revolution would not be televised.

TV Producer: It won't. But Trump's coup will be.

*(Executives exit stage).*

The End