

FROM THE VAULT

"Pilot"

Written by  
Hope Geissler

(484)-947-9585  
Hopegeiss043@gmail.com

COLD OPEN

INT. SUMMIT UNIVERSITY- COMM SCHOOL- STUDIO A- DAY

Inside the room, two camera people, a boom pole holder, and DARIO (22, semi-famous youtuber/student) are setting up for an interview.

The door flies open and MARA (19, means well, witty) enters.

DARIO

Mara, hey.

Mara walks over to the chair. It's set up in front of the camera and the curtain.

She gives a forced smile. Mara sits down and looks into the camera.

DARIO (CONT'D)

Super simple, this is just an intro interview where you're gonna introduce yourself and your position.

MARA

Sounds good.

DARIO

I'm just gonna ask a few questions about the upcoming semester and what you're planning for the show.

Mara nods. Beat.

MARA

Why us?

DARIO

What do you mean?

MARA

Well, you were on the show last year, you understand what a shit show it is. Definitely not worth all of this.

She gestures to the crew surrounding her.

DARIO

How did you know that I--

MARA

We did that sketch together about having too many people in a room.

DARIO

Oh, right! With that creepy kid who got suspended for being like a Nazi or something.

MARA

Yeah, exactly.

DARIO

I forgot that was you.

Beat.

DARIO (CONT'D)

Damn. Look at you now.

Mara laughs, unsure how else to respond.

Beat.

She leans forward and raises an eyebrow waiting for an answer, but Dario turns to the crew.

DARIO (CONT'D)

You guys ready?

Mara makes a face, before Dario turns back to her.

DARIO (CONT'D)

Alright, just look into the camera and say your name and position.

Mara lets out a deep breath, before sitting up straight.

CUT TO:

MARA TALKING HEAD

MARA

My name is Mara. I'm a sophomore and one of the executive producers of From The Vault.

DARIO (O.S.)

Which is...

Mara glances at Dario, then back to the camera.

MARA  
Summit University's late night  
comedy show.

CUT TO:

AS WE WERE

The camera not shooting Mara's talking head catches Dario giving her a "keep talking" gesture.

CUT TO:

MARA TALKING HEAD

Mara lets out a reluctant sigh.

MARA  
From The Vault is basically like  
the Dollar Store version of  
"Saturday Night Live".

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)  
Anyone else you talk to will say  
that it's nothing like "SNL"  
because  
(mocking tone)  
"We are creating content under a  
whole different set of standards  
and deserve much more recognition."

Mara deadpans, leans towards the camera, and counts on her fingers.

MARA (CONT'D)  
We have a host monologue, a news  
segment, sketches, and a musical  
guest.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)  
It's fucking "SNL".

END COLD OPEN

**ACT ONE**

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT 1

In the center of the conference room is an oval table with chairs around it. There are large screens on three of the walls. All the screens have the "Welcome" powerpoint on them.

The room is filled with new and returning members of From The Vault. In the front of the room is Mara and ALY (22, over the top, Co-EP) giving the presentation. Mara is leaning on a podium while Aly is front and center.

Away from the table, WIL (20, strong New York accent), ANTOINE (20, arrogant French fucker), ISAAC (19, awkward), and TRACY (21, guys' girl) sit against the wall.

ALY

Alright babes! Welcome to the first From The Vault meeting of the semester! My name is Aly and this lovely piece of meat next to me is Mara.

There are a few chuckles around the room.

ALY (CONT'D)

From The Vault is Summit University's late night comedy show. We offer a number of ways to get involved both on air and behind the scenes.

ANTOINE

And for those of you thinking it... No. We are not like SNL. We have stricter standards and don't get nearly enough recognition.

Mara looks at the camera, subtly points to Antoine, and raises an eyebrow-- told you so.

ALY

Exactly. But, I am loving the amount of new faces I see and can't wait to get to know all you sexy people.

CUT TO:

ALY TALKING HEAD

LOWER THIRD:

"Aly, Junior, Co-EP"

ALY

What up! I'm Aly, the other executive producer of FTV. I'm super excited to be doing this with Mara. We both got a front row seat to the burning cluster fuck that was last semester.

Beat.

ALY (CONT'D)

The bar for us is very low.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. STUDIO C- LAST YEAR

Studio C is set up a like late night talk show stage. A desk and two chairs are in the corner with space in front.

In front of the stage are three cameras and their operators. The rest of the room is filled with audience members.

There is a window at the top of the studio that looks into the control room upstairs.

OLD EP 1 (22) is on the stage wearing a headset and looking up at OLD EP 2 (22, Russian), who is standing in the window of the control room.

OLD EP 1

(screaming)

You have a lower IQ than a fucking tadpole!

Mara is standing on the edge of the stage with a headset on, her face covered in fear.

There is loud yelling coming from the headsets, but the words aren't clear.

OLD EP 1 (CONT'D)

Are you fucking serious? At least they asked me to do this job!

More screaming murmurs from Old EP 2 over the headset.

OLD EP 1 (CONT'D)  
 I WROTE ALL YOUR MONOLOGUES WHEN  
 YOU WERE HOST!

OLD EP 2  
 Why don't you go fuck Grant!?!

That sentence came through loud and clear because it wasn't over a headset, but through the God microphone.

No one knows what to do. Everyone just sits there, unable to look away.

OLD EP 1  
 Oh suck my dick you communist fuck.

Old EP 2 flips off Old EP 1 through the window. Old EP 1 rips off her headset, hands it to Mara, and storms out of the studio.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- 15 MINUTES LATER

The slide show is now displaying information about audition sign ups and materials needed.

ALY  
 Even if you aren't sure, I highly  
 recommend auditioning because--

Suddenly, the door slams open.

GRANT (21, anger issues, "the man") enters and mouths an apology for the disruption.

ANTOINE/WIL/TRACY  
 Graaant!/My man!/You're back!

Mara eyes Grant. MABEL (20, in your face) sits at the table with her jaw on the ground.

Grant nods at the boys plus Tracy before taking a seat in the back away from everyone.

ALY  
 Anyways...

CUT TO:

MABEL TALKING HEAD

LOWER THIRD:

"Mabel, Sophomore, Associate  
Producer"

MABEL

I didn't think Grant would come  
back after last semester. He had  
a... memorable exit, to say the  
least.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. STUDIO B- LAST YEAR

The set up of Studio B is similar to C, except there is just  
a large desk with giant screens on either side of it.

Mara is standing with one foot on the stage and a headset on.

Grant is sitting at the desk, yelling towards the window into  
the control room.

GRANT

What the fuck do you mean I have to  
stick to the prompter!? Do you  
think Seth Meyers has to  
(mocking)  
Stick to the teleprompter?  
(back to yelling)  
No! Because that's not how comedy  
works.

He turns to Mara.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Why don't you tell them to shut the  
hell up and do their fucking jobs,  
so I can do mine.

Mara stares at Grant like a deer in headlights. She hits a  
button on her headset.

MARA

(soft)  
Hey, so Grant was wondering if--

Grant slams his hands on the table and stands up. He starts  
taking off his microphone.



GRANT

No. No. This is a waste of my  
fucking time. You all can go fuck  
your mediocre and talentless  
selves.

Grant slams his microphone on the desk and storms out. Mara looks at the window and throws her hands up.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- 10 MINUTES LATER

The slide show is now on a slide that says "Questions?"

ALY

Does anyone have any questions?

Beat.

MARA

If you remember something later,  
you can text me or Aly too.

The door to the room opens again, this time WES (24, god complex) comes in and waves.

ALY

This is Wes, he's our faculty  
advisor.

WES

Hello!

Wes moves to the back of the room and gives Aly and Mara a thumbs up.

ALY

If no one has any questions, then  
we're done!

The new members get up and head out.

ALY (CONT'D)

Don't forget to sign up for  
auditions this week.

MARA

And the first writers' meeting is  
tomorrow night in this room!

Aly slips to the back to talk to Wes. The boys plus Tracy are talking in the other corner.

Mara leans forward and puts her head on the podium. Mabel makes a b-line to her.

MABEL  
Why is Grant here?

Mara looks up.

MARA  
Huh?

MABEL  
Hello? Grant.

MARA  
Oh right. Yeah, I don't know why he's back.

MABEL  
You didn't know?

Mara shrugs.

MARA  
No idea.

CUT TO:

NEW ANGLE- THE BOYS PLUS TRACY

The boys plus Tracy are laughing obnoxiously.

ANTOINE  
...I swear to god.

The laughter dies down.

ISAAC  
Antoine, Wil, you guys still down for a little writer's room later?

Isaac pretends to smoke a blunt.

ANTOINE  
Oh, for sure. Let's be real, with...

Antoine nods towards Mara.

ANTOINE (CONT'D)  
...in charge, she's going to need all the content she can get.

Everyone laughs... some real, some fake.

CUT TO:

ANTOINE TALKING HEAD

LOWER THIRD:

"Antoine, Sophomore, Cast Member"

ANTOINE

I wanna know what the thought process was of putting Mara in charge. She wrote like one sketch last year.

Antoine shakes his head, frustrated.

ANTOINE (CONT'D)

Sophomores aren't supposed to be executive producers for a reason. If I knew they were picking one of us, I could have prevented this train wreck.

CUT TO:

AS WE WERE

Wil looks over to Mara. He stills when he finds her looking right back at him. His smile drops.

ANTOINE

You in, man?

Wil's attention snaps back to the guys.

WIL

Yeah. Sounds good.

TRACY

Grant, you should totally bring back the Blind Billy sketches?

Grant laughs.

GRANT

Maybe, maybe.

ANTOINE

If we hold out content long enough,  
she's gonna be desperate for us.

CUT TO:

NEW ANGLE- MARA AND MABEL

Mara rolls her eyes, looking away from Wil.

MABEL

You two are gonna have to get over  
this eventually.

Mara avoids Mabel's gaze, finding interest in the lines on  
the podium.

MARA

I don't know what your talking  
about. We're fine.

MABEL

Uh huh. Cause everything about  
that...

Mabel points to both Wil and Mara.

MABEL (CONT'D)

...screamed "totally fine".

Mara throws her hands up.

CUT TO:

WIL TALKING HEAD

LOWER THIRD:

"Wilson, Sophomore, Head Writer"

WIL

(stern)

Make sure my lower third says Wil,  
not Wilson.

Wil shakes his head to himself.

WIL (CONT'D)

Fucking Wilson.

The "son" in Wil's lower third is immediately dropped.

WIL (CONT'D)  
Why are you asking me about Mara?

Wil looks from the camera to Dario.

WIL (CONT'D)  
(harshly)  
There's nothing to say. We're fine.

Wil gets up and walks off.

CUT TO:

AS WE WERE- NEW ANGLE- ALY AND WES

Aly and Wes are hushed in the back of the room.

WES  
What do you mean she won't?

ALY  
She told them no.

Wes gives her a "use more words" look.

ALY (CONT'D)  
She won't let them follow her  
around outside of the show.

Wes makes eye contact with the camera and awkwardly smiles.

WES  
(under his breath)  
Do something.

He leaves. Grant moves to Aly and whispers something to her.

ALY  
Yeah. Do it now.

GRANT  
Mara!

Mara picks her head up. Grant nods his head to the door and Mara nods.

MARA  
(to Mabel)  
Back in a sec.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMM SCHOOL COURTYARD- CONTINUOUS

The sides of the courtyard are lined with tables. There are a few lights illuminating the scene.

The door to the conference room swings open. The room's light cuts through the dark night, then quickly retreats.

Grant comes out first and holds the door for Aly and Mara. He leans against the side of the building, crossing his arms.

GRANT

Look. I, uh, I wanted to apologize for my behavior last semester. I'm only here to make funny stuff and enjoy my last year.

Grant's eyes bounce between Mara and Aly, waiting. Mara rubs the back of her neck and looks to Aly.

ALY

No problemo. I mean, let's be real, the EPs were a bit problematic last year.

Mara looks back at Grant to find his gaze has shifted to her.

MARA

Yeah. Should be different this time.

Grant relaxes instantly.

GRANT

Good. Good. I actually have this sketch idea about--

The door to the conference room swings open and the boys, Tracy, and Mabel file out.

ANTOINE

Yo, Grant. You coming?

The group starts heading to the parking lot.

GRANT

Yeah.

Grant turns back to Mara and Aly.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Thanks guys.

Grant runs after the boys and Tracy. Mabel hangs back. Aly gives Mara's arm an excited slap.

ALY  
Ready for your first writer's  
meeting, Ms. EP?

Mara laughs.

MARA  
(feigning confidence)  
Oh absolutely.

Aly gives Mara a playful shove before making her way to the parking lot.

ALY  
Bye hotties.

MABEL  
Mwah.

Mara and Mabel start walking the other way.

MABEL (CONT'D)  
Sooo?

Mara drops her head, already knowing what's coming next.

MARA  
So?

MABEL  
Ugh, you're killing me. Grant! What  
did he want?

Mara shakes her head and smiles to herself. She knows Mabel too well.

MARA  
Nothing.

Mabel gives her a "bullshit" look.

MARA (CONT'D)  
I swear. It's nothing.

MABEL  
What's the point of being friends  
with you, if you won't give me the  
inside scoop?

Mara raises an eyebrow.

MARA  
Inside scoop? You sound fucking  
ridiculous.

The two laugh and continue walking.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMM SCHOOL COURTYARD- DAY 2

Mara walks into the courtyard, but stops dead in her tracks when she makes eye contact with a camera across the courtyard.

Mara stares at the camera and tilts her head to the side-- really?

Suddenly, Aly grabs Mara's arm and drags her to an empty table.

ALY  
(playful)  
Quick little Q, my gorgeous co-EP.  
(serious)  
You need to let the cameras follow  
you around.

Mara is taken aback. She opens her mouth to respond, but Aly cuts her off.

ALY (CONT'D)  
Oh. I guess that wasn't a question.

Beat. Mara lets out a nervous laugh.

MARA  
I let them follow me.

ALY  
No. I'm talking the full access,  
exclusive, inside look at your  
slutty little life.

MARA  
If they are just making something  
about FTV, why do they need the  
full frontal on me?

Aly's face flashes with guilt, but before she can answer, Tracy and Isaac sit down.

ALY  
Sup.



ISAAC

That was a decent turn out last night. How are auditions looking?

ALY

Pretty full. Why? You worried that you're gonna get your ass handed to you by some freshman?

Aly raises her eyebrow.

ISAAC

No. I, uh, I just... You know--

MARA

(mocking)

Ooo. Somebody sounds a little nervous.

TRACY

Oh come on. We all know the cast is going to be the boys again.

Mara and Aly's phones both DING. Tracy glances between them as Mara picks up her phone to read the text.

Mara looks at Aly, who is already grabbing her things.

ALY

Alright, bye lovelies.

TRACY

Wait, where are you guys going?

ALY

Scheduling crisis. Too-da-loo.

Aly gives them a little finger wave. Mara turns back at Tracy and Isaac.

MARA

Make sure you're at the meeting tonight!

Tracy glares at them.

CUT TO:

TRACY TALKING HEAD

LOWER THIRD:

"Tracy, Junior, Associate Producer"

TRACY  
 Something is going on with Mara and  
 Aly.

Beat while Tracy thinks.

TRACY (CONT'D)  
 Whatever it is, I bet it's Mara's  
 fault.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMM SCHOOL- 2ND FLOOR HALLWAY- DAY 2

Wes is leaning against the wall waiting for the girls,  
 looking a bit stressed.

MARA  
 Is everything--

WES  
 Finally. He's waiting for us.

Wes opens the door. Mara is very confused-- it seems like Aly  
 and Wes are in on something she's not...

Because they are.

MARA  
 Wait, who is?

ALY  
 Sh. Come on.

Aly pushes Mara through the door after Wes.

CUT TO:

INT. DEAN'S OFFICE- CONTINUOUS

Mara and Aly sit in front of DEAN COOKE (50s, tired) while  
 Wes stands to the side of the desk.

Long beat.

Dean Cooke throws his hands up.

DEAN COOKE  
 Well?

Mara looks between Aly and Wes.

ALY

The cameras are going great. Better than we could've imagined.

Dean Cooke glances at Wes.

WES

Dario is one of the more famous youtubers at this school. It's not ideal having these cameras around but--

Dean Cooke makes eye contact with the camera, which aggravates him more.

DEAN COOKE

No. I would not say they are ideal.

He turns back to Wes and Aly.

WES

But, they are getting students interested in them, which will get FTV more views.

ALY

And once these episodes get released, we'll have a larger audience outside of Summit too.

Dean Cooke leans back in his chair, still unhappy. He rolls his fingers together.

Mara's eyes are wide--what the fuck is going on?

DEAN COOKE

(reluctant)

Fine. But this...

He gestures towards the cameras.

DEAN COOKE (CONT'D)

...is it.

Aly and Wes nod quickly.

DEAN COOKE (CONT'D)

And let me be clear. When this blows up in your face, which it will, From The Vault is not only over, but it will be like it never even existed.

Mara scrunches her eyebrows--Did he say over?

ALY  
Absolutely. You won't regret this.

WES  
Thank you for your time.

Wes and Aly quickly get up. Aly grabs Mara's arm and drags her out.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMM SCHOOL- 2ND FLOOR HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS

Aly and Wes exhale a huge sigh while Mara's eyes bounce between them waiting for an explanation...

It never comes.

MARA  
(angrily)  
What the fuck was that?

CUT TO:

EXT. COMM SCHOOL COURTYARD- DAY 2

Tracy is watching the scene unfold between Wes, Aly, and Mara. Mabel and Antoine sit down.

MABEL  
Hey, What are--

TRACY  
(aggressive)  
Shhh.

Mabel is taken aback for a moment.

TRACY (CONT'D)  
I'm trying to figure out what's going on.

Tracy directs Isaac, Mabel, and Antoine's attention to the somewhat heated interaction between Mara, Aly, and Wes.

The group gawks. Antoine breaks the silence with a chuckle.

ANTOINE  
I bet she's finally getting fired.  
It's about time Wes came to his senses.

TRACY

Ugh, I hope so.

ANTOINE

Mara being EP is the best joke From  
The Vault has ever made.

Tracy lets out a snort while Isaac and Mabel smile. They all turn their attention back to the scene upstairs.

Wil walks up.

WIL

Yo. What are we looking at?

ISAAC

Them.

Isaac points to Mara, Aly, and Wes. Wil gives the group a questioning look.

TRACY

Mara's getting reamed by Wes and  
Aly. She's a hundred percent done.

Wil lets out a forced laugh and looks back up at Mara. His eyes are filled with something... concern?

CUT TO:

EXT. 2ND FLOOR HALLWAY- DAY 2

MARA

If something is going on, I should--

WES

Not here. Come on.

Aly grabs Mara's arm and follows Wes across the hall and into the studio control room.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO CONTROL ROOM- CONTINUOUS

The control room is filled with TV screens. There are colorful buttons and gadgets at the table in front of the screens.

There are chairs at the table and a window that peeks into Studio C.

Aly slumps in a chair while Wes rubs his hands together. Mara crosses her arms and leans back against the window.

MARA  
Are you going to--

WES  
Cooke is trying to cancel FTV.

MARA  
No, I got that. But, why? When?

ALY  
He told us at the beginning of the semester.

MARA  
That was a month ago!

WES  
We needed to come up with a plan and we didn't want this to affect you're decision to be EP.

Mara tries to be understanding but why the fuck didn't they say something sooner?

MARA  
This seems like something I should've known... as EP?

ALY  
Mar, I hate to say it, but us not telling you is the least important thing right now.

Beat. Mara pushes her hair back from her face.

MARA  
So this...

Mara gestures towards the camera.

MARA (CONT'D)  
...is to save the show?

WES  
Yes. It was Aly's idea and since we already had an in with Dario, it was our best chance.

ALY

But, no one knows. Like no one. And we think it's better if it stays that way.

Mara's hands fly up at the camera, the rage is back.

MARA

What the fuck are you going to do when this comes out?!

WES

Dario agreed to not release the first episode until half way through the semester. After episode 500.

Beat. Mara is trying really hard to not lose her shit.

MARA

So, this is a fucking Hail Mary then?

WES

We were hoping that with the alumni views from 500 and then the views from this, that it would be enough.

ALY

We're planning on telling everyone during the prep week of 500 as a little extra motivation.

Mara is now roughly rubbing the back of her neck.

MARA

(quietly)  
Okay.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)

Okay. I'm gonna trust you guys on this.

Wes nods and looks relieved.

ALY

Mara, You need to let the cameras follow you.

Mara freezes.

MARA

What?

ALY

For this to work, Dario needs to have as much content as possible, which means... you need to let the cameras follow you around.

MARA

I don't think anyone wants to--

ALY

Come on, you're a badass! The youngest Executive Producer Summit TV has ever seen! You're just as important to this story as I am.

Mara shakes her head.

WES

Mara.

Beat.

WES (CONT'D)

This isn't going to work if you don't agree.

MARA

I just don't...

Mara makes eye contact with Aly and drops her head.

MARA (CONT'D)

(exhales)

Fuck.

Mara picks her head up and shakes it.

MARA (CONT'D)

Fine. I'm in.

**END OF ACT ONE**



ACT TWO

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT 2

Antoine, Tracy, Mabel, and a few others sit around the table. Wil is standing in the front of the room at the podium. A blank word document is projected onto the screens.

Mara is sitting at the head of the table with her laptop open. Aly sits next to her absorbed in homework.

WIL

Alright, I figured since it's the first writers' meeting, we can just pitch ideas and then build off of the ones we like.

Wil looks to the new members, but they avoid eye contact.

Antoine sees his opportunity. He clears his throat and stands.

ANTOINE

Since no one else has an idea, I think it could be really funny to have a sketch about the Lincoln assassination but Booth keeps hitting the top hat instead of Lincoln.

Wil snaps his fingers and starts typing.

WIL

Ooh. I like that.

TRACY

Wait, that's so funny, Antoine.

Antoine sits and fakes a modest shrug.

ANTOINE

It just came to me one night in bed.

MABEL

As an average Frenchman, how--

ANTOINE

Above average.

Antoine winks at the camera.

MABEL

Yeah okay. As a... Frenchman, how often do you think about Lincoln?

A few chuckles erupt around the room and Antoine gives Mabel a forced smile.

TRACY

I actually saw this thing on tiktok that we could use as a sketch.

WIL

Shoot.

TRACY

It was about Jesus being a girl's sexual awakening.

Mabel bursts out laughing.

WIL

Nice. Nice.

Wil types the idea down.

ANTOINE

What if we change it from a girl to a boy? And he had this strict religious upbringing and Jesus ends up being his gay awakening.

Mara's eyes widen like she can't believe what she's hearing. She makes concerned eye contact with the camera.

CUT TO:

MARA TALKING HEAD

MARA

One of the biggest complaints about the last EP was that she was too controlling in the writers' room. So, I'm trying to let them have more freedom.

Mara lets out a sigh.

MARA (CONT'D)

Even if their ideas insult a former president or mock religion.

She rubs her forehead roughly.

MARA (CONT'D)  
I'm trying.

CUT TO:

AS WE WERE

It's now full blown chaos. The screens are filled with horrible and unhinged ideas.

Tracy and Antoine are now acting out a scene from their pitch.

Tracy stands on one side of the room cowering while Antoine zombie-like limps towards her.

ANTOINE  
(imitating MLK)  
I have a dream...

ANTOINE (CONT'D)  
(normal voice)  
...that you got what you fucking  
deserve, you stale piece of white  
bread.

Antoine cocks his imaginary shotgun and aims it at Tracy.

Wil watches the scene eagerly. Mabel and the others are smiling. Mara gives a look of horror to the camera.

TRACY  
(bad acting)  
Martin Luther King JR.? I thought  
you were dead!

ANTOINE  
Surprise motherf--

Mara throws her hands up.

MARA  
Stop! Stop. Oh my god. Just no.

All heads snap to Mara.

MARA (CONT'D)  
There is absolutely no way we are  
ever going to be allowed to do a  
sketch about--

WIL  
It's fineeee. Let them finish.

Mara shoots Wil a look, but he just shrugs.

WIL (CONT'D)

It's a funny idea. Why not see how  
it plays out?

Mara and Wil hold tense eye contact. A battle of wills  
without a single word spoken.

CUT TO:

MARA TALKING HEAD

MARA

How am I the bad guy for thinking  
that a sketch about Martin Luther  
King Jr. coming back as a zombie to  
only eat white people is a bit too  
far?

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)

Also! If Martin Luther King Jr. is  
a zombie, why does he have a  
shotgun?

Mara throws her hands up.

CUT TO:

AS WE WERE

Tracy and Antoine are back in their seats. Mara looks like  
she wants to rip her hair out.

WIL

Alright guys. I think this is a  
good place to stop. I'll put this  
list in the group chat in case  
anyone wants to take a crack at  
writing these.

A DING goes off and Mara picks up her phone.

WES (TEXT)

*Let's meet tomorrow to discuss  
ideas from the writers' meeting  
tonight.*

Mara nudges Aly and shows her the text. Aly gives her a  
"yikes" face.

WIL  
See you guys tomorrow, back here at  
the same time!

Everyone gets up to leave.

ANTOINE  
I'll try to have Zombie MLK done  
for the meeting tomorrow.

WIL  
Alright, thanks man.

Antoine walks out.

ALY  
See you at auditions tomorrow,  
smoke show.

MARA  
Oh shit. Right.

ALY  
8 a.m., baby!

MARA  
(unenthused)  
Wooo.

ALY  
I'll bring coffees. Don't stress.

Aly gives Mara's arm a squeeze before heading out.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO C- DAY 3

Aly is setting up a camera in front of the stage. Two empty  
chairs are positioned on either side of it. On each desk is a  
cup of coffee.

Mara walks in.

ALY  
Morning, babers!

Mara stops dead in her tracks and checks her phone.

MARA  
That's a lot of energy for 7:45 in  
the morning.

ALY  
Jokes on you, I've been going since  
6.

MARA  
Jesus.

ALY  
I'm two coffee's deep, not insane.

Aly winks at Mara.

ALY (CONT'D)  
Speaking of, your's is on the desk.

MARA  
Oh my god, my savior.

Mara drudges over to the desk and sips the coffee.

ALY  
You're in for such a treat.  
Auditions are the best part of the  
job.

MARA  
Really?

ALY  
It's a unique experience, for sure.

The door opens and MEMBER #1 walks in.

MEMBER #1  
Hey, is this where auditions for  
From The Vault are?

ALY  
Absolutely! Go make yourself at  
home up there.

ALY (CONT'D)  
(whispering to Mara)  
Buckle up, princess.

Mara laughs and the two take their seats.

CUT TO:

BEGIN AUDITION MONTAGE:

MEMBER #1

Summit should advertise that this school has never had a case of the Freshman 15. Why, you might ask? It's cause we all get food poisoning at least once a week.

CUT TO:

MEMBER #2

So, I'm riding It's A Small World, high out of my mind, and I've fully convinced myself that me flapping my arms...

MEMBER #2 flaps arms erratically.

MEMBER #2 (CONT'D)

...is the sole reason we were still flying.

CUT TO:

MEMBER #3

I've never understood why people say we never get snow at Summit. I mean just go to any frat party and the tables are covered in it.

CUT TO:

MEMBER #4

In recent news, a lizard has infiltrated the X building and been terrorizing Elon Musk. In other words, the cage match between Zuckerberg and Musk has officially begun.

CUT TO:

RANDY (18, wholesome, shy) looks comfortable at the desk.

RANDY

Hear me out on this, okay? When did it become a societal norm to put your child on the lap of some 80-year-old who plays dress up as Santa for a living? It's like you're saying stranger danger...

(MORE)

RANDY (CONT'D)  
unless he's dressed up as Santa  
Claus.

END MONTAGE.

EXT. COMM SCHOOL COURTYARD- DAY 3

Mara walks outside, rubbing the back of her neck.

MABEL  
Boo!

Mabel pops up from the side.

MARA  
Hey.

They walk over to the vending machine.

MABEL  
You look rough.

MARA  
Yeah?

MABEL  
Has there been anyone funny?

Mara opens her mouth the answer, but Mabel cuts her off.

MABEL (CONT'D)  
More importantly, was anyone cute?

Mara laughs.

MARA  
There may have been one of two who  
weren't...horrible. Oh! And one  
total agrees with me about how all  
Mall Santa's are secret pervs.

MABEL  
Ooohh. Get it!

Mara laughs and shakes her head. She pushes some buttons on  
the vending machine.

MARA  
Nah. I can't.



MABEL

Come on. You're hot. You're an EP.  
You could basically force him to  
date you.

MARA

And that is exactly why I can't.  
I'm in a position of power.

Mabel rolls her eyes and shakes Mara's arm.

MABEL

Oh my god. Your self-righteousness  
needs to fuck off.

They laugh. Mara shoves a handful of pretzels in her mouth.

MARA

Speaking of fucking off, I gotta  
get back.

Mara gives Mabel a little wave before heading back inside.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO C- CONTINUOUS

Mara enters and offers a pretzel to Aly, who is writing  
something down.

ALY

Halfway there!

MARA

Mmh. Who's next?

Aly looks at the list of auditions in front of her.

ALY

Uh. Looks like it's all the  
returning boys.

Mara nods and sits down.

CUT TO:

BEGIN AUDITION MONTAGE #2:

ISAAC

I was working at a camp this summer  
which is great because the kids are  
super cute. To die for cute.

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

They're so cute until this eight year old boy comes up to me crying about how he got this other girl at camp pregnant. Yeah. Imagine having to explain the birds and the bees...

Isaac puts his hand to the side of his mouth like he's telling a secret.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

...and the abortions...

Isaac drops his hand.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

To an eight year old kid who was just tonguing a third grader behind a cabin.

CUT TO:

WIL

There's one difference between guys and girls that doesn't get enough attention. The other day, my girlfriend got bit by a spider and I asked her if she "checked". And she had absolutely no idea what I was talking about. Turns out, it has never occurred to her to check if she just turned into Spiderman. I mean I get bit by a fly and I'm like...

Wil imitates the spider man web shooter thing.

WIL (CONT'D)

...pst. Pst. pst. pst. I'm pretty sure my first heart break was finding out that I didn't become Spiderman.

CUT TO:

ANTOINE

I think the French get a bad reputation. Like a bunch of foreigners come into our country and we get labeled as rude.

(MORE)

## ANTOINE (CONT'D)

Americans have foreigners come to their country and their first thought is to build a wall and deport them. Now you tell me, which is actually worse?

END MONTAGE.

INT. STUDIO C- DAY 3

Mara drops her head onto her desk while Aly is shuffling papers.

MARA

That was definitely something.

ALY

Auditions are always a riot. You really never know what's gonna happen.

Mara stands and stretches her back.

MARA

I'm so glad we're done.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)

I feel like we have some good options for the news segment.

ALY

Oh, for sure. We could definitely shake it up, you know? Get some new blood in there.

Mara is about to swing her bag over her shoulder when the door bangs open and Grant enters.

GRANT

Hey. You guys ready for me?

Mara's eyes widen.

ALY

Yeah, come in.

Mara mouths "what the fuck?" to Aly when Grant turns his back.

ALY (CONT'D)  
(whispering)  
Just sit down.

CUT TO:

EXT. COMM SCHOOL COURTYARD- DAY 3

Mabel sits at a table, scrolling on her phone, when Tracy sits across from her.

TRACY  
Hey, do you know how it's going in there?

Tracy nods her head towards the studio doors.

MABEL  
Nah, not really. Mara just said a couple new members were funny.

TRACY  
Is that all she said?

MABEL  
Yeah. Why?

TRACY  
Nothing about the current guys?

Mabel shakes her head.

TRACY (CONT'D)  
(under her breath)  
Figures.

Mabel gives a little laugh.

MABEL  
Out to get her, huh?

TRACY  
No. I'm just making sure she isn't trying to get rid of the guys.

MABEL  
Why would Mara do that?

TRACY

The power has gone straight to her head. She thinks she's better than us now that she has a fancy title.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO C- DAY 3

Grant has just finished his audition.

ALY

Ok. Great. Thanks Grant.

GRANT

Yeah, of course. Thank you. I really appreciate you guys taking the time...

Mara forces a smile.

GRANT (CONT'D)

...Even though it's just a formality.

Mara's head snaps over to Aly, who ignores her.

MARA

What do you--

ALY

Don't worry about it. We're just happy you decided to come back.

Grant opens the door. He stops for a second and doubles back.

GRANT

The cameras are a really good idea to save the show. It's like the college version of 30 Rock. I can't wait to watch it.

Grant leaves, but before the door can close, Tracy and Mabel barge in.

TRACY

How were auditions!

ALY

Amazing! We have a lot of good options this semester.

Aly looks at Mara, but Mara refuses to meet her gaze.

MABEL

That's so exciting. I can't wait to see the cast list.

TRACY

Come on, we all know the cast is gonna be the boys again, right Aly?

ALY

I have no idea. We gotta go, EP business and such.

Aly grabs Mara's arm and practically drags her out of the room.

CUT TO:

INT. STUDIO CONTROL ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Aly drags Mara inside.

ALY

Ok. I know this looks bad and that you're upset, but--

MARA

Upset? Are you fucking kidding me?

ALY

Just let me explain. Please.

Mara crosses her arms, waiting.

ALY (CONT'D)

Grant being host was the only way we could get him to come back. His little temper tantrums aside, Grant is funny and considering we are on death row, we don't really have another choice.

Mara rubs the back of her neck. The silence is deafening.

MARA

Is that it?

Aly is stunned by Mara's calm tone.

ALY

What?

MARA

Is that everything? Any more secrets gonna come to light?

ALY

No. I swear. You know everything I do.

MARA

Aly, I mean it.

Aly grabs Mara's arms.

ALY

No more surprises. I promise.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUMMIT UNIVERSITY BAR (SUB)- DAY 3

The Summit University Bar (SUB) is the campus restaurant and bar. It has outdoor seating as well as the restaurant inside.

PRESLEY (21, spunky) is sitting at a table playing on her phone when Mara comes up.

MARA

Oh. My. God.

Mara throws her backpack on the chair and flops down.

PRESLEY

Hey! How were...

Presley trails off when she sees the cameras.

PRESLEY (CONT'D)

(confused)

Auditions?

MARA

Oh shit. Presley, the cameras. The cameras, Presley. They are gonna be following me around for a little while. Just ignore them.

PRESLEY

Okay?

CUT TO:

PRESLEY TALKING HEAD

PRESLEY (CONT'D)  
 Hey, I'm Presley. Uhh...

Awkward beat.

DARIO (O.S.)  
 So, how are you involved in the  
 show?

PRESLEY  
 What? No. I'm not in the show.

DARIO (O.S.)  
 You're not?

PRESLEY  
 No! I'm just friends with---

HARD CUT TO:

AS WE WERE

MARA  
 And apparently, they already gave  
 Grant the host spot before the  
 semester even fucking started! Are  
 they joking?

Mara drops her head on the table a little too hard causing a  
 loud bang. Presley tries to hide her laugh.

MARA (CONT'D)  
 Ow.

Mara picks her head up and rubs it while laughing. She pushes  
 her hair back.

MARA (CONT'D)  
 I feel like such a sell out. I  
 mean, could you imagine the mutiny  
 if everyone found out. They already  
 want me to fail, this would just  
 give them an excuse act like fuck-  
 year-olds.

PRESLEY  
 Mutiny? Come on, Mara, it can't be  
 that serious.

MARA  
 Oh, but it is! This is the college  
 comedy show equivalent of  
 Watergate.



Mara's eyes light up.

MARA (CONT'D)  
Vault-gate.

PRESLEY  
If this is Vault-gate, does that  
make you Nixon?

Mara looks distraught and slams her head back down on the table. Presley smiles and pats Mara on the head.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT 3

Mara and Wes are sitting at the table. Mara has her notebook out.

WES  
Alright, hit me.

MARA  
There was an idea about every time  
a guy rides his skateboard "Sk8er  
Boi" starts magically playing.

WES  
(dismissive)  
We can't used licensed music.

Mara is taken aback by Wes' tone.

MARA  
Kamala Harris and AOC Weekend at  
Bernie-ing Biden if he dies in  
office--

WES  
And how exactly do you plan on  
filming or even casting that?

MARA  
Oh, uh, okay. There was an idea  
about Jesus being someone's--

WES  
Absolutely no religious stuff.

MARA  
Okay. Um...

Mara is scanning her notebook for a better idea, but can't find one.

WES

That's it?

MARA

What? No. I'm just trying to--

WES

Is this really the best you can do?  
Copyright infringement and Jesus?

MARA

No, I--

WES

This is not what I had in mind when  
I chose you. If this was the  
content I wanted, I would have let  
Grant be EP.

Mara stares back at him, speechless.

WES (CONT'D)

When I come by the meeting later,  
there better be a usable idea...

Wes gets up.

WES (CONT'D)

... or I might have to rethink your  
position on the show.

Wes storms out. Mara leans back in her chair, defeated.

MARA

(whisper)  
Fuck me.

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREE

EXT. COMM SCHOOL COURTYARD- NIGHT 3

Mara walks out into the courtyard, rubbing the back of her neck. She rounds the corner when--

GRANT

Hey.

Mara jumps. She turns and finds Grant leaning against the building, smoking a cigarette.

MARA

Hi.

Mara turns to keep walking but...

GRANT

Rough night?

Mara laughs.

MARA

Yeah. You could say that.

Mara leans next to Grant. The pair sit in comfortable silence.

GRANT

(through smoking)

Wes just came storming out of the conference room, you got anything to do with that?

Mara takes the cigarette from Grant and takes a long drag.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Ah.

Silence.

GRANT (CONT'D)

I know you probably don't believe me, but I've changed.

Grant takes the cigarette back.

GRANT (CONT'D)

I spent the summer working on myself. No more temper tantrums. I promise.

Mara nods.

MARA  
(abrupt)  
Why did you turn down being EP?

Grant's head snaps to Mara.

MARA (CONT'D)  
It would have given you all the  
control your little dictator heart  
could've desired.

He chuckles.

GRANT  
Nah. It's not for me. I want to  
have my ideas made. Not the other  
way around.

More silence.

GRANT (CONT'D)  
For what it's worth, I'm really  
glad you're EP.

Mara looks at him, caught off guard by his confession.

MARA  
Yeah?

GRANT  
Yeah. I mean, you're talented. And  
no one else would put this much  
time and effort into something that  
isn't theirs.

MARA  
Better pitch your ideas fast. Looks  
like I'm not gonna be around much  
longer.

Mara takes the cigarette.

GRANT  
Don't say that.

Mara shakes her head.

GRANT (CONT'D)  
(quiet and sincere)  
What can I do?

MARA

Really?

Grant nods.

MARA (CONT'D)

Shoot down the bad ideas. Wil won't do it and no one will listen if they think I'm behind it.

Silence. Grant slowly nods.

GRANT

Don't worry.

(beat)

I got you.

Mara hands the cigarette back to him. Grant nods his head towards the conference room.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Go.

Beat.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Can't let anyone know we're in cahoots together.

Mara lets out a little laugh and Grant smiles. She turns and heads back.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- CONTINUOUS

Mara walks in, but stops dead in her tracks.

The room is packed with people. Some kids are even standing/sitting around the sides of the room.

Wil is in the front of the room pulling up scripts. Mara slowly walks over to her seat and Aly gives her an excited look.

MARA

(to the room)

Hey. Uh, guys?

The chatter around Mara dies down, but the other side of the room is still talking.

Mara puts her hand in the air as an attempt to gain attention.

MARA (CONT'D)

Hello?

The chatter stops.

MARA (CONT'D)

Hi. I'm Mara. I'm one of the Executive Producers on the show.

Grant walks in and pulls a chair to the other end of the table.

Mara laughs, still surprised at the turnout.

MARA (CONT'D)

There's so many new people. How did you all hear about us?

Silence.

MEMBER #4

I saw the cameras around campus and they said it was for this.

Member #4 bounces between looking at Mara and the camera while talking. Other members nod in agreement.

Mara smiles, proud and excited.

MARA

Okay, then.

CUT TO:

FRAT BRO MEMBER TALKING HEAD

FRAT BRO MEMBER (typical "bro") is wearing a t-shirt with the sleeves roughly cut off and a backwards visor.

FRAT BRO MEMBER

I heard that Jake Paul is gonna be a special guest on this. You would get mad views if you let me fight him.

CUT TO:

SORORITY GIRL MEMBER TALKING HEAD

SORORITY GIRL MEMBER (stereotypical) is wearing a greek life shirt with a deep V and her cleavage popping.

SORORITY GIRL MEMBER  
I'm only here so that when this goes viral, I'll get cast on "Love Island".

She twirls her hair and winks at the camera.

CUT TO:

RANDY TALKING HEAD

RANDY  
I just wanna make funny things.

Awkward beat.

RANDY (CONT'D)  
That's it.

CUT TO:

AS WE WERE

Mara sits down in her chair and turns to Aly.

MARA  
(whisper)  
I can't believe I'm saying this, but you might be right after all.

Aly blows her a kiss.

WIL  
Alright, let's start with Zombie MLK.

Mara puffs her cheeks and shakes her head. She's looks like she wants to hide behind her laptop screen.

TRACY  
Antoine showed me this earlier and, oh my god, it's gold.

ANTOINE  
If anyone has an suggestions let me know.

Wil pulls up the script. Grant is looking at the screen reading it, his eyes wide.

WIL  
Antoine, feel free to cast whoever.

ANTOINE  
I'll read for ML--

GRANT  
Hang on, hang on.

Antoine pauses.

GRANT (CONT'D)  
(mix of shock and  
curiosity)  
What is this exactly?

ANTOINE  
Ah, right. You missed the meeting  
last night. Essentially, this is a  
science fiction, role-reversal of  
the timeless, yet tragic, story of  
Martin Luther King Jr.

Grant's jaw is open, a mix between what the fuck? and damn,  
that's funny.

GRANT  
Jesus. That is... bold.

WIL  
I'm sure it's tasteful.

Wil looks to Antoine and he nods.

GRANT  
Yeah, yeah, I'm sure, but maybe  
this isn't the type of stuff meant  
for this show.

Mara's head snaps up.

GRANT (CONT'D)  
Besides, no chance Wes passes this  
on.

Silence. Mara is on the edge of her seat.

WIL  
Ah, I forgot about Wes.



TRACY

But--

GRANT

It's a funny idea, don't get me wrong. But this is more Key and Peele, not FTV.

Grant looks around the room.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Do any of you newer kids have anything you want to pitch?

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM- NIGHT 3- 30 MINUTES LATER

The room is alive and full of laughter. A huge 180 from earlier.

Wes opens the door and stops when he sees the amount of people in the room. He shoots Mara a surprised looked.

MARA

(mouthing)

Right?

Wes walks over and kneels between Mara and Aly.

WES

(whisper)

There's so many new people.

MARA

I know.

ALY

The cameras.

WES

Really?

Mara and Aly nod.

WES (CONT'D)

From The Vault hasn't had this many members since... maybe ever, actually.

In the front of the room, Randy is talking to Grant and Wil.

RANDY

I thought we could do a commercial parody about the cat that fell from the top of the stands at the football game last weekend.

GRANT

What, like an ASPCA spoof?

RANDY

Yeah. Like we start it as an ASPCA thing, but as soon as the cat lands on the American flag it turns into a military recruitment ad.

Mara turns to Wes, nervous, but he just smiles and nods.

WES

That's more like it.

Grant and Wil try to harmonize the "Army Strong" theme song while the video of the cat plays on the screens.

Wes gets up and leaves.

Aly slaps Mara's arm as an atta-girl. Mara drops her head onto her laptop and lets out a sigh of relief.

CUT TO:

MARA TALKING HEAD

Mara sits down in front of the camera.

MARA

Hey! Ready?

Mara's smile is friendly and care free, very different from her first interview.

MARA (CONT'D)

Before we start, I just wanna say thanks for everything that you guys are doing. I mean, we might actually pull this off.

Beat.

MARA (CONT'D)

Alsoooo... I'm sorry for saying that you guys were talentless leeches that weren't worthy of a participation trophy.

Mara looks at the camera, apologetic.

DARIO (O.S.)

What? When did you say that?

Mara's apologetic look snaps to guilt instantly.

MARA

I didn't say that to you?

Mara gives the camera a "yikes" face.

**END OF ACT THREE**

**TAG**

MISCELLANEOUS PHOTOS/VIDEOS OF OFF THE WIRE.

**END SHOW**