

RELATIONSHIPS

1. FAMILY

- Parent and child
- Parent and secret bastard child
- Parent and child they didn't know about
- Siblings
- Candidate and their screw-up sibling
- Husband and wife

2. FRIENDLY

- Reporters who always meet when covering political rallies
- Gay politician and his "girlfriend"
- Workers for the same campaign
- Campaign manager and reporter
- Candidate and a "Joe the Electrician" endorser
- Rabid protesters, afraid of change

3. CLOAK AND DAGGER

- Puppet and the person pulling the strings
- Political party leader, and high ranking member who is really a spy for the rival party
- Candidate and "opponent" who is only running to take votes away from a common rival
- Campaign manager and undercover reporter
- Reporter and anonymous source
- Spies in the US government for the same foreign country, each unaware of the other

4. POLITICAL

- ◻ Politician and his/her chief aide
- ◻ Rivals on the floor of Congress
- ◻ Lame-duck President and their replacement
- ◻ Two candidates on the campaign trail
- ◻ Two candidates on opposite sides of a polarizing issue
- ◻ Radio/Television host and candidate

5. ROMANTIC

- ◻ Politician/candidate and his/her chief aide
- ◻ Politician/candidate and a hooker of the opposite sex
- ◻ Politician/candidate and a hooker of the same sex
- ◻ Two people who definitely shouldn't be sleeping together, but are
- ◻ Politician/candidate and Dominatrix
- ◻ "She told me she was 18"

6. UNUSUAL (USE SPARINGLY)

- ◻ Leader of conspiracy and his political puppet
- ◻ Member of secret shadow government and the person that uncovered them
- ◻ Honest politicians
- ◻ Shape-shifting lizard-men from space trying to take over the country
- ◻ Brainwashed assassin and target
- ◻ A would-be Presidential assassin and the man determined to stop him

...IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

OBJECTS

1. POLITICAL

- The text of a controversial new bill
- A damning photo of your opponent
- A tape with an ad of the KKK endorsing your opponent
- The only copy of a speech that will rally your supporters and probably go down in history
- The keys to the campaign bus
- Undeniable proof that your opponent is not who they say they are

2. SENTIMENTAL

- A photo of a young girl, with "I love you, Daddy!" written on the back
- A campaign button from your first campaign
- A wedding ring that you haven't taken off, despite being widowed five years ago
- A lock of hair from your child, who was killed by a drunk driver
- A picture of your family, from before it was torn apart
- The Bible you used to take your Oath of Office

3. INFORMATION

- The latest poll results
- The rundown of how your opponent spent his funds last election
- A Rolodex stuffed full of important contacts
- The account number for an opponent's Swiss bank account, filled with illegal contributions
- Details on all of your opponents' campaign contributors
- Proof about who the President was REALLY visiting on his overseas trip to Namibia

4. FLASHY

- A 1960 Aston Martin DB4GT Zagato sports car, one of only 20 in existence
- The most expensive lawyer in the state/country
- A Rolex worth more than most peoples' homes
- ◻ A collection of 100 handmade silk ties of the finest quality
- ◻ An election-winning smile
- ◻ A gold cigarette case, studded with diamonds and engraved with your initials

5. WEAPONS

- A standard-issue Secret Service SIG P229
- A brainwashed assassin
- A CheyTac Intervention bolt-action sniper rifle, accurate to 2,500 yards
- ◻ The most intimidating knife you could buy
- ◻ A series of strategically placed bombs
- ◻ A nuclear bomb, hidden inside the back of a truck

6. UNTOWARD

- A dead hooker
- A semen-stained dress
- Five kilos of uncut cocaine
- ◻ A laptop computer filled with child pornography
- ◻ A strap-on rhinoceros penis
- ◻ \$1 million in campaign money, locked inside a briefcase that is still handcuffed to a severed hand

...IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

1. FLASHBACK TO... COLLEGE

- That week-long bender
- Your political science final, that you completely failed
- The day you met your wife/husband
- When your professor let you re-take your political science final, and you cheated to pass
- Your fraternity/sorority initiation
- Graduation day, when you gave your valedictorian speech

2. FLASHBACK TO... YOUR FIRST CAMPAIGN

- Your first debate
- The first time you gave a speech to your supporters
- The screening of the first attack ad you ever ran
- That shady back room, where you made your first real deal
- Your campaign bus, when you had everyone clear out so you could be alone with Starla
- At a restaurant with your family and supports on election night, watching the results come in

3. FLASHBACK TO... YOUR FIRST TERM IN OFFICE

- Your first day, when the party leader explained “how things work around here”
- Your first interview after your election
- The first compromise you had to make
- Your first vote on an important issue
- The first time a constituent said “thank you”
- The day you were sworn in, when you never felt more proud

4. FLASHBACK TO... SOMETHING YOU WISH YOU COULD FORGET

- That night when you never should have gotten behind the wheel
- To when your child died, and you weren't there
- To when the affair started
- The first time you took a bribe
- When you failed
- When you were captured by the Chinese and brainwashed

5. FLASH FORWARD TO... YOUR FINAL TERM

- Election night, as the results are starting to come in
- To when you went to the freshman politician's office to explain "how things work around here"
- When you realized you became the institution you wanted to change
- To when you decided that it's finally time to quit
- Your trial
- They day you were expelled from office, when you never felt more ashamed

6. FLASH FORWARD TO... HOW YOU SPENT YOUR RETIREMENT

- In jail
- As a political advisor
- Out of the public eye, alone, unloved and hated
- In the mansion you bought with all of the money you "earned"
- On a lecture tour, doing signings of your book and giving speeches
- With your family, living a quiet and happy life

...IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

NEEDS

1. TO GET ELECTED...

- ...Because you're the best candidate
- ...Because you paid enough for it
- ...To follow in your father's footsteps
- ...Because THEY promised you would
- ...To show those fat cats in Washington how to really do things
- ...Despite being unqualified and ineligible for the position

2. TO GET AWAY WITH...

- ...The biggest con in American history
- ...The perfect crime
- ...What you did, and no one can know
- ...Murder, perhaps figuratively
- ...Rigging this election
- ...The money. All of it. To hell with your partners

3. TO GET RICH...

- ...By selling your vote to the highest-bidding lobbyist on every single issue
- ...By raising a shit-ton of money for "campaigning" and then disappearing to a tropical island
- ...By selling some incriminating evidence on a candidate
- ...By obtaining a position of importance and selling national secrets to the Chinese
- ...Through good, old fashioned blackmail
- ...By selling a vacated House of Representatives seat in your district

4. TO RUIN SOMEONE'S CAREER...

- ◻ ...By seducing them and selling the story to the tabloids
- ◻ ...By exposing their taboo sexual practices
- ◻ ...By convincing everyone they are actually retarded
- ◻ ...By causing a scandal so perverse, it will make toes curl
- ◻ ...And take them down with you
- ◻ ...For the ratings/sales/page views

5. TO GET LAID...

- ◻ ...Because when it's so wrong, it feels so right
- ◻ ...Because you're not getting any at home
- ◻ ...By one of your aides
- ◻ ...Because, really, who would know?
- ◻ ...By someone new, everyday
- ◻ ...By an idealistic campaign worker, by pretending you care about the issues

6. TO GET REVENGE...

- ◻ ...Because they ruined your career, and payback is a bitch
- ◻ ...On your opponent, because he/she was the same one that beat you last time
- ◻ ...On the system, and any Washington insider will do
- ◻ ...On the people who ruined your life, by getting elected and passing new legislation
- ◻ ...On the unions
- ◻ ...On the politician that got you fired for the article you wrote about him

...IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

MY FELLOW CITIZENS

CREDITS

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BOILERPLATE

This playset is an accessory for the Fiasco role-playing game by Bully Pulpit Games.

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THE SCORE

“Politics is supposed to be the second-oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.”

-Ronald Reagan

Politics is a cutthroat business...

Corrupt incumbents always seem to get reelected, and challengers rarely stand a chance. It seems that every aisle is filled with snake-oil salesmen more concerned with lining their own pockets than representing their constituents. And if you're actually doing a good job, chances are somebody out there wants you dead.

Welcome to American politics, where it's smear or be smeared. Regardless if you're young and trying to get elected for the first time or an old pro who's trying to get to the big seat, you're all playing the same game -- whether you like it or not.

This is where careers are made, and not just for politicians. Everyone surrounding them is just waiting for their moment to shine, hoping it will get them noticed. And for the journalists that flood the halls of power, there's no juicier story than a political scandal.

Every politician tends to start with the best intentions. Perhaps you got sidetracked along the way -- a little deal here, a compromise there -- but after 20 years, you can barely remember the reasons you ran for office in the first place.

Maybe you were dirty from the start, only running because someone promised that you would win. Or maybe, just maybe, you're actually honest and trying to do the right thing for your constituents, not caring whose toes you step on or what lobbies you anger along the way. In which case, you had better watch out.

Because, just like Aesop wrote, “We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office.”

Movie Night:

Wag the Dog, The Manchurian Candidate, My Fellow Americans, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, All the President's Men, All the King's Men, The West Wing (TV)

MY FELLOW CITIZENS

A Fiasco Playset
By Alex Costello and Chris Baumler