

HOUSE OF CARDS
SEASON 3 EPISODE 1

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INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

FRANK UNDERWOOD, President of the United States, stands over his desk. He curls his fingers, readies his fist, and knocks on the top of the desk twice, but way too hard. His fist breaks through the top of the desk and gets caught in the wood.

Frank turns to the camera.

FRANK

On your path to power, you will
encounter many obstacles.

He tries to walk away but can't. His hand is really deep in there.

FRANK (CONT'D)

A powerful man can see his friend
from his foe, and even when blinded
never confuses the two.

Frank tries to pull his arm out from the desk. Nothin'. He keeps pulling.

FRANK (CONT'D)

We used to have a saying down in
Gaffney: Don't be blind. It's
better to see. That way you can see
your enemies.

Frank swings his leg up on the desk and pushes with his foot.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Power is attractive, even the blind
can see that. Don't give up your
eyes, they are all that you have.

Then he swings his other leg up on the desk and pushes with both feet, but his hand just won't budge.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Aw shit I'm stuck in this desk.
Meecham, get in here.

MEECHAM, Frank's new Vice President, enters.

MEECHAM

What is it, Sir?

FRANK

Vice President Meecham, my hand is
stuck in this desk.

MEECHAM

What do you need me to do, Sir.

FRANK

Meecham, can you suck my dick a little?

MEECHAM

Sir, is this the time or place?

FRANK

Meecham, please, my hand is stuck in this damn desk and I need you to loosen me up! And you suck it so good.

MEECHAM

Let me get your hand out of this desk, Mr. President.

Meecham goes over to Frank and pulls at his arm.

FRANK

Owwie Meecham, dat hoits.

MEECHAM

Sorry Mr. President.

Frank looks up at Meecham. Meecham looks up at Frank. Their eyes meet. The two start moving closer. What? What is going on? There's no way that they're going to...all of a sudden: House Whip JACKIE SHARPE walks in!

JACKIE

Mr. President! Mr. Vice President!

FRANK AND MEECHAM

Uhhhh, ughhh, uhhhh

JACKIE

Your hand is stuck!

FRANK AND MEECHAM

Ohhh yeah, yeah, uh huh, yeahhh.

Jackie goes over and starts tugging on Frank's arm.

JACKIE

Wow, it's really deep in there.

FRANK

I punch hard.

Meecham joins Jackie. They tug so hard they start to sweat.

Then Jackie's hand slips down onto Frank's hand. Then Meecham's hand slips down onto Jackie's hand. All three of their eyes lock. What's going to happen? No...no way...when all of a sudden: White House Press Secretary SETH GRAYSON walks in!

SETH
Oh, excuse me.

FRANK
No, no Seth. Nothing to see here.

SETH
Mr. President, I know what I saw.

Jackie and Meecham exchange nervous glances.

SETH (CONT'D)
A man who needs to be buttered up.

Seth holds up a big stick of butter.

FRANK
Good idea, butter up m'fist Seth.

Then the Vice President, the White House Press Secretary, and the House Majority Whip all try to pull the fist of the 45th President of the United States out of a desk.

When all of a sudden: Speaker of the House BOB BURCH walks in! Ohhh nooo! They're so busted.

But Burch just runs over and starts making out with everyone!

And Meecham is biting Frank's nipples. And Frank is shoving his fingers in Jackie's mouth. And Jackie is spanking Seth.

JACKIE
Get that fist nice and buttered up so it can slip in and out of the desk, in and out, in and out, like the desk is a vagina and the fist is a fist.

The door slams open. Everyone freezes. They've been caught, and by none other than: the First Lady of the United States: CLAIRE UNDERWOOD.

FRANK
Hello Claire. Of course, I can explain everything...

CLAIRE
No Francis...you earned it.

And Claire throws open the door of the Oval Office.

All 100 members of the Senate and all 435 members of the House come pouring through the door. They're all naked and chanting and covered in butter.

And then Claire swings open the other door! And all 9 Supreme Court Justices and the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the whole Cabinet come spilling through the door. They're all naked and chanting and covered in butter.

A big fat FRENCH CHEF runs in and screams:

FRENCH CHEF
More butter!

And then every Governor runs in and every Mayor of every town and all their staffs and all their assistants. And then congressional aides and speech writers and secretaries all run in. And local post men and public school teachers and the whole entire military. The whole public sector is fucking each other in the Oval Office.

But in the stormy sea of government, Frank is still. Frank Underwood looks up at the camera.

FRANK
I think I could get used to this.

INSERT: Frank hand pops out of the desk with a loud "pop."

Everyone freezes. Frank straightens his back, cracks his neck, slams his ring on the desk and cries:

FRANK (CONT'D)
Back to Work!

Everyone scurries away.

FRANK (CONT'D)
God Bless America.

CUT TO:

OPENING CREDITS.

They are 45 minutes long, having been cut down from previous seasons. We still see every house in DC. And that lion twice.

CUT TO:

INT. PRESS ROOM - DAY

SETH walks into the press room.

SETH

Hello ladies and gentlemen, it's a new day in America. Leading the day: No, the President will not be offering his support for Republican Majority leader Michaela Jafar's bill to curtail the powers of the EPA. President Underwood cares about the environment. Questions?

GRIFFIN

Hi, Griffin Newman, Slugline. Ok, I'm actually going to ask the question on everyone's mind...why is Frank Underwood the President?

SETH

Good question.

Seth tries to jump out the window, but it's not movie glass so he just smacks into it. He walks back to the podium.

SETH (CONT'D)

He's the president because of the constitution. Now does anyone have any other questions?

All the reporters raise their hands.

SETH (CONT'D)

Other than why Frank Underwood is the president.

Everyone lowers their hands. Except for one.

SETH (CONT'D)

Yes, Griffin again.

GRIFFIN

How is Frank Underwood the president? Like how did that happen?

SETH

Well simple, President Walker resigned.

GRIFFIN

Because he oversaw foreign money as it was invested in American elections? Is that what happened?

Seth presses a button labeled "eject". The machine is broken and a reporter in the back goes flying out of the room.

SETH

Yes. Any other questions?

GRIFFIN

Going back, Underwood became the Vice President because the previous Vice President resigned to become the governor of Pennsylvania?

SETH

Uh huh.

GRIFFIN

When the democratic candidate for governor committed "suicide"?

SETH

Yes.

GRIFFIN

Even though nothing like that has ever happened in the history of the country?

Seth pulls a big lever and all the reporters except Griffin fall into a pit.

SETH

(under his breath)
Who built this room?

GRIFFIN

I'm just trying to keep everything straight because literally every news story this past year has been the biggest news story in our country's history.

FRANK

(o.s.)
Simmer down, simmer down.

Frank walks into the room.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Allow me to clear a couple things up. First of all: look how good I can throw a baseball.

Frank kind of lobs a baseball at Griffin.

GRIFFIN

No, Mr. President, we want answers-

FRANK

To whether I can throw a baseball real good? Thought I just cleared that up, but I guess you reporter types need multiple sources. So here's my famous pitch, the "Screwy Louie."

Frank kind of lobs a baseball at Griffin.

GRIFFIN

Mr. Underwood, I want to ask you about your unusual ascension through government.

FRANK

As they say, four strikes and your out.

Frank kind of lobs two baseballs at Griffin.

FRANK (CONT'D)

And they say the press corps doesn't play ball.

Frank takes out a notebook labeled "Funnies."

He checks off "Say someone will 'play ball' after throwing a baseball at them."

FRANK (CONT'D)

Seventh inning stretch.

Frank kind of lobs a baseball at Griffin.

SETH

That'll be all for today.

CUT TO:

INT. MICHAELA JAFAR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Republican Senate leader Michaela Jafar is hard at work in her large office. Jafar is at her desk, which is a cage with a tiger in it. She is on her phone, which is a monkey heart.

JAFAR

I know Slugline is calling this bill the "anti-EPA bill," but I can assure you, there's nothing I care more about than the environment.

Jafar feeds bottle caps to a baby duck.

JAFAR (CONT'D)

And let me remind you, building these factories will bring thousands of jobs to Colorado. That's where my heart is at.

Jafar opens her window, squints her eyes, picks up a harpoon gun, and fires it into the distance. A whale cry is heard.

JAFAR (CONT'D)

Because the EPA is weak. I don't think the solution to a better government is more government. And do I seem...*so bad??*

Jafar tosses her plastic water bottle into a recycling bin clearly labeled "paper only".

JAFAR (CONT'D)

Thank you Mr. Newman.

She hangs up the phone.

MICHAELA

All this work has got me beat. Time to put on my comfiest shoes.

Jafar puts her feet into the blowholes of two dolphins. The dolphins explode.

CUT TO:

INT. UNDERWOOD'S TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Frank and Claire are smoking out the window. Claire takes a long drag from the cigarette.

CLAIRE

I'm going to miss this house.

FRANK

Me too. Which is why I took the
outside of the White House and put
it over the inside of this house.

He takes out a walkie talkie.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Let 'er rip boys!

Four helicopters drop the exterior of the White House around
the Underwood's townhouse.

CLAIRE

Thank you Francis.

FRANK

You earned it.

CLAIRE

Francis we've worked our whole
entire lives for this. Now that we
have it, what are we going to do?

FRANK

Claire, I have one more enemy to
vanquish. The most powerful enemy
we've ever known.

CLAIRE

Senator Michaela Jafar?

FRANK

No...my desk.

CLAIRE

What?

FRANK

The desk in the Oval Office! It
embarrassed me and hurt my hand.
Look at my boo boo hand!

Frank shows her his boo boo hand. It's a little scratched.

CLAIRE

Are you going to get a new one?

FRANK

Yes, I'll get a new hand in due
time.

Frank looks down at the kitchen table. There is a newspaper with the head line: "Techcorp has developed new super-strong robot hand technology"

CLAIRE

I meant a new desk.

FRANK

Only after I destroy this desk physically, and emotionally.

CLAIRE

Good boy.

FRANK

Let's get started. Tell Stamper I want to fly to Colorado.

CLAIRE

Doug Stamper is missing Francis.

FRANK

Damnit, where is he?

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

DOUG STAMPER'S head is being beaten in with a brick by RACHEL POSNER. Stamper falls to the ground. He is alive, but barely. Rachel Posner runs away.

The camera pulls out to reveal that Stamper has fallen onto train tracks. His head is run over by a train. He is alive, but barely.

Rachel runs away into the uncertainty of the woods.

Clouds form in the sky and pour acid rain directly on to Stamper. He is alive, but barely.

Rachel runs towards the light of the setting sun and, maybe, the light of a better future.

Stamper is struck by a meteor. He is alive but barely.

A hand made of rocks stretches out of the meteor, picks up a gun, and shoots Stamper.

Rachel runs. Her destination? The future.

CUT TO:

INT. UNDERWOOD'S TOWNHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

CLAIRE

I'm sure he's fine.

FRANK

Well, then tell Seth I want to fly to Colorado immediately.

(slyly)

I want to reach across the aisle and talk to my good Republican friend Michaela Jafar.

CLAIRE

Is that smart Francis? Being so close with the woman who will challenge you in 2016.

FRANK

I think the American people need to see how much more civil the Underwood White House is than the Walker White House was. Which reminds me, tell Seth to put a flaming bag of dog doodie on Garrett Walker's porch. Then take a picture of his reaction and leak it to Slugline.

CLAIRE

Consider the wheels in motion. By the time we're done, that desk will be nothing more than a pile of splinters.

Frank looks into the camera.

FRANK

Back in Gaffney we had a saying: When you don't like a desk, set up an elaborate Machiavellian scheme to destroy that desk.

Frank looks at Claire.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I love you Claire.

CLAIRE

I sleep in a box of dirt.

CUT TO:

INT. NATIONAL GALLERY - DAY

JACKIE SHARPE, House Whip, sits on a bench waiting for Claire Underwood. While she waits, she stares up at a painting of a ship in a storm. It really makes you think.

Claire enters. The two shake hands.

CLAIRE

Thank you for seeing me, Jackie.

JACKIE

It's my pleasure, Claire.

CLAIRE

You're too kind Jackie, but really the pleasure is mine. Look at my happy face.

JACKIE

That looks like your mad face.

CLAIRE

Yes it does. I heard Remy Denten started lobbying for TechCorp. Has that affected things *between you two*?

Jackie is surprised: Claire has leverage.

JACKIE

I'd rather we not talk about Remy.

Claire thinly smiles. So thinly...that it's a frown.

Claire gestures to the painting in front of them. Remember it's a ship in a storm? And it's a show about politics. And politics can be tumultuous. Sort of like a...

Like a ship in a storm.

CLAIRE

It's beautiful, isn't it? Really makes you think.

JACKIE

Yeah. That's why I have my meetings here. Like you know how politics can be tumultuous? Sort of like a...

She gestures to the painting.

CLAIRE
Oh my god, like a ship in a storm!

JACKIE
Right.

CLAIRE
OK down to business. Jafar's EPA bill.

JACKIE
I agree with the President, it's far too extreme.

CLAIRE
Perhaps. But my husband is also aware of the ways in which an extreme bill can galvanize a force in the opposite direction. So long as there's someone aboard to...

She gestures to the painting.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Captain the ship.

JACKIE
But a boat will only move if it is untethered from the dock.

CLAIRE
I know my docks, Jackie. They're only as good as the ship they anchor.

JACKIE
But an anchor that is not well cared for is liable to rust.

Claire is stunned.

CLAIRE
It's a large harbor. I'm sure other vessels could weather the storm.

JACKIE
They can. But a boat has two directions: port and starboard.

CLAIRE
But in the hull, that's where you keep supplies.

Jackie stands up.

JACKIE
Thank you for coming in Claire.

CLAIRE
Thank you, Jackie.

Jackie shakes Claire's hand and leaves. Claire picks up her phone.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
The bill will pass.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

Frank is sitting in the back of the car.

CLAIRE
Jackie's agreed to pair a rider reaffirming the EPA's powers to one donating Colorado land to TechCorp.

FRANK
You accomplished all of that in one half hour?

CLAIRE
Jackie and I understand each other.

FRANK
Very good. I've got to go.

Frank hangs up and jumps out of the moving car.

CUT TO:

EXT. STARBUCKS - CONTINUOUS

Michaela Jafar watches Frank jump out of the car. The press starts snapping photos. Frank walks up to Jafar, shakes her hand, and sits down.

JAFAR
Are you bleeding?

FRANK
Gods don't bleed.

JAFAR
Did you just quote "The Road to El Dorado"?

FRANK

(to press)

I know you in the media are calling this the "Latte Summit." Well Senator Jafar and I, we like that name "a latte."

GRIFFIN

Ha!

JAFAR

I'm excited to be reaching across the aisle and get this bill hammered out.

Frank and Jafar smile, turn towards each other, and talk through gritted teeth.

FRANK

(whispered)

Your bill is never gonna pass Senator Poopypants, never in a million billion years.

JAFAR

(whispered)

Ooo Frank, your never gonna get your stuff in this bill, not in a googleplex years!

(back to full volume)

Just reaching across the aisle!

FRANK

Just two politicians reaching across the aisle.

Frank looks into the camera that is hidden in his latte.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I'm a lot like coffee. People sure do love me, until I burn them.

Frank turns to the press.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I changed my mind. I can not support your bill, Senator.

Jafar looks shocked. The "Latte Summit" was a set up!

FRANK (CONT'D)

I cannot abide damaging the environment any further.

(MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)

Not only do I want to see a bill supporting TechCorp, thereby bringing jobs to Colorado, (nothing to do with robot hands) I want to pair the plant with even *more* stringent EPA regulatory authority, so the forests wont get hurt. This summit is over...and I liked it "a latte."

GRIFFIN

(aside)

I like that joke "a latte."

Frank stands up.

FRANK

I'm sorry that the Republican Party is so unwilling to work with my administration. That being said I liked this Summit "a latte" and think I will get "a latte" more lattes.

Frank walks towards the Starbucks. He picks up his phone.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Seth, I want the EPA destroyed..."a latte."

Frank throws his phone in a bush. He walks into Starbucks.

CUT TO:

INT. STARBUCKS - CONTINUOUS

Frank walks up to the boring uncharismatic barista who seems to be waiting for something, anything to go right in his life. When...oh my word...

WALKER

Can I take your order?

It's former President Garrett WALKER! What's he doing here? Frank had no idea that, oh my goodness....

FRANK

What a pleasant surprise! Garrett!

WALKER

Oh...Hello Frank.

FRANK

Garrett, do you...Garrett, don't tell me...do you work at this Starbucks?

WALKER

Just a citizen again, Frank. It's what makes this country special.

FRANK

And you couldn't get yourself a lecture circuit or something?

WALKER

No one really wants to hear from a disgraced ex-President right now...so I'm just supporting my family and trying to lie low away from the press-

FRANK

Hey everyone, get in here! It's President Walker! He works at Starbucks now!

All of the press rushes into the Starbucks.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Hey Garret, remember when you resigned in scandal?

WALKER

I know you tricked me, Frank.

FRANK

Whatever do you mean?

WALKER

You tricked me out of office, you wormed your way to the top, and now I'm a part-time barista at Starbucks.

Frank's eyes narrow.

FRANK

That's right. Now get me a coffee.

Garret goes to pour Frank a coffee.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Actually...get me a PSL.

WALKER

Um, I'm sorry Frank, but Pumpkin Spice is a seasonal flavor-

FRANK

Grande PSL. With a caramel drizzle.

Walker starts looking under the table for PSL syrup.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Half almond milk, half skim milk. Lite water, 2 percent foam (with 2 percent bubbles), 3 and a half pumps, 120 degrees. And crumble up some Madelines on top. And some biscotti. And put it in one of those old Starbucks cups where you can see the Mermaids titties. Also, get me a Tony Bennett/ Lady Gaga album, but not "Cheek to Cheek," see if they have a Christmas album.

WALKER

Frank, it's June.

FRANK

You're right, a Halloween album to go with my PSL.

WALKER

They never recorded a Hallo-

FRANK

And get me... "a latte" of it.

GRIFFIN

Solid.

Walker looks at Frank. Then he peers over his shoulder and see all the press staring at him.

WALKER

Right away, Frank.

FRANK

Uhuhuh....Mr. President.

WALKER

Yep.

FRANK

Say it.

WALKER

Right away, Mr. President.

Walker painstaking goes about making Frank's ridiculous drink. Half way through Frank yells from across the room:

FRANK

You know what, did I say half skim
and half almond?

WALKER

Yes.

FRANK

I meant half skim half soy.

WALKER

I already put in the almond milk.

FRANK

Why don't you be a patriot and dump
that out and start over?

Walker miserably shuffles to the sink and dumps out the latte. The press continues to watch as he remakes the whole thing.

WALKER

Here you go, Mr. President.

FRANK

Please, call me Frank.

Frank takes the drink from Walker.

FRANK (CONT'D)

But you know what? Seems a little
cold.

Frank pulls out a thermometer and sticks it in his latte.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I said 120-degrees....and this
is...oh my Walker, it's 119.

The press cries out.

WALKER

I mean...it cooled down! It's still
too hot to drink!

FRANK

If I'm going to pay 4 dollars for a latte I want it done right. Now please start over.

GRIFFIN

Wow, Walker is really blowing it.

WALKER

Oh, come on!

Walker remakes the drink. It is a Herculean effort.

WALKER (CONT'D)

Here you go, Frank.

FRANK

Mr. President. And thank you.

Frank goes to pick up the drink. But then he slowly starts pushing it to the edge of the counter.

WALKER

Please don't do that.

FRANK

Do what? I'm just picking up my drink...

Frank has the drink teetering on the edge of the counter.

WALKER

Please Frank, if our time together meant anythi--

FRANK

Whoops.

Frank pushes the drink off of the table. It explodes and goes everywhere.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Clumsy me.

Walker, depressed, starts mopping the floor. The press is snapping lots of photos. Senator Jafar runs back inside.

JAFAR

Is he crying?

And indeed, a big tear has welled up in Walker's eye. The press is roaring with laughter and pointing at Walker.

FRANK
Dere dere Garrett. No need to cwy.

JAFAR
He's crying like a little baby!

WALKER
I'm not crying! I'm not crying!

FRANK
Maybe you can talk about it with
your therapist! Hahaha.

Senator Jafar high fives Frank.

The press is dying with laughter. Walker picks up the cup, stands up, but as he goes to put the mop away, whoh whoah whoah, he slips! The cup spins in the air and lands on Walker's head like a little dunce cap.

JAFAR
Let's get out of here, Walker is so
lame.

Jafar and all of the Press leave.

FRANK
Well Garrett, I'm sure you'll land
on your feet. Unless you don't. Now
I'm gonna pee in your potty. I hope
I don't miss the bowl.

Frank pees on the floor as he walks to the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. JACKIE SHARPE'S OFFICE - DAY

Jackie looks over papers with her STAFFERS. Phones are ringing, interns are running around, its pandemonium.

Claire walks in the room.

CLAIRE
Have you seen Slugline?

JACKIE
No, why?

The two gather around Claire's iPad. It has *Slugline* up.

HEADLINE: HOUSE WHIP JACKIE SHARPE IN AFFAIR WITH LOBBYIST
REMY DANTON

CLAIRE
This is not good for our bill.

JACKIE
Who leaked this!?

CUT TO:

INT. SLUGLINE - DAY

FRANK stands in the Slugline offices. They are sick. The walls are covered in graffiti and literally everyone is sitting in a beanbag chair.

Griffin enters the room on a bean bag chair that is also on top of a skateboard.

GRIFFIN
Mr. President?

FRANK
I was just admiring the art on your walls. Who tagged this one?

GRIFFIN
This piece was donated by Banksy.

Frank turns to camera.

FRANK
Banksy, the anonymous artist. I just wonder w-ho he could be.

Frank winks.

GRIFFIN
Our main offices are right this way Mr. President.

FRANK
Thank you.

Frank exits. Then he reenters frame and looks into camera.

FRANK (CONT'D)
It's me. I am Banksy. Just want to make that clear.

Frank beanbag skateboards offscreen.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

Claire, Seth, and Frank are in the back of the car. Claire stares out the window. She sees her reflection. You know "House of Cards".

CLAIRE

Congress is in open revolt. Jackie and Remy, a congresswoman and a lobbyist. Your landmark jobs bill is finished Francis.

The three smile at each other. Their phones starts buzzing. They're getting text after text after text. Frank looks at the camera.

FRANK

Congressmen are a lot like Dominoes. One little push, and they'll throw in garlic knots for free. Now, I want that gooey center but cannot abide the stink. Therefore, I must play this correctly; my plan hangs in the balance. This needs to be dealt with as subtly and quietly as possible.

(to Seth)

Seth, invite every member of Congress to the opera tonight.

SETH

Will you be attending as well, sir?

FRANK

No deal will pass if anyone on either side sees me speaking to their opposition. No, I think it'd be better if they spoke with a good friend of mine.

CUT TO:

INT. OPERA HOUSE - NIGHT

Frank walks down the aisles of the opera house wearing a fake mustache and a bright red vest.

FRANK

(Italian accent)

Peanuts! Get your opera peanuts!

(MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)

Who-a would-a like to buy peanuts from me, Giuseppe the kindly opera peanut salesman.

EVERYONE

Shhhh!

FRANK

Shh! Shh! Shhure thing, I will-a keep-a selling these peanuts because everyone-a loves a peanut!

The opera builds. It is so dramatic and ominous, like Frank's big plan. Frank walks down to Jackie Sharpe's seat.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Hey you, Miss. Don't-a I- know you from somewhere? Are you-a on-a the TV some-a-the-time?

JACKIE

I know it's you Mr. President.

FRANK

Mr.-a President? Oh boy no, not-a me. Maybe President-a of selling these peanuts, haha.

OPERA ACTOR

Will you shut up?

JACKIE

I can tell that that mustache is fake, Frank.

FRANK

"Frank?" I do not know this, how do you-a say, "Frank." My name-a is Giuseppe, the kindly peanut salesman.

Jackie sighs for 3 minutes.

JACKIE

Ok..."Giuseppe."

FRANK

(to camera)

All too easy. The path to power teaches you many things, chief among them that people only see what they want to see - whether that be an opportunity, or kindly Giuseppe the peanut-a salesman.

Frank sits down next to Jackie.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I remember! You be-a the House Whip, Jackie Sharpe. You know-a, I don't-a read the papers much but I heard bipartisan support for the TechCorp bill fell through cause of your collusion-a with a lobbyist. The rotating door of K-a Street-a isn't as quiet as it used to-a be!

JACKIE

Yep.

FRANK

You know, we had a saying down in Gaffney-er, uhhhhh, Gaffney, Italy - if you get a bum peanut, just replace-a it with another peanut. Perhaps a peanut-a without-a any EPA regulations.

Frank tries to nonchalantly toss a peanut into his mouth but misses.

JACKIE

We also don't have a whip willing to peddle peanuts any more.

Frank groans. Then he looks across the physical aisle (House of Cards) and sees Senator Jafar, sitting among the House Republicans.

FRANK

Uhh, we should keep-a talking-a about-a this...after I ah...get back from-a the potty.

Frank pees on the floor as he walks to the bathroom.

Jackie looks out the Opera house window. It's storming. Like that painting!

FRANK (CONT'D)

On your path to power you will inevitably face opposition. You can fight using one of two tactics: force, or seduction.

Across the aisle from Jackie, Senator Jafar watches the opera.

FRANK (CONT'D)
Bon Jour, mon chere.

Jafar looks up and sees Frank Underwood dressed as a skunk.

JAFAR
Pepe Le Pew!

FRANK
It is moi, Pepe Le Pew.

JAFAR
You're on TV!

FRANK
Oui.

JAFAR
I love your show. The girl skunk
was always so mean to you, but I
thought you were so handsome.

FRANK
Merci, you are too kind.

OPERA ACTOR
Will you please shut up!

JAFAR
You don't stink like you do on the
show.

FRANK
But you know what does stink? The
democrats' handling of this Tech
Corp bill, wouldn't you say?

Big hearts pop out of Jafar's eyes.

JAFAR
I sure would Pepe.

FRANK
Can you do a favor for Pepe Le Pew.

JAFAR
A kiss?

FRANK

Not exactly. More like push a bill through Congress that allows Tech Corp to build a factory in Colorado while whittling down the EPA protections...But what do I know, I am just Pepe Le Pew the famous Loony Tunes skunk man.

JAFAR

No, no, we couldn't pass anything like that. It would show weakness.

Frank's face falls.

FRANK

I see.

Frank goes to leave but his tail gets stuck in a chair without him noticing. He walks forward and there's a loud tearing noise as the costume rips off of Frank. He is ass naked.

The opera stops and everyone stares at him.

JAFAR

Pepe, your skin!

FRANK

Aw shit!

Frank runs to a door, his ass jiggling the whole way. But the door is locked! An usher approaches him.

USHER

Sorry sir that entrance is closed. The only exit is behind the stage. I'm afraid you'll have to wait til after the performance or-

FRANK

Aw shit!

Frank pushes him out of the way and runs down the auditorium stairs.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Aw shit aw shit aw shit aw shit!

Jafar stands up in her seat and points at Frank.

JAFAR

Hey, that's not Pepe Le Pew.
That's...Giuseppe the Peanut
Salesman!

FRANK

Aw shit!

Frank tries to leap onto the stage but misses and falls into the orchestra pit. He fights the musicians off, climbs onto the stage, pushes his way past all the actors-

OPERA ACTOR

Get him out of here!

Frank knocks over the entire backdrop. The opera is ruined.

EVERYONE

Booooooooooooo!

Frank flips everyone the double bird and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. OPERA HALL - NIGHT

Frank walks urgently to his car.

FRANK

(to camera)

I thought I'd give Jackie and Jafar the chance to reason their way out of this mess, but I see no amount of reasoning can solve this. If congress can't work together on a bill, then maybe they've lost their right to vote at all.

CUT TO:

INT. VICE PRESIDENT MEECHAM'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Meecham is sound asleep. His phone rings, waking him. He picks up.

MEECHAM

Hello? ...Consider it done.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK'S CAR - NIGHT

Frank holds a bottle of champagne.

FRANK

The Vice President has a usually
meaningless role, except under
special occasions.

MONTAGE

We see Meecham throwing on a coat and running out of his
house.

FRANK (V.O.)

There was a secret law signed by
Woodrow Wilson that only a few
smart guys know about: the Vice
President may put forward
legislation himself should congress
become derelict...and all go to the
opera.

We see Meecham run into the empty halls of Congress.

FRANK (V.O.)

I'd say every member of Congress
skipping work for a night at the
opera counts as being derelict and
going to the opera. Wouldn't you?

We see Meecham striking his gavel.

MEECHAM

The ayes have it! The bill passes
one vote to zero.

End Montage.

Frank pops the champagne.

FRANK

This calls for celebration.

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a cassette tape
labeled FRANK JAMS.

He pops the cassette into a player. The opening chords of
"Bad To The Bone" play.

Frank starts playing some sweet air guitar while guzzling
champagne.

FRANK (CONT'D)

On the day I was born
The nurses all gathered 'round
And they gazed in wide wonder
At the joy they had found
The head nurse spoke up
Said "leave this one alone"
She could tell right away
That I was Frank Underwood

Frank Underwood!
Frank Underwood!
F-F-F-F-Frank
F-F-F-F-Frank...

CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - THE NEXT MORNING

Jafar and Jackie sit across from the President.

JAFAR

You lied, Mr. President.

FRANK

Senator Jafar, I am appalled. I didn't lie to you. I manipulated you. You should really learn the difference if you want to prolong your career in this town.

JACKIE

How long before you think people will find out. You were seen at that opera house, there were pictures!

Frank tosses a stack of pictures at their feet.

FRANK

Take a look at them, I have. All I saw were pictures of two congresswommen speaking to Giuseppe the kindly peanut salesman and my good friend Pepe Le Pew. But I see no pictures of me.

JACKIE

There's no pictures of you *running naked through the opera?*

FRANK

That wasn't me.

Frank pulls out a tape-recorder and hits play.

JAFAR

(on tape)

"Hey, that's not Pepe Le Pew.
That's...Giuseppe the Peanut
Salesman!"

FRANK

As they say in my favorite sport
baseball: Touchdown.

Jafar looks through the pictures before throwing them to the ground. On top is a picture of Jafar speaking to "Pepe Le Pew."

SENATOR JAFAR

I have just one question for you,
Mr. President. What..."Pepe Le Pew"
and I had. Was it real?

FRANK

Oh, Michaela. Of course it was.

Frank turns to camera.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Was.

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN - AFTERNOON

Seth is standing in front of the press.

SETH

Though passed unconventionally,
with this new bill President
Underwood has finally brought
responsibility back to the White
House.

FRANK (O.S.)

Hey everybody look who I found!
It's my good friend Garret Walker!

Ex-President Walker, dressed in a suit and tie, walks in waving to the press. Frank has one arm around Walker; his other arm is behind his back. The Press claps.

WALKER

Thank you. Thank you. I have to say, it's nice to be back here at the White House.

FRANK

It's wonderful to have you back.

WALKER

I have to say, I was pretty upset about the Starbucks visit, but then I received a very special letter from the President that completely changed my mind.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. OVAL OFFICE

Frank starts writing a letter on his typewriter.

FRANK

Dear...Garret. I am writing you on an Underwood portable that my father gave me. It has never failed me before.

Frank looks up to camera.

FRANK (CONT'D)

And I hope it does not fail me now.

He returns to the letter.

FRANK (CONT'D)

When my father gave it to me he said "Francis, don't go into the barn at night when the moon is full, you won't like what you see".

Frank leans back in his chair to think. Then he lunges forward and begins clacking away.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Garrett I want to tell you something I have never told anyone. When I was 13, I saw my Father turn into a werewolf. Do you trust me now? Come visit me at the White House. Love, Frank. P.S. You can call me "Mr. President."

CUT TO:

EXT. WHITE HOUSE LAWN - CONTINUOUS

WALKER

It was the kindest letter I've ever received.

GRIFFIN

Awwwww.

FRANK

Say, now that we're pals again, why don't you and I...

Frank pulls out a football from behind his back.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Kick around the old pigskin.

WALKER

I...I don't see how that could hurt?

FRANK

Hurt? Garrett, it'll be fun. See, I'll just set up the football here like this...

Frank gets down on his knees and sets the football up for a kick.

FRANK (CONT'D)

And you come running up and kick it.

WALKER

How do I know you won't just pull the ball away, and I'll come crashing down and make a fool of myself?

FRANK

Now why would I do that? Don't you trust me after that note?

WALKER

I mean...no...no way Frank, you must think I'm crazy.

FRANK

Garret, I'm a changed man! Look at this face. Would I lie??

Frank puts his hands under his chin and bats his eyes.

WALKER

All right, you hold the ball and
I'll come running up and kick it.

Walker walks back to the big tree. The press stands in rapt attention. Then Walker starts running. He's chugging along. He's gonna do it. This time he's really gonna do it. And he gets to the ball and he swings his foot back and...Frank pulls out a gun and shoots Walker in the face.

Frank turns to camera.

FRANK

One enemy down, two to go.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY - NIGHT

Hiding at the very end of the subway is Frank, covered in gold paint and disguised as an alligator statue from Tom Otterness' *Life Underground*. RACHEL POSNER comes walking in, remember her?

Rachel approaches Frank.

FRANK

I know you killed Stamper.

Frank throws Rachel in front of a train. The last thing Rachel sees before she dies is that Frank was also driving the train.

FRANK (CONT'D)

In Gaffney we have a saying: Choo
choo.

CUT TO:

INT. OVAL OFFICE - NIGHT

All is dark in the Oval Office, save for a single ray of moonlight. It illuminates the desk.

We hear the creak of a door opening.

FRANK

(o.s.)
You were never going to win, desk.

Frank walks up to the desk and runs his fingers along the top. He stops at the hole, the very hole which held his fist hostage.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Ah. The fulcrum on which our drama turned. Why did things have to be this way between us, desk?

The desk says nothing because it is a desk.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Quiet till the end. No matter: Tech Corp will be building a factory in Colorado. Yes, Colorado - the very state you were built in. Also, my new bill completely and totally obliterates the EPA's powers. Leaving the forests, your family, you kin, shall we say...vulnerable?

Frank takes out a walkie talkie.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Remy, burn down all the forests.

Frank turns on the office's TV. It plays live coverage of all the forests in America on fire.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Why don't you watch the news and allow me to slip into something more comfortable.

Frank pulls a wooden box out from under the desk. He opens it to reveal an enormous TECHCORP ROBOT HAND. It has a cufflink with two simple letters on it: "F.U."

MONTAGE. Intercuts between Oval Office and next day's press conference. Opera music starts playing.

Press Room: Frank is surrounded by reporters.

GRIFFIN

What do you make of yesterday's events, Mr. President?

FRANK

Uh, which ones?
(wink)

GRIFFIN

Um...when you murdered your predecessor and all of the forests in America caught fire.

Oval Office: Frank picks up the robot hand and holds it up in a ray of moonlight.

Press Room:

FRANK

Well, I hate to say "I told you so." But this is exactly the stuff I said could happen if the Republicans pushed through their dangerous anti-environment agenda.

GRIFFIN

But your vice president was the one-

FRANK

To push the bill through, yes.

Oval Office: Frank puts the robot hand over his regular hand. He opens and closes his new robot fist.

Press Room:

FRANK (CONT'D)

The Republicans were holding our jobs bill in Colorado hostage and if there's one thing I won't do it's cost Americans jobs. Now, it's a terrible thing that every forest in the country burned down. I know that'll hurt the manufacturing of many American products: floors, baseball bats...desks.

Oval Office: Frank walks over to a bust of Theodore Roosevelt. His TechCorp robot hand grabs its face and crushes it into dust.

FRANK (CONT'D)

More like speak softly and carry a big robot hand.

Press Room:

FRANK (CONT'D)

Which is why it's so important to vote for the Democrats this coming election.

(MORE)

FRANK (CONT'D)

We are the party of planting trees,
not burning them. Vote Frank
Underwood, 2016.

The reporters don't say anything at first.

Then Griffin stands up, applauding slowly. Soon all the reporters are applauding and cheering. They start lighting firecrackers and making out. One of the reporters takes off his wig revealing he's actually BON JOVI. Bon Jovi picks up his guitar and rocks out a cover of "Frank To The Bone."

Frank jumps into the crowd and starts bodysurfing.

FRANK (CONT'D)

You don't have to be crazy to work
here, but it helps in this...

Oval Office: Frank uses his robot hand to fire a rocket at the desk. The rocket misses and hits the presidential seal in the middle of the room! But, as Frank planned all along, the explosion opens up a portal to the underworld and the desk is dragged to hell.

FRANK (V.O.)

House of Cards.

THE END.