

Cascadia



Stephen Foglia

CHARACTERS

JANE - F, 40s. Researcher at Cascadia University in Seattle.

NICOLE - F, 40s. Risk analyst for First Cascadian. Jane's partner.

JOE - M, 8. Jane's youngest.

2FAP2FURIOUS/OLIVER - M, 14. Jane's oldest. Mostly a social media presence.

DARIA - F, 40s. Prime minister of Cascadia.

MATT - M, 30s. Daria's Chief of Staff.

Tiger

Fox

Ibis

Giraffe

Guards

The ANIMALS may be doubled with the GUARDS.

In a reduced cast scenario, the performers playing MATT, JOE, and OLIVER cover three of the ANIMALS in **Scene Four**, while the actors playing NICOLE, DARIA, and OLIVER cover those three ANIMALS in **Scene Nine**. A seventh cast member would play the final ANIMAL in both scenes, and some or all ANIMALS would become GUARDS in **Scene Nine**.

SETTING

Location: Seattle

Time: 2020

PREFACE

This information should be displayed before the prologue, either in projections (if used) or in a program insert. Maps are encouraged.

In the late days of the second Bush administration, separatists in the Pacific Northwest seceded from the US and Canada and formed their own country whose borders were suggested by the bioregion dominated by the Cascade Mountains. Their flag was the Douglas fir tree. Their country they called Cascadia.

This story takes place in the teen years of that new nation.

PROLOGUE

Wind. Moonlight in the trees. Soft murmurs of monkeys. A forest?

The sacrificial altar, stained by old blood.

The faintest drum-beat in the distance.

A human voice.

JANE

It's OK. Come with me. Come with me.

Slowly:

A storm gathers.

The anchored restraints rise, as if by magic, sniffing at the air.

Lightning cracks the sky, and the bonds are broken.

As thunder grumbles, the altar fades in and out of light, seeming to lose its power.

A long streak of blood is rubbed away.

An alarm is raised. Occulting red lights in the distance, giving way to a police siren.

SCENE ONE

During an eclipse of the red light, Daria appears suddenly, with Matt behind her.

DARIA

It's going to be OK.

During one more occulting phase, the captive Jane appears, behind bars. Then the scene steadies.

Oh God, it's you. JANE

Duniway. This is unusual. DARIA

Is she alive? JANE

I don't know. DARIA

But you've found her haven't you? She's not still out there? JANE

We haven't found her. DARIA

Jane sinks into a crouch. She is shaken.

But we will. DARIA

Are you here to execute me? JANE

It's more of a social call. DARIA

Who's he? JANE

My chief of staff. DARIA

Matt holds a hand up in acknowledgement.

You brought your chief of staff on a social call. JANE

Matt LeGuin. MATT

JANE

I've heard of you. Sorry to drag you out here.

MATT

Are you?

Daria smiles.

DARIA

Well, Jane. Are you?

JANE

(genuinely at a loss)

I don't know.

DARIA

You'd better be, you've done a very bad thing. The country is upset. I should know, I get their mail, I'll save some for you if you want to read, you could obviously end up with some time on your hands -- sorry was that hurtful? People are heartbroken, bewildered, *I'm* bewildered, "who would do this?" they ask, "don't they have any decency? Don't they have any respect for human life?" This wasn't some anonymous little...whatever, but you know that -- Angela's a celebrity.

JANE

I didn't think it would upset you.

DARIA

You didn't think I'd be here at all. You didn't think.

Jane looks up at Daria who signals to her.

DARIA

Your hair is a mess, you beanbag.

Jane comes towards her, still in a crouch. Daria licks her fingers and smooths Jane's hair.

JANE

What was I thinking?

DARIA

What *were* you thinking?

JANE

If you'd seen her you wouldn't ask. If you'd passed by her every day, sat near her. Heard her. Smelled her.

DARIA

There were plenty of others. Why her?

JANE

She spoke to me. Maybe she changed me. She's not especially smart or good-tempered, but... This was her tenth trial. You can see it in her eyes.

MATT

You imagine you do.

JANE

You would, too. You can't help it. She has patches of hair missing. A scar along her breast. A permanent crimp in her tail from an incident as a juvenile.

DARIA

I gotta say, I would not have expected this from you.

JANE

Me neither.

DARIA

You were never a soft-touch. Emotionally bored, I would have said: born to blend in.

JANE

That hurts.

DARIA

I'm sorry, but I sometimes imagined you had this sort of beige heart to match your serious-person cardigan.

Jane puts a hand on top of Daria's.

JANE

I mean my hair.

DARIA

You got attached, it makes perfect sense.

Jane moves from her.

JANE

Attachment is irrelevant. I saw it was wrong.

MATT

Some people would say it was wrong to steal a monkey who could save millions of lives.

DARIA

And you understand when we say “would say” we mean “are saying” because, again, I get the mail.

(cutting her off)

Oh, don’t tell me about your supporters, I get their letters, too, yes, of course you have your fan club, your animal rights activists, your Humane Society, your PETA, they’re calling you a hero, which, yay, I’ve been telling people how wonderful you are for years -- can we give this girl a break? -- but the more important number, I have to think, because it’s the bigger number, measurably bigger, the number that represents the real Cascadia, to coin a phrase, does not think what you did was so ethical after all. In fact they think it sucks. Ethically.

JANE

One of the challenges with non-human primates is stress throws off the data. You have to get the heart-rate down. You have to quiet the adrenal glands. A lot of labs use ketamine to dope the subject. The feel-good solution is a buddy system. You keep them in visual and auditory contact with their cage mate, so they feel safe.

MATT

We did wonder why you released Domino, too.

JANE

She wouldn’t have gone without him. I’ve listened to them call for each other.

MATT

You got attached.

JANE

She survived Alzheimer’s. She’s had hep C and malaria. What more can she go through? She’s old. She’s tired. What more do we want her to give?

DARIA

She has to give her life, Jane, you know that. We need her.

JANE

We don’t *need* anything.

DARIA

She has to be sacrificed. It’s sad, yes, I hate it, too, but for one monkey we get three-hundred-thousand grandparents who get to meet their grandkids, meet them *and* actually know who they are.

That's in Cascadia alone, five million in the US, people who can work, who can live independently, who can go to the beach, garden, teach, tell their stories. Is one monkey worth five million people?

JANE

It's her life. And she doesn't have another.

DARIA

She's just a monkey.

JANE

We don't have the right.

DARIA

You don't have the right. That's why you're here.

A silence.

DARIA

I can get you out.

Jane is unable to hide a note of desperation.

JANE

You can?

DARIA

Of course I can. You're free, poof, I declare it. Go home, live your life, step out, have a drink, have a smoke, call your mom, don't run, needless to say, the charges aren't dropped, as prime minister I can't be seen to influence the university.

JANE

I understand.

DARIA

I'm not saying CUS [pronounced *cuss*] won't drop the charges, I'm just saying, you know, it won't have been me who

(to the officer off-stage, without pause)

You can open it up, please.

Jane is released. Daria blocks her.

DARIA

Where's Angela?

JANE

I don't know.

DARIA

I'm getting you out.

JANE

I know.

DARIA

So which is it? You know or you don't know? Dun, please. Five million people.

JANE

I told them where I left her when they brought me in.

DARIA

And you haven't remembered any more?

JANE

I promise.

Beat. Daria appraises Jane truthfulness.

DARIA

How's Nicole?

JANE

She's good.

(off Daria's look)

I mean not *now*, obviously, but other than this. How's...

DARIA

Shut up. Give me a minute to do paperwork.

Daria steps aside. She signals to LeGuin that they're going to keep an eye on Jane in case Jane leads them to Angela. It's a complicated gestural process.

MATT

She's hanging her ass out for you.

JANE

I saved her life once, too.

MATT

What's the story there?

JANE

The story is that the prime minister was once a college freshman.

MATT

Hm.

(without looking at Jane)

A lot of work to manage by yourself. Impressive. The effort. The planning. The heavy lifting. Lonely.

Matt gives Jane a slight glance. No reaction. He drops his eyes.

MATT

Angela was born in a lab. She has no concept of the outside world or how to fend for herself. My guess is you've spared her nothing in terms of stress and days, at best, of her life, which will likely now end painfully. Sure you've done her any favors?

JANE

(not falling for it)

I see why they call you the brains of the operation.

MATT

Strange place to plant your flag.

Jane looks over at him.

MATT

I'm just saying, lab testing is already restricted. It's valuable, and the sacrifices represent less than a percent of animal sacrifices in the country.

JANE

What's the rest?

MATT

Food, mostly.

JANE

Right.

MATT

And beef consumption ain't solving any health problems. So, you know...next time pick on the cattle ranchers.

Daria returns.

DARIA

The captain would like to know if you have anything to say for yourself.

JANE

I'm a lucky woman.

DARIA

Don't speak too soon.

SCENE TWO

The thunder returns, and yet the scene brightens in a bright sitcom glow as the altar becomes the family table. The family awaits Jane's hands to bless the meal.

She joins them and the scene begins.

2fap2furious modulates between an iMessage text chain that shows the family's current conversation and various gifs, videos, snaps, etc. His physical presence may be indicated by a kind of Alexa-like unit on the table (or a chair) that lights up when he interacts.

The scene is accompanied by an audience laugh-track (provided by 2fap2furious). It laughs us into the scene.

NICOLE

Amen.

ALL

Amen.

2fap2furious contributes an Amen gif.

Why are you crying?
JOE

I'm just so glad MJ's back. Aren't you?
NICOLE

Yeah.
JOE

Jane touches Joe's head, lovingly.

Me, too.
JANE

2fap2furious plays confused Larry David gif.

(Laughter.)

So he's still doing the...
JANE
(re laugh track)

Still doing the thing.
NICOLE

Everyone goes to their food except Jane, who looks at her plate distractedly.

Joe initiates a game with Jane where they swap their utensils, each pretending to look away while the other makes the switch. She smiles when she catches him, causing him to giggle, then she goes back to looking at her plate.

Thank you for cooking, baby.
NICOLE

Yeah.
JANE
(an old joke)

Don't thank me yet.

(Laughter.)

NICOLE

We got mixed reviews on my work last night.

2fap2furious texts: "Until u gave up n ordered
pizza"

NICOLE

Shh.

2fap2furious texts: "10/10 would eat again"

JANE

Is that true, Joe? Did you guys eat pizza without me?

JOE

Yeah. And something else Mama Nikki made. But it was bad.

(Laughter.)

NICOLE

I'm allowed to say that! You're not supposed to say that!

JANE

I did notice some of my knives out of place.

NICOLE

Told you! Didn't I tell you she'd notice. Mama Nikki knows Mama Jane, and Mama Jane knows everything that goes on in that kitchen.

(to Jane)

Now you're back you can fix em.

(taking a bite)

And the downstairs toilet, too.

(Laughter.)

NICOLE

J?

Jane is staring at her food.

NICOLE

You all right, J?

JANE

I'm fine.

What's going on?

NICOLE

Nothing.

JANE

OK.

NICOLE
(warm, supportive)

I just don't think I can eat this.

JANE

It's good. Isn't it good?

NICOLE

Joe gives a happy nod. Swaps utensils again.
2fap2furious sends a pic of pizza.

I don't think I can eat meat anymore.

JANE

Since when?

NICOLE

Since now.

JANE

Just like that. You know it's this kind of advance communication, this open dialogue, me knowing what you're thinking --

NICOLE

Nicole halts herself. Smiling.

Joe, you want some more milk?

NICOLE

I guess --

JANE

We'll talk about it later. Maybe we could all eat a little less meat. That'd be good for us. Here.

NICOLE

Nicole puts the whole bowl of salad in front of Jane.

(Laughter.)

JANE

I see Angela.

NICOLE

No. We're not gonna talk about her.

JANE

It's Angela in the pan. Angela on the plate. I cut into the pink meat --

2fap2furious plays gif of Lisa Simpson
imagining slices of lamb coming from Lamby

NICOLE

(more heated)

-- I told you we're not gonna talk about her. That's done.

2fap2furious plays a gif rotating see no evil, hear
no evil, speak no evil monkeys.

JANE

When I got home and smelled the house and stood on the carpet this felt real. When I picked up the boys

NICOLE

This is real

JANE

And everything else, jail, what happened at the lab felt like a dream. But then I see her eyes.

NICOLE

Jane, please.

JANE

I stood there stirring the pan, counting all my favorite things asking if she'll ever let me have them again. I didn't know she'd want so much. Oh God forgive me.

Jane hangs her head in her hands.

NICOLE

You need to lie down?

(to the boys)

MJ's having a little stress experience.

(Laughter.)

NICOLE

We're gonna give her her space. Eat up, Joe.

JOE

No, thank you.

NICOLE

Better eat your dinner if you want dessert.

JOE

That's okay.

NICOLE

Joe, eat your fucking dinner.

(Laughter.)

2fap2furious: "Woah" (*sic*)

JOE

(on verge of tears)

I don't want to.

NICOLE

You were *just* eating it. You said it was good.

2fap2furious: "Are fucks in play now? Can I say fuck?"

JANE

(to 2fap2furious)

Oliver.

2fap2furious dislikes Jane's comment.

(Laughter.)

JANE

Sorry, *fap*.

NICOLE

You're gonna eat what your mom cooked. Jane?

JANE

Joe, buddy?

JOE

No, thank you. I don't want chicken.

NICOLE

Since when? That's not even chicken: that's *quesadillas*. It's a whole other thing. It's delicious, and it's part of your job as a citizen to know them, and love them, and put them in your tum-tum once every week or so. More if you've been drinking.

(Laughter.)

JOE

I don't want to eat animals.

(Gasp.)

JANE

(quietly)

Shit.

(Laughter.)

2fap2furious plays a record scratch gif. Jane signals for him to cut it out. In a moment it pops up as "MJ disliked..."

NICOLE

But that's not animals. That's *quesadillas*. I told you.

JOE

MJ's not eating it.

NICOLE

That is a personal choice MJ has made *very recently*. And when you are old enough to make personal choices, you can choose that, too.

JOE

Chicken is an animal. And animals are our friends.

Mama Jane?
NICOLE

Technically...
JANE

NICOLE
(cutting her off)
Thank you for your help, Mama Jane.

JANE
(in low tone, for Nicole)
You're making a thing of it.

NICOLE
Oh, I'm not the one made it a thing!

(Laughter.)

2fap2furious plays DragonBallZ gif.

NICOLE
OK, young Joseph. Chickens are animals. You got me.

JOE
And animals are our friends.

NICOLE
Kind of. Kind of. We didn't know that chicken.

(Laughter.)

Joe seems unmoved.

NICOLE
I mean, there's different kinds of friends, right? Like, you and the crossing guard, Mr. Mathison. Y'all are friends. But you're not coming home and calling him, seeing if he wants to play Wonder Woman this weekend. You're not going to his birthday party. And if we're walking to school tomorrow, and we get to that crosswalk, and he's not there, how sad are you really gonna be?

2fap2furious texts "savage mom"

(Laughter.)

Joe pokes at his food, unconvinced.

NICOLE

Anyway nobody's friends with chickens. They're like super unpopular. Nobody's going to their birthday parties. They don't even have em cause they're basic. Just...nasty and loud and stupid. Like that Ava in your class.

(Laughter.)

2fap2furious plays crying chickens.

NICOLE

(counting on her fingers)

We're friends with cats...we're friends with dogs...

(she really thinks for a moment)

...that's it. That's all we're friends with. And honestly cats don't even like us back, so eat your dinner, dude.

JOE

MJ's friends with monkeys.

Jane signals Joe to ixnay on the onkeymays.

(Ooohs.)

2fap2furious plays an awkward bitmoji of himself.

NICOLE

(assertive)

MJ is not *friends* with monkeys. I don't know where you heard that, but

JOE

You helped Angela escape because you love her.

NICOLE

Let's not mix up monkeys with the dinner your mom cooked.

JANE

You're right, Joe. I helped Angela escape because I love her.

2fap2furious records and projects Joe.

JOE

(getting progressively emotional)

I don't think we should eat our friends. Because it's not nice.

And if I eat them I can't be friends with them anymore. And I don't think they want me to eat them. And we shouldn't do things to people if they don't want us to.

(Applause.)

NICOLE

Joe...

JOE

I don't want to hurt them.

NICOLE

OK. OK, baby. You don't have to hurt anybody.

(Awwws.)

Nicole glares at Jane, making a wtf gesture. Jane shrugs like what do you want from me?

NICOLE

(whispering)

Yeah, smile now -- you're the one's gonna have to learn sixty ways to cook a soybean.

(Laughter.)

NICOLE

(to Joe)

Gimme your plate. You boys get up to bed.

She takes Joe's plate. She also yanks Jane's salad bowl, mid-bite.

(Laughter.)

JOE

Is it OK?

JANE

(tenderly)

It's OK, Jo-Jo. Go upstairs. We'll see you in a minute.

Jane swiftly swaps utensils with Joe. He smiles.

Joe leaves. 2fap2furious seems to shut down.
Jane helps to clear the table.

JANE

We said we wanted inquisitive children.

NICOLE

Yeah, and I was supposed to have my nerd-wife to answer them.

JANE

Free-thinkers. I distinctly remember that phrase coming up.

Nicole pokes the air with a fork.

NICOLE

Exactly. And your boring ass was gonna keep em in line til they were 18. We have to deal with shit. We have to handle shit *as a team*.

JANE

I was a little distracted by Oliver.

NICOLE

Mm-mm. Don't put this on him.

JANE

Honestly, Joe's dietary choices seem like small potatoes --

NICOLE

-- not funny

JANE

-- when we've got a teenage boy who's gone incorporeal. When did this happen?

NICOLE

Hey.

JANE

Our son is a youtube channel! He's a group text!

NICOLE

That's not all he is!

(beat, wry)

He's also a snapchat account.

JANE

Oh so much better.

2fap2furious begins texting.

NICOLE

He has a rich life, in a vibrant community.

His text appears: "fuck u mom".

NICOLE

He's also very funny.

(Laughter.)

NICOLE

Go to your room, dude. And cool it with the laugh track.

JANE

Room, Oliver.

Nicole waits until 2fap2furious truly goes dark.

NICOLE

We're not talking about Oliver. We're talking about you! Changing all our lives. Without a word.

JANE

If I'd told you what I was doing, you'd be complicit

NICOLE

Instead you *lie* to me, and I repeat that lie to the cops over and over until the 9 o'clock news tells me what a fool I've been. Do you know what that feels like? For me?

JANE

I'm sorry. It wasn't supposed to -- if I'd told you, you would've tried to stop me, and

NICOLE

How do you know? How do you know I wouldn't have helped you? I like monkeys. I coulda had your back. I coulda covered your tracks so you wouldn't get popped in 24 hours like a fucking amateur.

JANE

Would you have?

NICOLE

I woulda tried to stop you.

Silence.

NICOLE

(softly)

I had to tell the boys where you were. I had to tell them I didn't know when you were coming back.

Jane reaches out for Nicole's hand.

NICOLE

Must be a real special monkey. That's all I'm gonna say.

Nicole leaves the table.

JANE

What if she isn't. What if what I did for her is what we owe to all of them?

NICOLE

Then it's a good thing they took your fucking passcard. This isn't you. You gotta -- I know I make fun of you for being a little by-the-books, a little teacher's pet

JANE

A little early-model robot struggling to understand human emotion

NICOLE

-- OK, that one was mean, but you gotta get that back, baby. We need that.

JANE

What if Joe's right.

NICOLE

Joe can be right. You can be right. But your rights end right here. That reminds me, you're on groceries from now on. I got too much shit to do, and your ass is unemployed.

JANE

I'm not cooking meat.

NICOLE

What are we supposed to, J? What am I supposed to do? You got taken away in handcuffs. Any day your ex-girlfriend --

JANE

She's not my --

NICOLE

-- can change her mind and they take you back. And I'm by myself with the kids. One of whom is a goddamn social media account. I don't know how long you get for kidnapping monkeys, but if it's more than three days I'm not gonna make it. With the teenager and the little vegan. I'm gonna have to remarry. Get fap to hook me up with a bumble.

Jane moves near Nicole.

JANE

When I realized what I was going to do, I had to run to the bathroom. It all came out of me. I knew I couldn't and I knew I was going to because I knew I had to. I'd already jumped and the rest of my body was trying to pull me back out of the air. You can't go back once you've gone. That plane is miles away. They're going to know your name. They're going to know your family. You'll be cast into the wilderness. The hand of God. I took a Xanax so Angela wouldn't notice my hands shaking. She nestled right here, in the car. And I was fine. I could feel her breathing and looking. It was the most natural thing in the world that we'd be looking down the lane markers, escaping together. Ever since she left I've been scared again. I felt how much trouble I'm in. I've been scared, and I couldn't tell you.

Nicole rests Jane's head on her shoulder and her own head against Jane's.

NICOLE

I'ma give you this one. Everybody gets one reckless thing. Rule of life. People take more, and it tells on em. Me, I been out of line twice. First time, I went to Disneyland as a single adult. Second time, I fucked your ass at Disneyland. This is your one. Enjoy it. Don't make it two.

JANE

You did.

NICOLE

And look what I ended up with.

There is a canned "Aww...." coming dimly from above, as if 2fap2furious is eavesdropping. They look at the ceiling for a beat.

JANE

But what if it's not over.

NICOLE

It's over, baby.

Nicole kisses Jane. Jane remains as the lights shift and the storm returns. She watches the sky.

She comes to the same part of the stage where she was held and resumes pacing.

Daria and Matt return.

SCENE THREE

Jane faces Daria and Matt.

DARIA

What the motherfucking fuck.

MATT

Motherfuck.

Pause.

JANE

...I don't understand what this is about --

DARIA

Motherfucker! Sixteen laboratories attacked across the country, hundreds of research animals released, mice, rats, pigs, cats

MATT

Monkeys.

DARIA

Monkeys, zebra fish -- I don't know how you release a zebra fish; did they carry the tank out? Did they come bearing ziplocs?

JANE

Who?

DARIA

Your friends, Dun, your animal rights confederates -- the vegans of Cascadia -- who are very much more numerous than our polling suggested.

MATT

I'm talking to Jonathan about that.

DARIA

And not just labs, oh no: they've attacked farms from Ashland to Prince George. We've got cattle blocking highways, befouling public reservoirs, chickens, idiot fucking chickens, loosed by the thousands, half of them so atrophied they can't even move, they just lay where they were left. These meat-huggers were organized. They went after Tyson. They went after Perdue. Not the little mom & pop hippie outfits where they shoot you full of black-eyed peas for stepping on their land, no they mass-assaulted our largest agripartners knowing corporate abhors a body count because the last thing they want is cameras near their operation.

MATT

I'm a little amused you took what I said to heart.

DARIA

We are not amused.

MATT

Not very amused.

DARIA

Do have any idea how long this is going to take to clean up? Cowboys, trailers, road closings, water testers, medical, CDA, DCA, PR campaign, lawyers, court dates, law enforcement, citizen complaints. That's twenty-eight percent of our meat supply.

MATT

That's grocery stores, vendors, ball games, nursing homes, schools.

DARIA

Oh, the schools, the schools, I don't even want to talk about the schools.

MATT

Well the schools might hold out longer.

DARIA

Don't wanna talk about them.

Beat.

JANE

What's going on in the schools?

DARIA

You know goddamn well what's going on in the schools!

JANE

I don't know why you brought me here.

DARIA

You organized this. It's your stupid ape-rescue, and now --

JANE

-- Angela and Domino are macaques, actually.

DARIA

Angela and Domino can suck muh-cock, actually. I should've listened to Matt. Instead I let you out, and now we have a full-blown viral campaign that started in *your* house, hashtag Angela's Angels, hashtag monkeybusiness -- show her the memes.

Matt fires up the Angela-focused iconography of the nascent movement.

JANE

I have nothing to do with this. Honestly, I haven't been online much lately.

DARIA

You're unemployed! You're online all day! You're logged in longer than a Korean Counter-Striker.

MATT

You're unemployed, ma'am.

JANE

Fine, but I still don't know what you're talking about it.

DARIA

Oh, really, you don't know "adorable kid doesn't want to eat his friends."

She nods to Matt who plays video of Joe's speech from earlier.

JOE (VIDEO)

...if I eat them I can't be friends with them anymore. And I don't think they want me to eat them. And we shouldn't do things to people if they don't want us to.

DARIA

Or “8-year-old schools mom on Bible?”

She plays another video by 2fap2furious of Nicole and Joe going over Genesis 1.

JOE (VIDEO)

So if God has dominion over us, does that mean he can eat us?

NICOLE (VIDEO)

Why would God eat you?

JOE (VIDEO)

If he wanted a snack.

MATT

Are you not “2fap2furious”?

JANE

That’s my son. Oliver. He’s a social media account. Or several.

DARIA

He’s inciting a riot, and he’s doing it in your name.

JANE

Those are just videos of our family. Dinner’s been kind of fraught lately.

MATT

Show her the schools.

DARIA

Are you familiar with the “beat your meat” hashtag?

Daria flips through a series of images of kids in schools physically assaulting their meat.

DARIA

Or the “meat your teacher” challenge.

Daria shows videos of kids flinging their meat at teachers. A really good shot of one kid winging the teacher right in the face.

DARIA

How about baloney burials?

Video shows kids holding funerals for sliced bologna. Carrying it like pallbearers, putting it into a hole, saying a prayer over it, fake-wailing over it. An adult voice from offscreen yells at them, at which point one kid smacks another in the balls, and they all scramble, leaving him on the ground.

DARIA

Do you think that's funny?

JANE

(genuinely laughing)

I mean he hit him in the...c'mon...

(straightening up)

Boys are so weird.

DARIA

The veggie population is in open uprising, and their numbers are swelling, especially among the youth. They're destroying property, they're assaulting individuals.

JANE

And sandwiches.

DARIA

You organized this.

JANE

I really didn't.

DARIA

You need to put a stop to it.

JANE

Talk to Oliver. Talk to Joe.

DARIA

You talk to them. You're their mother, they're doing this for you.

(tacking)

Dun, I got you out of jail, I'm making the whole thing go away at great personal risk to my credibility, I might add, at great risk to my agenda, *our* agenda, including a little thing called the Equality for Families Act you may remember I've only been dreaming about for, oh, twenty years: you have to help me on this, please.

The appeal seems to work.

JANE

I can talk to Oliver about his internet use. It's kind of touchy now that he's, you know

DARIA

Talk to him.

JANE

We've been wanting him to cut back anyway.

DARIA

Tell him to cool it with the campaign for a little while, that's all.

JANE

I can try.

DARIA

Thank you. I mean if he really wants to -- if the Prime Minister's gratitude means anything to him -- he could even walk it back a little, I don't think that would hurt anybody -- a little "hey guys it was all a joke", "hey we mighta taken things too far, the lulz got to my head, but really we're all cool here," right? Right?

MATT

Right.

Jane shifts. Realizing something.

JANE

No.

DARIA

OK, it's just an idea, as long as he stops the whole Pete Singer routine

JANE

No, sorry, I'm not going to do any of that. I don't want him to stop, or the movement.

(beat)

I agree with them.