

TALK RADIO

"PILOT"

Written by

David Santo

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. FISHER BUILDING - 3011 WEST GRANDE BLVD. - DETROIT - DAY

SUPER LOCO "AMANDA" GORMAN RODRIGUEZ, forties, fiery, struts in wearing a conservative red suit with a matching briefcase. Amanda is a mixed-race, no-nonsense individual who treats everything like a mission. When you're Amanda, you go hard or go home.

Amanda looks around, finds herself immersed in a skyscraper that is a bustling art deco masterpiece. She spots a security guard --

KAREN FROM FINANCE, thirties, female, transgender. She's stationed at a podium in front of a bank of elevators. Karen's eyes frantically dart from side to side scanning closed circuit TV screens on numerous devices. Amanda marches up.

AMANDA

Nice place you got here. I'm...

Karen spins a keyboard around so Amanda can log in.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

...date, name, time, destination,  
no coconut head fonts.

AMANDA

What time do you have?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

8:56. First day at the new job?

AMANDA

Yes.

Amanda enters info into the computer. Karen sees it on her screen.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

News Talk Radio WJR?

AMANDA

Correct. I'm the new program  
director.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

I used to work there. DJ. Now the  
query field for your first name is  
not populated.

AMANDA

Everyone calls me Amanda.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

And everyone calls me irritated when people don't use their real name.

AMANDA

It breaks my heart to see you this unhappy. What floor am I on?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

Eight. But the only elevator that stops there is loading freight right now.

AMANDA

So how do I get up there?

Karen motions to a stairwell. Amanda slides her keyboard back. There's a donation jar with the picture of a girl in a wheelchair. Amanda points to it.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

That's my niece. She needs an electric wheelchair.

AMANDA

How much more money do you need?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

Two-hundred, just to place the order.

Amanda digs out her wallet, jams \$200 into the jar. Karen flashes her a curious look.

AMANDA

A lot of my friends are disabled.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

But I'm trying not to like you.

ROCK PUNCHGROIN, fifties, designer suit, super-stud, sashays over.

KAREN FROM FINANCE (CONT'D)

This is your lucky day. Here comes your boyfriend.

AMANDA

I'd be lost without him.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

This guy harasses every woman in the building, including me.

AMANDA

Tell security.

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
He is security. That's my boss.

AMANDA  
Call the police.

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
I showed them the tapes. He's not  
doing anything illegal.

Rock leers at Karen. Then, he eyes Amanda up and down. Amanda  
grabs Karen's coffee. She struts to Rock, trips, spills hot  
coffee all over him.

AMANDA  
I am so sorry. It was an accident.

She leans in to whisper --

AMANDA (CONT'D)  
But if you ever look at us like  
that again - next time - it'll be  
two cups of accident. I feel like  
this was a good talk.

Rock storms away.

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
You are savage.

Amanda prepares to run up the steps, gives Karen her briefcase.

KAREN FROM FINANCE (CONT'D)  
Does this contain anything hazardous,  
fragile, liquid or perishable?

AMANDA  
It's got dog treats in case I meet  
a pupper. And a Nutty Bar.

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
The delightfully crunchy wafers  
covered in delicious fudge?

AMANDA  
It's all yours. Happy mouth present.

Amanda kicks off her shoes, sprints to the staircase.

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
Welcome to Detroit!

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. WJR ELEVATOR FOYER - DAY

Amanda staggers in to a bright fluorescent room. Glass doors with the WJR logo lead to a softly lit office. Speakers in the ceiling emit a catchy jingle that fades into a pulsing musical vibe.

TWO FEMALE DJ'S cover the day's news:

HAMILTON (V.O.)

(on-air)

With traffic and weather together  
on the eights, this is WJR News  
Talk Radio 7-60.

ST. PAULIE (V.O.)

(on-air)

Serving Detroit and Southeastern  
Michigan. We are the great voice of  
the Great Lakes.

HAMILTON (V.O.)

(on-air)

WJR newstime on this Monday morning:  
9:05

INT. WJR STUDIOS - MRS. BUELLER'S OFFICE - DAY

Throughout the show, we can always hear the ongoing WJR broadcast in the background.

MRS. BUELLER, sixties, with the skills of a hammer-wielding ogre, pokes at itchy medical bandages on her head with an oversized kitchen knife. Mrs. Bueller is post-op for a facelift. There's two eye holes for her to see out.

Mrs. Bueller watches Amanda primp in the hallway which is on the opposite side of her glass wall. They are face-to-face but Amanda can't see her. Mrs. Bueller taps on the glass. Amanda shuffles in.

AMANDA

Mrs. Bueller?

Amanda is still out of breath.

MRS. BUELLER

Did you run all the way from  
Mississippi?

AMANDA

Yes. But, I stopped in Chicago for lunch. That's why I'm late.

MRS. BUELLER

Do I detect a sense of humor?

AMANDA

I'm more fun than a Catholic nun.

Official handshake.

MRS. BUELLER

Amanda, welcome aboard.

Mrs. Bueller digs at herself with the knife. She uses a stabbing motion on the top of her head.

AMANDA

If your goal is to look crazy, you are nailing it.

MRS. BUELLER

Nip-tuck this morning. These bandages really itch. Hold this.

She unspools a piece of bloody gauze from her head, tries to give it to Amanda.

AMANDA

Gloves.

MRS. BUELLER

You were in the military, right?

AMANDA

My job was defending this country. Not getting hepatitis.

Mrs. Bueller gives her latex gloves. Amanda slips them on, grabs a hold of the bandage.

Mrs. Bueller backs up spinning her head around and around so the tape comes off.

MRS. BUELLER

You play golf?

AMANDA

Yes.

MRS. BUELLER

Good. I just bought a golf course.

Mrs. Bueller's face is exposed: nasty, greasy, swollen.

AMANDA

Are you sure you don't wanna go home?

MRS. BUELLER

No time. After I learn how to play golf, I'm off to see my new yacht.

AMANDA

Nice tax bracket.

MRS. BUELLER

When my husband died, I got everything. Including this station.

AMANDA

So what's the big change you want that you wouldn't tell me about on the phone?

Mrs. Bueller grabs a mirror, checks her appearance.

MRS. BUELLER

I want you to fire everyone. Then, hire a completely new staff.

AMANDA

What's wrong with this one?

MRS. BUELLER

Liberals. I'm turning this station into a conservative platform.

Mrs. Bueller gets out a fresh roll of gauze, gives it to Amanda. She bandages Mrs. Bueller's head.

AMANDA

Firing everyone is exactly the wrong move.

MRS. BUELLER

I'm the owner.

AMANDA

And, you hired me to run things.

MRS. BUELLER

And, this is the part where you stop arguing, or leave.

INT. WJR ELEVATOR FOYER - DAY

Amanda struts in. The elevator doors open. Karen rushes out. All the employees on the floor knows she's there. In a well-rehearsed celebration to glorify Karen, the group shouts --

"Opa!"

Karen's standard response is --

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
Boom chaka!

Amanda reads her name tag.

AMANDA  
"Karen From Finance?"

Karen gives Amanda her briefcase.

AMANDA (CONT'D)  
The elevators are working?

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
I lied. I didn't like you at first because, you didn't tell me your full name. But, then you gave me treats.

Karen takes a bite of a Nutty Bar.

KAREN FROM FINANCE (CONT'D)  
Now, when Mrs. Bueller asks you about your plans for the station, just reach inside your magic briefcase.

AMANDA  
I didn't take the job.

Karen muscles Amanda back to Mrs. Bueller's office.

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
You originally wanted this gig for a reason, right?

AMANDA  
Why are you touching me?

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
Right now, I want you to remember what that reason is.

AMANDA  
Right now, you need to let go.

Amanda slips Karen into a karate hold called a standing arm bar. It's incapacitating, painful.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

I want to work here again. You are my meal ticket. I promise to hangout with you even if you don't shower. I bet you sweat glitter.

Mrs. Bueller peeks out of her office.

MRS. BUELLER

(to Amanda)

I wanna see you.

INT. MRS. BUELLER'S OFFICE - DAY

Amanda wraps medical tape around Mrs. Bueller's head.

MRS. BUELLER

You want to keep the entire staff? But, I specifically hired you because, you're a conservative.

AMANDA

The natural friction between our liberal staff and the conservative guests will guarantee miserable conflict for years to come.

MRS. BUELLER

Thus, good ratings? Can you make a complete programming switch in 24 hours?

AMANDA

I only need 8.

MRS. BUELLER

Can I fire everyone if you fail?

AMANDA

Yes. Is this the entire staff?

MRS. BUELLER

We have 2 sister stations. They satellite feed us content at night.

AMANDA

So, I'm only responsible for day shift?

MRS. BUELLER

What other plans do you have for  
this station moving forward?

Amanda reaches into her briefcase and pulls out 2 spiffy binders.

Identical.

Each one is a full-color presentation for the future of WJR  
broadcasting. Amanda examines the executive summary.

AMANDA

Apparently, this facility is the  
perfect vehicle to market your other  
businesses. Golf. Yacht rental.  
Hospital services including organ  
donor delivery. And, flying taxis?

MRS. BUELLER

To deliver the organs. It's one of  
the businesses my husband had.  
He was a surgeon. St. Paulie runs  
it. You'll meet her in a minute.

Mrs. Bueller presses a button on her phone.

TESS, twenties, African-American Goth, lumbers in. She lives long  
days and longer nights.

MRS. BUELLER (CONT'D)

(to Amanda)

This is the breath of fresh air we  
call Tess.

TESS

How may I serve the new Lord Brain?

MRS. BUELLER

Show her around.

TESS

(to Amanda)

I'm gonna try and be nice to you.  
But if you're falsely optimistic -  
even once - it is my legal  
obligation to be sarcastic.

MRS. BUELLER

I'm sure we'll get along great.

TESS

You inspire my inner serial killer.

INT. AMANDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Tess shows Amanda in.

TESS  
This is the office where you shall  
punish us at your whim.

AMANDA  
Order food for everybody.

TESS  
Yes, my Lord.

She hands Tess a debit card.

TESS (CONT'D)  
Will you be buying yourself some  
Invisalign, too?

AMANDA  
Why? Is there something wrong with  
my teeth?

TESS  
No, my Lord.

INT. BULLPEN - LATER

It's a central meeting area accessible from all the offices  
and studios. Amanda drags in chairs, places them around a  
table. Tess comes out of the elevator carrying food.

AMANDA  
Where is everyone?

Tess dims the lights, gets out a flashlight.

TESS  
Hailing from the great state of  
Michigan, with an unhealthy  
attraction to Broadway musicals,  
and an irrational fear of mosquitos -  
Hamilton!

HAMILTON, female, forties, dressed like 18th Century royalty  
from Hamilton the musical, struts in. Her personality is like  
unhinged chaos.

HAMILTON  
"God help and forgive me. I wanna  
build something that's gonna  
outlive me." Thank you!

AMANDA

Is this really necessary?

TESS

Now a sis centrist from Minnesota  
with a mild case of multiple  
personality disorder and an  
inexplicable love for religion -  
Pauline - or as we call her -  
St. Paulie!

ST. PAULIE, thirties, in mint green medical scrubs, shuffles in.

AMANDA

(to Tess)

Is she the organ delivery person?

TESS

You have a powerful command of the  
obvious. And finally, a Goth  
nihilist from New York devoted to  
the idea of creating conscious  
media, but is constantly crushed by  
capitalist pigs - moi.

The entire group is at the table waiting to be impressed.

AMANDA

We have 8 hours to turn this place  
into a conservative talk radio  
station.

ST. PAULIE

I've got a liver to pick up. Car  
fire. Hot off the press.

HAMILTON

That's disgusting.

St. Paulie triggers Hamilton with a taunt that never fails.

ST. PAULIE

I'm a mosquito with dengue fever.  
Buzz. Buzz.

Hamilton digs out a spray bottle of insect repellent, spritzes  
St. Paulie in retaliation.

AMANDA

Let me finish. If we don't, we're  
all fired.

HAMILTON

Correction. You're fired. Continue.

AMANDA

(to Tess)

Is it me, or am I sensing a little hostility?

TESS

I feel like I have some leverage.

AMANDA

How so?

TESS

If I say no, we all fail.

AMANDA

Fine. I will personally give you \$50 every month.

HAMILTON

So, she gets money, and I get your petty gruel?

AMANDA

Okay, new rule for the mentally unbalanced. No money. No gruel.

Tess holds her phone up, Karen is on a zoom chat from her station on the first floor.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

(filtered)

We in.

AMANDA

(to Karen)

When you get a chance come up here.

Tess confronts Amanda.

TESS

Why do you care so much about this job?

AMANDA

Why are you asking?

TESS

I'm the alpha around here. Everything goes through me.

AMANDA

Okay, alpha. I grew up without a family. I joined the Army so I could have somewhere to belong.

TESS  
And, that didn't work out?

AMANDA  
After a while, it dawned on me, my  
military family was the result of  
forced cooperation.

TESS  
So, it was like a real family?

AMANDA  
But, I want more.

TESS  
Like money?

AMANDA  
Like love.

TESS  
What does that have to do with this  
job?

AMANDA  
This is my chance to finally build  
the family I always wanted.

TESS  
Out of us?

Tess has Karen on zoom.

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
(filtered)  
Am I hired, yet?

Everyone snatches food, makes their getaway like thieves in the  
night.

Amanda surveys her new domain.

AMANDA  
Victory is mine. Nothing can stand  
in my way.

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
(filtered)  
Hello? Que pasa?

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. AMANDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Amanda and Tess carry in boxes filled with Amanda's stuff.

TESS

What else is thy bidding?

AMANDA

I want you and the on-air staff to meet in the bullpen and brainstorm ideas for the station.

TESS

Some of them are on-air right now.

AMANDA

Tell them to run a feed from our FM sister station.

TESS

Any more thoughts on getting your teeth fixed?

AMANDA

I know what you're doing. You're trying to irritate me. It's not gonna work.

Tess slips out. Amanda examines her teeth in a mirror. Karen marches in.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Does my smile look okay?

Amanda and Karen rummage through the boxes. Karen hands her items. Amanda decorates her office to feel like home. Shooting trophies. A coffee mug that reads "Liberal Tears."

KAREN FROM FINANCE

So where did you learn how to run a radio station?

AMANDA

When I was in the Army, I did a stint as a program director for the Armed Forces Network. Why did you quit working here?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

I was fired when the Bueller's bought it. I'm a transgender woman.

AMANDA

I see.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

So when I made my gender change,  
I changed my name at the same time  
to someone who inspires me.

AMANDA

Karen From Finance?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

Aussie drag queen.

AMANDA

I wanna hire you for my personal  
assistant.

Karen thumbs out a message on her phone.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

There. I just quit my other job.

AMANDA

Very professional. Now, I'm gonna  
team Tess up with a partner on-air.

The entire staff is in the bullpen working on computers.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

You have bigger problems right now.  
They're all ignoring you.

AMANDA

Can you prove it?

Karen yells to the group --

KAREN FROM FINANCE

How many of you are ignoring Amanda?

All 3 raise their hands.

KAREN FROM FINANCE (CONT'D)

How many of you know Amanda will be  
fired before the day ends?

They all raise their hands.

KAREN FROM FINANCE (CONT'D)

And just for fun; How many of you  
want her job?

All hands go up.

INT. AMANDA'S OFFICE - DEEP IN THE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amanda works on a computer to find an application for Karen to fill out.

AMANDA

Why do they want my job?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

It pays more. Way more.

AMANDA

Aren't they worried about getting fired?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

Every couple months, Mrs. Bueller swoops in and says big changes are coming.

AMANDA

Then, Mr. Bueller?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

Shows up and says everything is staying the same.

AMANDA

But, he's dead. This time it's for real.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

This staff has been trained not to worry about anything.

AMANDA

I need some way to reach them. Tess is a bitter child. But what's up with St. Paulie and Hamilton?

Amanda finds an application for Karen to fill out.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

St. Paulie works full-time at the other business.

AMANDA

It's weird. She delivers human organs and does radio for her side hustle? I'm still getting used to that idea.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

She doesn't care what happens here.

AMANDA

What about Hamilton?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

She was gonna take a trip to Africa.  
But the shots made her really sick.

AMANDA

So, she never went?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

Her group won all kinds of awards  
for their humanitarian efforts  
preventing mosquitos from spreading  
dengue fever.

AMANDA

So, St. Paulie teases her about bugs  
to irritate her?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

They're jealous of each other. They  
both want attention.

AMANDA

From who?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

Whoever is in charge. And right now  
that means you. But, I buried the  
lead. St. Paulie likes you.

AMANDA

How can you tell?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

She's always the first one to help.  
And she touches her ears when she  
gets turned on.

AMANDA

Ears?

Amanda motions for Karen to help her hang a banner on the wall.  
It's Amanda's crowning glory. It's a giant picture of a crouched  
dog squeezing poop out. The caption reads --

"Hold on a minute. Downloading liberal opinions."

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Funny, right?

There's commotion in the bullpen.

INT. BULLPEN - DAY

St. Paulie chases Hamilton around with a red cooler marked "medical." Hamilton fights back by spraying her with insect repellent.

AMANDA

I am equally impressed with both of you idiots.

ST. PAULIE

Idiots is such a harsh word. Do you think that's being good boss by belittling us?

HAMILTON

(to St. Paulie)  
Mom likes me better.

St. Paulie runs by Amanda. As she passes --  
Amanda snatches the cooler.

St. Paulie tries to grab it back.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

(to St. Paulie)  
Warning. She will F you up.

In a well-rehearsed karate move, Amanda puts St. Paulie in a wrist lock, forces her to the ground, totally incapacitates her.

Hamilton runs over, sprays St. Paulie right in the face with bug juice. Amanda kicks the canister out of her hand.

Hamilton tumbles over. Tess rushes up.

TESS

You're a badass?

AMANDA

What is wrong with you people?  
Hamilton?

HAMILTON

She was taunting me with a liver.  
It's gross.

AMANDA

(to St. Paulie)  
Does this cooler have a human liver  
in it?

ST. PAULIE

I've got 12 hours to deliver it.  
Henry Ford Hospital is 5 minutes  
away.

HAMILTON

She does this all the time. Who  
knows where that liver has been.  
It could have mosquitos laying  
larva in it right now.

AMANDA

In frozen temperatures?

HAMILTON

The mosquitos are from Chernobyl.

St. Paulie motions for the cooler.

AMANDA

What are the qualifications to be a  
medical courier?

ST. PAULIE

I passed a pee test, and I can  
follow a GPS. Now give.

Amanda keeps it away, gets out her phone, uses voice mode --

AMANDA

Henry Ford Hospital.

ST. PAULIE

You're gonna rat me out? I could get  
in big trouble. And this could ruin  
Mrs. Bueller's business.

AMANDA

You should have thought about that  
before you risked somebody else's  
life.

ST. PAULIE

I'll do anything. I promise.

Amanda hangs up.

AMANDA

You will deliver this in 2 minutes  
right after our meeting. You will  
never do this again. And, apologize  
to Hamilton.

ST. PAULIE  
She blinded me with bug spray.

AMANDA  
Now.

ST. PAULIE  
(to Hamilton)  
I'm sorry.

TESS  
(to Amanda)  
Can you kick her in the head?

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
Punch her in the goiter?

TESS  
You got nunchucks?

INT. BULLPEN - DEEP IN THE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amanda and her staff gather at a table, work on computers.

AMANDA  
You will be paired up in teams  
of 2 for on-air shifts.

TESS  
There's only 3 of us.

AMANDA  
Karen From Finance is joining our  
little family. The on-air approach  
will be dialectical debate. Who  
knows what that means?

St. Paulie raises her hand, touches her ear.

ST. PAULIE  
I state the thesis.

HAMILTON  
I state the antithesis.

ST. PAULIE  
Then we argue and take that new  
conclusion and make it the updated  
thesis.

HAMILTON  
Rinse. Repeat.

AMANDA  
Tess, pick a topic.

TESS  
God is dead.

AMANDA  
Make it a question.

TESS  
Is God dead?

ST. PAULIE  
Why do you always have to pick on God?

TESS  
Because, he picks on me.

AMANDA  
Enough. Who wants to go first?

St. Paulie raises her hand, caresses her ear. Tess knows the ear touching secret.

TESS  
And quit with the gross eargasm stuff.

Mrs. Bueller peeks in from her office unnoticed. She watches the action. Tess jumps up, takes over the discussion.

TESS (CONT'D)  
You want a dialectical debate? Fine. Look at me, I'm God. I wave my magic wand. Bang! After six days, I need some edibles. Then, Jesus falls out.

AMANDA  
Does that sound like a thesis?

Mrs. Bueller struts in.

MRS. BUELLER  
(to Amanda)  
In my office. Now.

ST. PAULIE  
Is she getting fired already?

HAMILTON  
It's been nice knowing you.

AMANDA  
I am not getting fired.

INT. MRS. BUELLER'S OFFICE - DAY

Amanda bandages Mrs. Bueller's head.

MRS. BUELLER  
You're fired.

AMANDA  
No small talk? How's the new yacht?

MRS. BUELLER  
First, you rebroadcasted a  
satellite feed from our sister  
station without FCC approval?

AMANDA  
If there's a fine take it out of my  
pay.

MRS. BUELLER  
And now you're practicing how to  
properly bad-mouth God?

AMANDA  
I'm establishing a show format for  
an open debate.

MRS. BUELLER  
And your first official hire is the  
first person we fired?

AMANDA  
We're gonna be fine.

MRS. BUELLER  
What's next? A show about cavorting  
with spider monkeys?

AMANDA  
That's gross.

MRS. BUELLER  
You're gone.

AMANDA  
What about them?

MRS. BUELLER  
Off with their liberal heads.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. BULLPEN - DAY

Amanda and her entire staff gather together.

TESS

Did we all get fired?

AMANDA

Yes. But I have never lost in battle.  
And I am not gonna start now.

She gets out keys to unlock a broadcast booth.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

I'm about to go on a suicide  
mission. If anyone does not want to  
join me, they can leave right now.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

Is this a literal, or metaphorical  
mission?

AMANDA

Metaphorical. But thank you for  
thinking I'm that crazy.

INT. STUDIO B - DAY

Amanda jams the group into a state-of-the-art broadcast booth.

AMANDA

I need all of the insane people in  
this room to act normal for the  
next 2 minutes.

The group straightens up.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

(to St. Paulie)

Can you hijack the sister station  
from here?

ST. PAULIE

We have 2. You want both?

AMANDA

Yes. Hamilton. This station has a  
substation in Riverview. Can we  
temporarily boost the power from  
there?

HAMILTON

I know the guy on-site. I'll have him do it manually so they can't trace it back here.

AMANDA

But if it does get traced here?

HAMILTON

The FCC fines will be enormous. And you'll only have 10 seconds before the fuses blow.

AMANDA

Karen From Finance. Does Michigan still have Ohio as its rival?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

Yes. Do you wanna pick on them?

AMANDA

I'm going to create waves of social media fallout. Tess.

TESS

Finally.

AMANDA

You do the countdown from 5.

Amanda takes her place in front of a microphone.

TESS

What are you gonna say to millions of people? 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1.

Everybody springs into action, flips switches, turns up dials. A bright red light glows -- "On Air."

AMANDA

This is Amanda Gorman Rodriguez from 760 AM, the great voice of the Great Lakes. Ohio sucks. Boom chaka!

Fuses blow from too much power. Lights go out. Emergency exit lights blink on.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

Did you just steal my line?

AMANDA

That should get some attention.

INT. BULLPEN - DAY

Amanda and the group rush in. Power is being restored throughout WJR. Electronic devices hooked up to the internet are blinking.

TESS

Why is it so important for you to work at this station?

AMANDA

My grandmother lived here in Detroit. She was the only family I ever had.

TESS

She's passed?

AMANDA

While I was stationed in Mississippi, she'd come visit me, and she'd bring a shoebox full of them old-fashioned cassette tapes.

TESS

I got a joke. Why did the chicken take out the cassette?

AMANDA

It was the talk radio shows that she recorded from this very station.

TESS

To get to the other side.

They check laptops, cell phones.

AMANDA

We'd listen to Tiger baseball. Red Wings hockey. Weather.

TESS

You'd listen to cassette tapes like it was live radio?

AMANDA

She loved this place so much.

TESS

So this station feels like the home you never had?

AMANDA

I know, it's weirder than 2 stupid dogs.

Mrs. Bueller, struts in.

MRS. BUELLER  
Who wants to get punched in the  
throat, first?

AMANDA  
I just want to show you what this  
station can do.

The computers are back online.

AMANDA (CONT'D)  
(to the group)  
I want headlines. Messages. 200  
word articles about what we just  
did. Tag anyone and anything. Go.

Hamilton, St. Paulie and Karen, work on computers and phones.  
Tess frantically scribbles down copy, gives it to them.

HAMILTON  
Detroit radio station pulls off  
stunt of the century.

ST. PAULIE  
US radio reaches a new level of  
self-promotion.

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
WJR flexes radio dominance in  
Midwest.

AMANDA  
(to Mrs. Bueller)  
And this is just the start. How  
much would PR like this cost?

Mrs. Bueller pulls Amanda aside.

MRS. BUELLER  
Looks like you got things under  
control.

AMANDA  
This looks good. But, they're not  
ready to follow me into battle.

MRS. BUELLER  
You know what you need to win them  
over?

AMANDA  
A taser?

MRS. BUELLER  
A villain. A common enemy they can  
all rally against.

Mrs. Bueller saunters to the group.

MRS. BUELLER (CONT'D)  
You're all rehired.

A celebration breaks out until, she motions to Karen.

MRS. BUELLER (CONT'D)  
But not the freak.

Tess and the group look to Amanda for guidance.

AMANDA  
(to Mrs. Bueller)  
It's a package deal, or we walk.

The group lines up behind Amanda to show their support.

MRS. BUELLER  
You win, vermin.

INT. BULLPEN - LATER THAT DAY

Amanda marches in with her staff in tow. She opens the door to a storage closet.

AMANDA  
This is going to be our family  
sanctuary.

TESS  
Like a punishment room?

AMANDA  
Like an escape room from the  
miserable world.

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
Can we fill it with coloring books  
and puppies?

AMANDA  
Now you're catching on.

Tess shakes Amanda's hand.

TESS  
I gotta hand it to you, boss. You  
did all this hard work for nothing.

AMANDA

What do you mean?

TESS

At the end of the day you're still a conservative. We hate conservatives with the intensity of a white-hot sun.

HAMILTON

But we like you. It's almost like you have feelings.

ST. PAULIE

Like human feelings.

Amanda ushers them to the meeting table.

TESS

It's not like we don't trust you. But, we don't trust you.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

I've got your back. You and I are golden. But you've only been here one day.

AMANDA

Solution?

KAREN FROM FINANCE

We're placing you on secret probation.

TESS

I suggested double secret probation, but your performance today has been exemplary.

HAMILTON

If you can treat us like decent human beings for 3 straight months...

ST. PAULIE

...then, we will rescue you from the prison of your own mind.

Tess whispers to Amanda.

TESS

Keep this on the DL. There's gotta be something nice I can do for you.

AMANDA

Got it covered. I'm going to the dentist to get my teeth straightened.

TESS  
I was only teasing.

Karen, interrupts.

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
There's something I want to know.  
Your real name.

AMANDA  
That's a hard, no.

ST. PAULIE  
You're already breaking probation?

Amanda scribbles her name down on a note, gives it to the group to pass around.

TESS  
Impossible.

AMANDA  
Go ahead.

KAREN FROM FINANCE  
Now way.

AMANDA  
Have your fun.

HAMILTON  
How did you get this name?

AMANDA  
That's a story for another time.

St. Paulie plays with her ear.

ST. PAULIE  
I like it.

AMANDA  
So we're all good?

TESS  
All hail, Super Loco!

Everyone joins in --

"Opa!"

"Super Loco!"

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. MRS. BUELLER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Mrs. Bueller practices putting golf balls. Amanda slips in.

AMANDA

Freak? Vermin?

The elevator doors opens. The first floor security guard Rock, struts out.

MRS. BUELLER

There's your real villain.

AMANDA

That guy from the first floor?

MRS. BUELLER

Rock. He works security. But right now, he's here to spy on us. He's undercover for WDAS talk radio.

AMANDA

Aren't they in the same building?

MRS. BUELLER

He tells them every news story we're working on so they can beat us to the punch.

AMANDA

And, how do you know this?

MRS. BUELLER

Hamilton is our counter spy. She dresses up like maintenance and cleans their offices at night. Rock has his own desk there.

AMANDA

So, he's the arch enemy, and I'm just learning about this now?

MRS. BUELLER

Any ideas on how to get rid of him?

Amanda yells to Rock.

AMANDA

I'm making hot coffee!

He scampers back into the elevator.

INT. BULLPEN - NIGHT

A golf ball rolls in from Mrs. Bueller's office. Amanda and Mrs. Bueller, follow it in.

MRS. BUELLER  
This is when I really hate my life.

AMANDA  
Aren't you taking this radio station  
putt-putt a little serious?

MRS. BUELLER  
Work is done. There's nothing left  
to think about but my husband.

Mrs. Bueller drops a plastic cup onto the floor far away from the ball for a target.

MRS. BUELLER (CONT'D)  
A heart surgeon dying from a heart  
attack. That's a fine example of  
irony, right?

Hamilton and St. Paulie are in a booth conducting an interview.

ST. PAULIE  
Right now we're joined by the  
Governor of Ohio, who wants to defend  
his suckie conservative commonwealth.

HAMILTON  
Governor, have you seen the musical  
Hamilton?

Mrs. Bueller gives the putter to Amanda.

AMANDA  
You coming in tomorrow?

MRS. BUELLER  
If you make this shot, I'll bring  
donuts.

Amanda putts the ball. During mid-roll, Mrs. Bueller turns off all the lights, slips out. Darkness. The ball rolls into the cup.

AMANDA  
Boom chaka! Mrs. Bueller? Tess? Did  
anybody see that?

FADE OUT.

END OF PILOT