

SWING VOTE

by J. Gordon

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

A meet-and-greet is wrapping up.

Kora, the celebrity, smiles for a few more selfies with fans. She's grinning, but not happy as she crosses to meet Taylor, holding a briefcase.

KORA
Can I speak to you alone?

TAYLOR
(loud to room)
That's it guys! Let's clear the room. Thank you all for coming.

The room empties, leaving Taylor and Kora.

KORA
What's going on?

TAYLOR
I can cancel the event or you can do it without me--

KORA
-- I can't do it without you. I haven't even read the --

TAYLOR
--I put the speech on your phone and highlighted the key points.

KORA
Because you scheduled a personal appointment at the same time as the press conference?

TAYLOR
I'll be at the evening fundraiser for the --

KORA
-- I feel like you're doing this on purpose.

TAYLOR
On purpose?

KORA
Yes.

TAYLOR
This isn't about you.

KORA
That's why you didn't stand up for me back there. Are you trying to make me lose?

TAYLOR
Jesus Kora -

KORA
Because if you are --

TAYLOR
-- I'm not.

KORA
-- if you are going to backstab me, I wanna know now before --

TAYLOR
-- All I'm doing is trying to help you win. This entire election is one big popularity contest and, in case you haven't noticed, you're not exactly Ms. Sunshine!

KORA
Ah, see? So this IS about me.

TAYLOR
No, it's about me --

KORA
Oh please--

TAYLOR
-- Its about me and how hard I'm working to keep people from seeing the real you.

KORA
-- The real me?

TAYLOR
Kora, I love you -- You're my best friend but --

KORA
-- You're not acting like my best friend right now.

TAYLOR

-- but other people haven't known you since birth, so when they think you're just this mean bitch, there's not much I can do. I mean, what do you want me --

KORA

You could correct them. You could explain why judging other people is wrong and --

TAYLOR

That's all you do is judge people. It's the whole reason you're famous -- or infamous.

KORA

That's a persona for the show --

TAYLOR

Is it? Really?

(beat)

You didn't think Logan was a good fit for me and -

KORA

Here we go! The truth. I hated your ex. Okay?

TAYLOR

You had no right to interfere in my relationship. You got all in my head and made me --

KORA

You should be thanking me. Logan was --

TAYLOR

It wasn't your business, but you couldn't stand me having a thing that was not about you!

KORA

Oh grow up. You always think you deserve to be treated like --

TAYLOR

I don't wanna run your campaign anymore.

KORA

--like some perfect little angel.
The world isn't going to baby you
Taylor and I'm not going to enable
you -- it's like you have to play
the victim --

TAYLOR

Did you hear me?

KORA

What?

TAYLOR

I quit.

Silence.

Taylor exits.