

NOLE'21

by
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OVER BLACK:

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

TNN can now project that Rhodes Scholar, Russian linguist, professor, self-proclaimed geek, Picard Nole' is the President-Elect of the United States.

CLICKS of cameras and raucous shouts of "Nole'" drown out the declaration.

FADE IN:

INT. ROSENFELD LOFT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

SCOTT ROSENFELD, 36, and BETH ROSENFELD, 36, are hosting an election night watch party. Guests decked out in NOLE'21 shirts and hats huddle around a big screen TV eating pizza, drinking wine, and chatting. NADIA ROSENFELD, 10, sits at a table head down, an untouched plate of food in front of her.

BETH

She was suspended today for fighting and the only thing she'll eat now is pepperoni pizza. Then, there's the Russian thing. She's stopped speaking English and spends all day and night on her computer. I don't know what's gotten into her lately but I want my daughter and my country back. Is that too much to ask?

GUEST #1

She's a tween. The tween years can be hard on kids. With all the talk of Russian hacking this election cycle, maybe she's just exploring. "Nadia" is a Russian name.

BETH

Is it? Scott and I named her after the gymnast, Nadia Comaneci. She's from Romania, I think. Hell, I wouldn't know the difference anyway. We both just loved the name.

GUEST #1

My grandmother was from St. Petersburg.

Nadia prances from the table and stands beside Beth.

She points to a lone slice of pizza in a box on the coffee table in front of the TV.

BETH

Did you eat your dinner?

NADIA

Net.

BETH

English, please.

GUEST #1

"Net" is "No" in Russian. "Dah" is "Yes."
"Do svidaniya" is "goodbye" That's all I
can remember.

SCOTT

Come on, Beth. Let Nadia have some pizza
and play her video game. Nole's speech is
about to start.

NADIA

Dah!

Nadia grabs the slice of pizza and skips into her room.

NADIA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nadia sits in front of a laptop. Hail to the Chief plays from its speakers. A message flashes on her screen. She clicks on it. The 1812 Overture begins to play.

ON THE LAPTOP:

The message reads: You think you're so smart. You're a FREAK. Nobody likes you, GEEK FREAK! Do us all a favor and DIE!

Nadia wipes tears from her eyes and closes the message. She opens a new tab and begins feverish typing as more tears fall.

INT. BALLROOM - SAME

PICARD NOLE', 36, in a navy blue suit, American flag on his lapel, stands centerstage behind a podium before an enthusiastic crowd. His speech is loaded on a teleprompter and begins to scroll.

PICARD

They called me Professor Geek, said we couldn't do it. They were wrong! I'll never forget what we did tonight.

Chants of "Nole'" reverberate off the walls of the ballroom. Picard raises his hand to quell them.

PICARD (CONT'D)

There's more we can do together.
We can ensure all children can sit at the popular table and eat pepperoni pizza and are not called geek freaks.

(beat)

What the hell?

A SECRET SERVICE AGENT, 30s, approaches Picard and whispers in his ear.

INTERCUT - NADIA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nadia continues maniacal typing.

ON THE LAPTOP:

(Note: The message Nadia types is in Russian with English subtitles.)

They want me to die cause I'm smart and mess up the curve. The kids at the popular table eat pepperoni pizza for lunch. I read your book and now I can speak Russian. We can sit at our own table at lunch. Will you be my friend?

NADIA

END SUBTITLES

INTERCUT - BALLROOM - SAME

Picard glances at the teleprompter.

Frozen for a beat, he tears up. He wipes his eyes with his hands and scans the crowd.

PICARD

Is there a Nadia here? I have to go. I have to find Nadia.

Secret Service in tow, Picard exits the ballroom.

EXT. ROSENFELD LOFT - NIGHT

Picard knocks on the door. It swings open.

PICARD
(in Russian)
Is Nadia here? Is she O.K.?

SCOTT
Nole'! Beth, Picard Nole' is at our door.
Please come in.

Beth and the watch party guests rush to the door. Picard scans the crowd along with the Secret Service as he enters.

PICARD
Thank you for your support. Is Nadia here?

SCOTT
Yeah, but what you want with her?

BETH
Oh, God, what did she do now?
(yelling)
NADIA!

PICARD
She invited me to lunch.

Nadia runs from her bedroom into Picard's arms.

NADIA
(in Russian)
I knew you would come.

PICARD
(in Russian)
You O.K? So, when's lunch?

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Picard, Nadia, and the Secret Service, sit at a table among a sea of pizza boxes and eat lunch. Nadia laughs and smiles.

FADE OUT: