TWENTY-FIVE

Scene 4 – 25th Ammendment

*#2 & 5 are in their “spot”. The word “Ammendment” is attached at bottom of 2 & 5. Sign says “Quiz Today:” Classroom chairs 4 rows of 2 are DSL – facing SR. Teacher desk is DSR – facing SL – with trash can DS. Students are seating (frozen). Nerd is in “front” row with full backpack on chair & notebook in hand. Athlete 2nd row with basketball. Cheerleaders 3rd row. Cheerleader 2 has crush on athlete. DS of chair is bag of PomPoms. Rebels in last row. Rebel 2 sleeping.*

# 2 *(holding sign and reading it)* I’m in trouble now.

# 5 – Why? What did you do?

#2 – Nothing. That’s the problem. I never read the book for my American Government class.

#5 – *(confused)* So….. you’re wishing you were a better student…...why?

#2 – *(puts sign up)* Because there’s a test today on the 25th Ammendment!

#5 – *(sighs)* We are not taking the test! We are just the bulletin board.

#2 – Thank goodness! I was about to break out in hives. *(Sign Up)*

Lights up full. *Actors come to life.*

**Nerd:** *(looking at watch)* Ms. Thompson is late. We’re not going to have enough time for our test if she doesn’t get here soon! *(Goes back to studying)*

**Athlete:** Horrors! Your essay might end up being just 2 pages – instead of 10!

*(Cheerleaders laugh. Rebels snicker. Athlete takes B-ball and bounces it off the nerd’s chair. At same time Nilsa puts feet up on back of chair of cheerleader – Maggie jumps up and turns around)*

**Cheerleader 1:** *(Maggie – pushes feet off chair)* Keep your feet to yourself!

**Rebel 1:** *(Nilsa – jumping up which wakes up Rebel 2 and leans menacingly, holding up fist)* Maybe you’d rather have my fist!

*(Substitute rushes in from DSR, panting/talking as enters. Puts bag on table & islooking though bag for papers. Cheerleader/rebel react by sitting down – although they give nasty looks to each other before doing so.)*

**Substitute:** *(talking fast)* So sorry to be late! There was an accident on the expressway and it was backed up for miles. Even without accidents it’s always packed with traffic. They really should rename it the snail-way!*(chuckles at her own joke & students react with facial expressions – except Nerd who keeps focused on studying his notes).* Here we are! *(pulling out papers)* I knew printed up the test your teacher sent me. *(Looking at class)* Oh, I should introduce myself. I’m your substitute teacher – Miss Twitch.

*(During athlete’s lines the Rebels take out straws and mime making spit balls which they start shooting at teacher & nerd).*

**Athlete:** *(to the Cheerleaders)* Oh this is going to be fun! *(stands up and starts twitching while talking)* Miss Twitch. I’m sure you are a very understanding person so I’m wondering *(twitching gets worse)* if you’d consider doing a review before giving us the test. I have to get a B on this test in order to play in the Championship game but it’s hard to write when I’m nervous because of my twitch.

*(Cheerleaders laugh. Teacher brushes hair/neck – reacting to spitballs hitting her)*

**Substitute:** I don’t appreciate your sense of humor!

**Nerd:** *(brushing neck and turning around to point at rebels )* I can’t study when they’re shooting spitballs.

**Rebel 2 –**Bridget: *(sarcastic)* Aaaaaw! Are you gonna get grounded if you don’t get an A++ on this test?

**Substitute:** If you don’t have something nice to say, don’t say it!

**Cheerleader 1:** *(turning, haughty)* That’s right. You need to mind your manners!

**Rebel 2:** How ‘bout if I “politely” fix your hair for you? *(pulls hair of Cheerleader)*

**Substitute:** Stop that right now!

*Resource Teacher enters DSR. Rebel lets go of hair when she enters.*

**Resource Teacher:** Oh good you’re here. I just read your text about traffic.

**Substitute:** Actually I WAS here. I don’t teach hoodlums! *(storms out DSR)*

**Rebel 2:** That’s a record! We got rid of that sub in less than a minute!

*(Everyone but nerd cheers or high-fives: Whoo hoo! Way to go! Alright!)*

**Resource Teacher:** That is nothing to be proud of!

**Nerd:** *(raising hand)* Excuse me! Excuse me! We *really* need to get started on our test on the 25th Ammendment or we won’t have enough time to finish.

**Resource Teacher:**  Well, your test walked out with your substitute.

**Rebel Student 1:** *(sarcastic)* How disappointing!

**Rebel 2:** (*gesturing to nerd as if in solidarity*) And we studied so hard! Didn’t we?

**Athlete:** *(stands up)* No point in wasting this time. Anyone up for some hoops? (Shoots B-ball into trash can. Dribble over and pretend to dunk it).

**Cheerleaders:** *(Jump up & bounce as chanting)* Two points!

**Resource Teacher:** *(starts to walk toward the student desks but Athlete sticks foot out and trips her)* Everyone sit down!

**Nerd:** *(jumps up to catch teacher)* Are you ok?

**Athlete:***(to nerd)* Not bad on the reflexes. Maybe you should try out for the team.

*(Cheerleaders laugh & comment: Him! Too funny!)*

**Resource Teacher:** That’s it! I’m getting the Principal. *(Storms out DSR)*

**Athlete:** A double record! *(everyone except nerd stands & cheers)*

**Nerd:** You guys are going to get us into trouble!

**Rebel 2:** We can’t get in trouble if we aren’t here. Let’s exit guys.

*(Everyone moves toward DSR exit but just then Principal walks in & Janitor enters shortly afterwards to empty trash can)*

**Principal:** Where do you think you’re going? This anarchy is ending right now! Go sit down & someone tell me what you are supposed to be studying.

**Nerd:** *(raises hand, Principal points to him to go ahead)* Actually, we are studying how to avoid anarchy in our government if the President is assassinated.

**Principal:** So you are studying the 25th Ammendment. Who can tell me what that amendment says about the line of succession. *(nerd waves hand)*

*Loud speaker announcement: “Principal Williams please come to the office immediately for an urgent phone call.”*

**Principal:** *(sees Janitor)* I need you to keep these rebellious students in order until I return. *(to students)* There will be consequences if there is any more anarchy! *(exits DSR)*

**Rebel 1:** We can’t commit anarchy when we don’t even know what it means.

**Janitor:** You might not realize it but you are some of the best anarchists I’ve seen come through this school.

**Athlete:** What you do you know about anarchists?

**Janitor:** I’ve seen plenty of students like you – just trying to be agitators & creating chaos in the classroom so you don’t have to actually learn anything. However, your anarchy today served as a great example of how the line of succession works. Your teacher was sick, so the substitute was supposed to take over the class. When she walked out, the Resource Teacher took over until she gave up and the Principal came. Your rebellion wasn’t successful because leadership passed from one person to the next. That’s exactly what the 25th Ammendment does for our country.

*Bell rings.*

**Janitor:** Class dismissed!

*BLACK OUT*