

The Outsider - Arthur Side 2

The Outsider

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~~NED. Right! Sorry. Ask me again.~~

~~ARTHUR. Governor, how do we solve the deficit?~~

~~NED. "It just takes common sense."~~

~~ARTHUR. Right.~~

~~DAVE. To solve the deficit?~~

~~NED. (Realizing:) Yeah, that doesn't sound right.~~

~~PAIGE. I'm gonna have to go with them on this one.~~

ARTHUR. *(It's all getting out of control:)* Okay, let's just— Look, there's only one card left. Why don't you just... read the last card?

NED. *(Looking for the card he hasn't read:)* The last... card. *(Reading the words—unintentionally—without any meaning or connection:)* "I'm just an average guy."

ARTHUR. Okay, now, do you see... how these four cards... tell a story? *(ARTHUR needs NED to understand this narrative, and be onboard with it. He'll spell it out as clearly, as patiently, as he needs to.)* We've got problems that need fixing—whatever they are. And we need someone new to fix them—an outsider. Someone who'll just use his common sense. And then, along comes *you*, who's just... an average guy. Which is... exactly what we're looking for. You see?

NED. *(Slight pause.)* Yeah. I think I do, yeah.

ARTHUR. *(With relief and gratitude:)* Oh thank God.

NED. *(He's understanding the whole concept:)* I mean, this isn't *me*—

ARTHUR. No—

NED. This is who people *think* I am.

ARTHUR. Exactly.

NED. *(Referring to card four:)* But—the "Average Guy" card. Are you saying I'd use this as an answer to a question?

ARTHUR. Absolutely! Paige?

PAIGE. *(This takes some thought, but she's quick on her feet:)* Mr. Newley... after your swearing-in ceremony this morning, a lot of people are questioning whether you're qualified to be Governor. How would you respond to them?

NED. *(After a beat. Slowly—hoping perhaps the logic of the words will become clear before he finishes saying them:)* I'm... just an average guy.

ARTHUR. *(Beat.)* Oh yes.

NED. *(Unsure:)* Yeah?

Start

PAIGE. *Yes.*

NED. *(Not really getting it:)* Okay.

ARTHUR. *God yes.*

NED. *(Not getting it, but...)* Alright. *(Beat. Aware he's been silent:)* Dave?

DAVE. *(Depressed about this, but having to concede:)* It's... very convincing.

ARTHUR. *(Seeing even DAVE convinced:)* Haha! *(Going to NED, his enthusiasm growing:)* This is gonna work, Governor. It's gonna be great.

DAVE. Can I just—... ? *(ARTHUR looks at him.)* I'm sorry. Just... to clarify. Is that... *all* he's going to say, in response to her questions?

ARTHUR. Maybe, maybe not. He could... *elaborate* from there.

NED. Elaborate?

ARTHUR. You don't have to use the phrases *verbatim*; what matters is, these words are helping you get a feel for this man.

NED. *(Feeling this to be true:)* Yeah.

ARTHUR. And remember, he's not somebody who's going to dazzle us with language.

(NED begins trying out a "Common Man" persona. This involves a little physicality, a positioning of the head—a bit like an actor silently going over his sides outside an audition room. It's not, at first attempt, entirely natural.)

NED. *(Responding in character:)* No. I'm not.

ARTHUR. He's a simple guy.

NED. *(A bit too simple:)* I'm simple.

PAIGE. *(As in: not "mentally insufficient":)* Maybe... not *that* simple.

NED. *(Different take:)* Not *that* simple.

ARTHUR. *(A more helpful adjective:)* Average.

NED. *(With a shrug of the shoulders:)* Average. *(Finding an "Average Joe" persona/physicality:)* I'm an average guy.

ARTHUR. *Yes.*

NED. *(His best ever:)* I'm just... an average guy.

ARTHUR. *Perfect.*