

Ratification Panic Room

by Jediah Craig

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CHARACTER:

AIDE to an AIDE to a SENATOR Female. Her first job on Washington. Eager. Idealistic.
Determined to save American Democracy and protect the
voice of the American People.

LOCATION:

UNITED STATES CAPITOL

DATE:

JANUARY 6, 2021

Props:

One 10" x 18" mahogany box (psst. Any wooden box will do. Ideally darker finish.)

One Apple iPhone (psst. Government employees don't use Samsung.)

Note on Text:

"—" indicates her speech is interrupted

"..." indicates a pause, because she's listening to someone on the phone.

Duration of BEAT and "..." (long or short) are at the discretion of the performer for best effect.

AIDE ENTERS in a rush and a huff, frantic. She's carrying a MAHOGANY BOX. Panting, she sets the BOX on a table. Catches her breath. Looks around. Takes in her surroundings. Keep it together, girl! It's OK. You can do this. Remember, you're doing this for your country.

BEAT.

Her iPhone RINGS.

AIDE

(what's going on?)

Hello?

Where am I? Where are you?

You said—

No. I. When we were... No.

Yes, of course I have the box. But where are you?

But she told us to stay together.

No. Look. She said. "Grab the boxes. Stay together. Keep 'em safe." So I grabbed one of the boxes, I left the floor, then turned left. When I looked back you were gone. Where'd you go?

What do you mean you turned right? You never turn right. Where are you?

With all the Senators? Where?

Why can't you say?

A secured location, really? Are you kidding me? I—

Yes, I'm sure it's very nice.

...

No. *I'm* in a storage closet, thank you very much.

(annoyed)

Cos she said find a place no one would think to look!

...

Maybe because, I'm stuck by myself and you're...hobnobbing with Senators.

...

Oh, Pelosi and the other Representatives are there too? Oh, I'm so glad.

...

I'm right outside Representative San Nicolas' office.

BEAT