

NIXON

Written by

Arman Mohazzabfar

INT. HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH CLASS - YOUNG REPUBLICAN HQ - DAY

A small group (7) of YOUNG REPUBLICANS sit at individual desks in a semi-circle facing front. At the head of the class stands NIXON FISK, Speaker of the Young Republicans, along with HENRY RUBIN, Nixon's right hand and Junior Speaker. Behind Nixon are pictures of Reagan, Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, and a picture of Trump with a large "X" over it.

On the desk next to Nixon lie Richard Nixon's memoirs.

PALANSKI walks in, sporting a man-bun and a very soft, fluffy coat. The Young Republicans greet him coldly.

PALANSKI

Hey guys, just got back from break,
what's up?

JERRY is the only one to return Palanski's greetings.

JERRY

Hey, Palanski.

HENRY

Palanski, what the hell are you wearing?!

PALANSKI

I go to a liberal arts college. You
don't know about this.

HENRY

Why would I want to know anything
LIBERAL!

PALANSKI

Come on Henry, don't be like that.

NIXON

No Henry, please, continue to be
just like that.

(Short Pause)

Palanski, you were a great Young
Republican. We took two elections under
your guidance. And then we lost, and then
you left. And now, you're here, and looking
at you, clearly, you've lost again. Well,
we're not losing anymore, snowflake.

Silence. Nixon stares Palanski down. Palanski, slowly, gives up and walks out the door. Jerry sadly shakes his head.

JERRY

That's a Trump term, man -

NIXON

- No it's not! Snowflake is OUR
word too, we can -

The door bursts open - it's FRANK, a Young Republican.

FRANK

- Jimmy says he's dropping out of
the race! We don't have a
candidate!

(then)

And did you guys know Palanski is
back? And he looks like a
snowflake!

NIXON

See?!

JERRY

God, Nixon, you're such an asshole.

TITLE: NIXON

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

JIMMY JENNINGS, the high school quarterback, in full pads, stands with Nixon on the sideline.

JIMMY JENNINGS

I just don't wanna do it, bro.
Everything is so Trump or Biden and
the hot girls here aren't like
that. They're anarchists.

NIXON

But YOU'RE our candidate for school
president!

JIMMY JENNINGS

Bro, chill. I'm out.

NIXON

You could be at Yale with book
sluts.

JIMMY JENNINGS

Bro, no one says sluts. What's
wrong with you?

NIXON

OK, but, Yale? Princeton? You could
be president! You WILL be our class
president!

JIMMY JENNINGS

Why would I go to Yale when I could live
that W life at Florida State? Plus, coach
won't allow it. Gotta keep my head in the
game.

Nixon and Jimmy stare onto the field for a few beats.

NIXON

...Promise me you'll vote
Republican.

JIMMY JENNINGS

No. Why would I promise you that?

EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

On his way back to school, Nixon is approached by ALISON SUMMERSBY, writer for the high school paper, and a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, wearing a beret adorned with a hammer and rose.

ALISON
Rumor has it Jimmy Jennings is
dropping out of the race. Comment?

NIXON
No Communist. Whoops. Meant to say "no comment."

ALISON
Ah.
(Short Pause)
So I'll see you tomorrow night?

Nixon looks both ways to see if anyone is there before
kissing Alison.

NIXON
(curt)
Yes.

Without emotion, he nods, and walks past her.

INT. CLASSROOM - YOUNG REPUBLICAN HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Nixon sits around a table, only a single light on, with his
most trusted confidants, Henry, Jerry, and Frank. The table
is covered with photos of their classmates.

FRANK
What about Greg?

Frank holds up a picture of a HAIRY WRESTLER.

NIXON
Too many questions.

Jerry holds up a picture of a CHEERLEADER.

JERRY
Susan would be good.

NIXON
We're not playing the lady card
again.

JERRY
RIP Hilary.

HENRY
That "P" better stand for PISS,
Jerry!

JERRY
No, it does not.

Frank holds up a picture of a Jimmy Jennings.

FRANK

He looks like that guy on Euphoria.
 (puts the picture down)
 Of course he wants to go to Florida
 State.

LATER: They take their time going through each picture but with no leads. Henry then takes a moment, and looks at Nixon.

HENRY

What about Nixon?

NIXON

What?

Frank and Jerry look at Nixon questioningly, then slowly nod their heads in agreement.

NIXON (CONT'D)

This is a bad idea.

JERRY

I agree.
 (beat)
 But it might be a nice change of
 pace to have someone up there who
 might actually believe what he's
 saying.

NIXON

When has that ever worked?

HENRY

Now. It's real politics.

FRANK

You're our guy, Nixon.

Just then the door opens and the JANITOR walks in.

JANITOR

What the fuck are you kids still
 doing here?

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

The Hallway is filled with a vast array of young WANNABE-POLITICIANS, each with their own booth, passing out buttons and flyers.

Nixon is attempting to shake hands, but no one really wants to shake his, and it's not sitting well with him. He nervously heads to the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

He washes his face and looks at himself in the mirror. Just then, WILLIAM "BILL" WILSON, the Young Democrat speaker walks in, fashioned head-to-toe in blue buttons.

BILL

Nixon! How's it going?

NIXON

Isn't there a gender-neutral bathroom for you somewhere?

BILL

Haha. Classic red-state comedy. And yes, there is. We installed it last year. That's real change, baby. No one under the age of 18 likes Trump or Republicans, unless they're racist or incredibly frustrated and racist. And I've been trying to figure out... which one are you?

NIXON

...The Grand Old Party was the party of Lincoln -

Bill slaps Nixon before he can finish and walks out. Nixon looks at himself in the mirror. Defeated.

INT. ALISON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Alison sits on her bed as Nixon rests his head on her lap.

ALISON

You just need to appeal to the masses.

NIXON

You are a stereotype.

ALISON

Mike Wu is like, really, really good at tennis, right? That's how students know him, and that definitely helped him win last year. Students need to know you. Make some interesting clubs.

(MORE)

ALISON (CONT'D)

Get people involved. And maybe that'll give the paper something to cover.

(Long Pause)

Or you could just stop being a stupid Republican.

Off of Nixon's glare we CUT TO CLUB MONTAGE...

1.) Nixon with his Young Republicans posing for a DEBATE CLUB picture.

2.) Nixon with his Young Republicans and A FEW OTHER PEOPLE posing for a PING PONG CLUB picture.

3.) Nixon with his Young Republicans and A TON OF OTHER PEOPLE posing for a VIDEO GAME CLUB picture.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. SCHOOL - VIDEO GAME CLUB ROOM - DAY

A BUNCH OF STUDENTS playing Valorant, while Nixon stands with Henry, looking on at what they've created.

NIXON

Great work bringing this all together.

HENRY

My brother owes me one.

Alison walks in with a NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHER.

ALISON

Can we take your picture? For the paper.

Nixon and Henry pose.

Off the photo flash we CUT TO NEWSPAPER MONTAGE...

1.) The headline of the paper is a picture of Mike Wu playing tennis and reads "WU FOR THE WIN!" The side column of the paper is a small picture of Nixon and Henry and reads "REPUBLICAN VIDEO GAME CLUB HUGE HIT!"

2. The picture is of The Young Republicans, the main headline reads, "REPUBLICANS STILL DOING THE VIDEO GAME THING" Mike Wu's headline, now regulated to the side column reads, "WU HEADS TO REGIONAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT, THANKS DEMOCRATS."

3. The picture is of Nixon and Mike Wu standing next to each other "VIDEO GAME GUY: NIXON, INCUMBENT QUALIFIED CANDIDATE: WU, PREPARE SPEECHES FOR THE BIG DAY."

END OF MONTAGE

INT. CLASSROOM - YOUNG REPUBLICAN HEADQUARTERS - AFTERNOON

Nixon and Henry clean up after their latest gaming event.

NIXON
(sudden despair)
Oh my God, I am a one issue
candidate!

HENRY
Nixon, no, people just love video
games. We're giving them what THEY
want.

NIXON
This is my Trump wall. Valorant is
my Trump wall.

Henry starts to argue and then sighs.

HENRY
OK, so it's sort of your Trump
wall. But Trump won with the wall,
and -

NIXON
OH MY GOD, I'M TRUMP?!

Suddenly:

BILL
Whoa - check it out. Going crazy!
Classic us. I love us.

Bill Wilson, holding a manila folder, struts into the room.

BILL (CONT'D)
Don't feel bad being Trump. We
already knew you were a piece of
shit. Now you have a chance to win.

NIXON
Uh... thanks?

BILL
NEWSFLASH: high schoolers love
games. Why didn't I think of that?
(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

You played to your base and you rallied them. For a second, I thought we were going to lose. But now...

(Overly Dramatic Pause)

I don't think so.

Bill throws the manila folder onto the table, pictures spilling out of it. Pictures of Alison and Nixon kissing in the courtyard. Henry, horrified, fingers through them as Nixon can't shift his gaze.

HENRY

You and AOC? Alison OBVIOUSLY Communist?? But... YOU'RE the one who came up with that joke!

NIXON

Henry...

BILL

Editor of the school paper is a good friend of mine. Classic Boy for Biden, wants to intern for the same law firm Kamala worked at. Great guy. He's also great at his job. Never misses a story.

NIXON

What are you saying?

BILL

You give that speech tomorrow, and people will begin questioning "Party over everything". You'll just be another dishonest senior led by his boner.

(walks away)

Oh, I got plenty of copies, so by all means keep that.

Henry collapses on the chair next to him, staring at the evidence. Nixon continues to wrap Xbox controllers.

INT. ALISON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Heavy rain. Alison opens the front door, to find a soaking wet Nixon, standing underneath her porch.

ALISON

Oh my God. I can't help you prep for this speech, I have midterms...

Nixon thrusts the manila folder at her. She takes it and looks inside. Her anger radiates.

NIXON

Bill Wilson let me keep it! Because he has "plenty of copies"!

ALISON

(seething)

This is such a corporate thing to do...

NIXON

I'll tell you what "this" is. "This" is all your fault! I had it! I had it in my hands! And like a greedy commie you stole it from me! WHERE'S MY PRIVATE PROPERTY?!

ALISON

(still seething)

Nixon, you need to -

NIXON

(Cutting her off)

I don't want to see you. I don't want to be with you. I don't like you. I hate you. Stay away from me, you major L.

Nixon walks away, into the rain, with no umbrella, like an idiot. Alison doesn't try to stop him. She closes the door.

INT. CLASSROOM - YOUNG REPUBLICAN HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Jerry and Frank are on edge and silent. Nixon finally walks into the room, clearly not having slept.

JERRY

You're late, Nixon. And you look awful.

NIXON

We gotta get to the auditorium.

(then)

Where's Henry?

FRANK

He's not coming. He told us. Honestly, we shouldn't even be here.

NIXON
Am I Palanski?

JERRY
No.
(then)
You're way worse.

INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

The auditorium is filled with students. As MIKE WU finishes his speech, Nixon walks out towards the podium, speech in hand. As they pass each other Mike Wu shakes his hand and leans into Nixon.

MIKE WU
(whispers)
40-love you dumb bitch.

Wu waves to the students who are still applauding. Nixon takes the podium.

NIXON
I... I never thought... I...

Pause. Everyone stares at Nixon in silence.

NIXON (CONT'D)
Fuck it.

There a several gasps in the audience. MR. WILLIAMSON speaks up.

MR. WILLIAMSON
You're going to see me after school today for that one, mister. Now quickly finish your little speech, we're prepping for midterms.

NIXON
Sorry, Mr. Williamson.
(beat)
I can come up here and read my speech, and lose, or I can come up here and tell the honest truth and lose.
(THOUGHTFUL PAUSE)
The fact of the matter is, everything I do is politics. I don't care whether or not you guys play video games, I care how it makes you think of me.
(MORE)

NIXON (CONT'D)

Everything is contrived except for three things in my life: this speech, my regretful fallout with Henry Rubin, and my love for Alison Summersby.

There are more gasps. Alison is a little shocked and shaking her head and mouthing "no."

NIXON (CONT'D)

My political career is a mess, it's entirely based on the current popularity of Valorant. So all I can say is I wish I was better to Alison. She may be a loser socialist democrat, because I'm an idiot neo-con in a world where we have no place.

Backstage, Bill Wilson laughs.

BILL

He's got that right.

Back to Nixon:

NIXON

So I am using my time to say... I'm sorry.

A hush over the crowd as the MODERATOR raises her hand.

MODERATOR

So just to be clear, in response to the question, "What will you do to address any and all forms of racism at school?" You are responding with an apology to your Caucasian girlfriend.

Nixon, uneasy, stiffens.

NIXON

...Yes.

Muffled boos come from the crowd.

INT. MR. WILLIAMSON'S CLASS - AFTER SCHOOL

Nixon sits at a desk, handwriting an essay on why he shouldn't swear at a school assembly, when someone taps his desk. He looks up to see Alison.

ALISON
You kind of killed your career with
that one.

NIXON
Yeah. I know.
(beat)
But also, I wish the moderator
didn't phrase it like that.

ALISON
I just came by to say thanks.

Nixon softens up and nods.

MR. WILLIAMSON
Hey! This isn't a hangout session!
This is detention, come on!

Alison shrugs.

ALISON
I guess I'll see you later.

Nixon smiles, nods, and continues writing his essay.

FADE OUT.