

BLUE NO MATTER WHO

Written by

J.E. Clarke

INT. HALLWAY - ELECTION POLLS - DAY

SUPER: 2032: In the not-so-distant future...

"VOTE HERE" arrows adorn cement walls.

A line of anxious VOTERS stretch down a red-white-and-blue bannered hallway. Among them, two twenty somethings:

ANNABEL - polished, professional. Privilege in the pretty flesh.

CHERISH - Her clothes scream perennially impoverished. Her face: studiously demoralized.

Annabel taps her foot, annoyed.

ANNABEL

30 minutes. We've barely moved!
What's the hold-up?

CHERISH

Maybe some of the machines don't work? They cut funding in some boroughs.

ANNABEL

The election's been going on a year. They should've tested those hunks of junk by now!

The line moves forward. Cherish shudders, reluctant to budge.

ANNABEL

Hallelujah. About time!

CHERISH

"Time" can wait. I'm in no rush.

ANNABEL

What's the problem, Ms. Activist?
Nerds like you *live* to vote!

CHERISH

Uh, I'm still undecided...

ANNABEL

What's the problem *this* time? Don't tell me you're switching sides!

CHERISH

Of course not! I just don't like the choices. All that much -

ANNABEL

Girl, we've been through this a million times. We've got to unify behind the nominee. Be realistic, and work within the system.

CHERISH

But what if it's not the machines? Instead, the *system's* broken...

ANNABEL

Grow up!

Annabel shoves her friend forward. Revealing on a wall:

A line of Presidential portraits. A bizarre, futuristic sneak-peek of what's to come.

In 2024: A poster of JOE MANCHIN, with a slogan. "Making America Civil Again!"

CHERISH

You give me this lecture last time. I "realistically" voted for Joe. Even though -

ANNABEL

He wasn't "progressive" enough for you. I know.

CHERISH

Well, he wasn't! His policies were a mess. The environment and economy, both gone -

ANNABEL

You think Pence would've been better? Joe whooped his ass. We won!

A MAN darts down the hallway, high-fives pals. An "I voted" button gleams on his red shirt.

RED VOTER

See ya at the celebration. USA!

ANNABEL

(sniffs to Cherish)
That deluded Republican. If anyone's partying tonight, it's us!

CHERISH

Uh, I'd like to, but... I'm unemployed, remember?

ANNABEL

Girl, that negative attitude drags you down. You've just got to work harder. Look at what I've accomplished!

CHERISH

Your Dad helped you get that job.

ANNABEL

Sweetie, just go and volunteer. Family contacts don't matter. Networking'll get you a gig, every time!

CHERISH

For free? I can't. The rent's due.

ANNABEL

Just a few months. Live in your car!

CHERISH

They repossessed it. I've got to eat.

ANNABEL

Be proactive, not picky. Dumpster dive.

The line inches forward yet again. Revealing another poster:

2028: MITT ROMNEY. Old Mitt's wearing a BLUE TIE?!?

CHERISH

About that "lesser of two evils"...

ANNABEL

Sure, he didn't start as a Dem. But we gotta play to win. Which means sticking to the center...

CHERISH

But Belle - if the party keeps shifting right, that's a slippery slope!

Annabelle rolls her eyes, fishes earbuds from her purse.

ANNABEL

You know I adore you, Cherry-pie. But if you start talking Overreach -

CHERISH

That's Overton.

ANNABEL

That "window" thingy. Right. Then I'm gonna drown you out, for both our sakes. As your best friend, you know what your problem is?

CHERISH

(sighs)

I overthink things too much?

ANNABEL

Stop being such a purist. You didn't even bother with the primary. If you had to protest vote, there was a Commie running -

CHERISH

Claire McCaskill? "Commie's" not the word I'd use.

ANNABEL

Please. She believes in "universal water". When are you progressives gonna learn? The market's more efficient. There's no such thing as a free lunch!

Patriotic MUSIC pipes in overhead. Annabel swells with pride, points towards a door.

ANNABEL

Look. We're almost there!

CHERISH

(groans)

Yay. I can't contain my joy.

One last shift of heads reveals posters for the current 2032 POTUS candidates:

The Republican: David Duke.

The Democrat: Ivanka Trump. A plastic, peroxide dream - all smiles in a blue pantsuit and pearls.

ANNABEL

(to Cherish)

Promise me you won't vote Green? Come on, Ivanka would be our first women President! You've gotta support that.. And her.

Otherwise, you're throwing away
your vote...
(points at Duke)
For him!

Resigned, Cherry hangs her head and shuffles forward.

CHERISH

OK. But mark my words. This is the
last time I compromise...

Anna nods and shoves Cherish towards the nearest booth.

ANNABEL

Pull that lever for me, Tiger. And
don't forget: Blue No Matter Who!