

ARE YOU ON THE LINE?

GEORGE (37) - Man of the house.

AMY (35) - Dainty woman.

NATHAN (14) - Dreams of being his father or an army general.

EMILY (8) - Has ribbons in her hair.

SARAH (16) - A student.

It's Monday November 2nd. George, Amy, Emily, and Nathan are sitting at the dinner table. They all laugh joyously, very joyously, and George chuckles.

NATHAN

You're funny dad.

GEORGE

What can I say? Will you pass the salt, love?

EMILY

Sure thing, dad.

Emily passes George the salt. The telephone rings.

AMY

George, did you hear about Mrs. Carmichael?

GEORGE

No, I have not.

AMY

Tammy says she hasn't left the house in days.

GEORGE

Oh dear.

AMY

I know. She's not well. Sally said Phil left her without warning.

GEORGE

Poor Mrs. Carmichael.

AMY

I was going to send her some casserole.

GEORGE

You do make a lovely casserole.

AMY

Why thank you, George.

GEORGE

Phil never struck me as an honorable man.

AMY

Nobody is as honorable as you, my love.

GEORGE

Very true. We all agree that Mrs. Carmichael deserves better.

The phone stops ringing.

GEORGE

How was ladies' lunch?

AMY

It was lovely. Everybody's doing swell.

GEORGE

Did you tell everyone about our new radio?

The telephone rings.

AMY

I made sure to mention it once or twice - it really is fantastic.

GEORGE

It really is. Walter from corporate was very impressed.

AMY

He was?

GEORGE

Indeed.

AMY

How impressed?

GEORGE

Enough to qualify for the promotion.

AMY

That's lovely news, darling.

GEORGE

I've got an interview with Bob at 1pm tomorrow.

AMY

I'll make sure to press your finest dress shirt. How was school, Nathan?

The phone stops ringing.

NATHAN

Terrific. We learned about automobiles today.

GEORGE

And Emily?

EMILY

School was great.

AMY

Glad to hear it.

EMILY

Lily's going to cut my hair tomorrow.

The telephone rings.

GEORGE

No she isn't.

EMILY

She wants to chop it all off.

AMY

Oh, don't do that darling.

GEORGE

She's just jealous, my love.

AMY

You have the most beautiful ringlets.

EMILY

(puts her hands in her lap) Thank you.

AMY

I was just talking to Becca about how beautiful you are - an absolute doll.

GEORGE

Do not chop it off.

AMY

To lose your hair would be a shame.

GEORGE

Such a shame.

EMILY

Yes.

GEORGE

How is Becca these days?

AMY

Oh she's just fine. The kids are doing well.

GEORGE

Good, good. Nathan, come upstairs to my office, I'd like to show you something.

Nathan puts his silverware on the table.

NATHAN

Sure thing, dad.

The phone stops ringing.

AMY

Emily and I will clean up.

GEORGE

Well of course, darling.

The telephone rings.

AMY

Let's play a round of Battleship when we're finished.

GEORGE

Perfect plan.

EVERYONE

Perfect.

Sarah is in a black room. She is phone banking for Steve Bullock with a desk and her phone in front of her. The phone is ringing. Click.

SARAH

Hi, is this Charles?

CHARLES

Who is speaking?

SARAH

My name is Sarah, I'm a volunteer for the Steve Bullock campaign, how are you today?

CHARLES

Stop fucking calling me.

The phone is ringing. Click.

SARAH

Hi, is this Patricia?

PATRICIA'S VOICEMAIL

Hi, you've reached the voicemail of Patricia Patterson. I'm not home right now. Leave a

The phone is ringing. Pause. Click.

SARAH

Hi, is this Elaine?

ELAINE

This is she.

SARAH

Hi Elaine! My name is Sarah, I'm calling with the 406 Votes Team. How are you today?

ELAINE

I'm fine.

SARAH

I was just wondering if we can count on your vote for Steve Bullock in the upcoming election.

ELAINE

Absolutely not.

SARAH

Oh, may I ask why-

Click. The phone is ringing.

SARAH

Hi there, is this Dan?

DAN

Nope wrong number.

SARAH

Oh, sorry to bo-

Click. The phone is ringing.

SARAH

Hi, is this Donald?

DONALD

Yes, this is Donald.

SARAH

Hi Donald. My name is Sarah, I'm calling for the Steve Bullock campaign.

DONALD

I already voted.

Click. The phone is ringing.

SARAH

Hi, is this Jason?

JASON

Who is this?

SARAH

My name is Sarah, I'm calling wi-

JASON

I already voted.

The phone is ringing.

SARAH

Hi, is this Trevor?

TREVOR

Who's calling?

SARAH

My name is Sarah, I'm with the Steve Bullock campaign, I was just wondering if you've received your mail-in ballot yet.

TREVOR

I'll fill it out right now if you suck my dick.

SARAH

(long pause) Oh, wel-

Click. The phone is ringing.

SARAH

Hi, is this Leslie?

LESLIE

This is she.

SARAH

Hi Leslie, how are you today?

LESLIE

Fine until you called.

Click. The phone is ringing.

SARAH

Hi, is this Amber?

AMBER

Yes, who is this.

SARAH

My name is Sarah, I'm with the Steve Bullock campaign, how are you today?

AMBER

Who are you?

SARAH

My name is Sarah, I was just wondering if we can count on your vote for Steve Bullock in the upcoming election.

AMBER

I'm not voting.

SARAH

Oh, really?

AMBER

Nope.

SARAH

Well, I'm not huge on voting myself, but this year is an exception for me. This is such an important election and I think it's so crucial that we all make a plan to vote.

AMBER

No thanks.

SARAH

Is healthcare an important issue to you?

AMBER

Excuse me?

SARAH

Is healthcare an important issue to you?

AMBER

I'm busy right now.

SARAH

Okay, well-

Click. The phone rings.

SARAH

Hi, is this Alex?

ALEX

Yup this is Alex.

SARAH

Hi, Alex. My name is Sarah, I'm with the Steve Bullock campaign - we're calling to see if we count on your vote for Steve Bullock in the upcoming election?

ALEX

No, you may not.

SARAH

Is healthcare an important issue for you?

ALEX

Please st

SARAH

Did you know that Steve Daines, Bullock's competitor, voted four times to exclude people with underlying health conditions from health coverage?

ALEX

I did know that.

SARAH

Well, the affordable health care act was so important for my family during these times of COVID. My grandmother had breast cancer this fall and would have died without healthcare authorized by Steve Bullock.

ALEX

Well I do believe in healthcare for the elderly.

SARAH

That's wond-

ALEX

But I don't believe in health care for those lazy people who are too damn lazy to get a damn job and get their own motherfucking healthcare.

SARAH

I'm not sure you-

Click. The phone is ringing.

SARAH

Hi, is this-

Click. The phone is ringing.

SARAH

Hi, is this Theresa?

THERESA

I already voted.

Click. The phone is ringing.

SARAH

Hi, is this Thomas?

THOMAS

Wrong number.

Click.

SARAH

Hi, is this Kimberly?

KIMBERLY

Stop calling my number.

SARAH

Is this Ted?

TED

I don't live in Montana anymore.

SARAH

Oh sorry to-
Is this Edgar?

EDGAR'S VOICEMAIL

You've reached the mailbox of-

SARAH

Is this Eli?

ELI

You've reached the mailbox of-

SARAH

Is this Jessica?

JESSICA
Stop calling me.

SARAH
Margaret?

MARGARET
No.

SARAH
Henry?

HENRY
Nope.

SARAH
Susan?

SUSAN
Try again.

SARAH
Is Molly home?

MOLLY
No, she is not.

SARAH
Is this Wendy?

WENDY
FUCK YOU.

SARAH
Tristan?

TRISTAN
Take me off your FUCKING list.

SARAH
John?

JOHN
This is the sixth time you've called in the last hour.

SARAH

I'm so sorry to keep bothering you sir, I ne-
Hi, is this Jenny?

The line clicks. Pause. Sarah takes a breath. The line clicks.

SARAH

Hi, this is Sarah, Sarah Mulhern, please stay on the line, please stay on the line. What can I say to make you stay? I could sing a song - why don't I sing you a song. Oh I forgot that I'm terrible at singing, maybe I shouldn't sing a song. (beat) Please stay on the line. I'd like to talk to you. I'd like to talk to you about the country and about you and your family and me and also Steve Bullock and Mike Cooney and Kathleen Williams and all the Democrats down the ticket. Can they count on your vote? Please stay on the line.

Pause. The line clicks.

Hello, stay with me please, I like to hear my own voice and if I talk enough then I can drown out the screams inside my head. Please stay on the line.

Pause. The line clicks.

This is a very important election - very important - crucial - vital - very serious - very significant - consequential - momentous - I thesaurised those words and don't I sound smart?

Pause. The line clicks.

Hi my name is Sarah, please stay on the line, enough about me, how are you? How are the kids? How are you doing? How is your work? Your mother? How much money do you make? How expensive are your cloth napkins? How many Apple products do you own?

Pause. The line clicks.

Let me tell you - this is a very important election. I think a lot is on the line here. I know a lot is on the line here. My rights, your rights. Well I'm not supposed to make any assumptions about you. I must treat you with respect. Are you still there?

Pause. The line clicks.

Hi, my name is Sarah, I'm calling with the Steve Bullock campaign. If you don't vote I'll be very sad and you don't want that. Well, you've never met me I don't think but I think you'd like me. I'm quite likeable. What if I start crying? Will you vote then? It's so important sir. Give me one second and I'll make myself cry. Wait no, we don't have a second. We don't have time. The election is tomorrow - this is an urgent matter sir.

Pause. The line clicks.

Why hello, my name is Sarah and I love Montana so much that I've been sitting here for four hours making calls so we can keep safe.

Hi Abigail from Lewis and Clark county, I see you live on 8849 Yellowbrick Dr. and I think that's lovely. You're 54 years old, that's interesting. How's menopause going? Hopefully not too shabby.

Gallatin County, huh? My grandma used to live there before she died. I loved it there but now she's dead and I can't go without seeing the image of her bloody body stabbed with a knife three feet before me every time I step in bounds. Karma's a bitch, am I right?

Pause. The line clicks.

Steve Bullock. Whatta guy. Vote for him! A great guy!

Everyone in my family is dead and the rest of them moved to Ohio. Cincinnati, Ohio. Haven't talked to them in years but I hope they're doing terribly. They're quite awful people, trust me. You just are going to have to trust me. I'm left alone in Montana. Fighting for our rights. Good thing you're on the line with me!

Pause.

You know what, I should probably do my homework. I'm a senior after all, serious college work. What college did you go to? I hate that question but why don't you ask me now? You know so little about me. It's your turn I think.

Pause.

Sometimes I like to look in the mirror and pretend that I understand the person I see back. I wish I didn't grow up sometimes because I used to be able to recognize my old self in the mirror and now I can't. So let's play a game, would you play a game with me? Let's look in the mirror and pretend we know the person that we see. It's quite fun if you play it right.

I get bored knowing what I have to do to fix myself and the world and the people around me. I know what I have to do but I just don't do it because I have no time and no idea how to start.

How did I get here?

I'm not doing very well, I don't know if you've noticed. But I think we can talk it out. Just stay on the line and we'll figure things out. I believe it, you just have to too.

Bullock. Bullock. Bullock. Bullock. Bullock.

It's time to vote for Bullock!

Hello?

It's Bullock time!

What if I told you that Bullock was my father but he abandoned me at birth and I'm still making calls for him because that's how important he is.

Or would it be more convincing if I said my mother left us at birth and he's been supporting me his whole life and my whole life and he's such a hero for giving me the good life. Yeah, I think that's better. More sympathy for men. Tends not to work with women. That's all a lie but vote for Bullock!

Who is this guy anyway? I don't know. You don't know. But I was told it's important so VOTE!

VOTE! Vote vote. For Bullock. Vote for Bullock. It's Bullock time!

Hello?

Pause. The line clicks.

Hello?

Pause. The line clicks.

Hi, this is Sarah, may I speak to Fred?

Pause. The line clicks.

Hello?

Pause. The line clicks.

Please stay on the line.

Pause. The line clicks.

Please stay on the line. I like to hear my own voice and if I talk enough then I can drown out the screams inside my head. Please stay on the line.

Pause. The line clicks. Pause

Hello?

Black. George, Amy, Emily, and Nathan's laughs come over the loudspeaker.

Lights. George and Amy are tucking Emily and Nathan in bed.

AMY

Sweet dreams sweet angels.

GEORGE

Sleep tight.

AMY

You are my pride and joy.

The phone rings. Nobody picks it up.