

INT. A POLITICAL TALK SHOW SET - DAY

Miranda Ardent, the host, addresses the camera.

MIRANDA

Hello, and welcome to another edition of Up Close, the weekly news show that takes an in depth look at the world of politics. I'm your host, Miranda Ardent. It's been a busy week in Washington with a heated partisan battle over the proposed spending bill, a possible scandal involving a popular Iowa representative and, of course, the filibuster over torte reform. But we begin with the president's tour of Asia, where he announced trade agreements with two countries that could have major ramifications on the economy and long held free-trade principals. Here to elucidate us on what this means for us is longtime Washington reporter and op-ed columnist, Roy G. Hausermayer. Welcome to Up Close, Mr. Hausermayer.

The shot goes to camera 2 and we see Mr. Hausermayer, hardly an inch away from Miranda, facing each other at a 45 degree angle, with their noses almost touching.

Mr. Hausermayer is clearly uncomfortable.

ROY HAUSERMAYER

. . . uhm . . . Thanks for having me, Miranda.

MIRANDA

So, tell us, what do these trade agreements entail?

ROY HAUSERMAYER

Well... it means that we have lifted some long-standing tariffs on certain imports in exchange for an increased presence in their business infrastructure and a flat tax rate for -- ahh --

He gets distracted.

ROY HAUSERMAYER (CONT'D)
We -- we sure are sitting really close to each other, don't you think?

MIRANDA
We like to set up a more intimate environment for our viewers than most news shows, so we sit a little closer.

ROY HAUSERMAYER
A little closer? Our faces are basically touching.

MIRANDA
On camera, we look more natural and spaced out. Can we get back to the president's Asia visit?

ROY HAUSERMAYER
Right. So, the president's trip accomplished two goals for the administration. The first -- gah!

Ron starts jerking his head around.

ROY HAUSERMAYER (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I felt you on my cheek.

MIRANDA
I was giving you butterfly kisses.

ROY HAUSERMAYER
Is there any way we can move our chairs back?

MIRANDA
Nope!

She looks to another camera.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)
Our next guests, to discuss the spending bill, are Democratic Strategist J.J. Billing and Christine Dell, noted conservative talk show host and author of the bestseller, "Abort This: All Liberals Are Hitler."

Pan to her other side. She turns her head to see Christine and J.J., sitting in profile, nose-to-nose, angrily staring at each other, and inch away from her face. J.J. is wearing a fake moustache.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

J.J., let's start with you. Why is this spending bill so hard to pass?

J.J. BILLING

Well, Miranda, this is just another case of the Republicans playing politics while the middle class begs for real leadership.

CHRISTINE DELL

Oh, please.

J.J. BILLING

The Democrats have drafted a bill that will create jobs--

CHRISTINE DELL

(interrupting)
--for Nazis --

J.J. BILLING

(ignoring her)
That will create jobs, boost the economy and provide basic services for men and women who are struggling to make ends meet.

CHRISTINE DELL

Please. This spending bill is just another cheap ploy from the Hitlercrats to reconquer Germany and replace our bibles with pornographic *Mein Kampfs!*

J.J. BILLING

It's these kinds of fear mongering lies that keeps anything from being done! We are not all Hitlers!

CHRISTINE DELL

Then how to you explain THIS?

She pulls off his fake moustache, revealing that he has a Hitler moustache.

J.J. BILLING

I am the exception that proves the rule!

MIRANDA

I have a question for both of you.
Why don't you just admit that you
love each other?

A pregnant pause.

J.J. BILLING

I-it's true. You may be an
ignorant, hateful, manipulative
harpy -- but I love you!

CHRISTINE DELL

Oh, J.J.! I love you too! Your
cute, little moustache turns me on!
Hitler was such a MAN!

They start making out.

MIRANDA

Yay!

Miranda throws glitter on them.

ROY HAUSERMAYER

What the hell is going on here?

Miranda turns to her camera.

MIRANDA

Next up on Up Close, we talk torte
reform with our guest, Roy
Hausermayer -- and who knows?
Maybe sparks will fly with him and
yours truly . . .

ROY HAUSERMAYER

They absolutely won't.

MIRANDA

Plus, a discussion with our special
political correspondent, the Snake
Man -- after these messages. Stay
tuned!

She throws more glitter around.

Behind Roy is a creepy guy, inches away, covered in giant
snakes.

As they go to commercial, a crane shot shows the studio. The
studio audience are in a tightly bundled heap on the floor,
clapping if they can.