

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

WHITAKER

I know we don't want Sinclair to win, but the fact that it's going to be Frank Merriam is a real shame. These are the cards we have been dealt, I guess.

BAXTER

I know. He's a jerk. But he's our jerk now.

WHITAKER

Besides, who am I to judge?

BAXTER

...What do you mean by that?

WHITAKER

Nothing. I'm just saying that maybe we aren't that much better. But hey, we're in the big leagues now! Sacrifices must be made.

BAXTER

Christ, you think I don't know that? This is the first time I've had a real chance to do something other than bait suckers into a big top and go home at night wanting to swallow a sword myself.

WHITAKER

Baxter, I wasn't accusing-

BAXTER

Oh, and I'm a woman. Not only that, a widow. A woman who is all on her own in a world that shames women for just that.

WHITAKER

Baxter, I think you misunderstood-

BAXTER

Sometimes I feel like I'm hurting my own cause here. Someone like Upton Sinclair could be the guy to help women in this never-ending fight for goddamn respect. But here I am trying to tear him down. Is that progress, Clem?

WHITAKER

Come on, now-

BAXTER

It's easy for you. You're a man. You don't have people doubting your every decision.

WHITAKER

Baxter, what I was trying to say-

BAXTER

I have the opportunity to do something special here. To pave the way.

WHITAKER

Hey now, we're both risking a lot to be here.

BAXTER

What are you risking?

WHITAKER

More than you know. But I've got your back, kid.

BAXTER

I don't need you to have my back, Clem.

WHITAKER

I know. But I've got it anyway, kid. You're stuck with me.

BAXTER pauses to take him in for a moment.

BAXTER

Thanks, Clem.

WHITAKER

You got it. I always say...we can
put up a fight or put on a show.

BAXTER

Oh, we'll give 'em a show. And you
know what, Clem?

WHITAKER

What, Baxter?

BAXTER

It's gonna be EPIC.

They share a moment of excitement but there is still
tension lurking. Lights out. We move to: