

Out in the Open Pilot

By

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[SYNOPSIS]

INT FAIRHAVEN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER – NIGHT (Cold Open)

(Rosa Diaz stands at the podium, flanked by Jules in full drag—glitter blazer, heels, and a clipboard. Councilman Robert lounges smugly in his seat. Rosa turns her head and makes eye contact with Robert.)

ROSA (deadpan intensity)

If you're going to ban drag shows, you should also ban hypocrisy. Starting with your face.

COUNCILMAN ROBERT (smirking)

This is about protecting children, Ms. Diaz. Not your glitter agenda.

JULES (whispers to Rosa)

He said "glitter agenda." That's going on a T-shirt.

ROSA

Make it a hoodie. I want it to last through winter.

Smash cut to title sequence.

<><><>ACT ONE<><><>

INT. LGBTQ ADVOCACY CENTER – MORNING

(Boxes everywhere. A banner reads: "Fairhaven Equality Collective." Rosa is assembling a folding table with military precision. Jules enters with coffee and a rainbow clipboard.)

JULES

Okay, I got coffee, a list of volunteers, and a playlist that starts with Lizzo and ends with Les Mis. We're ready.

ROSA

We need to be strategic. Tactical. Ruthless.

JULES

We also need chairs. And snacks. And maybe a welcome mat that doesn't scream
"militant lesbian."

(Jules points to the mat. It features Rosie the Riveter saying her tag line "We can do it".)

ROSA

It's not militant. It's assertive. It's not even gay.

JULES

I'm thinking more topical. It's red, black, and says "Come Back With a Warrant."

ROSA (shrugs)

Branding.

JULES

I'll check the 'net. I'm sure someone does customized welcome mats.

ROSA (becoming disinterested)

Um...okay...That's your project.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE – SAME TIME

(Mayor Grace sits with her campaign advisor, watching Rosa's council speech on a
tablet.)

MAYOR GRACE

She's good. Too good. If I support her, I alienate the church crowd. If I don't, I look
spineless.

ADVISOR

So... triangulate?

MAYOR GRACE (sighs)

Always.

<><><>ACT TWO<><><>

INT. FAIRHAVEN GAY CLUB – EVENING

(Jules performs in drag to a packed crowd. The energy is electric. Rosa watches from the bar, sipping water. Patti slides in beside her.)

PATTI

You're vibrating. That's your "I want to punch a politician" energy.

ROSA

Robert's pushing the ban vote next week. Grace is ghosting me. Jules is about to be illegal.

PATTI

So breathe. Then strategize. You're not in Brooklyn anymore. You're in Ohio. That means optics.

ROSA

You always know how to say the right thing. It's annoying.

PATTI

You're welcome.

ROSA (softening)

You remind me of someone I used to work with. Smart. Exhausting. Not you.

PATTI (curious)

Who?

ROSA (deflects)

No one. Just... someone.

<><><> ACT THREE <><><>

INT. ADVOCACY CENTER – NEXT DAY

(Rosa, Jules, and volunteers brainstorm a counter-campaign. Jules unveils a flyer: "Drag Is Not a Crime Festival – This Saturday!")

ROSA

That's bold. Risky. I like it.

JULES

Also, I already printed flyers. Hope you like neon.

VOLUNTEER

We could do a bake sale with a glitter bomb demonstration.

ROSA

No bombs. The...stuff... would get on the cupcakes. But maybe a fog machine.

INT. COUNCILMAN ROBERT'S OFFICE – SAME TIME

(Robert meets with conservative donors. He's smug, performative, and clearly hiding something.)

DONOR

You sure this drag ban will pass?

ROBERT

Absolutely. I've got the mayor dancing on a fence and the activists chasing glitter.

DONOR

And your wife's okay with all this? ROBERT (laughs nervously) She's... supportive. In theory.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE – LATER

(Grace watches Jules' drag performance on social media. She sighs, conflicted. Her phone buzzes—Rosa calling. She doesn't answer.)

<><><> ACT FOUR <><><>

EXT. TOWN SQUARE – DAY OF FESTIVAL

(The "Drag Is Not a Crime" festival kicks off. Music, booths, performances. Rosa gives a speech. Patti watches proudly. Grace slips in behind Rosa, unannounced.)

ROSA (to crowd)

We're not here to fight. We're here to be seen. And we're not going anywhere.

MAYOR GRACE (to Rosa, quietly)

You're forcing my hand. I admire that. I hate that.

ROSA

You can't lead from the middle forever.

GRACE

Watch me try.

TAG SCENE INT. ROSA AND PATTI'S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Rosa decompresses. Patti makes tea.

PATTI

You ever going to tell me who I remind you of?

ROSA (beat)

No. But she was smart. And exhausting. And not you.

PATTI

Good. I like being the upgrade.

They kiss. Jules texts: "Council vote moved to Monday. Glitter cannons ready."

ROSA

Let's burn down the patriarchy. Gently.

PATTI

With sequins.

Fade out

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Also check out another pilot that I wrote called *Rati*. I wrote this a few years ago:

[SYNOPSIS](#) | [PILOT](#)