

*The Rose Garden* (2M, 1W)

By Chad Pentler

Walter Monteyne begins his reign as governor of California by scheming with his top aid, Bill Fredrickson, to get rid of his only opposition. Fredrickson informs Walter that Walter has a high probability of doing something scandalous should he ever decide to run for President. Fredrickson and Katherine Monteyne, Walter's daughter, begin dating behind Walter's back while Katherine is home from Stanford. A few years later, Fredrickson plans a run for Congress without discussing it with Katherine; he leaves her for Edith, a rich heiress and speech coach. Shortly after the death of Katherine's mother, Katherine informs her father she no longer feels like a Republican. She asks her dad if he will still support her; Walter's only reply, "You'll always be my daughter."

As Walter prepares his long awaited run for the presidency, Katherine tells him she will be running for Fredrickson's vacant congressional seat as Fredrickson will now be running for governor. Katherine will run as a Democrat, which infuriates Walter. Walter is ousted from office after his first term as President, due to a scandal involving a stripper. Fredrickson and Katherine defend Walter on television.

Katherine, now a Senator, and Fredrickson, both decide to run for President unbeknownst to each other. They each go to Walter for his endorsement; Walter backpedals, saying of course he'll support *both* of them. Walter grapples between supporting his daughter, and getting a second chance in the political arena. He goes on television and endorses Fredrickson for President after Fredrickson offers him Secretary of State. Walter must deal with the aftermath of his decision and decide what's most important in his life.