

The ides of March 2011



MOVIE INFO

The Ides of March takes place during the frantic last days before a heavily contested Ohio presidential primary, when an up-and-coming campaign press secretary (Ryan Gosling) finds himself involved in a political scandal that threatens to upend his candidate's shot at the presidency. -- (C) Sony Pictures

Rating: R (for pervasive language)

Genre: [Mystery & Suspense](#), [Drama](#)

Directed By: [George Clooney](#)

Written By: [George Clooney](#), [Grant Heslov](#), [Beau Willimon](#), [Dr. Beau Williams](#), [Beau Williams](#)

In Theaters: Oct 7, 2011 Wide

On DVD: Jan 17, 2012

US Box Office: \$41.0M

Runtime: 1 hr. 42 min.

Sony Pictures - [Official Site](#)

Idioms, slangs and expressions used in the movie (By Mougheh Javadi)

1. Senator Pullman, with 1302 delegates, is still ***in the hunt***
 - ***In the hunt*** = (informal) having a chance of success
2. I'm simply ***pointing to the obvious***.
3. you'll eke it out
 - ***eke out a living/existence***
to manage to live with very little money or food
 - *They eke out a miserable existence in cardboard shacks.*
 - to make a small supply of something such as food or money last longer by carefully using small amounts of it
 - *How did Mum manage to eke out the food when we were kids?*
4. She's trying to ***get under my skin***

- **get under sb's skin** *informal*
if someone gets under your skin, they annoy you, especially by the way they behave
5. He gives you the **scoops**.
- **Scoop**= information about something (*AmE informal*)
 - **the inside scoop** (=special information that other people do not have) on the markets
 - **what's the scoop?**
(=used to ask for information or news)
6. You really **buy into** all this crap
- **buy into** [buy into sth] *phr v*=
to accept that an idea is right and allow it to influence you
 - *I never bought into this idea that you have to be thin to be attractive.*
7. before you got all **goosebumpy** about this guy
- **Goosebump**
reflex erection of hairs of the skin in response to cold or emotional stress or skin irritation
8. My **lips are sealed**.= I won't tell the secret
9. As we know from history, **the answer to extremism can't be extremism**.
10. Your national service isn't **polling** the same as the rest of your policy.
- **To poll** = to get a particular number of votes in an election
11. This is **on the up-and-up**
- **Up and up** = an honest or respectable course
12. I've seen way too many Democrats **bite the dust**
- **bite the dust** = expire
13. I've **walked in their shoes**.
- **Walk a mile in my shoes** = you should try to understand someone before criticising them
14. I can **shoot holes in it**.
- **To shoot holes into something** means to discredit or find all the faults with something
15. For the record, my campaign is vehemently against the distribution of wealth to the richest Americans by our government.

16. He wants me to jump ship and come and work for him.

- **jump ship**

=to leave an organization that you are working for, especially in order to join another

- *The best employees jumped ship at the first opportunity.*

17. We're not **lowering expectations**.

18. Do you think your **candor** is your appeal? = honesty despite being unpleasant

19. Then we **stonewall** her and she's got nothing.

- **stonewall**

1. obstruct or hinder any discussion

2. engage in delaying tactics or refuse to cooperate

20. you're on a sinking ship = you are doomed

21. It's gonna **hit the papers** = it will be on newspapers

22. It puts Morris **in the driver's seat**.

- **In driver's seat**= in control; in charge of things

23. He's big on loyalty.

- **Be big on sth**= like sth very much

24. Our hearts go out to them =

- **Your heart goes out for sb** = you feel sympathy for them

25. if you think you have something you wanna **get off your chest**,...

- **get off your chest** = to tell someone about something that has been worrying you or making you feel guilty for a long time

*EX: I had **spent** two **months worrying** about it and I was **glad** to get **it off my chest***

26. How much could **a big shake-up** like this, hurt a campaign?

27. I **learned from the best**. = my teachers were the best

Synopsis

Stephen Meyers is the junior campaign manager for Mike Morris, [Governor of Pennsylvania](#) and a [Democratic presidential](#) candidate, competing against [Arkansas Senator](#) Ted Pullman in the Democratic primary. Both campaigns are attempting to secure the endorsement of [North Carolina](#) Democratic Senator Franklin Thompson, who controls 356 convention delegates, enough to clinch the nomination for either candidate. After a debate at [Miami University](#), Meyers is asked by Pullman's campaign manager, Tom Duffy, to meet in secret. Meyers calls his boss, senior campaign manager Paul Zara, who doesn't answer. Meyers decides to meet Duffy, who offers Meyers a position in Pullman's campaign, an offer Meyers refuses. Zara calls Meyers back and asks what was important, but Meyers says it was nothing to worry about. Meanwhile, Meyers starts a sexual relationship with Molly Stearns, an attractive [intern](#) for Morris's campaign and daughter of Jack Stearns, the chairman of the [Democratic National Committee](#).

Meyers admits to an angry Zara that he met with Duffy, and that Duffy said his candidate will offer Thompson the position of [Secretary of State](#), guaranteeing Pullman's victory. Zara and Meyers discuss the matter with Morris, saying they must make the same offer to Thompson to secure his endorsement and his delegates' votes. Morris refuses on principle, as he thoroughly disagrees with Thompson and his policies, and wants a "clean" campaign without such deals.

Late one night when Molly is sleeping, Meyers discovers that Morris is trying to call her after he picks up her phone by mistake. Meyers finds out that Molly and Morris had a brief sexual liaison at a campaign stop in Iowa several weeks previously, and Molly is now pregnant by the Governor, which will cause a scandal. Meyers helps her with money for an abortion but warns her not to tell anybody. Meyers also fires Molly from the campaign to ensure that she will stay quiet. Ida Horowicz, a reporter for the [New York Times](#), reveals to Meyers that an anonymous source leaked his encounter with Duffy to her and that she will publish unless Meyers gives her all of the details about the meeting.

Meyers comes to Zara for help, believing the story would damage him, Zara, and the campaign. Zara reveals that he leaked the meeting to Ida with Morris's approval in order to force Meyers into resigning from the campaign, stating that he did this because Meyers was disloyal for meeting with Duffy. Zara makes it clear that he holds no personal animosity against Meyers and values him, but cannot trust him any more. An angry and desperate Meyers then offers his services to Duffy, who admits he only met with Meyers in order to influence his opponent's operation under the likelihood that either Meyers would leave Morris and come to work for him or Zara would fire him.

He reveals that he suspected that Meyers would tell Zara about the meeting which would lead Zara to remove Meyers from Morris's campaign. Should this happen, Duffy correctly surmised, the Morris campaign would be weakened and, as a result, Pullman's would be strengthened. Duffy says that as his goal was met when Zara fired Meyers there was no point in hiring Meyers. Meyers is angry with such usage for political entry and Duffy apologizes for using him, saying that he also wanted to help Meyers, and advises him to quit politics and the campaign before he becomes a cynic like him. Meyers offers to sell out Morris completely but Duffy declines, thinking that Meyers cannot hurt him and he has Thompson wrapped up. Meanwhile, Molly learns that Meyers has been fired and, fearing he will reveal her pregnancy, takes a fatal drug overdose. Since both sides used him, Meyers goes on the offensive against both as a revenge.

Unbeknownst to the Morris campaign, he meets with Thompson to arrange for Thompson's delegates in exchange for a spot on the Morris ticket. It is clear that Thompson prefers Morris over Pullman so all Meyers has done is get Thompson to commit if he is offered the post with Morris. Meyers meets Morris in a dark bar, telling him he will expose the affair with Molly if Morris does not accept his demands: fire Zara, place Meyers in charge of the campaign, and offer Thompson the role of [Vice President](#). Morris coldly says that there is no proof of the affair, but Meyers claims to have a suicide note found in Molly's room. Morris relents, clearly giving up what is left of his personal integrity, and meets Meyers's demands. Zara takes his firing philosophically and is still positive with the press about Morris.

Zara talks to Meyers at Molly's funeral and is amicable, letting Meyers know that he knows Meyers must have had something big on Morris to get him to fire Zara and hire him. Zara has options and states that he is taking a million dollar a year job at a consulting firm, for him basically a retirement from politics. Later, Thompson's endorsement makes Morris the *de facto* nominee despite losing the Democratic Party's Ohio [primary election](#). Duffy, who put Meyers's back against the wall and who rejected Meyers's offer of dirt against Morris, is seen trying to put up a good face in what is now obviously going to be a defeat for his candidate.

Now senior campaign manager, Meyers is on the way to a remote TV interview with [John King](#), when Ida ambushes him and says her next story will be about how Meyers delivered Thompson and his delegates and got his promotion. Meyers reacts by having security bar her from coming any further. Meyers takes his seat for the interview, just as Morris finishes a speech about how 'integrity and dignity' matter, and is asked for insight as to how the events surrounding the primary unfolded.

Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ides_of_March_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ides_of_March_(film))