

Save the Last Pod

Ep. 52

Election

Intro:

The story of Ross Perot, is the story of America. It's a story about a go-getter from a small town who done good.

Born in 1930 in Texarcara, Texas Perot was a boy scout and an eagle scout who, in 1949 was appointed and enrolled in the US Naval Academy at the behest of Texas Governor Pappy O'Daniel. After that, he served in the military, as a good old boy does. In 1957, he left the military and entered the private sector. He got a job at IBM and in his first two weeks fulfilled his annual sales quota. He was good. In 1962 Perot struck out on his own. He founded a company Electronic Data Systems. And of course, he was a shrewd business man. The company grew quickly. In 1967, Fortune Magazine ran a cover story on Perot that called him "The Fastest, Richest Texan." In 1984, Perot would cash out, selling controlling interest in Electronic Data Systems for General Motors for 2.4 billion 1984 dollars. He had conquered the business world but was still unfulfilled. How exactly does American billionaire fill the void left when all of his business foes are vanquished? In 1992, Perot went on Larry King Live to declare his candidacy for president. His platform included staples like balancing the federal budget, but also included some unexpected easter eggs for a good old boy captain of industry, like favoring certain types of gun control, ending the outsourcing of jobs, and enacting electronic direct democracy.

In the end we all know what happened. Bill Clinton unseated Bush 1 and then came on a blue dress, which led to Bush 2 then, after a short break, Clinton reappeared (this time Hillary) and gave way to Trump. Yay. But, what you probably don't remember was that Perot was a legitimate 3rd party candidate. In 1992, Perot received almost 20% of the vote, which was – and still is – by far the high water mark for any third party candidate. He was a go-getter done good, who almost did really good.

This week on Save The Last Pod, it's the story of a high school election, a go-getter candidate and a system designed to keep her down. It's the 1999 teen political thriller Election!