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Script #7L01

L.A. LAW

"The Bitch is Back"

Written by

David E. Kelley

Story #3539
July 16, 1990

L.A. LAW

"The Bitch is Back"

CAST LIST

MICHAEL KUZAK
ARNOLD BECKER
LELAND MCKENZIE
ANN KELSEY
DOUGLAS BRACKMAN, JR.
GRACE VAN OWEN
ABBY PERKINS
VICTOR SIFUENTES
STUART MARKOWITZ
ROXANNE MELMAN
JONATHAN ROLLINS
BENNY STULWICZ

Rosalind Shays
Murray Melman
Jack Sollers
Eric Perkins
Corrinne Hammond Becker
Chloe Hammond
Brian Chisolm
Judge Michael Alexander
Richard Nunn
Reporter #1
Reporter #2
Police Officer
ADA Scott Thompson
Dr. Daniel Wolin
Kenny Alder
Bruce Rogoff
Matthew Markowitz
Judge Walter Stone
Cindy Brown (non-speaking)

L.A. LAW

"The Bitch is Back"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

LAW FIRM:

MCKENZIE'S OFFICE
OFFICE COMPLEX
CONFERENCE ROOM
KUZAK'S OFFICE
ABBY'S OFFICE
BECKER'S OFFICE

BRUCE ROGOFF'S OFFICE

HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM
HOSPITAL ROOM

MARKOWITZ'S KITCHEN

CIVIL COURT - JUDGE MICHAEL ALEXANDER
CORRIDOR
COURTROOM
WITNESS ROOM

CRIMINAL COURT - JUDGE WALTER STONE
COURTROOM

EXTERIORS

OFFICE BUILDING (MCKENZIE BRACKMAN)

CRIMINAL COURT

L.A. LAW

"The Bitch is Back"

FADE IN

- 1 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - EVENING 1
2 INT. MCKENZIE'S OFFICE - EVENING 2

All the partners are present, none looking too happy.
After a sobering beat of silence -

KELSEY

We have to make it go away. The
publicity alone will hurt us.

MCKENZIE

(testy)

She can't win this trial.

KUZAK

It doesn't matter. This'll be ugly,
Leland, we don't need our dirty
laundry hung out there for everyone
to see.

BECKER

He's right. Let's get out now.

As under Roxanne pokes her head into the room.

ROXANNE

Excuse me. They're here.

A beat.

MCKENZIE

Bring em in.

(to the others)

Douglas and I will take this.
Everybody else outside.

CUT TO:

- 3 INT. COMPLEX - EVENING 3

Through the doors comes ROSALIND SHAYS, accompanied by high
powered attorney JACK SOLLERS, fifties, expensive suit.
They stop to let the other partners exit McKenzie's office.
Eye contact is exchanged but no words whatsoever. Silence.
Then follow Rosalind and Sollers into

4 INT. MCKENZIE'S OFFICE - EVENING

4

McKenzie and Brackman remain seated. No welcoming niceties. Rosalind and Sollers take their seats. A beat.

MCKENZIE

(cutting to it)

One hundred and twenty-five thousand, sealed, no admission of liability.

SOLLERS

This isn't a game, Leland.

MCKENZIE

C'mon, Jack. There was no bad faith, no sex discrimination, you've got no case. The only reason I'm offering anything is to avoid the embarrassment of a public spectacle.

SOLLERS

Five-hundred, that's rock bottom.

BRACKMAN

You've got to be kidding.

MCKENZIE

Not a chance.

SOLLERS

(to McKenzie)

You don't want this to go forward, my friend. It'll put you and this entire firm on trial, and we both know there's somebody in this room who could end up looking pretty pathetic.

MCKENZIE

I'm not giving her half a million dollars.

SOLLERS

(smiles)

I have to admit... I was hoping you'd say that.

(to Rosalind)

Shall we?

And they rise. Then

ROSALIND

Silly Leland. You just made your last mistake.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

And they exit. We can almost see the steam coming off McKenzie's head. Off this we

SMASH CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

5 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

5

Staff meeting beginning. All present.

BRACKMAN

Okay, first up, as you all probably know, Shays vs. McKenzie Brackman starts today.

KELSEY

Abby and I got subpoenaed this morning.

MCKENZIE

What?

BRACKMAN

You?

BECKER

What could she want with you?

KELSEY

I think it may have something to do with what I said to her after she lost the senior partnership.

MCKENZIE

What did you say?

KELSEY

(a little sheepish)
Something like... this wouldn't have happened to her if she was a man.

BRACKMAN

Oh my God.

SIFUENTES

I'm hearing this now?

MCKENZIE

You said that?

BECKER

You better not say that on the stand.

KELSEY

Am I suppose to lie?

BRACKMAN

Of course.

BECKER

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

MCKENZIE

For God's sake, Ann, this is a sex discrimination claim, you'll make her whole case.

KELSEY

What are you suggesting, Leland? That I commit perjury?

MCKENZIE

I'm suggesting that conversation took place almost six months ago. You couldn't possibly be expected to remember it.

(an awkward beat)

And Abby. We know you liked Rosalind. But I would expect a little loyalty in your testimony as well.

ABBY

Meaning what?

MCKENZIE

(slightly threatening)

Meaning just that. For both of you. This firm is risking serious exposure here, this is not a time to be overly righteous. Now let's move on.

BRACKMAN

Michael, your murder case seems to be getting a lot of press.

KUZAK

Well, tomorrow we plead it out, and I think the media will go away.

ROLLINS

Why shouldn't it? It was just a black kid who died.

KUZAK

It was an accident.

ROLLINS

Yeah. An accident by a white cop.

KUZAK

You got a problem, Jonathan?

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

MCKENZIE

Alright, that's enough. Look, we're all under a lot of pressure here, let's not start sniping at each other. Why don't we adjourn and get ready, we've got a big day ahead. I want as many as possible in the courtroom. If Rosalind says anything we can trip her up on, I want to be able to do it. Grace, you second chair. I want a woman front and center on this. You ready, Victor?

SIFUENTES

Ready.

MCKENZIE

Good. Let's go.

BRACKMAN

Best of luck to us all.

And they rise to file out, under

VAN OWEN

(sotto)

Lot of pressure, kid.

SIFUENTES

(sotto)

Tell me about it.

CUT TO:

6 INT. COMPLEX - DAY

6

As they all emerge from the conference room, we follow Becker toward his office, where Roxanne is supervising two workmen, carrying a big Christmas tree, past her desk, into Becker's office.

ROXANNE

(to the workmen)

In front of the window right by the sofa.

BECKER

(pleased)

Great. Rox, you get the popcorn strings?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

ROXANNE

You can't find popcorn strings in October, Arnie. This is the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard of.

BECKER

Hey, you want portrait Christmas cards by December, you gotta take the pictures now.

MURRAY (O.S.)

Ho. ho ho. Is it Christmas already?

ROXANNE

(shutting her eyes)

Oh God. Not today.

As MURRAY MELMAN approaches.

MURRAY

Cause if it is, I got the perfect gift. Rox, honey, this time I've done it.

(to McKenzie as he passes)

Hiya, Le.

MCKENZIE

(not breaking stride;
polite)

Murray.

ROXANNE

Daddy, it's a little hectic today.

BECKER

What about hats?
I asked for hats.

MURRAY

Too hectic to make
a million bucks?

ROXANNE

(handing Becker three
Santa hats)

Here are the hats.

BECKER

Wow. Great.

MURRAY

I've done it,
Rox. This one's,
gonna sell.

Becker retreats into his office and closes the door.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

MURRAY

Watch my hands, you don't see
nothin'. But when I go like this...

As he lifts his hands to the sky, his trousers crisply drop
to his knees, revealing bright red shorts.

MURRAY

Whoosh!

ROXANNE

Daddy!!

MURRAY

(as he lowers his
hands and the pants
go back up)

It's all done with strings. And
a little pully behind my neck.

ROXANNE

Daddy, for God's sake!!

MURRAY

It's a novelty gag, we'll sell 'em
to college frat houses. And what
about people who hate standin' in
line. You're twelve deep at the
bank teller, you're in a rush...

(hands go up, pants,
down)

They scatter like chickens.

ROXANNE

Stop it!

MURRAY

(demonstrating)

Up. Down. Up. Down. It's like
physics.

ROXANNE

Damn it, Daddy, you can't keep doing
this! You can't keep charging in
here with your little inventions,
this is a law firm.

As Benny arrives.

MURRAY

Benny, baby. Wanna make a few extra
bucks? I need to do some testing,
work out the bugs.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (3)

6

BENNY
What bugs?

ROXANNE
Daddy, please.

MURRAY
(to Benny, as he
throws the hands
up)

Do this.

As Benny puts his hands up

ROXANNE (weakly)
Oh God.

MURRAY
You're hired, Ben.
You're hired.

And we

CUT TO:

7 INT. KUZAK'S OFFICE - DAY

7

Kuzak is present with BRIAN CHISOLM, mid-twenties, rugged, nervous.

KUZAK
Reckless endangerment, that's the
best they'll give us. We can plea
it out to two suspended.

CHISOLM
I won't have to serve time?

KUZAK
(shaking "no")
All suspended. But, Brian, it's
a criminal conviction. Your days
as a police officer are probably
over.

CHISOLM
(a beat)
It ain't fair. Three years on the
force, spotless. One accident and
I can't be a cop anymore?

KUZAK
That accident cost an innocent boy
his life.

CHISOLM
I was shot at. I had to --

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

KUZAK

But not by the kid you killed.
 Look, we can go for the not guilty.
 But the D.A.'s office is taking a
 lot of heat, they'll have to push
 for murder two. You don't want to
 chance that, not in this climate.

CHISOLM

You said yourself, they got no case.

KUZAK

You did fire the gun. And you never
 know what a jury will do. We take
 the plea, we guarantee no jail time,
 you can get on with your life.

CHISOLM

That's what you recommend?

KUZAK

Yeah. We'd go in tomorrow. And
 we'd be done with it.

CHISOLM

(a beat; defeated)

Okay.

Off this, we

CUT TO:

8 INT. CIVIL COURT - DAY

8

Sifuentes and Van Owen at the defense table. Behind them
 sit McKenzie, Brackman, Becker, Kelsey and Markowitz.
 Rosalind sits alone at the plaintiff's table, as Jack
 Sollers begins his opening. JUDGE MICHAEL ALEXANDER
 presides.

SOLLERS

When Rosalind Shays joined McKenzie
 Brackman last January, she knew it
 was a ship taking on water. That's
 why she was brought in, after all,
 to fix the leak. But there was no
 way even she could anticipate the
 level of incompetence that so
 pervaded this stumbling, bumbling
 group of lawyers.

McKenzie et al. shift a little in their seats. Exchange
 looks with each other.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

SOLLERS

The head litigator was so invested in a murder trial, for which he wasn't even getting paid by the way, that they had to throw their little tax attorney into litigation.

9 ANGLE MARKOWITZ.

9

10 RESUME

10

SOLLERS

The matrimonial attorney, when he wasn't making home videos for do-it-yourself divorces, or when he wasn't getting sued over them for malpractice, was busy stealing files and planning midnight defections. The senior partner was tired and old, while the administrative partner went from wearing toupees to braces, while bouncing through love affairs involving women such as his own father's mistress, as well as a sexual surrogate.

Brackman is appalled. Sifuentes barely stifles the urge to smile.

SOLLERS

Ordinarily, I'd tell you to just look at this collection of kooks and have a good chuckle. But what they did to my client... wasn't funny. Facing bankruptcy, they brought her in to rescue them. Made her senior partner, to bring them credibility. The evidence will show, ladies and gentlemen, that Rosalind Shays not only brought them credibility, she brought them clients, she brought them money, she brought them the profit and prestige they never had. Then, after she did all this, this little boys' club decided they didn't want a woman steering the ship. And they got rid of her. Just like that, after she served their purpose, they dumped her.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

SOLLERS (Cont'd)

(a long beat)

You know, as a rule, I don't take cases where the defendant is another attorney. Call it professional courtesy, I don't know, but generally I refuse to attack other lawyers, it's like turning on one of your own. But when I saw what they did... when I saw this repulsive level of deceit, and this blatant sex discrimination... oh yeah, I took the case. As a fellow member of the bar, I'm embarrassed, even ashamed, by what they did. And I'm gonna get them. Appealing to the evidence, appealing to the truth, appealing to your fundamental notion of fairness, I'm gonna teach this unscrupulous bunch of thieving sharks a lesson they'll never forget.

And Sollers returns and sits. Off this we

FADE OUT

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

11 INT. CIVIL COURT - DAY

11

Same present as at opening statements. Same day.

JUDGE ALEXANDER

Okay, Mr. Sollers, let's go.

SOLLERS

Yes, your honor. Plaintiff calls as its first witness Mr. Stuart Markowitz.

McKenzie, Sifuentes et al react with surprise, especially Markowitz, under

SIFUENTES

Objection. This witness is not on their list.

SOLLERS

He's on yours.

SIFUENTES

Yes, he's on ours and he's prepared to testify for us not you.

SOLLERS

He can testify for whoever he wants, I'm simply asking him to do so now.

SIFUENTES

And I'm objecting to that.

JUDGE ALEXANDER

Counsel.

SIFUENTES

(alarmed)

Your honor, if he intended to call this witness as part of his case, he should have included him on his list.

JUDGE ALEXANDER

What's the big deal, Mr. Sifuentes. You were planning to call him anyway so -

SIFUENTES

The big deal is he was scheduled to be our fourth or fifth witness which is considerably down the road.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

SIFUENTES (Cont'd)
I haven't prepared his testimony
with him and I -

SOLLERS
(with a wink to the
jury)
I don't want the prepared version,
I'm more interested in the truth.

SIFUENTES
Objection!

JUDGE ALEXANDER
Alright, counsel.

JUDGE ALEXANDER
Mr. Sifuentes, I'm overruling your
objection.

SIFUENTES
I move for a continuance to allow
discovery, to determine -

JUDGE ALEXANDER
No.

SIFUENTES
Your honor!

JUDGE ALEXANDER
Call the witness.

CLERK
Mr. Stuart Markowitz.

And Markowitz rises. Gives a look to Kelsey et al., then
heads for the witness stand as we

CUT TO:

12 INT. ABBY'S OFFICE - DAY

12

Close on Abby

ABBY
(stern)
This is totally unacceptable. I'd
like an explanation.

Pull back to reveal her son, ERIC, age nine, sitting
opposite her. She has his report card.

ERIC
I tried my best.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

ABBY

You did not try your best, young man. Two B's and three C's is not your best. How do you go from an A minus to a C in geography, can you tell me that?

ERIC

(a little scared)

I'm sorry.

ABBY

I'm not interested in "sorry". You're a "Perkins", Eric. "Perkins" do not get two B's and three C's. I am very cross about this, do you understand?

ERIC

Yes.

ABBY

And there's gonna be no soccer, no little league, if these grades don't come up, do you understand that?

ERIC

Yes.

ABBY

Good. Now you just sit there and do your homework while Mommy finishes her work. Go ahead, open those books, I am very cross.

And she goes back to her paperwork. Eric opens his math book. After a beat, Abby glances up to make sure he's not too devastated. Satisfied that he's okay, she returns to her work as we

CUT TO:

13 INT. CIVIL COURT - DAY

13

Sollers has Markowitz on the stand.

SOLLERS

What was the reason Ms. Shays was brought in as a partner, sir?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

MARKOWITZ

(a little nervous)

Well uh... the firm was becoming less profitable and we felt we needed somebody who could expand our client base.

SOLLERS

And Ms. Shays accomplished that, didn't she?

MARKOWITZ

Yes.

SOLLERS

In fact, in her short tenure, my client increased your revenues by thirty two percent, isn't that right?

MARKOWITZ

That would be right, yes.

SOLLERS

And it would also be right, wouldn't it, that at the time she came, your firm was in considerable disarray, to the point -

MARKOWITZ

The firm was functioning just fine.

SOLLERS

Was it now? Well I'd be interested in knowing how a tax attorney such as yourself, with no litigation experience whatsoever in over 18 years of practice, was suddenly trying cases?

MARKOWITZ

(defensive)

I was totally prepared to litigate.

SOLLERS

Really? What prepared you for that, Mr. Markowitz? Watch a lot of Matlock?

SIFUENTES

Objection!

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

JUDGE ALEXANDER

Sustained.

MARKOWITZ

(very defensive)

If you look at my trial record,
you'll see I accounted for myself
just fine.

SOLLERS

Oh yes, your trial record. Your
first trial concerned a woman suing
over a bad date and the next one
involved an old rabbi whose hand
slipped during a bris.

MARKOWITZ

I did a good job in both.

SOLLERS

No doubt. But do you think these
big trials really prepared you for
your next case, Mr. Markowitz?

(no response)

I'm talking about a major personal
injury trial, where you represented
a man who had been tortured by
electrocution.

MARKOWITZ

I was ready.

SOLLERS

This was a potential multi-million
dollar suit, it was a huge case.
And they gave it to you?

SIFUENTES

Objection! This has no relevance
to -

JUDGE ALEXANDER

Overruled!

SOLLERS

(pressing)

Did they at least have Mr. Kuzak
or Mr. Sifuentes back you up?
Anybody with more experience, maybe
your wife, even?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

SIFUENTES

Objection. This is completely irrelevant and...

SOLLERS

It goes to show what a mess this firm was. This man had no business trying cases, he's an accountant with a law degree.

KELSEY

(leaping up)

Objection!

SIFUENTES

(to Kelsey)

Sssshh!!

BECKER

(sotto)

Ann!

JUDGE ALEXANDER

You can't make objections, mam, you're not an attorney of record here.

SOLLERS

What happened at this torture trial, Mr. Markowitz?

MARKOWITZ

We lost.

SOLLERS

You lost. And according to the trial transcripts, the defendant took the stand himself and in front of the jury... he admitted to doing it. He admitted to wiring up your client's genitals and sending electric currents through his body, he admitted it, didn't he?

MARKOWITZ

Yes he did.

SOLLERS

And you still lost. What a gifted attorney you must be.

SIFUENTES

Objection.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (4)

13

SOLLERS

Withdrawn.

(as he returns)

Pity for us they didn't put you in
charge of this trial.

SIFUENTES

Objection!

SOLLERS

Withdrawn again. I'm sorry.

Off Markowitz we

TIME CUT TO:

14 INT. WITNESS ROOM - DAY

14

As they all enter -

BRACKMAN

You certainly didn't have to be so
passive, Stuart.

SIFUENTES

Listen. I think -

MARKOWITZ

What could I say?

KELSEY

I can't believe she'd
stoop to this.

BRACKMAN

You just sat there
and took it.

MARKOWITZ

Shut up, Douglas.

MCKENZIE

Hey, come on.

BRACKMAN

Oh, now he fights
back.

KELSEY

(to Sifuentes)

Why the hell weren't you objecting,
Victor?

SIFUENTES

Hey, I objected, there
was nothing I could do.

VAN OWEN

Let's not turn on
each other.

MARKOWITZ

(to Kelsey)

What were you jumping up for?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

MARKOWITZ (Cont'd)
That was embarrassing.

KELSEY
I was trying to
bail you out,
Stuart?

BRACKMAN
Somebody had to save
you.

VAN OWEN
Come on.

MARKOWITZ
Shut up, Douglas.

MCKENZIE
That's enough.

MARKOWITZ
I really appreciate
the support I'm
getting, I really
do. Let's put
you on the
stand, Douglas.

BRACKMAN
I said it from
the beginning,
letting him try
cases would come
to haunt us. And
he wanted to be
senior partner,
can you imagine?

BECKER
I'm telling
you we should
really think
about
settling.
Make this
thing
disappear.

MCKENZIE
Everybody shut up.

Suddenly Markowitz clutches at his chest, gulping air.

KELSEY
Stuart!

MARKOWITZ
(having trouble
breathing)
Oh God. Oh God.

KELSEY
Stuart.

MCKENZIE
Stuart, take it easy!

And Markowitz suddenly goes down.

KELSEY
(going to his aid)
Oh my God. Oh my god.

BRACKMAN
It's a trick. Get
up, Stuart.

SIFUENTES
Get him on his back.

MCKENZIE
Douglas, call an
ambulance.

BECKER
He's having a heart attack!

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

MCKENZIE

(yelling)

Go Douglas!!

As Brackman exits

KELSEY

Stuart. Oh my God,
no. Please no.

SIFUENTES

(on his knees)
Make sure he's
getting air! Make
sure he can breathe!

BECKER

He's breathing. He's breathing.

KELSEY

Oh please God. Stuart!

SIFUENTES

Hang in there, Stuart. It's okay.
It's gonna be okay.

Off this we

CUT TO:

15 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

15

Markowitz is being rolled down the corridor on a stretcher, oxygen mask fixed to mouth. McKenzie, Brackman, Van Owen, Sifuentes, Becker and Kelsey are trotting down along side.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. CRIMINAL COURT - DAY

16

17 INT. CRIMINAL COURT - DAY

17

The place is jammed. Attorney RICHARD NUNN, forties, black, stands in front of a huge media throng, as hundreds of protestors, most of them black, surround them. There is also a huge presence of police blue, most of which are standing guard at the courtroom.

NUNN

(holding court)

The district attorney is selling justice. A black teenager is dead and they're selling justice because the murderer is a cop!

As Kuzak and Chisolm step off the elevator.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

KUZAK

(seeing it)

Oh God.

CHISOLM

(a little panicked)

What's going on?

KUZAK

(full of adrenalin)

You stay right with me. We're moving right through it.

CHISOLM

What the hell is this?

KUZAK

Just say nothing and move. Let's go.

And they charge for the courtroom. Nunn, seeing them, moves to intercept.

NUNN

There he is, right here. The cop who shoots black kids. Goin' in to complete the transaction!

And the REPORTERS pounce, yelling questions, including

REPORTER #1

Mr. Kuzak! Is it true you've reached a deal?!

REPORTER #2

Is the d.a. trying to sweep this away?

KUZAK

We have no comment.

NUNN

(right in his way;
almost pushing)

The people will comment, Mr. Kuzak! Selective prosecution, the people will comment.

KUZAK

(almost sotto to
Nunn; threatening)

Get out of my face, Mr. Nunn.

As the reporters and protestors continue to fire questions, under --

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

NUNN

(nose to nose; right
back at him)

Did he get a medal, Mr. Kuzak? The
police give out special merit for
killing niggers?

KUZAK

(still near sotto;
flaring rage)

Bump into me again, I'll sue you
for assault. Now get the hell out
of my way.

And he pushes through, pulling Chisolm with him, under

NUNN

You bring your American Express
Card?

And Kuzak pulls Chisolm through the police uniforms, under

POLICE OFFICER

You people be quiet now or we're
moving you out. This is your last
warning!

And Kuzak goes into

18 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

18

Motion session in progress. JUDGE WALTER STONE presides.
More police officers are at the rear of the room, just in
case. Kuzak quickly finds ADA SCOTT THOMPSON, mid
thirties.

KUZAK

I wished the hell you warned me
about that.

THOMPSON

What, you don't watch the news?

KUZAK

Let's just get this over with. The
clerk ready to call it?

THOMPSON

Mike.

He head-motions for privacy.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

KUZAK

(to Chisolm)

Wait here.

And Kuzak steps away with Thompson.

THOMPSON

Things have changed. The deal's off.

KUZAK

What are you talking about?

THOMPSON

It isn't me, it's coming from the top. We're goin' with murder two.

KUZAK

(stunned; a beat)

What?

THOMPSON

We plea this out, we got a race riot, Mike. We can't --

KUZAK

Don't give me that crap, we have a deal!

THOMPSON

We don't have a deal. I'm sorry, I really am. But --

KUZAK

You gutless bastards! You're running scared of headlines, for God's sake, you --

THOMPSON

It isn't me, you understand?

KUZAK

(enraged)

Then who is it, Scott? The mayor?

THOMPSON

I dunno. All I know is it comes to me from Rogoff. And I don't have a choice.

Kuzak holds a look. Then stomps off. Off Thompson, we

CUT TO:

19 INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

19

Kelsey sits there. Waiting. After a beat, DR. DANIEL WOLIN, forties, enters.

WOLIN

He's fine.

KELSEY

(exhaling relief)

Oh God.

WOLIN

It was an isolated coronary occlusion.

KELSEY

That's a heart attack. It was a heart attack.

WOLIN

Yes, but the angiogram showed blockage in only one artery. We did the angioplasty, and he's going to be totally recovered.

KELSEY

Can I see him?

WOLIN

He's waiting for you.

CUT TO:

20 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

20

Markowitz lies in bed, oxygen tubes fed into his nostrils. Kelsey enters.

KELSEY

Hi sweetie.

MARKOWITZ

(a beat)

I'm sorry.

KELSEY

(through tears)

What are you talking about? You're fine, baby. The doctor says you're just fine.

MARKOWITZ

(struggling)

I had a heart attack.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

KELSEY

But you're okay, Stuart. You're okay.

MARKOWITZ

I thought I was gonna die. I kept thinking about Matthew.

KELSEY

(calming him)

Sssssh.

MARKOWITZ

I don't want to tell him, Ann. I don't want Matthew to ever know about this.

KELSEY

Hey, hey. C'mon.

She kisses his head. She can't stop the tears.

MARKOWITZ

I love you.

KELSEY

I love you too.

And she drops her head on his chest. He holds her tight. Clutches her as we

CUT TO:

21 INT. CIVIL COURT - DAY

21

Sollers has Rosalind on the stand.

Sifuentes and Van Owen at the defense table, in front of Becker, Brackman, McKenzie.

ROSALIND

(very sympathetic)

I was very nervous about going there at first. They were such a close knit firm and I was the outsider.

SOLLERS

Why did you join McKenzie Brackman?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

ROSALIND

I suppose it was ego, mostly. They said they were looking for a savior, and that presented a very romantic challenge.

SOLLERS

Do you think you lived up to that challenge, Ms. Shays?

ROSALIND

I know it's self serving to say I did... but I did. I brought in new clients, generated over 3 million dollars in revenues and kept existing clients from walking out the door. Everyone was so happy, they made me senior partner.

SOLLERS

Then one day... it all changed, didn't it?

ROSALIND

(a beat; very quietly)

Yes.

SOLLERS

What happened?

She takes a breath for strength. This is a vintage performance.

ROSALIND

I was suddenly told I didn't fit in. Leland, Leland McKenzie, came to me and said...

(a beat, showing difficulty)

... he said it's not working out. He asked me to quietly resign. And when I said I couldn't do that in good conscience... he said he would break me.

(struggling a little)

And that's what he did.

SOLLERS

Could you tell us what transpired, mam?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

ROSALIND

Shortly after that, a partners' meeting was quickly arranged and I was told it would be best for me to leave. It was obvious that the whole thing was orchestrated secretly behind my back.

SIFUENTES

Objection, conclusory.

JUDGE ALEXANDER

Overruled.

SOLLERS

Keep going, mam.

ROSALIND

I left.

SOLLERS

Quietly?

ROSALIND

Yes. I thought it would be best for everybody if it was done quietly. I thought I could live with it. But I couldn't. I just couldn't.

SOLLERS

So you initiated this lawsuit.

ROSALIND

Yes. They brought me in because they were falling apart. Then after I saved them, after they didn't need me anymore, they threw me out. Rather than share with me the profits I brought in, they threw me out. That isn't right.

SOLLERS

But, mam, with all due respect, you seem to have landed on your feet.

ROSALIND

I'll always wear the blemish. To the legal community, I'll always be the dame who couldn't cut it as a senior partner. And because of that, I'll probably never get another chance.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

SOLLERS

Is being senior partner so important?

ROSALIND

(almost hushed)

Yes.

SOLLERS

Why?

ROSALIND

(a beat; saving the best for last)

My late husband... he died five weeks before he was scheduled to become senior partner at his firm. It was his life dream and... and he never made it.

(voice quivering ever so slightly)

I remember holding his hand the night he...

(a beat)

I vowed to myself that I would make it. That I would get there to live out his dream. That's why I was so very very proud when it happened at McKenzie Brackman.

(cracking)

And so devastated... when they took it away for no reason.

(to the judge, re the break in composure)

I'm sorry.

SOLLERS

(a beat)

I have nothing further.

Rosalind sniffs slightly, gallantly trying to gather herself.

JUDGE ALEXANDER

I think we'll break until tomorrow.

The jury wants to return a verdict for her right now. Sifuentes, Van Owen, McKenzie et al. just stare at this

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (4)

21

woman in utter disbelief. What a goddamn performance!
Then off Rosalind, the stoic, courageous victim, we

FADE OUT

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

22 INT. MCKENZIE'S OFFICE - DAY

22

McKenzie and Brackman present as Sifuentes and Van Owen enter on the cut.

SIFUENTES

What's up?

MCKENZIE

(all business)

What've you got planned for Rosalind's cross?

SIFUENTES

I'm gonna get in and out, fast as I can. Basically, get her to acknowledge that personality factors into senior partner criteria and that hers was a negative factor.

MCKENZIE

Not enough. I want you to -

SIFUENTES

(anticipating it)

I think it's a mistake to attack her, Leland. The jury likes her, we'll -

MCKENZIE

I know what you think and I disagree. I'm also very dissatisfied with your performance so far, Victor.

SIFUENTES

Why?

MCKENZIE

First, you let Sollers beat up on Stuart -

SIFUENTES

That's ridiculous.

MCKENZIE

When you should've been protecting him.

MCKENZIE (Cont'd)

Then, you should've objected to the adjournment yesterday after Rosalind's direct.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

MCKENZIE (Cont'd)

You let her testimony sink in overnight when you could've immediately discredited her.

SIFUENTES

(very annoyed)

That's wrong. The judge would've overruled the objection, and we would've just come off as bullies, playing right into her case.

MCKENZIE

You're intimidated by Sollers.

SIFUENTES

(flaring)

Nobody intimidates me, Leland, including you.

MCKENZIE

Fine. From now on, you're second chair. Grace, you're taking over.

VAN OWEN

Leland.

SIFUENTES

What?!

MCKENZIE

You heard me.

VAN OWEN

Leland, I happen to agree with Victor. Attacking Rosalind could play right into her discrimination claim.

MCKENZIE

Not if the attack comes from another woman.

BRACKMAN

Our feeling is, we can't win this trial without discrediting her.

SIFUENTES

You're panicking.

MCKENZIE

We're doing what we feel we have to do to win.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

SIFUENTES

And I'm telling you, you're dead wrong.

VAN OWEN

Leland, it's risky. Rosalind is good. If we go after her and don't get her, we really look bad. We'll lose for sure.

MCKENZIE

Then you have to get her, Grace. You damn well have to get her.

Off Van Owen and Sifuentes, we

CUT TO:

23 INT. BECKER'S OFFICE - DAY

23

Photo session in progress. Various camera and lighting equipment is in place. Photographer KENNY ALDER, forties, aims at the smiling Becker, CORINNE, and CHLOE, the perfect family, sitting on the edge of the sofa, Santa hats on their heads. Red and green Christmas sweaters. The Christmas tree twinkles behind them. Roxanne and Benny are also present. A cockle warming picture.

ALDER

(clicking away)

Okay, good. Good. Hold those smiles. Per-fect. Okay, let me reload a second, then a few more and we're finished.

Becker adlibs with Chloe, under

CORRINNE

Roxanne, I'm going to give you a mailing list to put in your computer. Then we can work off that.

ROXANNE

(feeling a little put upon)

Okay.

CORRINNE

Then when you get a chance, maybe you could go through Arnie's rolodex and add the appropriate clients.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

CORRINNE (Cont'd)
I wouldn't know who they are and
I'd hate to bother Arnie with it.

ROXANNE
(but she'll bother
me with it)
Yeah. That's fine.

ALDER
Okay, all set. Let's make it a
little less hot for a few. Rox,
could you hold the screen in front
of that light for me? And Benny,
you're tall. You can block that
high one.

BENNY
(taking the screen)
Okay.

ALDER
Okay, smiles up? Good. Alright
assistants, block that light.

And they do. As Benny holds his screen up, the pants go
down. Murray's work.

ALDER
(clicking away)
Beautiful. Per-fect. Wonderful.

Off this, we

CUT TO:

24 INT. ROGOFF'S OFFICE - DAY

24

ROGOFF and Kuzak, entering on the cut.

ROGOFF
He shot and killed an innocent boy.
We can't ignore that.

KUZAK
IAD cleared him. He --

ROGOFF
That's an internal investigation,
cops clearing another cop. You
think that'll satisfy the public?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

KUZAK

You have no case, Bruce. You're prosecuting a case you know you can't make and -

ROGOFF

(smug)

Then you'll have no trouble getting him off.

KUZAK

With the hysteria being whipped up by Nunn, I'll have a lot of trouble!

ROGOFF

If we don't prosecute, it'll be another Bensonhurst.

KUZAK

Oh, and we can't have that, can we? Not when you're up for reelection next month.

ROGOFF

Your two minutes are up. Get out.

KUZAK

You worried about headlines, Bruce? I got plenty. Don't forget, I used to sleep with one of your foot soldiers, I know the politics you play. You prosecuted Lyle Torrey, with illegal evidence, don't think I won't put that dirt in print.

ROGOFF

You'll just look like a desperate defense attorney and anything that sticks will smear your old girlfriend in the process, which is all she and your firm need at the moment. So don't make me laugh with your stupid threats.

KUZAK

My client is innocent, you son of a bitch.

ROGOFF

Then get him acquitted. Hey, with a trial, you get a bigger fee.

Kuzak holds a look, then heads out.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

ROGOFF

Nice talking to you.

Off this we

CUT TO:

25 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

25

Markowitz, fully dressed, sits on the edge of his bed, waiting to check out. He's just staring at his feet, still a little disbelieving of what's happened. A beat, then Kelsey and Dr. Wolin enter.

DR. WOLIN

Hey, here he is, all ready to go.

MARKOWITZ

(acting upbeat)

Yep. Ready to go.

DR. WOLIN

I was just telling Ann, you should stay quiet for a few days. Take aspirin, get plenty of rest. Next week, I see no reason why you can't start in with half days.

MARKOWITZ

(stoic)

That's great.

DR. WOLIN

We'll get you on a cardiac rehabilitation program, you'll be as good as new.

MARKOWITZ

Terrific.

(to Ann)

Okay, let's go.

KELSEY

(to Wolin)

Um. What about... you know, sex.

MARKOWITZ

Ann.

KELSEY

Stuart we have to ask, it's important.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

KELSEY (Cont'd)

(to Wolin)

Will it kill him?

MARKOWITZ

Ann.

DR. WOLIN

Of course not.

DR. WOLIN

That's a silly myth. Heart attack victims can return to healthy normal sex lives.

MARKOWITZ

(wants to get the hell out)

Sounds good.

KELSEY

So normal is okay. But anything more than that...

MARKOWITZ

(mortified)

Ann.

KELSEY

Stuart this is our doctor, we have to be candid.

(to Wolin)

He tends to be a little rigorous.

DR. WOLIN

How rigorous?

MARKOWITZ

For God's sake.

KELSEY

He usually perspires.

Markowitz is beyond embarrassment now.

DR. WOLIN

I see. Well I would shy away from over exertion. You did just have a heart attack. But sex is okay. Really.

MARKOWITZ

(totally humiliated)

Can we go now?

KELSEY

(defensive)

I'm only being concerned.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

MARKOWITZ

(snappish)
Fine. Can we go?

KELSEY

Yes. We can go.

MARKOWITZ

Good.

And he heads out. She follows under --

KELSEY

I was only being concerned.

Off this we

CUT TO:

26 INT. CIVIL COURT

26

Rosalind's on the stand. Van Owen, pumped, rises to begin her cross. She's ready.

VAN OWEN

Okay, Ms. Shays, just a couple of questions about yesterday's testimony. Do you feel strong enough to continue?

ROSALIND

Yes.

VAN OWEN

Good. First, you kept talking about getting "forced out" of McKenzie Brackman. Were you fired?

ROSALIND

It was made clear to me that -

VAN OWEN

Were you fired, mam?

ROSALIND

Technically, no.

VAN OWEN

(with disciplined
intensity)

Technically, you resigned without anyone directly or indirectly asking for your resignation, correct?

(CONTINUED)

ROSALIND

I knew I wasn't wanted.

VAN OWEN

Yes, well quitting because you felt unwanted is different from being fired. You also suggested that your departure cost you your share of the profits. But you took clients with you when you left, didn't you?

ROSALIND

A few, yes I did.

VAN OWEN

A few. In fact, you took every client you brought in, plus several pre-existing clients who had been at McKenzie Brackman years before you arrived.

ROSALIND

I didn't force anybody to come with me.

VAN OWEN

The point is, you led this jury to believe you built this firm up, only to be discarded after you were no longer needed. When in fact, you left this firm much weaker than you found it. When, in fact, you weren't discarded at a time they no longer needed you. You left voluntarily at the time they needed you most. True or false, Ms. Shays?

ROSALIND

That may be true. But -

VAN OWEN

And it's also true that you make more money than any partner at McKenzie Brackman, right now, isn't it?

ROSALIND

Yes.

VAN OWEN

Do you think anybody on this jury got that impression from yesterday's performance?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

SOLLERS

Objection!

JUDGE ALEXANDER

Sustained. Move on, counsel.

VAN OWEN

How many firms had you gone through prior to McKenzie Brackman?

ROSALIND

I had been with seven law firms previously.

VAN OWEN

Seems like you have a tough time getting along with anybody.

SOLLERS

Objection.

VAN OWEN

Were they all sex discriminators?

SOLLERS

Objection!!

JUDGE ALEXANDER

Sustained.

VAN OWEN

Isn't it true, Ms. Shays, you have alienated everybody you have ever worked with?

ROSALIND

No that's not true.

VAN OWEN

Those seven firms totaled four hundred and fifty two lawyers. How many of those colleagues are friends of yours today?

SOLLERS

Objection!

VAN OWEN

Her propensity to sever relationships is directly at issue!

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (3)

26

SOLLERS
Move to strike!!
Your honor!!

VAN OWEN
(in Rosalind's
face)
Her inability to
get along with
the people she works
with is directly at
issue.

ROSALIND
I get along with people
I work with.

JUDGE ALEXANDER
The objection is
overruled.

VAN OWEN
Name a friend, Rosalind.
(brandishing a list)
There's four-hundred and fifty-two
names there, pick one. Pick out
one person who's a friend.

SOLLERS
This is badgering.

VAN OWEN
Go ahead, choose one, I'll subpoena
whoever it is.

JUDGE ALEXANDER
Ms. Van Owen

SOLLERS
Your honor!!

VAN OWEN
Sorry, your honor. Ms. Shays, given
the fact you've never developed a
close friendship with any of your
colleagues, given the fact that
you've left eight law firms, four
of them on very unfriendly terms,
given the fact that nobody at
McKenzie Brackman even remotely
liked you by the end, despite having
once liked you enough to elect you
senior partner, do you make any room
whatsoever for the possibility that
you are not a nice person to be
around?

SOLLERS
Your honor, this is total
badgering!!

JUDGE ALEXANDER
Sustained. That'll do, Ms. Van
Owen.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (4)

26

But the damage has been done. Rosalind just stares back at Van Owen. A beat, then

VAN OWEN

I'm done here.

And Van Owen returns to her table. Gets a well done nod from McKenzie as we

FADE OUT

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

27 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY

27

Kuzak enters, heads for his office. CINDY BROWN, his secretary, sits at her desk.

KUZAK

Get me Jonathan, will you? I need him right away.

VAN OWEN

Mickey. You got a second?

KUZAK

Yeah.

And they go into

28 INT. KUZAK'S OFFICE - DAY

28

VAN OWEN

(pissed)

You want to explain the little stunt with Rogoff?

KUZAK

What stunt?

VAN OWEN

Going to him, threatening him with information you learned through your involvement with me.

KUZAK

Grace, he's sending a lynch mob after my client because --

VAN OWEN

I'm not talking about what he's doing, I'm talking about what you did.

KUZAK

I've got an innocent man who --

VAN OWEN

I don't care. My relationship with the district attorney's office is extremely valuable, it's valuable to this whole firm. I sure as hell don't need you to poison it.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

KUZAK

I didn't do that.

VAN OWEN

Of course you did. Rogoff is pissed at me, he's angry. Which means instead of having an advantage when I deal with the d.a.'s office, which I should have after putting in nine years there, I'm disadvantaged. You hurt me, you hurt every lawyer here.

KUZAK

I disagree.

VAN OWEN

Yeah? Well next time you want to commit political suicide like that, I'll appreciate your leaving me out of it.

And she opens the door and leaves. Follow her into

29 INT. COMPLEX - DAY

29

She marches by Rollins, who's now waiting in the wings.

ROLLINS

You wanted to see me, Mike?

KUZAK

Yeah. You're second chairing the Chisolm case. As of now.

ROLLINS

Why?

KUZAK

Because you're black. The media and everyone else is turning this into a race thing, and I need some window dressing.

ROLLINS

I'm not comfortable with that.

KUZAK

It's not a request. I've got a motion for a continuance this afternoon at two. We'll leave here at one fifteen.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

And he closes his door.

Off Rollins, we

CUT TO:

30 INT. MARKOWITZ'S KITCHEN - DAY

30

Markowitz is lying on his stomach playing with Matthew.

MARKOWITZ
(lifting his head;
bearing teeth)
Here comes the dinosaur.

And Matthew points at him, causing Markowitz to let his head fall to the floor.

MARKOWITZ
(lifting his head
again)
And here he comes again.
(growling)
Gggrrrrrrr.

And Matthew points again. Markowitz drops his head face down again, upon which Kelsey enters. She sees the prone Markowitz and lets out a terrified scream. It so scares Markowitz that he screams. Then --

KELSEY
What are you doing?!!

MARKOWITZ
What are you doing?!!

KELSEY
I thought you had another heart
attack for God's sake!!

KELSEY
What are you doing
on the floor?!

MARKOWITZ
You're gonna give
me one, screaming
like that! We're
just playing!

KELSEY
Don't you ever do that to me.

MARKOWITZ
Don't you do that to me!!

KELSEY
My God.
(then)
I'm sorry.

MARKOWITZ
My God.
(then)
I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

And they both smile.

KELSEY

Look, we don't have to be so
skittish. Coronaries are very
common.

KELSEY

(they've said it
a million times)
You're totally fine.

MARKOWITZ

(ditto)
I'm totally fine.

KELSEY

Yeah.

(a beat)

Okay, I'm off to testify. Do I look
sympathetic enough?

MARKOWITZ

You look fine.

(another beat)

What're you gonna say?

KELSEY

If I repeat that conversation,
Stuart,... we're gonna be out a
lot of money.

MARKOWITZ

Yup.

KELSEY

It would be hard to remember what
I said back then, don't you think?

MARKOWITZ

It was so long ago.

KELSEY

Anybody could forget.

MARKOWITZ

Yup.

Off Kelsey, hating herself, we

CUT TO:

31 INT. WITNESS ROOM - DAY

31

Rosalind and Sollers are present. Waiting. A beat, before Abby enters.

ABBY

(short)

Hi.

ROSALIND

Hi, Abby.

SOLLERS

Ms. Perkins. Thanks for meeting us.

SOLLERS

(gently)

Listen, this is a terrible thing, we hate putting you in the middle, we really do.

ABBY

(neutral)

I don't know why you subpoenaed me.

SOLLERS

(deftly)

Well, I won't be asking you to say anything negative about McKenzie, Brackman, you can rest easy about that.

ABBY

(giving nothing)

Uh huh.

SOLLERS

But it is my understanding you considered your working experiences with Rosalind to be quite positive.

ABBY

(still nothing)

Uh huh.

SOLLERS

And I'd simply be asking you to comment on those positive experiences.

ABBY

But before you put me up there, you want to be sure that I'll say the right thing.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

SOLLERS

Well naturally I want to know I have an accurate understanding of your feelings for Rosalind.

Abby looks at Rosalind. Then back to Sollers.

ABBY

You don't want my testimony.

SOLLERS

(a little less
gentle)

If you're in that witness chair, you have to tell the truth, Ms. Perkins.

ABBY

I know which side of my bread gets buttered, Mr. Sollers.

SOLLERS

Are you telling me you're prepared to commit perjury?

ABBY

(matter-of-fact)

I'm telling you if you put me up there... you'll get hurt.

She gives a half smile, then exits. A beat.

SOLLERS

You know her better than I do. Is she bluffing?

ROSALIND

(a beat; her eyes
on the door)

Skip her. Let's go straight to Ann Kelsey.

Off this, we

CUT TO:

32 INT. CRIMINAL COURT - DAY

32

Motion session. The room is packed with police, spectators, and a heavy black population, led by Attorney Nunn. Kuzak and ADA Thompson stand before Judge Walter Stone, white, fifties. Brian Chisolm sits at the defense table, next to Rollins.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

KUZAK

Your honor, the defense would move for a six-week continuance, so that we may have time to fully prepare for trial.

THOMPSON

(has his orders)
Opposed.

KUZAK

Your honor, the district attorney had agreed to a plea bargain, which agreement was suddenly revoked two days ago. We were not anticipating a trial and therefore aren't ready.

NUNN

(rising)

An innocent boy gets murdered and they don't "anticipate" a trial?

And the black spectators rumble with disapproval, under

JUDGE STONE

Mr. Nunn. I'll ask you not to disrupt this courtroom. Mr. Kuzak, I understand the district attorney has afforded you complete discovery.

KUZAK

Yes but I would like to conduct my own investigations.

JUDGE STONE

You've had five months for that.

KUZAK

As I explained, we expected to plead this out. So I --

JUDGE STONE

Well that's just lawyering, it's no grounds for a continuance. I'm not delaying this trial.

KUZAK

You can't be serious.

JUDGE STONE

I'll give you one week. Next Tuesday, we impanel.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

KUZAK

That's ridiculous!

NUNN

(leaping up)

Why is it ridiculous, Mr. Kuzak?

JUDGE STONE

Mr. Nunn, I don't
want to warn you
again.

NUNN

Is it ridiculous
for the life of a
black child to
count for something?!

As the gallery reacts --

KUZAK

Your honor, I also move for an
order, restraining this man from
making public statements concerning
this case. Mr. Nunn represents the
family of the victim in civil
litigation, and it is my belief he
is publicly promoting a criminal
conviction to bolster his civil
cause of action.

NUNN

Does counsel seek to squash my first
amendment rights?

KUZAK

Counsel seeks to stop your
hysterical grandstanding!

As the gallery reacts --

JUDGE STONE

Alright, that's enough.

KUZAK

Your honor, he is inflaming the
media and the public. And he's
undermining my client's chance of
getting a fair trial.

NUNN

What about fairness for the black
people being murdered by the
police?!

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (3)

32

JUDGE STONE
 (over the shouts of
 the gallery)
 Mr. Nunn! Sit down!

NUNN
 You can shut me up. But you won't
 silence the people! The people will
 be heard!!

And the gallery really reacts, under --

KUZAK
 This man is a sideshow, judge!

JUDGE STONE
 (over the din)
 Quiet! I've made my ruling.

KUZAK
 I object to that ruling!!

JUDGE STONE
 Too bad. Next week, we go to trial.

And the gallery explodes with approval. Chisolm is
 terrified. Rollins stares straight ahead, expressionless.
 Off Kuzak, in disbelief of what he sees to be happening
 here, we

CUT TO:

33 INT. CIVIL COURT - DAY

33

Sollers has Kelsey on the stand. Sifuentes, Van Owen and
 the usual suspects are tense, willing her to have a lapse
 of memory.

SOLLERS
 Would you consider yourself a friend
 of Rosalind Shays, Ms. Kelsey?

KELSEY
 I don't harbor any ill will towards
 her.

Sollers smiles. "Nice dodge". Then -

SOLLERS
 Would you consider yourself to be
 her friend.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

KELSEY

(a beat)

No.

SOLLERS

In fact, you totally opposed her ever joining the firm, you repeatedly clashed with her once she came to the firm, and you loathed the idea of her becoming senior partner. Would that assessment be fair or unfair?

KELSEY

Fair.

SOLLERS

You also had a pet nickname for her too, didn't you?

VAN OWEN

Objection. This has no relevance.

SOLLERS

I'm trying to show that if this witness has any bias or predisposition, it goes against my client.

VAN OWEN

I think we've established that.

SOLLERS

Your honor, I'd like the jury to see the degree of hostility at work here.

JUDGE ALEXANDER

I'll allow it.

SOLLERS

What was your pet name for my client, Ms. Kelsey?

KELSEY

I'm not sure what you mean.

SOLLERS

Come on, I've subpoenaed Ms. Perkins and several secretaries who heard you say it. I can also recall your husband.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

SOLLERS (Cont'd)

Once he's feeling better, of course.
 (a beat)
 What was the name you used to call
 her?

KELSEY

(quietly; looking
 away)

The queen bitch.

SOLLERS

Mm hm. Now, given how unwilling
 you must be to help her, having
 dubbed her... what you dubbed her,
 I'm going to call on you now to
 remember a certain conversation you
 had with her after she was forced
 out of being senior partner.

The partners squirm as Van Owen is up in a flash, under

VAN OWEN

Objection. Calls for hearsay.

SOLLERS

It's an admission as well as a
 declaration against interests,
 Judge.

JUDGE ALEXANDER

The objection's overruled.

SOLLERS

Do you remember the conversation,
 Ms. Kelsey?

KELSEY

(dodging again)

I had many conversations with her.
 I certainly can't remember them all.

SOLLERS

I'm talking about a very specific
 one which took place in the ladies'
 room after this all came down.
 Remember that one?

Sifuentes and the partners are churning. Kelsey looks at
 them. Then

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (3)

33

KELSEY

I can recall talking to her in the ladies' room a few different times.

And McKenzie, Brackman et al. ever so slightly exhale with relief.

SOLLERS

Did you tell her... that if a man had done the things she had done, he'd be hailed as a hero and a great leader... but because Rosalind Shays was a woman, she was punished and chased out?

KELSEY

(a beat;
backpadding)

I don't think I ever used those words.

SOLLERS

Did you use words to that effect?
(no response)

Did you use words to that effect, Ms. Kelsey?

Kelsey looks to the troops. Their expressions are commanding her to answer "no". A long beat, then

KELSEY

(quietly)

Yes.

The defense table slumps slightly, under

SOLLERS

And Ms. Kelsey. When you said that, that she had basically been discriminated against because she was a woman... were you lying or did you really mean it?

KELSEY

(another beat; she's
under oath)

I really meant it.

SOLLERS

Thank you, mam. Nothing further.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (4)

33

Sifuentes, Brackman et al. just slink with defeat. Off
them we

FADE TO BLACK

MCKENZIE

(over black; softly
to himself)

Oh God.

THE END