

SWEAT SHOP
by
Thomas Moffett and Pell James

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INT. ELEANOR'S BEDROOM. DAY.

ELEANOR JONES, twenty-nine, stands in front of the mirror in the room she grew up. Below the mirror is a dresser with various high-school era detritus on it. Bottles of perfume, mix-tapes, two stuffed animals. The walls are covered with posters of bands from the mid-nineties. She is wearing underwear and a tank-top. She unpacks a suitcase on the bed. She pulls out a pair of jeans. She looks at them for a moment.

ELEANOR
(to the jeans)
Alright you bastards.

Eleanor steps into the jeans and starts to pull them up. They get stuck. She pulls harder and falls down.

ELEANOR (O.S.)
Goddamnit.

She kicks the dresser. Several bottles of perfume fall on her.

ELEANOR
Owwwwww!

INT. JONES HOUSE. DAY.

Eleanor has black eye where the perfume hit her. SUSAN, early sixties, enters, carrying a tray of mojitos.

ELEANOR
(pointing to the wall)
Can you take those photos down?

SUSAN
The ones where you're overweight?

ELEANOR
The ones with Rob. Which ones am I
overweight in--

SUSAN
You never should've left him.

ELEANOR
He left me. You know that.

SUSAN
You need to learn to hold onto a
man. Haven't I taught you anything?

ELEANOR
Dad's dead. And so's the other one.

SUSAN
People die. That's not the point. I
made mojitos.

She hands Eleanor a drink. They sit down.

SUSAN
How's your eye?

ELEANOR
A bottle of CK One landed on it.
How do you think it feels.
(takes a drink)
Calvin Klein's a dick.

SUSAN
Look. I need you to pay rent.

ELEANOR
For what?

SUSAN
Your room.

ELEANOR
I'm your daughter.

SUSAN
The economy is in the toilet.

ELEANOR
My firm just imploded, remember?
Can't you wait til I'm back on my
feet. I don't know what I'm gonna
do yet.

SUSAN
Well, we could do a nightly rate.

Eleanor stares at Susan.

SUSAN
Don't make me the bad guy here.

ELEANOR
But you are the bad guy here.

SUSAN
You could've stayed in New York.

ELEANOR
I lost everything, Mom.

SUSAN
Didn't you have a plan? You always
have a plan--

ELEANOR
Yeah, I had a plan. The plan was to
hit my number and get out. Marry
Rob, have kids and be happy. That
part of the plan broke up with me.
(takes a drink)
The other part of the plan rocked a
deuce on me.

SUSAN
Is that Wall Street jargon?

ELEANOR
I re-invested almost everything in
company stock, got leveraged with
margin, mortgages...now I'm ass
over tits in goddamn Arizona.

SUSAN
I have a job for you. With your
brother.

ELEANOR
Stepbrother. And no. No way.

SUSAN
You need money. The gym needs help.

ELEANOR
I don't know jack about gyms. I
haven't been there since I tried to
lose five pounds for my senior
prom.

The sound of a key in the front door. Steve walks in.

STEVE
Hot damn, I smell mojitos. Is our
Mom the best or what?

ELEANOR
She's my mom. How much rent does
she charge you?

STEVE
I don't rent. I own.

ELEANOR
You live above the garage.

STEVE
Yeah. I bought it outright.

ELEANOR
For how much--

STEVE
That's kind of a rude question.

SUSAN
Sweetie, Eleanor lost everything
and she needs your help.

ELEANOR
No, I don't--

STEVE
Lay it on me.

SUSAN
I think she should work at the gym.

STEVE
My gym?

ELEANOR
It's not your gym.

STEVE
My dad built that place with his
bare hands.

ELEANOR
And my mom's money.

STEVE
He that is of the opinion money
will do everything may well be
suspected of doing everything for
money.

Steve takes his jacket off. He's wearing a T-shirt with an eagle and an American flag on it. It says "Live Free Or Die Trying".

STEVE
Ben Franklin said that. Maybe you
heard of him.
(beat)
Come interview tomorrow.

ELEANOR
Interview?

STEVE
Yeah. Interview.

ELEANOR
I spent three years as a managing
director of a bulge bracket firm on
Wall Street.

STEVE
And I've been managing a bulge for
thirty four years. I'm talking
about my nutsack. And my weenus.

Steve takes a long drink. He licks it off his moustache.

INSERT. TITLE CARD: *SWEAT SHOP*

EXT. STRIP MALL. MORNING.

The parking lot of a strip mall in Scottsdale, Arizona. At
the corner is a gym with a sign that reads: *The Sweat Shop*.

INT. GYM. MORNING.

The gym is outfitted with the latest equipment, flat screen
televisions, all sorts of amenities. Eleanor stops at the
reception desk, where TURQUOISE, mid-twenties, tan, dressed
in spandex, sits. She's a space cadet.

TURQUOISE
You have cocaine on your shirt.

ELEANOR
Oh, no, it's powdered sugar. I had
donuts.

TURQUOISE
Gross.

ELEANOR
I'm a stress eater. It's a drug.

TURQUOISE
Yeah, but at least drugs make you
skinny.

INT. GYM OFFICE. MOMENTS LATER.

One wall is a two-way mirror that looks out at the gym. Steve looks at *Women's Fitness*. Eleanor walks in. Steve puts Visine in his eyes.

STEVE

Hey Amigo. Have a seat.

Eleanor hands him her resume.

STEVE

Is that toot on your shirt?

ELEANOR

No.

STEVE

Damn. I could really use some.
I really blew it out last night.
Ok. What was your Grade Point
Average?

ELEANOR

What was yours?

STEVE

Ten. Ten-ish. What's yours?

ELEANOR

It's on my C.V.

STEVE

What's a C.V.?

ELEANOR

It's a resume.

STEVE

(picks up resume)
Let's see. Top of your class at
DartMOUTH--

ELEANOR

Dartmouth.

STEVE

You know where I went to college?

ELEANOR

I didn't think you went to college.

STEVE
(taps the desk)
Right here.

ELEANOR
What was your major?

STEVE
I'll ask the questions. How much do
you weigh?

ELEANOR
I'm not answering that.

Steve makes a notation.

STEVE
What's your favorite food?

ELEANOR
Donuts. What's yours?

STEVE
Pussy.
(beat)
Why should I hire you?

ELEANOR
Because Mom is making you. She
showed me the P and L statements
last night--

STEVE
Again, I'd be more comfortable if
you let me ask the questions.
What's a P and L statement?

ELEANOR
Profit and loss.

STEVE
We make a bitchload of profit.

ELEANOR
You make revenue. But you spend so
much money you barely break even.

STEVE
You gotta spend money to make
money.

ELEANOR
You spent almost twenty thousand
dollars on new staff uniforms.

STEVE

That includes limited edition
kicks. And watches. Wait til' you
see them. They're baller.

ELEANOR

The point is to actually turn a
profit.

STEVE

Here's the situation. You might be
wrong--

ELEANOR

I'm not.

STEVE

Then again, you might be right.

ELEANOR

I am.

STEVE

There's really no way of knowing--

ELEANOR

There's hard empirical evidence.

STEVE

Do you know how I run a business?

ELEANOR

You inherit it?

STEVE

I run it with my nuts and with my
guts.

(stands up)

You're hired.

INT. GRAPPLE ROOM. MOMENTS LATER.

A room with wall-to-wall foam matting. The STAFF sits on
Pilates balls. Steve and Eleanor stand in front of them.

STEVE

Turquoise. Any mail for me?

TURQUOISE

The mail doesn't come in the
morning.

STEVE

This one did, if you know what I mean.

BRIAN laughs. He is in his late twenties, good-looking, exuding sexual energy. He and Steve high-five. DANA (aka MURDERBALL), thirties, wheelchair-bound, interrupts.

MURDERBALL

I'm sorry, that's just offensive--

STEVE

Take it easy, Murderball.

MURDERBALL

Do we have to have another sexual harassment seminar?

STEVE

No. God, no. That was a witch hunt.
(shakes his head)
This is Eleanor Jones, the newest member of our unit.

MURDERBALL

Can't we just call it a family?

STEVE

No. It's called *The Art of War* for a reason.

BLACK MAGIC, forties, black, well-built, interrupts.

BLACK MAGIC

Man, cancel that *Art of War* stuff.

STEVE

This is Rodney Weatherfield. Also known as Black Magic. A true inspiration. Not only did he fight for his country, he used to be disgustingly fat.

BLACK MAGIC

I gained two hundred thirty-seven pounds when I got back from the Suck. They call it Post Traumatic Eating Disorder.

STEVE

You should've seen him. He could tear up a party sub like a pack of wild coyotes.

ELEANOR
Nice to meet you, Rodney.

BLACK MAGIC
You can call me Black Magic.

ELEANOR
Ok. You can call me the White Wizard.

BLACK MAGIC
White Wizard? What kind of cracker-ass talk is that--

ELEANOR
No. I was kidding--

STEVE
It's cool, Blood. She's down.

BLACK MAGIC
My blood-sugar is low. We cool.

He puts out his fist and gives Eleanor a bump.

BLACK MAGIC
What exactly will you be doing?

STEVE
Assisting me. She's my assistant.

ELEANOR
I'm co-owner of the gym.

STEVE
Turquoise. Strike the last thing she said from the record.

TURQUOISE
I'm not taking notes.

Steve screams and throws an exercise ball across the room.

STEVE
Screw this coup d'etat!

ELEANOR
(to Murderball)
You said something about a sexual harassment seminar. Is that what these legal fees are for? Sexual harassment?

BRIAN
Hells yeah.
(to Eleanor)
I'm Brian. Wassup.

STEVE
Brian is sort of the DJ Jazzy Jeff
to My Fresh Prince.

BRIAN
You should check out my Cardio
Kegel Jam Class. Ladies only.

ELEANOR
Just to get back to the Sexual
Harrassment thing for a second...is
that what the line item in the
budget marked "S.H." refers to?

STEVE
That's Shenanigans and Horseplay.

Steve stretches, putting his leg up on a chair.

BLACK MAGIC
Man, one of your nuts is hanging
out.

Steve looks down. His testicle is pixilated.

INT. GYM. MORNING.

Eleanor wears yoga pants and a tank top. Brian walks up.

BRIAN
So. What are your fitness goals?

ELEANOR
I want to lose a few pounds.

BRIAN
Maybe get rid of that muffin top.

ELEANOR
I have a muffin top?

BRIAN
You're a tight looking piece of
ass. I'd hit it. No question. But
you're eating 500 extra calories a
day.

ELEANOR
You can tell that just by looking?

BRIAN
That's why they call me the Pussy
Whisperer. Like the Horse
Whisperer, except with pussy.

ELEANOR
Yeah, I got it.

BRIAN
I can also tell you shaved your
legs three days ago. You shower at
night not in the morning. And
you're not wearing underwear right
now. Then again, neither am I.
(walks off)
I'll see you in there.

INT. AEROBICS ROOM. MORNING.

Brian leads a group of thirty WOMEN of various ages. Eleanor
dances awkwardly along with the class.

BRIAN
Feel it from your pinky toes to
your perineum...

Brian steps behind Eleanor, presses into her, and guides her.

BRIAN
Let's be adults, you know? Let's
play with fire.

ELEANOR
Are you speaking metaphorically?

BRIAN
I'm saying, lets get sloppy. Quit
our jobs...or you quit your
job...you know, and let's
just...let's get sloppy.

ELEANOR
Your jonger just thumped me in the
muffin top.

BRIAN
(announcing to the class)
Ladies, I'm going to be giving
adjustments.

(MORE)

BRIAN (cont'd)
If I have an erection don't be
alarmed, it's only natural.

INT. OFFICE. DAY.

Steve sits behind his desk. He and Brian are eating pizza.
Eleanor walks in.

ELEANOR
I need to talk to both of you.

STEVE
We're eating.

ELEANOR
It's important.

STEVE
Alright, fine. But beer me first.

Steve points to an ice chest.

BRIAN
Me too.

Annoyed, Eleanor goes to the ice chest and gets two beers.

ELEANOR
I'd like to have a sexual
harassment counselor come in.

STEVE
Pass.

ELEANOR
I've already arranged it.

STEVE
So un-arrange it.

ELEANOR
I just watched him rub a boner on a
dozen women.

STEVE
Guess what? Boners happen. That's a
medical fact.

BRIAN
It's the human body.

STEVE

Sometimes we can't even help it.
It's the burden of man.

ELEANOR

Are you twelve?

STEVE

Are you sexist?

BRIAN

When's the last time you made love?

ELEANOR

This is what I'm talking about.

STEVE

It kind of feels like you're
singling us out--

ELEANOR

I am. As the boss, you've created a
permissive environment. And Brian,
no offense, is the sole offender--

BRIAN

None taken.

ELEANOR

According to the file, your dad
gave Brian two strikes before he
died.

STEVE

How many did I get?

ELEANOR

You didn't get any.

STEVE

Come on! Really? Not even one?

BRIAN

Sorry, man.

ELEANOR

This counselor is going to work on
modifying your behavior. If she is
convinced you've been *rehabilitated*
she'll sign off on an insurance
waiver which will save us a
fortune.

STEVE

You will literally have to do that
over my dead body.

ELEANOR

My job is to find ways to cut
costs. I'm just trying to do it.

Eleanor grabs a piece of pizza.

BRIAN

I'd go easy on that 'za. That's
like 600 calories a slice.

Eleanor looks at the pizza, then drops it angrily.

INT. JONES HOUSE. EVENING.

Eleanor, Steve and Susan sit at the kitchen table with wine.

ELEANOR

I need you to respect me in front
of the staff.

STEVE

Respect my dick.
(to Susan)
Sorry, Mommy.

ELEANOR

She's not your Mommy. Stop calling
her that.

STEVE

Stop hurting my feelings.

SUSAN

Look. You're a team now. Stevie,
you're a people person. Ellie has
experience with other aspects of
business.

ELEANOR

Like making money.

STEVE

And farts.

SUSAN

The point is you're both in charge
now. You need to learn to work
together.

STEVE

I'm a cowboy. I ride alone.

SUSAN

Not anymore, honey.

STEVE

I just want to let you know, I'm going along with this for Mommy.

ELEANOR

And I just want to let you know that I'm gonna shave your moustache off when you're sleeping.

STEVE

I sleep with one eye open.

ELEANOR

You look like Magnum P.I.'s gay nephew.

STEVE

That's so homophobic.

INT. GYM. MORNING.

Turquoise and Eleanor sit on a mat with the soles of their feet touching, throwing a small weighted ball back and forth.

TURQUOISE

Wanna come to my spin class?

ELEANOR

I gotta meet with the sexual harrassment counselor.

TURQUOISE

(not getting it)
That's hot.

ELEANOR

No, it's--

TURQUOISE

How *is* your sex life?

ELEANOR

Horny.

TURQUOISE

Totes.

ELEANOR
How much does this ball weigh?

TURQUOISE
Two pounds.

ELEANOR
Dang.

TURQUOISE
OMG. We should go out together and meet some boys.

ELEANOR
I'm not sure I'm ready to date yet...

TURQUOISE
I know what you mean.

ELEANOR
You do?

TURQUOISE
Yeah. I saw your bush in the locker room. But we can fix that--

Eleanor misses, the ball knocks her over.

INT. GRAPPLE ROOM. MORNING.

Brian, Steve and Eleanor sit around a table with KAREN, mid thirties, attractive. Eleanor now has a second black eye. She holds a bag of frozen berries to it.

KAREN
Are you alright?

ELEANOR
Me? Yeah.

KAREN
You have two black eyes.

ELEANOR
(shrugs)
Shit happens.

Brian stares at Karen.

BRIAN
God, you're beautiful.

STEVE

We thought you'd be ugly. But wow.

BRIAN

I'd love to work with your body.

ELEANOR

Do you see what I'm talking about?

BRIAN

Don't cock-block me--

ELEANOR

I'm not cock-blocking you.

STEVE

You're totally cock-blocking him.

ELEANOR

I'm so sorry about this.

KAREN

It's fine. We all have sexual thoughts. It's healthy.

STEVE

Like masturbating.

KAREN

Yes, in a way.

STEVE

But not in the workplace. Not masturbating there.

KAREN

Right.

STEVE

What if it's like, in a bathroom stall. Is that OK?

Karen stares at Steve for a moment.

KAREN

We want to express our sexuality appropriately. When we express it at the workplace, that can be sexual harassment.

BRIAN

I like to think of it more as *sensual* harassment.

KAREN
"Harassment" is really the word we
want to focus on.

STEVE
Question. How can we protect
ourselves from being sexually
harassed?

BRIAN
Strike first--

STEVE
Smart.

BRIAN
Can I paint you?

ELEANOR
He teaches a dry-humping class.

BRIAN
It's a cardio program with a focus
on kegel work.

STEVE
That's science.

BRIAN
Those women come back three times a
week, every week, on the reg.

STEVE
It's tush to bush in there.

ELEANOR
He's a sexual predator.

BRIAN
I have a misunderstood gift.

KAREN
Sorry, what?

BRIAN
I was born with certain powers.
Like the little kid in the *The
Shining*.

ELEANOR
Don't do this, Brian. I'm warning
you.

BRIAN

People think a gift like this is a blessing but it can also be a curse.

KAREN

You're gonna have to be more specific--

ELEANOR

Brian. Don't--

KAREN

(to Eleanor)

It's ok, this a safe place.

ELEANOR

(to Karen)

I know you mean well, but you don't know what he's about to say--

BRIAN

I can whisper to pussy. To vaginas. They speak to me. I can speak to them.

(beat)

I'm a Pussy Whisperer.

Eleanor stands up and throws her chair across the room. They all stare at her.

KAREN

I think it might be helpful if I talk to Brian privately for a moment.

ELEANOR

By all means.

INT. GYM/RECEPTION AREA. LATER.

Eleanor, Steve, Brian, and Karen stand together. Karen and Brian look slightly disheveled. Karen blushes and leaves.

BRIAN

She's a sweet kid.

Eleanor looks at Brian.

ELEANOR

Did you just bump uglies with the Sexual Harrassment Counselor?

BRIAN
Please. A gentlemen never tells.
(beat)
But yes. I did.

INT. JONES HOUSE. NIGHT.

Eleanor, Steve, and Susan sit at the dinner table, eating tacos and drinking margaritas. Eleanor has two black eyes and speaks in a zonked out deadpan.

SUSAN
So. How was work today?

ELEANOR
Work is a Twilight Zone episode
where the world works in reverse.
Where you can solve sexual
harassment issues by porking sexual
harrassment counselors.

SUSAN
Are you ok?

ELEANOR
I'm high as an air show.

STEVE
Are you holding?

ELEANOR
I took these pills Turquoise had.

SUSAN
That's quite a shiner.

ELEANOR
Yeah.
(beat)
You know what? I quit.

STEVE
Yes!

ELEANOR
I'm going to go upstairs and watch
myself in the mirror while I cry.

Eleanor leaves.

SUSAN
I think she's depressed.

STEVE
 (takes Eleanor's tacos)
 I've been depressed. So has Billy
 Joel. We both made it.

Steve looks at her. He has sour cream in his moustache.

INT. GYM/WOMEN'S BATHROOM. AFTERNOON.

Eleanor sits on top a closed toilet seat, eating a Snickers.

STEVE (O.S.)
 E.J.?

ELEANOR
 What are you doing in here?

STEVE
 What are you doing in here? I
 thought you quit?
 (waits for response)
 Mom thinks you're depressed.

ELEANOR
 She said that?

STEVE
 Is it true?

No answer. Eleanor looks more vulnerable than before.

STEVE
 Ellie?

ELEANOR
 What?

STEVE
 Are you pushing one out?

A FEMALE MEMBER walks in. She screams. Steve screams back.

INT. GRAPPLE ROOM. AFTERNOON.

Eleanor sits against the wall, a box of donuts next to her.
 BLACK MAGIC sits next to her.

BLACK MAGIC
 It's like that huh?

ELEANOR
 Yeah, Esse.

Eleanor picks up a donut.

BLACK MAGIC

Let it go.

ELEANOR

Just one.

BLACK MAGIC

You and me both know you wouldn't stop with one.

ELEANOR

Please, Magic, just a taste.

BLACK MAGIC

Man up. You're better than this.

ELEANOR

Maybe I'm not, Magic. I'm all messed up. In New York, I never had to think. I had a plan. Now everything I had is gone and all I do is think. I think and worry and doubt myself.

BLACK MAGIC

When I was in the Suck, sometimes we'd get these sandstorms. You couldn't see two feet in front of you. It was like being in a bad dream, but sometimes you had to convince yourself it wasn't so bad, just to make it through.

ELEANOR

That's what this is? I'm in a sandstorm?

BLACK MAGIC

Nah. I think maybe you just got out of one.

ELEANOR

I don't know what to do here.

BLACK MAGIC

Do your job.

ELEANOR

I don't fit in.

BLACK MAGIC

That's what I like about you.

ELEANOR
What if I can't?

BLACK MAGIC
Don't come to me with "can't." I
lost two hundred thirty-seven
goddamn pounds. I had sleep apnea
like a hippopotamus.

ELEANOR
Yeah. And on top of that, your
people have dealt with four hundred
years of b.s.--

BLACK MAGIC
We don't need to go there, White
Wizard.

ELEANOR
Sorry.

Black Magic puts out his fist. They bump knuckles.

ELEANOR
Thanks, Magic.

Eleanor walks out. Black Magic grabs a donut, devouring it.

INT. MEN'S LOCKER ROOM MOMENTS LATER.

Eleanor bursts in. Everyone is naked, with pixilation. Steve
is drying his crotch with the communal hair dryer.

ELEANOR
I'm not quitting.

Steve switches off the dryer.

STEVE
I was just trying to cheer you up.
Not talk you out of it.

ELEANOR
Tough titties. I'm not quitting. If
I can't increase profits at a gym
in Scottsdale Arizona, then I'm not
worth a damn anywhere else.

STEVE
I wish you would stop talking smack
about Scottsdale. Have a little
civic pride.

ELEANOR
You better start bringing your A-
Game.

Eleanor walks off before Steve can respond.

INT. GYM OFFICE. MORNING.

Steve is wearing a suit. Eleanor helps him tie his tie.

STEVE
This is my Dad's tie.

ELEANOR
He never taught you how to tie it?

STEVE
No. But he was still a good Dad.
You know, Mommy's not that bad.

ELEANOR
She's charging me rent. What kind
of mother does that?

STEVE
What do I look like, Dumbledore? Am
I running a school for wizards?

ELEANOR
It doesn't matter. You can't count
on anyone.

She straightens the knot on his tie.

ELEANOR
You're all done.

Steve takes a beer from a cooler and opens it.

ELEANOR
It's eleven in the morning--

STEVE
By the way, you're wrong about one
thing--
(takes a long drink)
You *can* count on people. You just
have to find the right ones.

INT. GRAPPLE ROOM. LATER.

Steve, Eleanor, Brian and DARREN, thirties, sit together.

STEVE
Aaron, I don't understand--

DARREN
It's Darren.

STEVE
Darren. Where's Karen?

DARREN
She asked to be taken off the case.

STEVE
But, Brian had sex with her.

DARREN
I know. She's upset that it happened in the first place. We considered legal action but she says it was consensual.

BRIAN
It was beautiful.

DARREN
I'm going to have to recommend the insurance company raise your level of coverage.

ELEANOR
Balls!

DARREN
Mam, please. Don't make it worse.

BRIAN
Look man, let's be professionals. If you have feelings for Karen or something--

DARREN
I'm gay.

Brian takes his shirt off.

DARREN
What are you doing?

BRIAN
I don't know. What am I doing?

Steve has been undoing his tie and taking his shirt off.

STEVE
(provocative)
What do you think we're doing?

INT. GRAPPLE ROOM. LATER.

Everyone is hanging out. Eleanor bursts through the door.

ELEANOR
Brian. You're fired.

STEVE
You can't fire him.

ELEANOR
Yes I can. Mom said I could.

STEVE
Then Mom's fired.

BLACK MAGIC
You can't fire your Momma, man.
That's cold.

STEVE
Shut up, Magic. I'm bluffing.

BRIAN
Are you fake firing me so we can
bone?

ELEANOR
No. I'm really firing you.

STEVE
You're not looking at the big
picture here.

ELEANOR
I think I am. He's waging a sexual
jihad. He'll ruin our business.

STEVE
He *is* our business. He's our star
trainer. You fire him and it's
gonna be Armageddon up in this
bitch.

MURDERBALL
Steve's right. You can't fire
Brian.

Eleanor turns, shocked the Murderball agrees with Steve.

ELEANOR
 Why don't you wheel your ass out of
 this or else you're next.

STEVE
 You can't fire Murderball. She
 doesn't work here. She's a member.

ELEANOR
 She doesn't pay dues--

STEVE
 Yeah, well, seeing as how she got
 paralyzed here, I figure it's the
 least we can do.

ELEANOR
 You paralyzed Murderball?

BRIAN
 Why are you so negative, baby?

ELEANOR
 Get out.

Brian raises his fist in the Power sign salute.

BRIAN
 F the man.

He spits on the floor and walks out.

INT. OFFICE. MORNING.

Eleanor walks into the office. Steve is asleep on a yoga mat.

ELEANOR
 We haven't seen you for four days.
 We've been worried sick.

Steve rolls over in his sleep. He has four days of stubble
 around his moustache. Eleanor covers him with her jacket.

INT. AEROBICS ROOM. MORNING.

Black Magic teaches Brian's class. LADIES do jumping jacks.

BLACK MAGIC
 I wanna hear your ass cheeks clap!
 I want the sound to knock the black
 off me!

A MIDDLE-AGED LADY collapses.

INT. OFFICE. MORNING

Eleanor works at her desk. Steve sleeps on the mat. Turquoise walks in.

TURQUOISE
You better get out here.

INT. RECEPTION AREA. MORNING

The WOMEN of Brian's class stand in a group. At the head of the group is MIRANDA, mid-forties. Eleanor walks up to the counter.

ELEANOR
Can I help you?

MIRANDA
Who are you?

ELEANOR
I'm Eleanor.

MIRANDA
Where's Steve?

ELEANOR
He's passed out.

MIRANDA
Why did you fire Brian?

ELEANOR
We have other instructors that are just as capable, I assure you--

MIRANDA
I assure you that you don't.
If Brian isn't back at this gym,
I'm cancelling my membership.
(points behind her)
And I'm bringing these ladies with me.

ELEANOR
There's a fee if you do that--

MIRANDA

(turns to the group)
You hear what this bitch just said
to me?

ELEANOR

What did you just call me?

TURQUOISE

I think she called you a bitch.

ELEANOR

(to Miranda)
I swear, if you weren't a customer
I'd so punch you in the tits--

Steve walks up, hung over.

STEVE

(to Eleanor)
Easy Tiger. I got this.
(to Miranda)
I'm the only one who gets to call
my sister a bitch around here.
(admonishing)
Let's be ladies about this.

MIRANDA

Where's Brian?

STEVE

Probably somewhere out in the
desert. All we can do is pray for
him.

MIRANDA

This is terrible!

STEVE

(glares at Eleanor)
I know.
(to Miranda)
I'm in the middle of four day
drunk. Let's go Cactus Jack's on
me, Girls. We'll talk this out.

Steve turns to Eleanor and gives back her jacket.

STEVE

I'd get it dry cleaned if I were
you. I had a wet dream.

Steve leads the women out of the gym.

INT. JONES HOUSE EVENING.

Eleanor and Susan eat dinner. Steve drinks a beer.

SUSAN
Stevie, you look sad.

STEVE
She fired my best friend.

ELEANOR
It seemed like smart business.

STEVE
Well, I spent fifteen hundred dollars on margaritas and Cactuspolitans today trying to convince four dozen pissed off horny women not to cancel their memberships on account of your smart business.

ELEANOR
Look, maybe I made a mistake. Let's figure this out together.

He burps loudly.

STEVE
I'm calling in sick tomorrow. Sick of this shit.

Steve sulks off.

ELEANOR
Leadership means making tough decisions and sticking by them. What else can I do?

SUSAN
You could improvise.

ELEANOR
It was rhetorical question.

INT. GYM. DAY.

Eleanor sits on a weight bench, drinking coffee. Murderball sits nearby doing dumbbell curls.

ELEANOR
Can I ask you something?

MURDERBALL

Yeah?

ELEANOR

Why don't you work out someplace else? I mean this where...you know...

MURDERBALL

I got paralyzed?

ELEANOR

Yeah.

MURDERBALL

(shrugs)

I like it here.

Eleanor is touched by this response. She looks out across the gym. Black Magic is screaming at an OVERWEIGHT TEENAGE BOY running on a treadmill.

BLACK MAGIC

You wanna quit? Don't even try to quit on me you fat son-of-a-bitch because I ain't quitting on you!

INT. WOMEN'S BATHROOM. MORNING.

Eleanor walks out of a stall. Steve stands at the sink, shaving (everywhere but his moustache). Eleanor is startled.

ELEANOR

Goddamnit, why are you in the women's room?

STEVE

Because I don't like looking at dicks. Then again, I'm looking at one right now. I'm talking about you.

ELEANOR

I get it. I thought you were calling in sick.

STEVE

I changed my mind.

ELEANOR

Last week I was too fat to fit into these jeans. Now I barely can.

(MORE)

ELEANOR (cont'd)
It kind of makes me believe change
is possible.

STEVE
I cancelled the new uniform order.
That should save us about twenty
large.

ELEANOR
I'm impressed.

STEVE
I'm impressive.

ELEANOR
I re-hired Brian, by the way.

STEVE
What about the insurance?

ELEANOR
I'm having waivers drawn up for his
clients to sign, to protect us.

STEVE
That's not a bad idea. I can't
believe I didn't think of it.

ELEANOR
Yeah, well, you're more of a people
person.

A toilet flushes. Black Magic walks out of a stall.

STEVE
Black Magic, dropping bombs like a
mofo.

They slap five. Black Magic leaves without washing his hands.

ELEANOR
He didn't wash his hands.

STEVE
This isn't a restaurant.

Brian walks in, very rushed.

ELEANOR
Jesus Christ.

STEVE
Goddamn, are you a sight for sore
eyes.

BRIAN
Not now. I'm hanging chocolate.

Brian bursts into a stall.

ELEANOR
Do all of you take shits in here?

BRIAN (O.S.)
Yes.
(beat)
Oh god!

Eleanor is speechless.

STEVE
I was right, by the way.

ELEANOR
Right about what?

STEVE
You can count on people. I can. On
you, I mean.

Eleanor looks at Steve for a beat.

ELEANOR
Yeah. Me too.

They smile. Neither of them say anything for a moment.

BRIAN (O.S.)
It's about to get really weird in
here. I'm just warning you.

CUT TO BLACK.