

GOSSIP GIRL

"PILOT"

by

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Based on
GOSSIP GIRL

by

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GOSSIP GIRL/"Pilot"

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

MANHATTAN SKYLINE

Even from a distance, it's clear. *You could get in a lot of trouble in this city.* And hurtling towards it is

AN AMTRAK TRAIN

Over this we HEAR the voice of GOD. Or GOD to the teenagers of the Upper East Side. The voice of **GOSSIP GIRL.**

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

Spotted on the New Haven Line.
Headed towards Manhattan. An
eerily beautiful blonde...

INT. AMTRAK TRAIN -- MAGIC HOUR

A FACE pressed against the glass. One of the most beautiful faces you've ever seen. But the first thing you notice is the soulfulness behind this girl's gaze. Meet --

SERENA VAN DER WOODSEN, 17.

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

Long pale hair. Dark blue eyes.
Is it possible. Is Serena back?

Another GIRL, 17, walks down the aisle. Then she sees Serena. Freezes, staring. Like she's seen a movie star. Serena turns - sensing she's being watched. The GIRL moves quickly. Head down. But as she goes, she whips out her

SIDEKICK. Cop shows have guns. Medical shows have scalpels. This show has SIDEKICKS. The girl's thumbs fly across the keys. She hits **SEND:**

VARIOUS SHOTS OF --

SIDEKICKS. LAPTOPS. CELL PHONES. TEENAGERS passing a VIRUS OF GOSSIP. From CENTRAL PARK to the shops of MADISON AVENUE. All typing as fast as they can:

-- SDVW HEADED TO CITY?!!

-- 4 REALS? OMG!! WHY?

-- 1ST SIGHTING IN A YR!!! SOUND ALARMS! LOL!

INT. WALDORF PENTHOUSE -- POWDER ROOM -- NIGHT

This last message buzzes on a BEDAZZLED SIDEKICK.

A face pops up in the mirror.

BLAIR WALDORF, 17.

Pretty. But will never feel beautiful enough. The sink runs. She wipes saliva from her lips. Rinses with mouthwash. A ritual. Checks her SIDEKICK on the counter.

Her eyes narrow. She inhales sharply. A siren has just sounded in this girl's soul. She exits into --

INT. WALDORF PENTHOUSE -- DRAWING ROOM -- NIGHT

A SOCIETY PARTY in full swing. STAFF with trays of CHABLIS wait on NYC's wealthiest, most dysfunctional DENIZENS.

Blair heads into the party -- passing --

ELEANOR WALDORF, Blair's mother. Regal. Impeccably dressed and preserved. The center of the party. With other WOMEN.

ELEANOR

Blair, sweetie, if you're going to wear one of my designs, tell me. The slip underneath completely fights the lines.

BLAIR

(forces a smile)
Thanks, Mom. Great party...

Blair keeps moving -- seeing across the room --

NATE ARCHIBALD, 17.

Handsome. Most popular guy on the Upper East Side. External confidence hides the fact that deep down, he senses that he doesn't deserve any of it -- or maybe even want it. He's with his father - HOWIE "THE CAPTAIN" ARCHIBALD. Always with a SCOTCH in hand. And some other ADULTS.

HIGH SOCIETY MAN

So, Nate. Started thinking about college?

THE CAPTAIN

Well, I'm a Dartmouth man.

Nate takes a beat. Aren't they asking him?

NATE

Yes. Dad's always spoken highly of Dartmouth. But I'd also love to look out West -- USC or UCLA --

THE CAPTAIN

His mother doesn't want to hear about it. Dartmouth is far enough away for her.

NATE

(swallows, then smiles)
Dartmouth is my first choice.

The Captain grins. That's my boy. Blair grabs Nate.

BLAIR

Hey, Nate. Can I borrow you?
(to Howie)
Excuse me Captain.

NATE

Uh, sure. What's up --

But Blair is already dragging Nate away. Passing a group of kids by the bar. One of them is --

CHUCK BASS, 17. Future Senator or cautionary tale. With two girls in tow, KATY and ISABEL, 17. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern in Jimmy Choos. Drinks in hand.

CHUCK

Nathaniel - any interest in some fresh air?

Chuck mimes smoking a joint.

NATE

When I get back?

BLAIR

(naughty smile)
If he gets back.

The other kids react. Laugh.

KATY

Omigod. How scandalous!

ISABEL

What a slut! We love you!

CHUCK

(raises his GLASS)
To Nate. About to have a much better time than the rest of us.

(MORE)

CHUCK (CONT'D)
 (as the couple moves off)
 Wonder what brought that on?...

Chuck gets another drink. Suddenly Katy and Isabel feel their purses BUZZ. They pull out their SIDEKICKS. And eyes widen.

KATY
 Omigod. You'll never believe
 what's on Gossip Girl --

ISABEL
 (reading)
 Some Dalton girl says she saw
 Serena on the train. But it's
 probably not even her.

CHUCK
 Let's hope it is. Things were
 starting to get boring around here.

The girls raise eyebrows -- begin typing away. And we --

REVERSE MONTAGE. The earlier GOSSIP CHAIN going backwards.
 Laptops and cell phones and Sidekicks working overtime.

INT. AMTRAK TRAIN -- EVENING

The GIRL who started it all gets a TEXT:

-- *PROVE IT!*

The train is pulling into the station. Serena makes her way down the aisle with the crowd. The girl raises her phone. Hits the CAMERA button. Serena turns and:

FLASH!

INT. GRAND CENTRAL STATION -- PLATFORMS

As one train pulls in another readies to leave. Before it stands the HUMPHREY FAMILY. As different from stuffy uptown society as possible. Hip and bohemian.

The mom, ALISON, late 30s, is hugging her kids. DAN, 17, will be fine when he gets to college. That is little consolation today. JENNY, 15, isn't waiting for college. Wants to be popular now.

ALISON
 I'm sorry I have to do this. Dan -
 keep an eye on your sister. I'm
 just a phone call away, Jenny.
 (one final hug)
 (MORE)

ALISON (CONT'D)
 God, I didn't realize leaving was
 going to be this hard.

Her husband, RUFUS, shaggy but sweet, stands behind her.

RUFUS
 Well, then maybe you shouldn't go.
 (Alison shoots him a look)
 Right. Probably a little late for
 that talk.

The train behind them WHEEZES into gear. People hurry on. Alison waves to her family. They wave back, numb. She gets on the train. Rufus stands with his arms around his kids.

They watch Alison through the window. As the train starts to pull away, Rufus puts on a brave face.

RUFUS (CONT'D)
 Let's go home. I'm cooking.
 (off their looks)
 My first official meal as a single
 dad. You want my famous grilled
 cheese? Or my slightly less
 renowned mac and cheese?

Rufus and Jenny start to walk away. Dan remains. Looks back at his mom's train - and then sees behind it --

ANOTHER PLATFORM.

With a train that has just arrived. And stepping off that train is SERENA. Bags in hand. Dan is frozen.

DAN
 Jenny... you're not going to
 believe this!

As he watches Serena disappear into the CROWD...

INT. GRAND CENTRAL STATION -- TERMINAL

Serena emerges from the escalator. Looks around expectantly for a familiar face in the THRONGS. Finds a CHAUFFEUR with a sign: VAN DER WOODSEN. She sighs... must be home.

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE
 Rumors are flying. And who can
 blame us?

INT. WALDORF PENTHOUSE -- BLAIR'S ROOM -- NIGHT

The door BANGS open. Blair pulls Nate inside. Kissing him hungrily. She pushes him toward the bed.

BLAIR

I want to do this. *It.* Now.

NATE

Now, now? I thought you wanted to wait --

BLAIR

Not anymore...

He nods. Sounds good to him. They fall back on the bed. Blair on top. Clothes starting to come off...

EXT. WALDORF APARTMENT BUILDING -- NIGHT

A town car pulls up. The Chauffeur opens the door. Serena steps out. Takes a beat. Then heads in, past a DOORMAN who seems surprised to see her.

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

Upper East Side "It Girl" just up and heads for boarding school without so much as a good-bye to anyone...

INT. WALDORF PENTHOUSE -- BLAIR'S ROOM -- NIGHT

It's a blur of lips, hips and fingertips.

BLAIR

I love you Nate Archibald. Always have. Always will.

Nate hesitates. Just for a moment. Her eyes search his.

NATE

I love you too.

Satisfied with this, she goes back to kissing him...

INT. WALDORF PENTHOUSE -- VESTIBULE -- NIGHT

The ELEVATOR doors open. Serena steps out. Party NOISE inside. Is she ready for this?

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

In her absence, the myth has only grown. Everyone's got their fav Serena story. Though it's hard to know where fact ends, and fiction begins... Ah, the sacrifices one makes to be the life of the party.

INT. WALDORF PENTHOUSE -- DRAWING ROOM -- NIGHT

Serena steps tentatively into the party - and hears:

ELEANOR

Serena van der Woodsen?! Is that
you?

Everyone in the party stops what they're doing. Turns.

ON CHUCK, KATY AND ISABEL --

Surprised. Katy absently pours champagne on Isabel's shoes.

INT. WALDORF PENTHOUSE -- BLAIR'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Blair straddles Nate. They're about to get serious until --

ELEANOR'S VOICE

Look everyone! It's Serena!

Nate suddenly freezes, jolted out of the moment.

NATE

Serena?...

BLAIR

(suddenly deaf)
Serena's at school... Kiss me.

NATE

I just heard your mom say she's
here. Don't you think we should
probably... say hi.

A look between them. This is not happening. Blair exhales.

BLAIR

Of course. Totally.

Nate is up. Tucking. Buttoning. Zipping.

NATE

You coming?

BLAIR

Just need a minute...

Blair's eyes shift to her bedside table. A photo: of SERENA
and BLAIR. Happy. Sweet. Blair snaps the FRAME down.

INT. WALDORF PENTHOUSE -- DRAWING ROOM -- NIGHT

A crowd has formed. Kids and adults alike. Whispering.
 ("She looks good", "Too thin", "I like her hair") Watching --

Serena hugs her mom - DARLA VAN DER WOODSEN, late 30s.
 Former ballerina and rock groupie. Holding onto her youth
 with both hands.

SERENA

Hey, mom. Good to see you.
 (sarcastic)
 Thanks for sending a car to get me.

DARLA

(doesn't get it)
 Of course, babe.

SERENA

(quietly)
 Is he here?
 (off her look)
 They still haven't let him out?

DARLA

(also hushed)
 Let's not discuss it now -
 (beat)
 I thought you'd want to see your
 friends.

Serena looks up as NATE approaches. Slows as he sees her.
 They share a long look. Charged. He raises a hand for a
 wave. Right before she can wave back --

BLAIR steps in front of him. Intentionally.

BLAIR

Serena! Hi!

She gives Serena the warmest smile. Serena smiles back.

SERENA

Hey, Blair.

BLAIR

(hugging, too hard)
 I'm so happy to see you! Come --
 we're just about to have dinner.

ELEANOR

Yes! We want to hear all about your adventures in the Cote D'Azur this summer. If there's anyone who can make the French love America...

SERENA

Actually...
(looks at her mom)
There's somewhere I have to --

DARLA

Serena --

BLAIR

You're leaving?

SERENA

(covering)
I'm not feeling that well. But I just wanted to say hi.
(to Blair)
I'll see you at school tomorrow.

BLAIR

School?
(more to herself)
So you're back for good.

SERENA moves towards the elevator. KATY and ISABEL share a look: WTF? They WHIP out their SIDEKICKS. Typing quickly.

SERENA looks at NATE as the elevator doors close. BLAIR turns -- catches NATE looking after Serena...

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

Word is that S bailed on B's party in under ninety seconds. And didn't have even one limoncello. Guess it's true -- you can't go home again.

ON KATY AND ISABEL --

KATY

She must be in rehab.

ISABEL

Unless she's pregnant. Let's start a bump watch!

TIGHT ON: A PHOTO of SERENA. The one from the train.

INT. HUMPHREY APARTMENT -- NIGHT

The only light from Dan's MacBook screen. He's on GOSSIPGIRL.COM. A DEFAMER/TMZ website all about the Upper East Side. Dan stares at the picture of Serena, rapt. Starts to scroll through POSTS. Some ridiculous, some mean, all of them about her...

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

The girl is a mystery in Lanvin
ballet flats.

TIGHT ON A SIDEKICK --

SCROLLING through COMMENTS left by ANONYMOUS POSTERS, landing on the final one:

-- *SLUT!*

INT. LENOX HILL HOSPITAL -- CORRIDOR -- NIGHT

Serena clicks her SIDEKICK shuts. Stung.

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

But if anyone can solve her it's
Gossip Girl. But I'm going to need
your help. So send me all the
deats. Cause I smell a scandal...

Serena then stares through a window at a --

BOY, 14. Shock of BLUE HAIR. Sleeping in a hospital bed. A NURSE finds her.

NURSE

Young lady - you can't be here.
Visiting hours are over.

SERENA

I'm family.
(beat)
He's my brother.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT I

FADE IN:

INT. LENOX HILL HOSPITAL -- ERIC'S ROOM -- MORNING

Serena sleeps in a chair. Hospital blanket around her. Her brother, ERIC, stirs. Awakens. Despite his best efforts to look like a rebel, he's a good kid. Smart, too smart.

ERIC

Serena?

Serena opens her eyes. Neck sore. Not a good night's sleep. But seeing her brother awake, she rises.

SERENA

Eric. Hey. How are you?

ERIC

You know.
(smiles)
Been better.

SERENA

Right. Dumb question.
(she moves to him)
I'm so glad to see you. And I'm so
sorry that I was MIA - I have been
the world's worst sister -- but if
I'd known --

ERIC

Then you'd be psychic.
(beat)
You're here now. Better late than
never.

Serena wipes a tear from her eye. They hug. As Eric's arms go around her neck, we see his wrists are freshly BANDAGED.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Must be a lot of rumors why you're
back...

SERENA

But none of them mention you.

ERIC

Just like mom wants, huh?

DARLA (O.S.)

What do I want, baby?...

They look up to see Darla sweep in, flowing cashmere poncho, leather ribbons swirling on her oversized Balenciaga bag.

DARLA (CONT'D)

For Serena to sleep like a human being, in a bed? Possibly wearing pajamas...

SERENA

Morning, Mom. You want to join us? I was going to take Eric out for breakfast.

DARLA

(blanching)

Out? He's in the hospital.

(beat)

No. He's here, and safe, and getting better. Let's not complicate things. I'll get him a croissant from downstairs.

Darla sweeps out of the room. Serena and Eric share a look. And then Serena goes after Darla.

ERIC

(calls after her)

Serena -- don't --

INT. LENOX HILL HOSPITAL -- CORRIDOR -- CONTINUOUS

Serena is on Darla's heels.

SERENA

"Let's not complicate things"...?

(beat)

Let me guess. You've told everyone Eric is just visiting Grandpa in Newport.

DARLA

(a beat, then)

Your Aunt Carol in Miami.

SERENA

You're hiding him? What are you worried he'll cost you "Mom of the Year"? 'Cause I kinda think you're ineligible.

DARLA

Spare me. You've been gone,
supposed to be studying, probably
raging, no one's heard from you in
months. Including him. So as
happy as I am to have you home...
(icily)
You have no idea what it's been
like.

Darla storms off. Serena stung, turns back to Eric's
hospital room. He's heard everything. Forces a smile.

ERIC

She's working on her bedside
manner.

INT. HUMPHREY APARTMENT -- MORNING

No drawing rooms here. The cozy, eclectic main room is
crammed with guitars and mementos from Rufus' band (ANTHEM).
Rufus is at the stove, scrambling eggs. Dan enters in a
private school uniform. Jenny looks up from the table.

RUFUS

Guess whose dad is cool?

JENNY

It's a trick question.

DAN

Yeah, 'cause it can't be ours...

Rufus mock laughs. Tosses Dan a copy of ROLLING STONE.

RUFUS

My wife may have left to find
herself. But I still have my kids,
my health, and this -

DAN

(reads)

Top Ten Forgotten Bands of the 90s?

RUFUS

Check out who's number 9.

JENNY

He's very proud.

DAN

Yeah. Way to be forgotten.

RUFUS

(snatches back magazine)
That's how you get remembered...
Maybe you'd care if my band was on
Gossip Girl.

DAN

What? I don't read Gossip Girl.
That's like for chicks.

JENNY

That wasn't your laptop open to it?
Reading all about Serena?

DAN

(covers)
Rolling Stone? Wow. Can I see
that again? That's great, Dad.

Rufus gives Dan a look. Takes his breakfast over to Jenny.

RUFUS

Iggy, Rollins - come.

A skinny cat (IGGY) and a fat cat (ROLLINS) jump off the
table and follow Rufus. Jenny keeps working.

RUFUS (CONT'D)

(reads over her shoulder)
*Save the Peregrine Falcons of
Central Park?* All the problems we
got in the world and you're saving
birds.

JENNY

This is not a platform for one of
your anti-capitalist rants. It's
called the Kiss on the Lips party.
For charity. Everyone's going.

RUFUS

Even you? 'Cause I didn't know you
were into fancy charity balls.

JENNY

Only 'cause I was never invited.

DAN

You got invited? No offense if I
sound surprised, since I'm also
never invited.

JENNY

One of the girls in my art class
saw my calligraphy. And she said
that if I addressed all the
invitations, I could have one.

RUFUS

Sounds very fair. The sweatshops
could learn a thing or two.

JENNY

Dad, you and mom make us go to
private school --

RUFUS

For your education. To get into
college --

JENNY

So we should just be anonymous
losers who eat lunch alone and
never get invited to parties.

DAN

Why not? Works for me.

JENNY

Mom thinks it's a good idea.

RUFUS

And her judgement is always sound.

DAN

Dad.

Rufus pauses. Looks between his kids. And nods, right.

RUFUS

Right. I support your mother's
journey of self-discovery.
(kissing Jenny's forehead)
You want to go to a party, Jenny?
Go. You kids could use some fun.

EXT. MADISON HOTEL -- MORNING

Serena walks up the street. Surprised to find, standing
outside the grand Carlyle-esque hotel -- Nate. In his
uniform, backpack slung over his shoulder.

NATE

Hey. Your mom said you guys were
staying at the hotel --

SERENA

We're renovating again. You know my mom -- if it's not broke, break it.

(then)

What are you doing here?

NATE

I just wanted to see how you were. You seemed upset last night.

(notices her in last night's clothes)

Where have you been?

SERENA

It's not important. And I have to go -- I'm gonna be late for school --

NATE

Right. 'Course...

She heads past him, but he stops her --

NATE (CONT'D)

Serena --

SERENA

(before he can finish)

No. No way.

NATE

Maybe we should tell her. Maybe --

SERENA

Blair can never know. It's the whole reason I went to boarding school in the first place.

NATE

But you're back now.

SERENA

I didn't come back for you --

NATE

I'm not saying you did. But if you're here -- it changes things. It changes everything.

SERENA

I don't want things to change.

(smiles softly)

I've really missed you.

(MORE)

SERENA (CONT'D)

But Blair is my best friend. And you're her boyfriend. She loves you. And that's how things are supposed to be.

NATE

(disappointed, covers)
No, I know... you're right.

ACROSS THE STREET - A KID, 16 with a backpack BICYCLES by. Sees them talking, intense. Knows exactly who they are. He pulls out his PHONE, holds it up... FLASH!

INT. CONSTANCE BILLARD SCHOOL -- CHAPEL -- MORNING

Stained glass windows. Doesn't smell like incense. Smells like money. GIRLS in UNIFORM fill the pews. One more beautiful than the next. All standing and SINGING the Hymn in unison. Blair, Katy and Is are in the front.

Suddenly -- the doors fly open and in walks -- Serena. Sees Blair in the front, heads past --

Jenny, who sits in the back with the ninth grade girls.

JENNY

She has the best shoes...

All heads turn. Serena's every detail -- windswept hair, bare legs, slightly frayed collar on her shirt -- is analyzed. She lands at Blair.

SERENA

(whispers)
Hey.

Serena moves in next to Blair. Speaks quietly.

SERENA (CONT'D)

Sorry about last night. Just showing up out of the blue. Without calling -

ISABEL

(surprised, whispering to Blair)
You didn't know? I thought you guys talked all the time.

Serena is thrown. Blair swallows any embarrassment. Covers.

BLAIR

She meant, call from the train. Of course she told me she was coming.

(MORE)

BLAIR (CONT'D)
 (pointed, to Serena)
 We're best friends.

Serena recognizes the level of Blair's unhappiness with her. The singing ends. The girls take their seats. HEADMISTRESS BIANCA, petite in a Chanel suit, takes the stage.

HEADMISTRESS
 Ladies. Please join me in welcoming back, after a year's absence, Serena Van der Woodsen. Previously serving as assistant editor of Yearbook, co-chair of the Community Outreach Program and captain of the tennis team, she was one of our most esteemed students.
 (beat)
 And so on behalf of the women of The Contance Billard School, we are thrilled to have you back, Serena.

Led by the Headmistress, the CHAPEL applauds. Blair is steaming. Serena smiles sweetly, embarrassed. Doesn't want the attention. And keenly aware that Blair is less than thrilled about her return.

EXT. MADISON AVE AND 85TH STREET -- MORNING

Dan races from the crosstown bus to the one heading up town --

INT. UPTOWN BUS -- CONTINUOUS

Dan jumps on, winded and ruffled. Looks for a seat --

CHUCK (O.S.)
 So Gossip Girl says you and Serena had a face off on her front porch.

Dan looks over to see Chuck and Nate -- in the same school uniform as his. Chuck's backpack sits in the one empty seat. Dan starts to move toward them --

NATE
 (evading)
 No one even knows who Gossip Girl is. You can't believe what's on there. Besides it's for chicks.

Nate and Chuck look up at Dan. Who stands before them.

DAN
 Hey. Do you think, uh, you could --

Dan looks to the bag, then to Chuck and Nate. Chuck dead-eyes him. Dan nods. Right. Moves off, grabs a pole.

CHUCK

Serena did look f-ing hot last night. There's something wrong with that level of perfection. It needs to be violated.

Dan can't help but glance over. Stomach turned.

NATE

You are deeply disturbed.

CHUCK

And yet, you know I'm right.
(digging)
You're telling me if you had the chance --

NATE

(quickly)
I have a girlfriend.
(off Chuck - so?)
I'm not you, okay.

CHUCK

You could do a lot worse...

NATE

Yeah, well I'm trying to do better. Blair and I are serious --

CHUCK

Real serious. You guys have been dating since kindergarten and you haven't sealed the deal.

NATE

Who says 'seal the deal'?

The BUS pulls up. Nate and Chuck head to the front. Dan follows... Chuck turns around to him.

CHUCK

Are you following us or something?

DAN

We go to the same school. Identical uniforms? Kind of a tip-off.

Chuck glowers. A beat, then Nate smiles.

NATE
That's funny.

They walk off. Leaving Dan there alone.

DAN
So... you guys wanna sit together
at lunch?

TIGHT ON:

A beautifully hand written invitation. *MS. BLAIR WALDORF.*

INT. CONSTANCE BILLARD SCHOOL - DINING HALL - DAY

Not your typical school cafeteria. More *Hogwarts* than *Fast Times*. Blair sits, Katy and Isabel at her side, looking at this invite. Jenny stands nervously by.

KATY	ISABEL
Soooo cute.	They should be framed or something.

BLAIR
Not bad work...

JENNY
Thanks. Thank you.

Blair flips through a shoebox of invites. Pulls one out.

BLAIR
And here's yours. As promised.

JENNY
Thank you. I know I said thank you
already but -- thank you.

Suddenly, Blair sees Serena approaching. Yogurt in hand.

BLAIR
Hide your invitations. Quick.

Blair, Katy and Is slide their invites under their trays. Jenny is confused - hide them from Serena? As she arrives, Serena glimpses bustling, hiding something.

SERENA
So our tuition money definitely
does not go to the food.

She forces a smile. The girls titter back. Jenny is not sure what's going on. Serena sees her there.

SERENA (CONT'D)

Hi. I'm Serena.

JENNY

I know. I mean. I'm Jenny.

They shake. And then Serena sees - under Katy's tray -- an invitation. She casually reaches over and pulls it out.

SERENA

When's the party?

Katy and Is share a look. Uh-oh. Hold their breath.

BLAIR

On Saturday. And you're kinda not invited.

Serena is stung. But Blair turns on the charm offensive.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

Only because everyone thought you were at boarding school until twelve hours ago. Now the tables are full. Plus, Ginny used up all the invites. But if you wanted we could try and work something out --

Katy and Is marvel at Blair's awesomeness. Serena doesn't buy it for a second.

SERENA

No. That's okay. I have a lot of stuff to do anyway.

BLAIR

We should get going. Unless you want us to wait for you. Looks like you have a lot of yogurt left.

SERENA

No. Go ahead.

The girls start to move. Serena sits a beat.

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

Seen in the dining room at the Constance Billard School for Girls: An S and B power struggle. Of course neither girl broke a sweat. They never do.

Suddenly Serena rises. Has to say something.

SERENA

Blair?

(she turns)

You think we could meet tonight?

BLAIR

I'd love to. But I'm doing something with Nate tonight.

SERENA

(a little more forceful)

The Madison? Eight o'clock?

(smiles)

Nate will wait.

Blair stands there. Her authority being challenged in front of her lieutenants. But she also can't say no...

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

Did S think she could waltz home and things would be just like they were? Did B think S would go down without a fight? Or can these two hotties work it out...

BLAIR

I could probably do a half hour.

SERENA

Thanks for making the time.

Katy and Isabel giggle at that. Blair shoots them a look.

BLAIR

(to Serena, like it's a threat)

You're my best friend.

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

I wish they'd hug and make up. Yeah, right. There's nothing Gossip Girl likes more than a good cat fight. And this could be a classic...

OFF THE TWO GIRLS -- eying each other. Who will blink first?

END ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

EXT. CHRISTOPHER STREET -- AFTERNOON

Dan and Rufus post FLYERS for Rufus' band's upcoming show. Dan has a big satchel of flyers. Rufus has a staple gun.

DAN

You know, Dad - there's this thing called MySpace where you could post all this information on-line. Save some trees, have a blog.

RUFUS

Maybe if musicians spent as much time working on their songs as they do their blogs, the music business would be in better shape.

DAN

Spoken like a true relic.

RUFUS

Thanks, son.

Suddenly Dan's phone BUZZES. He flips it open.

It reads: *HELP. EMERGENCY. MEET ME IN 20!*

DAN

I have to run...

(beat)

Dad - are you gonna be okay?

RUFUS

Yeah. I mean your mom'll be back. She's always been a free spirit. One of the reasons I fell for her in the first place. But in the end, this'll bring us closer.

DAN

I meant with the flyers?

RUFUS

(smiles, right)

Luckily staple guns are old school.

INT. LENOX HILL HOSPITAL -- ERIC'S ROOM -- AFTERNOON

Serena enters. Eric sits up, happy to see her.

SERENA

I talked to the nurse and we are going out. It's not like what you have is contagious.

ERIC

And what do we tell Mom?...

SERENA

That you were kidnapped.

ERIC

Oh no. We're going shopping, aren't we?

SERENA

I had a bad day. I need a little retail therapy.

ERIC

Really? 'Cause I've had a great day. They had this green Jell-O for lunch --

SERENA

Uh-huh. Funny. Let's go...

INT. ARCHIBALD TOWNHOUSE -- KITCHEN -- AFTERNOON

As opposed to the old money elegance of the Waldorf's penthouse, everything here feels very modern. Cold. Nate sits at the large granite island. On his laptop. Looking at --

GOSSIP GIRL. A PICTURE OF HIM AND SERENA. From today.

Then his dad, the Captain, enters. In a suit.

THE CAPTAIN

Nate, hi. How was your day?

NATE

Hey, Dad. Just heading out. Gonna go study at Blair's.

THE CAPTAIN

Really? Eleanor's out of town and you guys are hitting the books.
(gives Nate a sly smile)
Things must be good with you guys...

At this, Nate shuts the laptop image of him and Serena.

NATE

Yeah. Why?

THE CAPTAIN

Just happy you're happy. She's a good girl. Great family.

(beat)

Hey. Did Blair mention anything to you about that position on Eleanor's board that is becoming available?

NATE

'Cause that's what we talk about?

THE CAPTAIN

(covers)

Right. Of course. Have fun.

The Captain looks off. Nate looks at him...

NATE

Dad, everything's okay, right?
You're home pretty early from work -

THE CAPTAIN

Have an early business dinner.

Wanted to change.

(winks to his son)

I'll tell Mom you're at Chuck's.
And not to wait up.

Nate smiles back. Appreciates it. But something's off...

INT. BARNEY'S -- 6TH FLOOR -- AFTERNOON

Dan bounds off the elevator. Jenny stands in front of a three way mirror. Looks beautiful in a too expensive dress.

DAN

What is it? What's wrong?

JENNY

Do you like this on me?

DAN

Wait - that's why you called me? I thought it was an emergency.

JENNY

A *fashion* emergency. I've never been to a big dance before --

DAN
Uh, neither have I.

JENNY
Mom's not here. And Dad's allergic
to department stores. And society
balls.

DAN
(gets it, sincere)
You look great, Jen. Really.

JENNY
Too bad it's more than our rent.
But I think I can make it.

Suddenly Jenny sees - coming up the escalator -- SERENA.
With Eric in tow.

JENNY (CONT'D)
Omigod. It's Serena.

DAN
Uh-huh. Very funny.

JENNY
Hi, Serena!

Dan freezes. Seriously? He turns as Serena waves at them.

DAN
Um. Wait. What are you... You
know her now?

Jenny starts to walk over to Serena and Eric.

SERENA
Hey. Jenny, right? This is my --

ERIC
Stylist. And personal shopper.

Serena smiles -- as he goes to shake Jenny's hand. Jenny
sees the bandages on his wrists. She reacts, then covers.

JENNY
I'm Jenny. This is my brother --

She turns but Dan has vanished... Huh.

SERENA
Is that your dress for the Kiss on
the Lips party?

JENNY

Kind of. Oh, and speaking of that -

Jenny reaches into her bag. Pulls out an invitation.

JENNY (CONT'D)

I made you one during free period.

SERENA

(smiles, appreciates it)
Thanks that was really... nice.

JENNY

Well. Good to see you. Meet you.

She starts to walk away - doesn't want to overstay.

SERENA

Jenny? That would look even better
in black.

JENNY

(best. advice. ever.)
Black. Cool. Thanks!

From the CLOTHING RACKS -- Dan hides. Watching from afar.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK -- SHEEP'S MEADOW -- AFTERNOON

Chuck and Nate spark up a joint. Hanging out together.

CHUCK

This is some good stuff...

NATE

I'm gonna need it. Blair's mom is
at the country house...

CHUCK

Yeah, well then maybe I should
swipe some of my Dad's Viagra.
(off Nate's look)
Or my mom's Paxil. Nathaniel.
You're about to finally have sex
with your girlfriend and it's like
you're headed to your execution.

NATE

No, man. I'm good.

CHUCK

Talk to Chuck, buddy.
(pointed)

(MORE)

CHUCK (CONT'D)

You and Blair have been dating forever. Suddenly there's a problem? Out of the blue?

NATE

There's no problem.

(beat)

Just... do you ever feel like your whole life is planned for you and you're just gonna end up like our parents.

CHUCK

Jesus. That's a dark thought.

Nate looks at Chuck. Wants to open up, not sure how.

NATE

Since we were kids we were told what school to go to, what girl to date, what job to have, right?... But what if it's not what you want? Aren't we entitled to choose? To be happy?

CHUCK

Easy, Socrates. What we're entitled to is a trust fund. A house in the Hamptons. Maybe a prescription drug problem. But happiness does not seem to be on the menu.

(beat)

So smoke up. And seal the deal with Blair. 'Cause you're also entitled to tap that ass.

Nate, embarrassed, tries to laugh it off. Takes a hit. But doesn't feel any better.

INT. MADISON HOTEL -- LOBBY -- EVENING

Serena sits. Nervous. Waiting. Sees Blair enter. Takes a beat. Rises. Smiles warmly. Blair gives her a chilly smile. They hug. OFF SERENA -- has her work cut out for her..

INT. MADISON HOTEL -- LOUNGE -- EVENING

Serena and Blair sit in a booth. Blair has a martini. Serena sips Pellegrino. It's awkward. Serena shifts...

SERENA

How's your mom doing... with the divorce and everything?

BLAIR

Great. So my dad left her for another man. She's lost fifteen pounds, got an eye lift. Been good for her.

SERENA

I'm really sorry...

BLAIR

Yeah, I could tell. Since you never called or wrote the entire time it was happening.

SERENA

I know. I was... totally out of control at boarding school.

BLAIR

I don't know why you even went to boarding school to begin with. And now suddenly you're back. You don't stay for dinner at my house.
(points to Serena's water)
You're not drinking. What's up?

SERENA

Some stuff happened... that made me wake up a little bit. I guess. It's personal.

BLAIR

And we don't tell each other personal stuff anymore?

SERENA

Please -- just trust me?

BLAIR

How can I trust you when I feel like I don't even know you?

SERENA

Well, let's fix that. I know things have changed. I see you with Katy and Is and at school and I get it... And I don't want to take any of that away.

BLAIR

Because it's just yours to take if you want it?

SERENA

That's not what I mean... I miss you. And I just want everything to go back to how it was. Walking to school together. Dancing on the tables at Bungalow. Night swimming at your mom's country house...

(beat)

You were like my sister. And with our families -- we need each other.

Blair softens. Smiles a little.

BLAIR

You missed some classic Eleanor Waldorf meltdowns. If it wasn't such a tragedy, it would've been funny. Actually, it kinda was.

SERENA

I wish I could've been there.

BLAIR

You are now.

(beat, looks at her watch)

I have to go meet Nate. Kinda have something special planned.

SERENA

(smiles, relieved)

I don't want to keep you. I love you, B.

BLAIR

I love you too, S.

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

Spotted at the Madison Hotel: S and B having a heart to heart. That is, if B has a heart...

They hug. Emotional. Blair, smiling, walks out...

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE (CONT'D)

So is everything right in the world again? God, we hope not...

Serena exhales. That was hard. She sees Blair's leftover martini on the table. Looks around... and takes a long sip.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT. HUMPHREY APARTMENT -- NIGHT

Jenny sits at the kitchen table. Cutting up a vintage dress. Sewing machine out. Dan enters. Sheepish.

JENNY

Ah. The Invisible Man returns.

DAN

I figured we solved your fashion emergency, my work was done.

JENNY

I just had no idea you could move that fast. She's actually really nice.

DAN

Yeah. You guys best friends now?

Jenny hands Dan an engraved invitation.

DAN (CONT'D)

What's this?

JENNY

I made you one too. It's kind of illegal but they won't notice.

(beat)

Serena's going. If that's any incentive.

DAN

Enough with the Serena talk. So I hid in women's undergarments to avoid talking to her - I've done way more pathetic stuff in my life.

JENNY

She'd probably like you.

DAN

Cowardly virgin is her type?

JENNY

You're nice. And I don't think she gets a lot of nice these days. The girls at school talk so much trash about her. All these rumors about making meth in her bathtub -

DAN

Bathtubs are for moonshine.
Basements are for meth.

JENNY

I heard she's living in the Madison Hotel. Probably sitting in the bar by herself, drinking martinis, and wondering how she went from most popular to most hated.

Dan is listening... wheels turning...

DAN

Yes. How very Eloise. And sad.

JENNY

Dad's at the gallery. Working late. He left money for dinner. I was thinking Indian.

DAN

Order without me... I'm gonna... go. Out. OK?

Jenny looks up. About to say something. Doesn't, smiles...

INT. MADISON HOTEL -- LOUNGE -- NIGHT

Serena has moved to the bar. She finishes off another martini. Clearly she's had a couple. Doesn't see CHUCK enter the lounge. But he sees her.

CHUCK

(smiles, to himself)
I love this town.

He slides in next to Serena. She groans. Ew.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

I'm going to have to tell my parents the hotel they just bought is serving minors.

SERENA

(smiles)
And if you get a drink - they're also serving pigs.

CHUCK

I love it when you talk dirty.

SERENA

You just love having a girl talk to you.

CHUCK

Actually, I prefer them when they're not talking.

SERENA

I've missed your witty banter.

CHUCK

Let's catch up. Take our clothes off. Stare at each other.

SERENA

Or I could get something to eat. 'Cause I've been drinking on an empty stomach.

CHUCK

Thought you didn't do that anymore.

SERENA

Special occasion.

CHUCK

How 'bout a grilled cheese with truffle oil. You do love truffles.

SERENA

Yeah. Enough to know that's not on the menu.

CHUCK

Good thing I'm connected.

SERENA

Only 'cause I'm hungry...

Serena steps off the bar stool - a little wobbly. Chuck is only too happy to put an arm around her. Guide her out.

INT. WALDORF PENTHOUSE -- VESTIBULE -- NIGHT

Nate steps off the elevator. Nods thanks to the ELEVATOR OPERATOR. Takes a deep breath... Heads inside.

INT. WALDORF'S PENTHOUSE -- BLAIR'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Candles are lit for maximum romantic effect. Blair's dressed in nothing but bra and panties. Examines herself in the mirror. Sucks in her tummy, adjusts her boobs. Better...

There's a knock at the door. Nate enters. Sees the room set for seduction. A little caught off guard, uncomfortable.

NATE

Wow.

BLAIR

(vulnerable)

Hi... Is it too much?

(beat)

I want it to be special.

She slides her arms around him. Kissing him. He's resistant. She pulls him towards the bed, kissing him - almost desperate. He stops her. She looks at him.

BLAIR (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

NATE

Look. I don't know how to say this... if it's even the right thing to do... But there's something I need to tell you.

INT. MADISON HOTEL -- KITCHEN -- NIGHT

A big galley kitchen. Chuck slides a hundred dollar bill into the CHEF'S pocket. Hands Serena a plate.

CHUCK

Alfonso - you're a stud.

(then quietly)

Now have a good night. We're closing the kitchen early.

Alfonso gives Chuck a little wink. Walks out. Leaving Serena and Chuck alone. She takes a bite of the sandwich.

SERENA

Omigod. This is seriously so good.

CHUCK

If you're looking for a way to thank me, I got a couple ideas.

SERENA

It's a sandwich, Chuck.

He smiles at her. Moves in. She stops mid-bite. Looks up.

SERENA (CONT'D)

Seriously? This is not happening.

CHUCK
You worried that Nate'll find out?

SERENA
(stops dead)
What?

CHUCK
Last year? At that party? You
think I don't know why you left?

Off Serena's look -- horrified.

FLASHBACK

EXT. GANSEVOORT HOTEL -- NIGHT -- A YEAR AGO

Serena, in a small summer dress, carrying her shoes and a bottle of vodka stumbles outside. Laughing. Right behind her NATE. This is the mythic Serena we've heard so much about. Wild. Free. Dangerous.

SERENA
C'mon. It's so hot at that party.
Don't you want to cool off?

She starts to climb into the fountain. Nate follows. Entranced...

NATE
What are you doing? You're crazy.

SERENA
Save me. I might drown...

She pulls him into the fountain. They tumble down into the water. SPLASH. As they get up, soaking wet, laughing -- their eyes lock. And they KISS.

NATE'S VOICE
It was one time. We were both
pretty wasted. You were in the
Hamptons with your Dad.

INT. WALDORF PENTHOUSE -- BLAIR'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Nate sits on the bed. Next to Blair. She's shocked.

BLAIR
You and Serena... hooked up...

NATE
And I'm so sorry, Blair.

BLAIR
 (processing)
 And that was it, right? You guys
 kissed in the fountain. Nothing
 else?...

Nate can't respond. Looks down. Blair's lip trembles.

BLAIR (CONT'D)
 I waited for you! I thought you
 were waiting for me!

INT. MADISON HOTEL -- KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

Chuck has Serena pinned against the wall. Serena is steely.

CHUCK
 The best friend and the boyfriend.
 Pretty classy, S. I think you're
 more like me than you'd admit.

SERENA
 That was then. I'm trying to
 change.

CHUCK
 I liked you better before.

He moves in -- kissing her hard on the lips. They struggle --

EXT. GANSEVOORT HOTEL -- SERVICE ALLEY -- A YEAR AGO

Serena and Nate peel their soaking wet clothes off each
 other. This is charged, dangerous... As her bare legs wrap
 around his bare back --

INT. WALDORF PENTHOUSE -- BLAIR'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Blair beats against Nate. Crying. He tries to stop her.
 But he lets her fists bounce off of him.

BLAIR
 I knew it. I always knew there was
 something with you guys... Get out!

INT. MADISON HOTEL -- KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Chuck has Serena pinned to the wall. She struggles - tough -
 KNEES him in the balls. As he grabs them, she grabs a PAN.
 CLANG! Smacks him in the head. She races off.

INT. MADISON HOTEL -- LOBBY -- NIGHT

Dan enters. Nervous. Thinks about leaving. Doesn't. Scours the place. Looking into the lounge. No sign of Serena. Turns away when he collides with --

SERENA. Running out of the kitchen. Headed for the elevator. She drops her purse -

DAN

I'm sorry. Are you okay?

SERENA

Leave me alone.

She grabs her things quickly and runs onto an elevator. Dan looks down. Sees that she's forgotten her SIDEKICK. He picks it up like Cinderella's glass slipper. Confused.

He turns and sees CHUCK. Emerging from where Serena did. Pissed. He glowers at Dan. Who gets it. He pockets Serena's sidekick. And exits quickly...

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

And just when B and S had built a bridge. It all had to come crashing down. But dry your eyes, ladies. The Kiss on the Lips party is only a day away. And you know who loves parties? Gossip Girl.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

INT. HUMPHREY APARTMENT -- DAN'S ROOM -- MORNING

Dan's room is a shrine to literacy. Floor to ceiling books. Dan's asleep in his bed. There's a CHIRPING that awakens him. Serena's SIDEKICK. On his bedside table. On screen:

1 NEW MESSAGE. FROM NATE.

SUBJECT: BLAIR KNOWS.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK -- MORNING

Nate sits by the pond. Feeding the ducks. Deep in thought. Checks his cell phone. Nothing. And decides to dial...

INT. MADISON HOTEL -- LOUNGE -- MORNING

Serena eats alone. Her phone rings.

SERENA

Nate. What?

EXT. CENTRAL PARK -- INTERCUT

Nate rises. Nervous.

NATE

Serena. Hey. Did you get my text?

SERENA

I lost my Sidekick last night. You have to stop calling me. Blair and I had a great talk. Things are finally in a really good place --

NATE

(blurts it out)
Blair knows.

Serena closes her eyes. This is the worst possible news.

SERENA

I'm going to kill Chuck.

NATE

Chuck? What? No. I told her.

SERENA

Why would you do that?

NATE

I was trying to do the right thing.
I don't know if I love her. But I
do know... that since that night -
I haven't stopped thinking about
you.

SERENA

Nate...

NATE

Serena - please -- don't tell me
you didn't feel anything -- that
you don't --

Serena takes a beat. There's some truth to this...

SERENA

Whatever we had... what we did was
wrong.

NATE

Maybe we can make it right. Maybe
we can --

SERENA

(firm)

Nate, listen to me. There's only
one way to make this right. You
need to call Blair.

NATE

What?... No... I can't.

SERENA

She'll forgive you.

NATE

No she won't. You didn't see how --

SERENA

Yes. She will.

(deep breath)

Tell her you don't care about me,
that you never did. Say you'll
never see me again.

NATE

Why... why would I do that?

SERENA

Because. I'm asking you to.

Nate, crushed, knows she's right. Serena hangs up. Trembling.

INT. MADISON HOTEL -- LOBBY -- MORNING

Dan stands in front of the CONCIERGE, mid 40s.

CONCIERGE

How do you know it was Ms. Van der
Woodsen's if you didn't read it?
And if you're not a guest at the
hotel, what were you doing here?

Dan can't believe the Concierge is Joe Friday.

DAN

What? Look. I'm returning lost
property. Usually that means a
reward, not an interrogation.

(beat)

When Prince Charming found
Cinderella's slipper they didn't
accuse him of having a foot fetish.

CONCIERGE

You're Prince Charming?

The Concierge sees Serena exiting the lounge.

CONCIERGE (CONT'D)

There's Ms. Van der Woodsen now.
Serena!

DAN

No. What are you - omigod -

Dan realizes he can't run. Braces himself. As Serena approaches. Dan tries to force a smile. Be cool...

CONCIERGE

Do you know this young man?

DAN

She doesn't know me. No one knows
me - it's cool --

SERENA

From last night. Sorry about that.

DAN

You remember me?
(to the Concierge)
She remembers.

CONCIERGE

He claims he "found" your Sidekick.

SERENA

You found it? Thank you.

Serena hugs him. This is the greatest moment of Dan's life. Then they hear from the revolving front doors --

DARLA (O.S.)

Serena!

They turn to see Darla entering. Carrying loads of shopping bags. She breezes towards them.

SERENA

(forces a smile)

Hey, Mom.

DARLA

(lifts a garment bag)

Guess what I got? A new dress for you. For Kiss On the Lips. I saw the invitation on your night stand.

SERENA

I'm not going to that...

DARLA

But Blair is throwing it.

SERENA

(lying)

Yeah... The problem is... by the time I got the invitation... I already had plans.

DARLA

Plans? With whom?

SERENA

(a beat, gestures to Dan)

My friend.

Dan and the Concierge are equally surprised. Darla notices Dan is standing there for the first time. Points.

DARLA

This is... your friend?

DAN

Dan Humphrey. Nice to meet you Ms. Van Der Woodsen.

He extends his hand. She doesn't shake it.

DARLA

And what are you and *Dan* doing?

Serena is stumped. Looks to Dan. Help. Dan reaches into his messenger bag. Pulls out a flyer.

DAN

We're going to a concert. Tonight.

DARLA

(reads it, reacts)

Anthem?

DAN

Rolling Stone just named them one of the Top Ten Forgotten Bands of the Nineties.

SERENA

Yeah. I'm a huge fan.

DARLA

Uh-huh. Well, this party could have been a great opportunity to announce your return. But I guess I'll keep the dress for myself. I am a size two now.

Darla walks off. Dan and Serena both exhale.

SERENA

Thank you.

DAN

Yeah, sure no problem.

Dan starts to walk away.

SERENA

So you'll pick me up at seven?

Dan stops. Freezes. What? He turns.

DAN

Wait. You're serious? You'd go out with some guy you don't know?

SERENA

You can't be worse than the guys I do know. Right?

OFF DAN -- he'll take it. As he tries to suppress the biggest smile in the world.

INT. NELLO'S -- DAY

Upscale bistro. Nate sits opposite Blair. She is cold, focused on eating her meal.

NATE

... so thanks for meeting me.
(plunging in)
I really hurt you. And I know
that. And I want to fix it...

BLAIR

Really? And how are you going to
do that?

NATE

(forcing the words)
I'm gonna put it in the past. I'm
not going to see Serena again. Or
talk to her. It'll be... like she
doesn't exist... like she never
existed.

Blair considers. And then it's like flipping a switch. All things considered, this could work out rather well. She smiles. Warm.

BLAIR

I think that's a good idea. Let's
not mention it ever again.
(reaching for his frites)
Are you going to eat these?

NATE

Really? That's it? 'Cause you
were pretty upset last night. I
mean, think it would be good if we
could talk --

BLAIR

Nothing to talk about. I
overreacted. If you say it's in
the past, then it's in the past.
I'm sure you have no feelings for
her anymore... I just feel sad for
Serena. She'll really miss you.
(beat)
What time is the limo coming?

Nate stares at her. So this is how it's gonna be --

NATE

Eight.

BLAIR

Perfect.

(beat)

Will you excuse me?...

INT. NELLO'S -- LADIES ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Blair smiles at a WOMAN exiting. Checks to see that the bathroom is empty and enters a

STALL

Locks the door, gets on her knees, and flips up the toilet seat. As her head goes down, we CUT TO:

EXT. FIFTH AVENUE -- DAY

Serena and Eric walk and talk with hot dogs and sodas.

SERENA

... I dunno. Hang out with a strange guy in Brooklyn? Watching some band...

ERIC

Not just some band. Rolling Stone just named Anthem one of the top ten forgotten bands of the 90s.

SERENA

So I hear...

ERIC

Plus, how many people get to say they've been to Brooklyn?

SERENA

Well that's true.

(beat, smiles)

You are wise beyond your years...

ERIC

That's what the doctors keep telling me.

They land at the steps of The MET, sit.

SERENA

You know, we haven't talked about what happened...

(MORE)

SERENA (CONT'D)

and if you don't want to -- well,
that's totally unacceptable since
I'm your sister.

ERIC

Nothing happened. I just... got
sick of taking the meds. Got sick
of doctors and therapists and...
Mom. I just felt really lonely.
(beat)
Not that you'd understand what
that's like.

SERENA

I think I'm starting to...

ERIC

Then I recommend pills. Much less
messy than how I -

SERENA

Eric!

ERIC

Too soon?

SERENA

Way too soon.

He half smiles, sorry. They sit there a beat.

ERIC

You really should go out with the
guy tonight. You need some new
friends. And I don't need a
babysitter.

OFF SERENA -- the kid makes some good points...

INT. GAGOSIAN GALLERY, CHELSEA -- DAY

Rufus works his day job. Painting walls and hanging art.
He's in a splattered t-shirt and jeans. Stops when he sees --

DARLA VAN DER WOODSEN entering. Heading for him.

RUFUS

Darla. Shopping for some more art
to match your furniture...?

DARLA

Why is my daughter going to one of
your concerts?

RUFUS
Cause we're awesome?

DARLA
With your son.

RUFUS
Dan scored a date with Serena?
(off her look)
Our kids were bound to meet. It's
a small island.

DARLA
So this isn't some ploy - using my
daughter to get to me? Now that
your wife left you?

RUFUS
How do you know about Alison?
(off her look)
Look. You made it plenty clear all
those years ago it was over. I
remember sitting in the back of the
tour bus, as you gave me your
touching speech -

DARLA
No need to rehash the details.

RUFUS
So I moved on. Got married. You
moved on too as I recall - to Nine
Inch Nails, then Jane's Addiction -
til you switched up rock stars for
billionaires.

DARLA
Still think you're so cute. Washed
up band. Working manual labor in
some gallery.

RUFUS
Well, not all of us have
settlements from multiple divorces
to sustain us.

DARLA
Stay out of my life.

Darla turns and huffs out. Rufus watches her go. One of the
catty GALLERY GIRLS walks up to Rufus. Having overheard.

GALLERY GIRL

Wow. Darla Van Der Woodsen is warm
for your form...

RUFUS

Let's hope not.

INT. HUMPHREY APARTMENT -- EVENING

Jenny, in her dress, is loading her handbag. She looks grown
up and gorgeous. Dan with her.

JENNY

You're going out with Serena. And
I'm going to Kiss on the Lips.

DAN

Who said this family wasn't cool.
(beat)
I don't want to be late. But good
luck tonight.

JENNY

I was gonna say the same thing.

Rufus enters as Dan heads for the door.

DAN

Hey, Dad. I'll see you at the show.

RUFUS

I'd like to talk to you --

Dan points to his watch. Can't. Bolts. Rufus turns and
sees Jenny. He stops.

RUFUS (CONT'D)

Omigod. My daughter is a... woman.

JENNY

You could just tell me I look good
instead of turning this into a
sermon on the passage of time.

RUFUS

You look like...
(best thing he can say)
Your mom.

Jenny smiles. All she could hope.

INT. WALDORFS' PENTHOUSE -- BLAIR'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Blair gets dressed. Struggles with her zipper. Can't do it.

INT. WALDORFS' PENTHOUSE -- LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Blair wanders out. Finds Eleanor watching the news, highball in hand.

BLAIR

Mom. Could you help me with my --

ELEANOR

Why are you wearing that? I left the Marc Jacobs on your bed. It's from his studio. It's not even in stores yet -

BLAIR

I liked this one.

ELEANOR

But the Marc Jacobs, Blair -

BLAIR

Mom, why do you care so much?

ELEANOR

Because I love you, Blair. And I know that this is the best time of your life.

(off Blair's look)

You have yet to be disappointed. So trust me when I say -- you will never be this happy, or beautiful, or thin again. I just want you to make the most of it.

On Blair - this is the happiest time of her life? How terrifying... But doesn't want to argue.

BLAIR

I guess I have time to change.

MUSIC UP. MONTAGE OF:

INT. MADISON HOTEL -- LOBBY -- NIGHT

Dan approaches the lobby doors. Serena stands, waiting for him. Ethereal. How did he get here? She forces a smile. What kind of night is she in for?

INT. TAXI -- (MOVING) -- NIGHT

Jenny sits alone. Heading uptown. The city out the window has never looked more beautiful. She grins.

INT. LIMO (MOVING) -- NIGHT

Chuck pops a bottle of champagne. Pours glasses for Katy and Isabel, who are in full party mode. Nate and Blair sit side by side. Chilly. Nate takes out a joint. Sparks it...

INT. SUBWAY -- (MOVING) -- NIGHT

Dan and Serena sit together. In the window - Dan sees their reflection. Just wants to hold onto that image.

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE
Spotted heading... gulp... to
Brooklyn. S. Slumming with a
random. How the mighty fall.

INT. BARNEY'S CO-OP BUILDING -- NIGHT

Transformed to look like Central Park. No expense spared. Into this walks Blair, Nate, Chuck, Katy and Is. They survey the party. Who's here. Blair's eyes narrow...

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE
Guess that's what happens when you
cross the belle of the ball. B got
her party and her man. But B drunk
on power? We prefer S drunk on
vodka.

Then Chuck sees across the room -- JENNY. Standing with a couple other FRESHMEN GIRLS. Pulls out his CELL PHONE.

CHUCK
Who's the newbie?

KATY
Jenny Humphrey. She's a freshman.

CHUCK
(types)
I love freshmen. They're so...

ISABEL
Fresh?

CHUCK
(reading)
Nothing about her on Gossip Girl.

KATY

Yeah, until you're done with her.

The girls LAUGH. Chuck smiles, moves towards Jenny like a lion approaching his prey. The younger girls see him --

FRESHMAN GIRL

Omigod. Chuck Bass is coming over.

Chuck arrives. Toothy smile. Hand out to Jenny.

CHUCK

Hi. I'm Chuck.

JENNY

(nervous)

Hi. I know. I mean. Jenny.

He takes her hand. Holds it a little too long. Jenny blushes. Flattered.

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

Looks like little J might end up with a new boy and a ticket to the inner circle. Or will C end up with another victim. I told you I love parties...

END OF ACT IV

ACT V

INT. SOUTHPAW -- BROOKLYN -- NIGHT

A small indie club. Fun. Packed with hipsters. Dan leads Serena towards the stage. She's never been to a place like this before.

SERENA

I'm totally overdressed. Aren't I?

DAN

Honestly? I don't have a problem with your appearance.

(off her smile)

C'mon, I want you to meet the lead singer of the band.

SERENA

(teasing)

Oh, so you're like a groupie...

On stage -- the band is setting up their equipment. Rufus does a sound check on his guitar. He sees Dan and Serena.

DAN

Serena. I'd like you to meet Rufus Humphrey. Dad - this is Serena.

RUFUS

Serena Van Der Woodsen.

(off Dan's look, awkward)

I don't know how I know that. It's nice to meet you.

SERENA

Nice to meet you too.

A GUITAR TECH comes over -- Rufus finds his excuse:

RUFUS

I gotta tune this - excuse me -- enjoy the show --

Rufus walks off. Serena turns to Dan.

SERENA

You took me to meet your dad on a first date?

DAN

I never really thought about it that way. But I wish I had. 'Cause it's really lame.

SERENA

I think it's cute.

They head into the crowd. OFF DAN -- cute? He'll take it.

INT. KISS ON THE LIPS PARTY -- NIGHT

Kids on the dance floor. Blair supervises. Proud of her work. Katy and Isabel stand behind her.

KATY

This party sucks. I wonder what Serena is doing.

ISABEL

I wonder if she's at an AA meeting. Maybe we should go to AA. The guys there are really cute.

KATY

I love bad-boys.

BLAIR

(wheels on them)

Who cares what Serena's doing. Get out there. And look like you're having fun.

THE DANCEFLOOR

Where Chuck grinds on Jenny. His hands on her hips. She's a little uncomfortable...

CHUCK

You're a freshman, huh? I like freshmen. You're like a blank canvas. Ready to be painted.

JENNY

(nervous humor)

Are you trying to paint me right now? 'Cause you might want to put your brush back in your pants -

CHUCK

You're funny, Janet.

JENNY

Jenny.

CHUCK

Let's talk somewhere quieter --

INT. KISS ON THE LIPS PARTY -- LADIES ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

BANG! The bathroom door flies open and Chuck leads Jenny inside by the arm.

JENNY
Definitely quieter in here. But --

CHUCK
But what? Step into my office.

He throws open a stall door. Leads her into it --

JENNY
Maybe we should get back -- ?

CHUCK
Party's right here.

He leans in. Kisses her. Not how she planned her first kiss. As he leans in for another - she stops him --

JENNY
You mind if I use your office?
Gotta pee.

CHUCK
(slightly irked)
Make it quick.

Jenny closes the door. Leans against it. Freaked.

INT. SOUTHPAW -- BROOKLYN -- NIGHT

Rufus and his band are on stage. For a bunch of old guys, they're still pretty rocking. Good sized crowd of devoted fans. Enjoying the show. Including --

Serena. Bobbing her head. Dan steals a sideways look at her. She catches him.

SERENA
What?

DAN
Nothing...

He looks down, embarrassed. She steals a glance at him. He's sweet. Suddenly Dan's cell phone VIBRATES. He checks it. A text message:

-- HELP. EMERGENCY. NEED YOU. J.

He makes a face. Types back:

-- *FASHION EMERGENCY? :)*

INT. KISS ON THE LIPS PARTY -- NIGHT

Jenny gets the message back from Dan. Starts typing again.
BANG! Chuck hits the door with his fist.

CHUCK

What the hell are you doing in
there? I miss you, Janice!

JENNY

(typing away)
One second.

INT. SOUTHPAW -- BROOKLYN -- CONTINUOUS

Dan's phone buzzes again. Annoyed he checks it:

-- *4 REAL. PLEASE. U KNOW CHUCK?*

Serena looks over. Sees Dan reading his cell.

SERENA

Better offer?

DAN

It's my sister. She's at the Kiss
on the Lips party. Having some
problems with that Chuck guy.

SERENA

(stiffens)
What kind of problem?

Another TEXT buzzes into his phone: *9-1-1*

DAN

An emergency...
(kills him, but --)
I should go. I'm sorry but --

SERENA

(makes a decision)
I'll come with you.

DAN

You don't have to. It's okay -

SERENA

If it's Chuck? It's not okay.

DAN

I'm sorry.

SERENA

She's your family. You gotta be there.

He smiles, grateful. They head out. Quickly.

INT. KISS ON THE LIPS PARTY -- LADIES ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Chuck paces outside Jenny's door. The Big Bad Wolf.

CHUCK

I'm sorry if I came on too strong.
I just really like you. You don't want to do anything, that's cool. We can talk. We'll go back to the dance. Start over.

Jenny thinks about this... Slides the lock over. All Chuck needs. He shoulders into the door. And grins at her.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

Or we can just hang here. And get to each other better.

He pushes her against the wall, pushing his lips onto hers.

EXT. BARNEY'S CO-OP BUILDING -- NIGHT

A taxi pulls up. Dan and Serena head up. There are SECURITY GUARDS manning the velvet rope out front.

SERENA

I don't have my invitation.

DAN

(pulls his out)
Don't worry.
(to the GUARDS)
She's with me.

As the rope comes unclipped --

INT. KISS ON THE LIPS PARTY -- NIGHT

Dan and Serena enter. All heads turn. Even Serena dressed down is the most beautiful girl in the room.

DAN

I'm gonna do a lap. Look for her.

Dan peels off, leaving Serena suddenly alone as ALL AROUND THE ROOM -- Sidekicks get whipped out. Cell phones. People buzzing each other across the dance floor:

-- *She's here! SVDW in the house!*

AT THE BAR --

Blair and Nate get drinks. Katy and Is both grab their SIDEKICKS. Reading:

KATY	ISABEL
Serena's here?	Serena's here?

Blair and Nate both turn.

BLAIR

What is she doing here? She was
not invited.

Blair goes to confront Serena - when Nate stops her.

NATE

What are you doing Blair? You're
really going to kick her out?

BLAIR

Did you invite her?

NATE

What? No. God. I told you -

Nate starts to walk away. Now Blair stops him.

BLAIR

Do. Not. Talk. To. Her.

NATE

I was going for a walk.

Nate blows out. Passes Serena. Doesn't look at her. Serena looks at Blair. Staring daggers at her. Blair gestures to Katy and Isabel. Who follow her away.

Serena realizes she's all alone. She moves off quickly to the bathroom.

INT. KISS ON THE LIPS PARTY -- LADIES ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Serena splashes cold water on her face. Turns off the faucet. And notices behind her -- under a stall door --

Men's shoes. And Chuck's signature plaid scarf on the floor.

SERENA

Chuck?

INSIDE THE STALL -- INTERCUT

Chuck has Jenny pinned up against the wall. Hand over her mouth. Dress unzipped.

SERENA (CONT'D)

Chuck?

Suddenly the LADIES ROOM door opens. Dan, eyes averted, pops his head in.

DAN

Serena? I can't find them.

SERENA

I did.

Dan looks up. Sees Serena outside the stall door.

DAN

Jenny?

Jenny chomps on Chuck's hand. He winces. She wriggles -

JENNY

Dan!

Jenny squirms past Chuck - forcing open the door. Stumbling out. Humiliated and scared. She lands in Serena's arms.

Serena grabs her - pulls her out of the line of fire.

SERENA

(comforting)

It's okay... You'll be okay.

Chuck comes out of the stall. Now faces Dan. Dan isn't much of a fighter - but seeing his sister like this changes him.

DAN

What are you doing, man?

CHUCK

It's a party. Things happen. Who are you anyway?

DAN

How many times do I have to tell you? My name is Dan Humphrey.

(MORE)

DAN (CONT'D)
I'm in your class. And that is my
little sister.

Dan hauls back and DECKS Chuck. His hand immediately burns with pain. So does Chuck's face. Chuck sprawls backwards and WHAM. Hits his head off the hair dryer. Chuck THUMPS to the floor.

Dan looks at Chuck. Stunned.

DAN (CONT'D)
I punched someone. I did that.

SERENA
Let's talk about it in the car.

As they exit, Serena stops, speak into Chuck's ear.

SERENA (CONT'D)
Don't ever touch her again.

Chuck rolls over to his knees. Sore.

CHUCK
Your life is over, slut.

INT. KISS ON THE LIPS PARTY -- CONTINUOUS

Dan puts his arm around Jenny. Serena at their side.

DAN
You okay?

JENNY
I will be. Just take me home.

As they march across the dance floor - they realize everyone is staring at them. Every kid in the place is whispering, gossiping, eyes narrowed.

Dan protectively reaches for Serena's hand. She looks at him, surprised, then their fingers tighten. Defiant. They head for the door...

EXT. BARNEY'S CO-OP BUILDING -- NIGHT

Dan hails a taxi. Putting Jenny and Serena inside. Serena and Dan share a look.

DAN
So... you think I've got a shot at
a second date?

SERENA

Only if you can top this one...

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

Spotted heading downtown. Is that S? With D? Looks like we'll have to learn his name now.

They get in the cab... they don't see across the street -

NATE. Smoking a joint. Watching them... together.
Heartbroken.

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE (CONT'D)

What will happen to N and B? Can he really live without S? Can any of us?

INT. KISS ON THE LIPS PARTY -- CONTINUOUS

Blair watches the cab pull away from a window. As Chuck, bloody and ruffled, stumbles out of the bathroom.

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

And how about C with a bloody nose and blue balls? Good look for him.

Chuck limps over to Blair. Together they face the party.

BLAIR

She better not show her face again.

CHUCK

(wiping his bloody nose)
I'm actually hoping she will.

We PULL BACK across the dance floor -- on all of these CHILDREN OF PRIVILEGE... All TEXTING away... Feeding the gossip chain...

GOSSIP GIRL VOICE

The only thing more fun than going to parties is talking about them. Looks like I'll be busy. So until next time. You know you love me.
GOSSIP GIRL...

END OF PILOT