

DAMAGED GOODS

"Pilot"

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DAMAGED GOODS

"Pilot"

CAST

NICOLE SHERWOOD.....ANNA CAMP
TIM.....JUSTIN HARTLEY
BETSY.....KELLEEE STEWART
JASON.....STEVE TALLEY
KYLE.....KYLE JONES
MICHAEL/HANDSOME MAN.....BEN LAWSON
BOB.....MARLON YOUNG
ED.....BRAD LELAND
YOUNG NICOLE.....LIZZY GREENE
MEATY WAITER/DUDE.....CHAZ JOHNSON
DORIS/WAITRESS.....MARY-PAT GREEN
CHICAGO APRIL.....JESSIKA VAN
CHICAGO MONICA.....AMANDA PEREZ
CARRIE.....JUSTENE ALPERT
RACHEL.....NAJARRA TOWNSEND
SECURITY GUARD/SAM.....FLEX ALEXANDER
LISA.....TAYLER BUCK
HENRY.....KELLY SRY

TEASER

1 EXT. INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT (FBN1) 1

It's 1994. Off a "Crest Intermediate" sign we PAN TO awkward pre-teens coming out of an auditorium and land on a frizzy-haired, brace-faced GIRL (12) as a car pulls up. She gets in. This is YOUNG NICOLE. ED (50) is behind the wheel. *

ED

How was the dance?

YOUNG NICOLE

It blew, Ed. None of the boys wanted to dance-- even when I asked. They all find me annoying because I'm an intellectual. Sometimes, I just want to be objectified. Like Amy Olson.

(off his confusion)

She has good bangs. *

ED

Hey, hey. Don't go there. What do I keep saying? In a few years...

YOUNG NICOLE

(rolling her eyes)

...I'm gonna be the belle of the ball because boys will realize they want an equal not an airhead.

ED

You just keep being the best version of you and you'll be rewarded with the perfect guy. You'll have it all. Trust your dad?

YOUNG NICOLE

(she nods)

Is this perfect guy attractive?

ED

How can a perfect guy be ugly?

She smiles. He pulls out of the lot as her panic sets in.

YOUNG NICOLE

But Ed!!!

(Ed lays on the breaks)

Will he want to suck face?

DISSOLVE TO:

2 INT. DICKINSON - ELEVATOR - MORNING - FLASH FORWARD (D1) 2

We meet NICOLE, 32, eyes closed. She's a sexy, every woman getting her ear kissed. As the ear kisser comes to frame we meet TIM (37, handsome, smart). The sound of an email being sent WHOOSHES. Tim looks down to a cell in Nicole's hand.

TIM

Did you just send an email?

NICOLE

(she opens her eyes)

I forgot to reconfirm a call. But I'm still in the moment, babe.

TIM

(facetious)

The moment's gone. It's ruined. You ruined it. But I can offer you a rain check.

NICOLE

Rain check?

TIM

(sarcastic)

I've got things to do, Nicole. I know it may be hard to believe but I'm more than a pretty face.

DING. They arrive and walk/talk out of the elevator and continue their playful banter as he walks ahead.

3 INT. LAW FIRM - LOBBY/HALL - SAME (D1) 3

NICOLE

I'm not sure I got that memo. Do you care to expand on your other virtues?

She catches up to him as Tim signals to the RECEPTIONIST.

TIM

Can you get me a coffee?

NICOLE

And the entitlement begins. Did you hear me, Timothy?
(Tim rounds the corner)
Tim?

TIM

I can hear you but I'm not listening. Know why?

NICOLE

Why?

Alone, Tim pins her up against a wall in a playful, sexy way.

TIM

Because I find you totally and completely annoying.

NICOLE

Is that why you have your hand on my ass?

TIM

Yes.

NICOLE

You are aware that in just a few moments you're going to be made partner and thus my superior, which entitles me to cite this as harassment.

TIM

And as my subordinate it will be within my power to ask you to give me a full de-briefing.

NICOLE

Eh. That one needs work.

She jimmies out from underneath his arm. He joins her.

TIM

It was clever.

(pulling her to him)

God, I'm sweating. Feel my head, is it warm?

NICOLE

Normal. Just nerves. Come on, we're already late and you are gorgeous.

TIM

I love you.

NICOLE

Don't get all sappy.

(whispering)

There are witnesses.

She motions to the PHOTOS of the partners behind them.

TIM
 (off a photo)
 You mean Ron? Ron doesn't care.

NICOLE
 I'm totally cool with Ron. I'm
 talking about Eric and Karen.
 (off their photos)
 They're judgey.

TIM
 But adorable.

NICOLE
 I can't wait to see your photo.
 It's gonna be humbling.

He goes to slap her ass as they enter the conference room only to find an embarrassing portrait of Nicole. As they both register shock, the room applauds. BOB, a partner, beams:

BOB
 Congratulations, Nicole.

Nicole turns to Tim who smiles then awkwardly shakes her hand. She continues to be overwhelmed as the room busts into applause and we DISSOLVE TO:

4 INT. BAR - NIGHT (N1)

4

More applause. But this time across a bottle service table with BETSY, JASON and KYLE. Nicole's shared the good news.

NICOLE
 Okay, reel it in. I don't want Tim
 to think I've hijacked his
 celebratory drinks.

JASON
 But isn't that what's happening?

NICOLE
 No, Jason. We're not going to
 celebrate.

BETSY
 Yeah, let's not stoke the fire. God
 forbid he spansks you again.

JASON/KYLE
 Again?

KYLE
 How 'bout one tiny, quiet toast?

Nicole looks around again as she motions for them all to lean in and toast her real quick. Jason whispers:

JASON
To Nicole!

CLINK. Nicole revels in her moment as she whispers:

NICOLE
Youngest partner in firm's history!

She quickly leans back and spots Tim drink in hand sitting at a table. Nicole leads the group to walk backward toward Tim.

NICOLE
Tim's here. Remember: avoid the subject. Because while I'm very excited for me, I'm really bummed for him. So keep the enthusiasm to a minimum so we can keep the empathy to the max. And tread lightly because I don't want him to feel like I said anything. In essence, don't be weird.

TIM
Hey.

NICOLE/BETSY/KYLE/JASON
(weird)
Heeeeyyy.

It's awkward until Tim sits and kisses Nicole on the cheek.

TIM
You look beautiful.

NICOLE
As do you.

Everyone smiles awkwardly at Tim not knowing what to say. Nicole eyes Kyle to say something.

KYLE
Betsy, I really like your trousers.

BETSY
Thanks Kyle. Normally I'm a skirt girl but I'm starting to feel more comfortable wearing the pants.

Oh shit. Nicole covers.

NICOLE

Wow, how great are those beams? I don't remember this place having wood beams.

KYLE

That's because it used to be a glass ceiling. But it shattered.

Shit.

JASON

Howdy, Partner. Sorry. Just had to throw one in.

Tim laughs and then they all laugh.

TIM

You guys don't need to tip-toe around the issue. I'm fine.

Tim throws back his cocktail.

BETSY

Good. Because truth is you can still be the boss at home. And home boss has more benefits cuz if Nicole's bad, you can spank her!

TIM

You told them about that?

JASON

To be fair, she just told Betsy.

KYLE

Betsy told us.

BETSY

Did I cross a line? Cuz I'm just trying to keep things light. I mean, it's not like you fisted her.

NICOLE

There goes the line.

Tim motions to a MEATY WAITER.

TIM

Could I get a refill?

KYLE

I'm glad you're not sensitive. Trust me, women say they want a sensitive man until that sensitive man acknowledges that a guy in his spin class has really firm glutes. What's wrong with that? I don't see what's wrong with that.

NICOLE

Nothing's wrong with being sensitive. We're all sensitive and sometimes we need our space.

TIM

Please don't patronize me because I don't immediately share everything with everyone.

BETSY

Reminder: she just shares with me.

JASON/KYLE

Betsy shares with us.

NICOLE

I'm not trying to patronize you. Okay, let's change the subject.

Then, as if on cue, the Meaty Waiter returns with a cake that says "CONGRATULATIONS TIM!"

MEATY WAITER

Who's the special guy?

JASON

Me.

Immediately, Jason reaches over and wipes off the icing. With a fist full of it, he motions to the table.

JASON

You can set it there.

TIM

(amused)

This is getting ridiculous. Let's just acknowledge the elephant and then put it to bed.

KYLE

Puhlease.

TIM

I didn't get the job. It went to my incredible girlfriend who is equally as smart and talented as me. And the firm met their quota.

BETSY

What did you say?

NICOLE

He didn't mean that.

(to Tim)

You didn't mean that.

TIM

That wasn't a knock on you. A female partner retired so you do the math. It was inevitable.

JASON

Maybe she was the best for the job.

TIM

With all due respect, I've been at the firm longer and have a better track record.

NICOLE

Because you've been at the firm longer. If we were to gauge our case wins side by side when you were my age, it wouldn't even be close. With all due respect.

TIM

This isn't a pissing contest.

KYLE

That's what it sounds like.

JASON

Honestly not every dude is man enough to be with a strong woman.

NICOLE

That doesn't apply to Tim.

BETSY

It kinda does.

NICOLE

Okay, emotions are heated. We don't need to--

Too late, Tim's past the point of no return.

TIM

So I might not be "man enough" but at least I'm not a lazy slut who lives off her best friend's insecurity.

BETSY

Actually, I live off alimony.

TIM

And I'm not an unemployed loafer who's gonna end up alone because he dumps women before they discover he's a loser and dump him first.

(Jason nods)

And you, Kyle, thank god I'm not ashamed to admit who I really am.

KYLE

Oh my god. You bitch! I'm not ashamed that I'm half Armenian.

NICOLE

Where are you going?

TIM

Home. I'm sorry for ruining your night but I'm upset and if it's okay with you I just need to process that someone else got the job because they pee sitting down.

Tim leaves. The friends are shocked.

NICOLE

Was that a sexist dig?

KYLE

No. I pee sitting down.

ACT ONE

5 INT. NICOLE & BETSY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT (N1) 5

Nicole, Betsy, Kyle and Jason make sandwiches and open wine.

NICOLE

Again, I'm so sorry Tim reacted that way. It was a human moment. He's not really that guy.

JASON

Stop apologizing. You did nothing wrong. His reaction was not cool.

KYLE

He's a racist!

NICOLE

He doesn't really think my success is about affirmative action. Does he?

KYLE

"When people show you who they are, believe them."

(they all nod; so true)

Oprah.

*

BETSY

I'd just like to clarify that we live in a post 'Sex and the City' era. It's not a big deal for me to like sex. Or, is it? Am I a slut?

NICOLE

What should I do about Tim?

KYLE

Fire him!

BETSY

If Tim was trying to slut shame me, it's not okay.

NICOLE

Should I call him? Or is that too pushy? I need to let it lie, right? Why am I spiraling?

JASON

Because you're you and you need to know what you need to know when you need to know it.

NICOLE

I know. Do you think he just revealed his true colors or was that just an impulsive reaction to being emasculated? Reaction, right?

KYLE

I think we should give him the benefit of the douche.

JASON

I'm gonna bite my tongue just in case things shake out and you forget that he's not so great. But you're great, so great that you've inspired me to finally commit to having a girlfriend. So, let's focus on me and talk about how you're all about to meet...

NICOLE/BETSY/KYLE

Carrie.

JASON

Rachel.

JASON

Why Carrie?

KYLE

You said she's hot.

JASON

She is but I chose Rachel.

NICOLE

Yay! How did I inspire that?

JASON

Actually the inspiration stemmed more from Tim's observation that I'm gonna wind up alone. I'm not good alone. But Rachel's also warm, fun and a scientist.

BETSY

You have a lot in common.

JASON

Right?

BETSY

Yes. No. You rent your second bedroom as an air B&B for a living.

NICOLE

When are you making her legit?

JASON
After I dump Carrie.

NICOLE
What are you waiting for? I don't
need a pity party because things
with Tim are gonna shake out
tomorrow. So go. Turn this night
around.
(Jason's about to eat
when:)
Go!

6 INT. TRENDY BAR - LATER (N1) 6

JASON
Carrie, I'm just gonna cut to it.

CARRIE, the hottie, suggestively sucks on a cherry.

CARRIE
Ya know what I've always wondered?
What it would be like to sleep with
another girl. Is that crazy?

Jason puts down the slider he was about to eat.

JASON
Crazy? No! I can totally picture
that. I'm picturing it right now
actually. So it's not just you...

7 INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LATER (N1) 7

JASON
...it's me.

Somber, Jason sits across from RACHEL, the sexy scientist.

JASON
Rach, I'm confronting my own
insecurities and realizing that I'm
not ready to be with someone who is
as together as you.

REVEAL Nicole, drinking coffee, not impressed. We are:

8 INT. NICOLE & BETSY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING (D2) 8

NICOLE
Did she really buy that?

JASON

It's the truth and coupled with a few emotional pauses where I welled up, I think I hit it home from a performance perspective.

NICOLE

You dumped the rad girl to be with the girl who wants a threesome?

JASON

No. I want the threesome. She just wants to be with a woman.

Nicole rolls her eyes as Betsy enters with the Meaty Waiter in a robe. He takes off the robe, hands it to Betsy, kisses her and heads out.

JASON

Is that our waiter from last night?

BETSY

Yes.

Not phased, they shrug it off as Nicole looks at the time.

NICOLE

Shoot. I've gotta prep for a trial.

BETSY

Wait. Why no swollen cry face?

NICOLE

Because I'm fine. Tim's fine. And we're fine. I'm not giving one bad day more credence than two years of awesome.

As Nicole leaves, Jason finishes his coffee.

JASON

Gotta jet. Got two renters coming in from Chicago.

BETSY

Real quick, I need a favor.

JASON

Okay.

BETSY

So last night's business in my bedroom started off totally *insured* but by the end of the meeting, my partner had lost his coverage.

JASON

So there was a leave behind?

BETSY

Exactly.

JASON

What do you need me to do?

BETSY

I need you to assess, examine and investigate my claim.

JASON

No way! Go to a doctor.

BETSY

I don't have health insurance and--

JASON

Ask the guy who created the crisis!

BETSY

I can't. We really connected last night and might be soul mates so I don't want him to think I'm easy. And cavernous. Asking him to service the situation sends the wrong signal. Like I'm cool with all hands below deck.

JASON

Then why are you asking me?

BETSY

Beggars can't be choosers. Plus, you're so well manicured.

JASON

Stop. Please. Spare me the details of my beautiful cuticles. Goodbye.

BETSY

Fine. Give me the 200 bucks you owe me and I'll go to the doctor.

JASON

What if...

BETSY

Yes?

JASON

...you forgive that debt and I do
it myself?

(she nods)

Ok, I need some hot water, goggles
and a towel nobody cares about.

9 INT. DICKINSON - LOBBY/ELEVATORS - MOMENTS LATER (D2) 9

Nicole approaches Tim. He meets her half way.

TIM

Hey, I'm sorry about last night.

NICOLE

No, I'm sorry. I'm so relieved
you're not upset. Everyone seems to
think that we now have an issue.

(off his face)

Do we have an issue?

TIM

I need some time to process.

NICOLE

Because a woman got the job?

TIM

No, because my girlfriend got it.

NICOLE

What are you saying?

TIM

I don't know.

NICOLE

So, if you don't know, is it over?

TIM

I don't know.

Tim gets on an elevator. Rocked, she makes eye contact with
the SECURITY GUARD, SAM. He nods to an empty lift.

10 INT. DICKINSON - ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER (D2) 10

Alone, Nicole stops the moving elevator and cries:

NICOLE

It's over.

ACT TWO

11 INT. NICOLE & BETSY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT (N3) 11

Nicole's in a state of controlled anger with Betsy and Kyle.

NICOLE

(vulnerable; teary)

I feel so bamboozled. Could it be that I don't even know who Tim is? Has he just pretended to be the perfect guy for two years? I mean, does he just want me to walk away from my dream? I've been working for that partnership too.

KYLE

You need a guy who loves you as is.

NICOLE

(rage building)

It's crazy that he expects my unconditional support and yet his support has conditions. Screw him. I'm reactivating my online profile.

Nicole opens her laptop. Then, Betsy shuts it.

BETSY

I like the idea behind this idea, but it might be a little impulsive.

KYLE

Maybe you should take some baby steps first. Like a jaunt to San Fran or Palm Springs or...

NICOLE

I don't need any baby steps - I just need to move on. I'm prime relationship real estate right now and last time I was online, I slayed. And this time around I have even more to offer so I'm gonna double slay. Or slay and lay.

BETSY

I vote nay. Okay. When was the last time you were online?

NICOLE

Law school.

Kyle and Betsy trade looks.

KYLE

Well...

NICOLE

Well what?

KYLE

You were broke and struggling then.

NICOLE

So?

BETSY

It made you more attractive.

KYLE

Yeah. You're gonna have to lie on your profile this time.

NICOLE

And why would I do that?

BETSY

Cuz you're not gonna reel in any dudes if you're baiting your pole with a shark. You gotta go softer, more vulnerable. Like a minnow. You gotta sell yourself in a new light.

NICOLE

As what?

KYLE/BETSY

A waitress.

NICOLE

Okay, first you tell me that I need a guy who loves me as is and now you're telling me no one's gonna love me as is. Which is it?

KYLE

No idea.

BETSY

We don't have the answers. That's why we're single.

NICOLE

Go to your party. I'm gonna take my chances on my own merits and prove you wrong.

Kyle moves to the sink as Betsy shifts uncomfortably in her seat. Nicole notices as she moves to the couch.

NICOLE

What's going on with you?

BETSY

Nothing. Something. Which maybe you could help me with--

(Nicole's lost in thought
on her computer)

Nevermind. God, have you ever noticed how thick Jason's wrists are?

KYLE

Yes! By the way, you guys need a new cleaning lady. The counters are tres stickay.

As Kyle hits the sink WE RAMP TO HIGH SPEED and watch as Betsy's POV turns to SLO MO as Kyle washes his long, slender and nubile fingers. As he dries them off, she inquires.

BETSY

Are you double jointed?

(he nods)

I have a favor to ask. It's something that requires manual dexterity and mental strength.

As they head to the door, she grabs her purse and explains:

BETSY

Jason tried to help me earlier but he almost passed out. Are you up for a challenge?

Kyle's intrigued. As the door closes behind them, Nicole takes to her computer again and starts her profile.

12

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - SAME (N3)

12

Jason sits with Carrie who is totally rapt by the TV.

JASON

Get this: the super duper cute ladies renting from me happen to be of the Ellen variety and are IN for a good group time tonight. Don't ask how I got into it, it's a crazy story, but I did and it's done.

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

So not only is your fantasy going
to come to fruition, so is mine!
It's win-win-win-win.

CARRIE

Oh. That was just a fantasy. Not
something I really want to do. I
only drive stick.

As Carrie snuggles into Jason. His face falls.

13 INT. NICOLE & BETSY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER (N3) 13

Now done with her profile, Nicole smiles with satisfaction.

NICOLE

Hello profile page. I hope you can
handle some action cuz there's
about to be a traffic jam! Hollah!

She then gets up to fix a snack as we roll into quick hits:

--Snack in hand, Nicole hits refresh. Nada. She exits.

--Nicole comes back into frame in a towel, hair in a bathcap
and face mask. She hits refresh. Nada. She exits.

--Nicole comes back into frame, now in sweats, hair coiffed.
She hits refresh. Nothing. Suddenly she hears a DING but it's
not the computer, it's her phone. She's got text from Jason
reading: "911. Outside. Now"

14 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER (N3) 14

Jason and Nicole come from their respective homes to meet up.

JASON

(panicked)
Carrie was a mistake.

NICOLE

I knew it. I knew you weren't
vapid. This just validates what I
was saying to Betsy and Kyle. Men
actually want women...

JASON

...who follow their dreams.

NICOLE

Exactly!

JASON

Yeah. You can't go dream-baiting someone and then pull the rug out.

NICOLE

You just lost me.

JASON

Carrie. She's totally not into the girl on girl thing at all.

NICOLE

Good night.

JASON

But I have two babes primed and ready to ménage à moi in the next hour. I need you to help me get rid of Carrie.

NICOLE

Just dump her.

JASON

I've already had one uncomfortable break up this week. I can't handle another. She needs to dump me. Please help her dump me.

He gives her puppy dog eyes.

NICOLE

Ok, who am I gonna pretend to be? Your neurotic sister or your psycho ex-girlfriend.

JASON

I'm leaning toward the psycho but hold back on the tears this time, I need you to be more of a threat than a victim to make her leave.

Nicole nods then throws her hair down and starts to tease it.

JASON

What're you doing?

NICOLE

Getting into character.

(he motions to proceed)

You know you're sabotaging yourself again.

(MORE)

NICOLE (CONT'D)

And by doing so, you're not moving on, or out of that house that now only represents your broken heart. It's been two years. Julia's not coming back.

JASON

I know. I know. I have to move on.

NICOLE

So move on.

JASON

After the three-way. Morning after. Promise.

15 INT. NICOLE & BETSY'S HOUSE - LATER (N3)

15

Post the ho down showdown, Nicole enters her house looking like a crazy person (red-faced and hair teased to the trees). Once again she checks her profile. Nada. Utterly annoyed, she hits 'Edit' on her profile. In a super fast series of strokes: she deletes her long-winded 'About Me' section to a basic "I'm fun!". She changes 'Occupation' from *lawyer* to *waitress* and for good measure, under 'Location' puts a notation that she lives with her parents. Finally she clicks it done. She refreshes her computer and nada. She smiles. Then, DING DING DING, she's bombarded with interest.

NICOLE

What is it about waitresses?!

16 INT. CHARLIE'S DINER - LATER (N3)

16

TIGHT ON an old and haggard WAITRESS.

WAITRESS

Spit it out, I don't got all night.

ANGLE ON Nicole sitting at the counter across from her.

NICOLE

Actually you probably do. You're working the late shift.

The waitress doesn't even respond she just walks away.

MAN (O.S.)

Be careful. Doris is not all bark, she also has a bite.

Nicole turns to find a HANDSOME MAN (37) sitting nearby. He points to his sandwich with a bite taken out.

NICOLE

Do you happen to know about the
lore surrounding waitresses having
some sort of sexual mystique?

HANDSOME MAN

Ask Harry.

Nicole follows the Handsome Man's gaze to see an OLD MAN
putting a five dollar bill into Doris's bosom.

NICOLE

(she sighs)

I am gonna die alone.

HANDSOME MAN

Why?

NICOLE

Because my dad is a liar man. He
said someday someone would love me
for being ambitious and successful.
And now I'm trapped between my
personal and professional life
because my boyfriend can't handle
being subordinate to me at work and
my best guy friend, who I thought
was similarly evolved, still only
thinks with his little brain. Give
it to me straight. Are all men
Neanderthals?

CUT TO:

JASON STOKING THE FIRE IN HIS FIREPLACE AS IF HE'S
DISCOVERING IT-- clad only in tightey whiteys. We are:

17 INT. JASON'S HOUSE - SAME (N3)

17

Within moments the CHICAGO GALS arrive back, totally not
phased by his outfit.

JASON

Ladies! Come, relax by the fire.

Immediately the girls shed their coats and do just that.

CHICAGO MONICA

(flirtatious)

Oooh, yes. Let's warm up.

Jason sits down next to the fire with the girls as the girls
look to each other, then Jason, then massage one another.

JASON

What should I be doing? You guys
wanna just get naked, intertwine
and I'll like plank in there?

CHICAGO APRIL

No. Start with a wrap around.

JASON

Oh, I love wraparounds.
(then)
What's a wraparound?

They each take a leg and start massaging it. He's in heaven
as they pry his legs behind his neck. Despite Jason's lack of
flexibility he's game until we hear the crack of his hips.

JASON

Um, this doesn't feel right. My
back. It's out. I can't move. Um,
can you guys get me my phone. I'll
call my chiro and see if he can
make a real fast house call.

But suddenly the girls are up. Ignoring Jason.

CHICAGO APRIL

Where should we start?

JASON

My phone?

CHICAGO MONICA

Back bedroom. Grab his wallet.

18 INT. CHARLIE'S DINER - SAME (N3)

18

The Handsome Man and Nicole now sit side by side. Doris drops
off a grilled cheese. A bite taken out.

NICOLE

Think she's warming up to me?

They look at her then back to each other.

HANDSOME MAN

No.

NICOLE

(she tears up; exposed)
I still love him. Why do I still
love him?

HANDSOME MAN

You love him because you love him.

NICOLE

I do. So, how do I fix this? How do I fix myself?

HANDSOME MAN

You don't. There's nothing to fix. Because from where I'm sitting-- which is close enough to see your flawlessly small pores...I'm a dermatologist...I see a woman who needs to stop looking to be something other than the best version of herself. To me, it would be a crime if she wasn't a person who shares emotional vulnerability in the middle of the night with a stranger over half eaten sandwiches. Ya see, it just takes one, one right person to get who she is. And who she is, in my humble opinion, is awesome.

They're in a mutual trance when Doris interrupts.

DORIS

Cash or charge?

He hands her a twenty.

NICOLE

You can't.

DORIS

He just did.

Doris pockets the bill in her bosom as he looks at his watch.

HANDSOME MAN

I gotta go.
(He gets up then suddenly
turns around)
Almost forgot.

He leans in like he's gonna kiss her then puts out his hand.

HANDSOME MAN

Michael. Good night.

As he leaves, Nicole watches him go.

NICOLE

I just saw a unicorn. A rare mythical creature that only exists in our hearts, minds and...diners.

(Doris nods)

Ya know, I don't need to fix myself, Doris.

DORIS

Don't care.

NICOLE

I just need to be me.

SMASH CUT TO:

19

INT. LAW FIRM - NICOLE'S NEW OFFICE - AFTERNOON (D4)

19

BOB

Nicole, you're an excellent creative problem solver. Except, in this case, you're the only one who has the problem. We're not giving out a second partnership.

Nicole is following Bob into a her big new office.

NICOLE

But what's an extra picture on the wall? Like how much does that cost? I'll pay for it.

Bob brings Nicole over to her big desk, not paying attention to the office's awesomeness.

BOB

You know it doesn't work that way. The firm has bylaws to follow.

NICOLE

Look Bob, I'm willing to work with you here. So work with me. There has to be some sort of compromise we can come to like...

BOB

Like?

He sits her into her big new seat behind the desk.

NICOLE

(she strokes the desk)

I mean it's not really an option but what if...

(MORE)

NICOLE (CONT'D)

(she stops stroking)

What if I resign? Could Tim be promoted in my place? Nevermind, bad idea. I know that couldn't happen. This chair is comph.

BOB

It could happen.

(off her face)

But I wouldn't want it to happen. You got the job for a reason. Take a few days. Think this over.

As Bob walks out of the office Nicole follows as her assistant, HENRY, peaks his head in holding two name plates.

HENRY

Gold or silver, Boss?

Suddenly Tim appears in the distance behind Henry. They meet eyes. Nicole looks at the "partner" nameplate, then him. Why does she have to choose? Tears well in her eyes and she hightails it out of the office, Tim watches, conflicted.

20

INT. DICKINSON - ELEVATOR - SAME (D4)

20

Nicole desperately hits the close button but Tim stops the doors with his hand and forces himself along for the ride.

NICOLE

Get off. Please.

The tears are welling in her eyes. But he won't get off.

TIM

Don't cry. I hate to see you upset.

NICOLE

Then don't look.

TIM

This isn't easy for me either. Put yourself in my shoes. It's not a black and white situation and maybe I'm not handling it in the best way but I'm human. I hate that my ego has gotten the best of me because I really do love you.

Nicole stops the elevator. Turns to him; exposed.

NICOLE

Then why can't you love me and root for me like I do for you?

(MORE)

NICOLE (CONT'D)

I didn't ask for this but I deserve it- just as much as you. And yet, you mean more to me than the job...which is why I offered to give it back. For you.

She starts the elevator again as he stares at her. But as soon as it starts moving, he jolts it still again and pulls her into a kiss just as her phone starts to ring.

CUT TO:

21 INT. JASON'S HOUSE - SAME (D4) 21

Jason, still stiff but not stuck, hangs with Betsy and Kyle as he gets Nicole's voicemail.

JASON

She's not picking up for me either.

BETSY

Cause she's being the boss, staying busy and moving on!

22 INT. TIM'S CAR - MOVING - SAME (D4) 22

Nicole kisses Tim's neck as he drives.

23 INT. JASON'S HOUSE - SAME (D4) 23

KYLE

She's so strong.

24 EXT. TIM'S HOUSE - SAME (D4) 24

Nicole takes off Tim's shirt, still in the light of day, as they continue making out on the way into his house.

25 INT. JASON'S HOUSE - SAME (D4) 25

JASON

We need to do something for Nicole.

BETSY

Something she would never do for herself but would do for any of us.

KYLE

There's really only one way to avenge her.

26 INT. TIM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME (N4) 26

Nicole and Tim are intertwined on the couch post coital.

TIM
I've missed you.
(she smiles)
I can't believe you offered to give
up the partnership.

NICOLE
It was crazy. But that's love.

Tim goes in for a kiss. All Nicole's problems are gone.

TIM
So, when are you gonna resign?

Before she can process, Tim notices something at his window.

TIM
Did you just see that?

She looks over to it as something appears and then disappears
in the glass. Tim moves to the window and looks outside.

TIM
What the...I'm getting TP-ed!

27

EXT. TIM'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER (N4)

27

Tim and Nicole come outside and catch the friends TPing and
in turn, the friends catch Nicole with Tim. Shit.

ACT THREE

28 EXT. TIM'S HOUSE - SAME (N4) 28

They're deer in headlights. Then, Tim notices Kyle's eggs.

TIM

Were you gonna egg my house, Kyle?

Scared, Kyle drops the eggs like a sissy.

BETSY

Run!!

Kyle and Betsy run as Jason pulls Nicole aside.

JASON

You're better than this.

NICOLE

Why? Why am I better than this?

JASON

Because you're who I look up to.

Insert knife into Nicole's heart.

CUT TO:

29 INT. NICOLE & BETSY'S HOUSE - NICOLE'S ROOM - LATER (N4) 29

Nicole crawls into bed as Betsy sits at her side in a robe.

NICOLE

Don't say it. I know. I'm not as strong as I thought I was.

BETSY

You're the strongest person I know.

NICOLE

Really? Because from my purview I just screwed a dude who doesn't want me to succeed. And if getting shamed wasn't enough, I'm now admitting that I still don't know what I'm going to do about my job. What the hell am I gonna do?

Nicole tears up as Betsy wraps her arms around her friend.

BETSY

When I was deliberating my divorce and worrying that if I left, no one would love me again, a wise person told me not to worry, just to jump and a net would catch me.

NICOLE

Wise person? That was me.

BETSY

Like I said, a wise person. So I say to you...jump-- in whatever direction you think is best. To the job or the man. And there will be a net, alongside me.

Nicole wipes her tears and squeezes her bestie as Betsy puts her hand into her pocket and feels something. She opens the big pocket and is baffled.

BETSY

How the hell did that get in there?! Oh my god--all those hands.
(she cringes, then)
Whatever.

30

INT. DICKINSON - LOBBY/ELEVATORS - MORNING (D5)

30

Nicole waits for an elevator when Tim comes up behind her. He kisses her neck, spinning her around. He's in a great mood.

TIM

This morning's meeting is perfect to make your announcement. And I already took the liberty to give Bob the heads up that you wanted to say something and simultaneously pretended not to know what it was so I can act surprised. Cool?

NICOLE

(conflicted)
Cool.

TIM

Oh and babe, could you grab me a coffee at the cafe? Gotta make a call before the meeting. Thanks.

An elevator opens. Tim gets on and Nicole, still conflicted, is waved over to Sam with his daughter, LISA, at his station.

SAM

Lisa, this is the lady that I hope
you'll someday be.

NICOLE

Me, why me?

SAM

Because you have it all: the looks
the brains and...

(he earmuffs his kid)

...the balls.

(to his daughter)

This is a woman who's not afraid to
be the best. Which sometimes
involves a few private tears.

He winks at Nicole as she sees his security cameras in the
elevator. He sees all. She looks at the kid, shamed. Then,

NICOLE

Listen to your dad. When in doubt
just be the best version of you.

She looks at the elevators; sees a crowd. Earmuffing the kid:

NICOLE

Screw it. I'm taking the stairs.

31 INT. DICKINSON - STAIRWELL - SERIES OF SHOTS (D5) 31

--Nicole runs up the stairs full of steam.

--Nicole's a little slower. She takes off her heels and goes.

--Nicole's out of breath and walking. She stops and takes off
her panty hose then, continues on.

32 INT. LAW FIRM - CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER (D5) 32

Busting through the doors, Nicole is sweaty and winded.

NICOLE

I need to make a lil' announcement.
Ya see, I've had this crazy come to
Jesus about life and love and what
is and isn't important and no,
Marty, I'm not endorsing your
church, it was an impulsive idiom.

(MARTY shrugs)

(MORE)

NICOLE (CONT'D)

There comes a time when we all need to forgo the preconceived notions we've had about how our lives are gonna shake out and we just go with the flow, ya know? Because we don't just need to listen to the unicorns that talk to us late at night in diners but we actually need hear what they're saying. And yes, I have a point. And the point is, I had a revelation. So, I'm not choosing a man, and I'm not choosing a job, I'm choosing me...which means I'm actually choosing the job because I'm the best candidate for the partnership. And it should be mine.

BOB

Uhh...it still is.

NICOLE

Good. Just had to make that clear.
(pointed; to Tim)
To both of you. Now, I'm gonna go get my own cup of coffee. Carry on.

TAG

33 INT. LAW FIRM - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER (D5)

33

Nicole stands at the coffee maker. The pot is empty.

In a series of JUMP CUTS Nicole tries to make a pot but is unsuccessful in her task. Exhausted, frustrated and frazzled Nicole finally looks to a PARALEGAL:

NICOLE

Do you know how to use this?