

Wright vs. Wrong

"Pilot"

Written by
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ACT ONE

INT. DRESSING ROOM - DAY

EVELYN WRIGHT (36), a stunning brunette, impeccably styled, sits at a vanity, praying. A lipstick Christian and right-wing conservative, Evelyn's become rising star in the political punditry arena because she is wildly intelligent, wickedly confident and frustratingly beautiful; voted CNN's C-I-L-F (Conservative I'd Like to F*@!) in an unofficial poll. The diamond cross around her neck is only outshone by her colossal engagement ring.

EVELYN

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for all your blessings. I pray you will help me be articulate, gracious and compassionate out there tonight and that my ego will not get in the way of spreading your good word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

She stands to look at herself in the mirror. Her butt looks good in her Chanel pencil skirt. She winks at herself.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Pretty girl.(then) Alright, team, shall we?

REVEAL Evelyn's "team" waiting behind her;

CRYSTAL BALL, Evelyn's personal assistant. Her wide-eyed freshly scrubbed face makes it hard to peg her age, she could be 18 or 40. She is the best Christianity has to offer; kind, non-judgemental, joyous, a true lamb of God.

ADRIAN MANLY (30) Evelyn's 'contributing writer'-- a hip, NYU grad biding his time until he can get a job at The Daily Show. He and his wife, Tami, are organic, Prius liberals.

GAIL DONART (50) Evelyn's clothes, hair and makeup stylist. Gail is Tara Reid twenty years from now. Loves Vegas. Can't name the vice president but knows all Brangelina's kids.

A STAGE MANAGER impatiently taps his foot.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

The Stage Manager briskly walks "Team Evelyn" to stage.

STAGE MANAGER

(into headset) Evelyn Wright is walking to set.

CRYSTAL

Ms. Wright, here's your book in case you want to hold it up.

Crystal hands Evelyn a copy of *DEMOCRAP* - featuring a very sexy, very patriotic, airbrushed Evelyn.

EVELYN
Thank you, Crystal.

Adrian lags behind trying to disassociate himself from the group. Gail tweaks Evelyn's updo as they walk.

GAIL
Do you want this more "Charlotte"
or more "Samantha"?

EVELYN
More what or what? I have no idea
what you're saying, Gail. Just make
it...sexy, litigious.

GAIL
Miranda. Last season.

EVELYN
(noticing book) Where's the top ten
sticker? Crystal, I told you I
wanted one with a New York Times
top ten sticker on it.

Crystal looks stuck...and a little panicked.

ADRIAN
I think what Crystal's terrified to
point out is that it's not a top
ten best seller.

EVELYN
So take one off my other book.

ADRIAN
You want her to take a sticker off
FLIBERALS and put it on DEMOCRAP?

EVELYN
It's not FLIBERALS it's "F"LIBERALS-

ADRIAN
I know, I just...have a hard time
saying that.

CRYSTAL
I didn't bring a copy of FLIBERALS.
Can I pull one off MARLEY & ME?

Crystal holds up a worn copy of MARLEY & ME. Adrian groans.

EVELYN
Nevermind. It will be on it's way
to the top ten after tonight,
anyway. (to Adrian) Particularly if
you write me those one-liners I
asked for.

(MORE)

EVELYN (CONT'D)
 Something to put the global warming fanatics in their place.

He slips her a couple of notecards from his pocket.

ADRIAN
 Here. God help me.

EVELYN
 Are they funny?

ADRIAN
 I feel dead inside.

EVELYN
 Wonderful.

CRYSTAL
 And the bridal shop called, again. They really need measurements for your bridesmaids' dresses--

EVELYN
 (exasperated) They are relentless. Like raccoon trying to get into a garbage bin. Tell them I can't give them sizes because I haven't chosen my bridesmaids, yet.

GAIL
 You haven't picked your bridesmaids?

CRYSTAL
 But your wedding is in..

EVELYN
 I know when I'm getting married, Crystal.

CRYSTAL
 I don't even have a boyfriend and I know who my bridesmaids are.

EVELYN
 Naturally.

GAIL
 I use the same six girls in all my weddings.

EVELYN
 No offense, but my tastes are slightly more refined.

The group collides with the ENTOURAGE of...

KERI DALY (40), Evelyn's liberal counterpart, Sundance catalogue attractive, smart, funny. The women are friendly rivals who enjoy verbally sparring with each other.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
 Keri Daly! I didn't know you were on the panel tonight.

KERI
 (playful) I never turn down an opportunity to poke holes in your hateful, right-wing rhetoric.

EVELYN
 Ahhh, I've missed you. Where have you been? Rehab?

KERI
 Just got back from Iraq, actually.

EVELYN
 Again? What, do you have a time share there?

KERI
 I go for the shopping. Great outlet malls. (then) See you on set.

Keri's group moves ahead. Evelyn quickly turns to Adrian.

EVELYN
 Her new book, in a nutshell.

ADRIAN
 It's about the impact the Iraq war has had on the environment. It's brilliant. (off look) If you're into that kind of thing, clean air and water. It's called IWRECK.

EVELYN
 I-WRECK? (sarcastic) How clever.

ADRIAN
 It's no DEMOCRAP, but it is at number seven. (off Evelyn's stung expression) A real number seven, too, not one pulled off the cover of TWILIGHT.

Evelyn snubs his insolence. In fact, "What about Keri?"...

EVELYN
 Good for her. (then) Crystal, tell 'Always a Bridesmaid' I will get back to them soon. I have a lead.

ANGLE ON KERI.

INT. HOT-BUTTON SOUND STAGE - LATER

Pre-show on the set of *Hot-Button*, a hip, political talk show. The set is BUZZING. PANELISTS are being mic-ed. Evelyn sits next to Keri. Their stylists chat.

GAIL
 --Really?! I always thought she was the prettiest *Desperate Housewife*.

KERI'S STYLIST

A full mustache and beard. I shave her every morning.

Host, MILES ROTH, (45) womanizer, nouveau cool, steps in.

MILES

Well, look at this two hot-bodied ends of the political spectrum. If I were to gag you and put a bag over your heads I wouldn't know the difference.

They laugh.

KERI

Evelyn's the one wearing all the *blood diamonds*.

EVELYN

And she's the one with the chicken scratch tatoo on the back of her neck.

KERI

Ha, ha. (slightly defensive)
Actually, it's the Chinese symbol for truth and light.

EVELYN

Truth and Bud Light, more likely.

MILES

Ouch. Cutting a little close to the bone, aren't you, ladies?

KERI

Nah. (winking to Evelyn) All's fair in love and punditry.

Evelyn gives a big wink back - she likes this girl.

STAGE MANAGER

Clear the set! We go in thirty!

Then, unsure how genuine friendships are made...

EVELYN

(awkward) So, Keri...we've known each other several years now. Should we...go to lunch sometime?

KERI

(taken aback) Who?...You and I?

EVELYN

Or dinner. We have so much in common, tatoos and politics aside, we should...hang. Maybe shopping! What are you a size six?

Keri stammers.

STAGE MANAGER
We're live in five, four...

EVELYN
We'll talk after!

MILES
Have a great show everyone!

INT. SOUND STAGE - LATER

Hot-Button is in full swing. Keri and Evelyn are heated.

<p>KERI How can you sit there and say that with a straight face?!</p>	<p>EVELYN Like this, "global warming" is just a political marketing scheme--</p>
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MILES
Ladies, ladies! One at a time.

<p>KERI Come on! You have to be delusional to actually believe that.</p>	<p>EVELYN And you'd have to be a moron not to realize that cycles of "climate change" date back to the Ice Age of 1400 A.D.</p>
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Backstage. Adrian and Crystal watch intently. Gail reads People Magazine.

KERI
Al Gore won the Nobel Peace Prize.
He's not exactly a moron.

Audience APPLAUDS.

EVELYN
Al Gore invented global warming so
he could hang out with Leonardo
DiCaprio. Everyone knows he's a
huge "Titanic" fan.

Audience LAUGHS.

ADRIAN
(proudly) Mine.

Keri is growing genuinely aggravated.

KERI
I wish I could find humor in all
this, but I just spent the last two
years documenting these eco-
atrocities for my new book, IWRECK--

MILES
Excellent book. Top ten best
seller.

EVELYN

Which translates into how many acres of deforestation to print, do you think, Keri? Not to mention the "carbon footprint" you're making flying around the country to promote the book. Staying in water wasting, luxury hotels, no doubt. If the earth were actually warming it would only be because of all the hot air you limo liberals are blowing into the atmosphere.

All eyes on Keri.

KERI

I turn the water off in the shower when I shave my legs.

INT. HALLWAY - POST SHOW

Team Evelyn tracks back to the dressing room.

ADRIAN

God, you're convincing. I almost forgot about that island of floating garbage in the Pacific.

EVELYN

Are you referring to Guam?
(spotting Keri) Oh, Keri! Keri!

Keri doesn't slow. Evelyn has to race to catch up to her.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

(breathless) I thought you left.
So, lunch? When is good for you?

Keri turns to her, bubbling with hot hate.

KERI

How is it you don't believe in evolution when you are so clearly the direct descendant of a giant assho--(STAGE BELL).
Go (STAGE BELL) yourself, Evelyn.

Keri storms away. Evelyn is stunned.

REVEAL a dozen STAFF and CREW, taking it all in.

CRYSTAL

Should I get her dress size? No?

END OF ACT

ACT TWO

INT. OFFICE BUILDING, RECEPTION DESK - MORNING

A wagon wheel of office suites - an orthodontist, a realtor, chiropractor, etc.. At the hub is a welcome desk manned by COLUMBUS, African-American, affable, angular, clearly gay. Evelyn glides in, hair down, dress pants, expensive t-shirt, as casual as Ms. Wright gets.

EVELYN
Morning, Columbus.

COLUMBUS
I saw you on Hot-Button last night.
You made me want to run out and
shoot a spotted owl. (then) These
came for you.

He presents a vase of dead, black flowers. Evelyn looks them over.

COLUMBUS (CONT'D)
No card. I checked.

EVELYN
Well. It's the thought that counts.

INT. EVELYN'S OFFICE SUITE - SAME

Adrian and Gail hover over his computer.

GAIL
Crystal, come look at the website.
It's getting tons of punches.

ADRIAN
Hits.

CRYSTAL
I can't. I want to be at my desk
when Ms. Wright walks in.

ADRIAN
Just come look, it'll only take a
second.

She steps away. Evelyn enters.

EVELYN
Morning team!

Crystal rushes to her desk. Evelyn eyeballs her.

CRYSTAL
Morning.

EVELYN
Does the chair hurt your back? Is that the problem?

CRYSTAL
(re dead flowers) I'll put these in water.

ADRIAN
Someone filmed your blowout with Keri on their cellphone.

GAIL
It's all over the inter-web.

ADRIAN
And the kicker is you come off looking like the sane one.

REVEAL Adrian's t-shirt; a Caribou taking aim at Sarah Palin.

EVELYN
Adrian! The California Young Republicans just named me Woman of the Year. As your employer, do you really think that shirt is appropriate work attire?

ADRIAN
I thought you'd get a chuckle out of it now that Republicans have started eating their own.

EVELYN
Perhaps if the Caribou were aiming at McCain. (then) Did you finish the punch up on this week's column?

ADRIAN
On your desk.

EVELYN
Is it any good?

ADRIAN
If my wife reads it my marriage is over.

EVELYN
Excellent. Crystal, what time is my interview with *USA Today*?

CRYSTAL
Ten o'clock. And they're sending a photographer over tomorrow at noon.

EVELYN
What am I wearing for that, Gail?

GAIL
I've got the perfect come-hither
pant suit.

Gail follows Evelyn into her office with an arm full of new clothes. The door slams shut.

INT. EVELYN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Crystal knocks and pops her head into Evelyn's office.

CRYSTAL
Not to be a pest, but we're in code
orange with the bridesmaid dresses.
They are threatening to cancel the
order if they don't--

REVEAL Evelyn, undressed, Spanx at an unflattering half-mast.

EVELYN
Could we discuss this when I'm not
stuffing myself into sausage
casing?

Crystal nods, starts to close the door, then...

CRYSTAL
And you have a lunch meeting with
your manager at one.

Door swiftly shuts.

INT. SHUTTERS RESTAURANT - ONE O'CLOCK

Evelyn and her manager JOAN HARRINGTON (50), gruff, a pessimistic dresser, talk business over salads.

JOAN
Keri Daly was on The Today Show
this morning and didn't even
mention "the incident."

EVELYN
In the studio? They never have me
in the studio. I'm always "via
satellite."

JOAN
I think we should play it the same
way. Take the high road. It's not
worth our time to talk about it.

EVELYN
Too late. I already confirmed the
incident with *USA Today*.

JOAN
Or we can go that route. Fan the flames. Generate press for your book.

A table of WOMEN laugh. They are a fun loving, 40-ish group of attractive girlfriends. Evelyn glances at them longingly, then turns her attention back to Joan who is wrestling a large piece of lettuce into her mouth.

JOAN (CONT'D)
(mouth full) The leaves are so big.

EVELYN
(begrudgingly) I have something personal to discuss with you. You know my wedding is in two months--

JOAN
Baker wants out.

EVELYN
No. Why would you say that?

JOAN
Sorry. You've been engaged eight years I just can't believe... it's finally happening. It's so exciting -- you talk now.

EVELYN
I want you to be a bridesmaid.

Joan is stunned. This is a first.

JOAN
You're that hard up?

EVELYN
Yes.

JOAN
No sisters?

EVELYN
One. She's in. Baker has two brothers standing up. I need one more.

JOAN
Church friends?

EVELYN
Boring. And the two ladies I like hate me.

JOAN
Cousins.

EVELYN
I wasn't in their weddings.
Wouldn't look right.

JOAN
College, high school frie--

EVELYN
All male. Joan?!

JOAN
You don't want me. My arms are fat.
I'll compromise your wedding
pictures.

EVELYN
Are you saying no?

JOAN
What do the dresses look like?

EVELYN
Majorelle blue, boatneck,
sleeveless...

JOAN
Oh, God. What I'm saying is...let
me find you a friend.

The table of women LAUGH. Evelyn sighs.

EVELYN
Women hate me. I don't know why.
Always have. I make them cry.

JOAN
I don't hate you.

EVELYN
You aren't a woman. You're my
manager.

Joan's lip trembles.

EXT. SHUTTERS RESTAURANT - LATER

Evelyn and Joan wait at the valet for their cars.

JOAN
How about Keri Daly? That would be
a terrific way to generate press.
Extend the olive branch, have her
in your wedding.

EVELYN
You think because we are both
attractive, intelligent women in
the same line of work we are going
to be best friends?

(MORE)

EVELYN (CONT'D)
 Have slumber parties, braid each other's hair? Don't be an idiot, Joan.

JOAN
 You might have more friends if you were a little more...charitable.

EVELYN
 (What!) I am very charitable.

JOAN
 Then give me a chance to find someone else to be a bridesmaid. Please.

EVELYN
 End of the week.

A YOUNG MAN approaches with a copy of DEMOCRAP.

YOUNG MAN
 Ms. Wright would you sign my book?

EVELYN
 With pleasure.

She signs it - "See how charitable I am, Joan?"

She hands it back to him. He promptly lights it on fire, flings it across the parking lot and flips Evelyn off.

JOAN
 What's the matter with you?! We should have you arrested--

EVELYN
 It's alright, Joan. It's all applause to me.

INT. EVELYN'S HOLLYWOOD HOME - THAT EVENING

It's a sleek, modern home. Filled with crosses from all over the world.

Evelyn's maid, SCARLETTA, (30), stocky, Hispanic, illegal immigrant, carefully places a bottle of red wine, an opener and a wine glass on the spotless counter.

Evelyn enters wearing lounging sweats, dragging garbage bags.

SCARLETTA
 Want me to make you dinner?

EVELYN
 No, thank you, Scarlettta. I've got a wedding dress to fit into. You know what I'm in the mood for? A glass of wine. That sounds really appealing.

Scarletta begins opening the wine she's put out.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
Oh, no need to open a new bottle. I just uncorked one last night. Use the rest of that. It's in the cabinet.

Scarletta opens a large cabinet solely devoted to wine.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
What keeps you here so late?

SCARLETTA
My friends are cleaning a house in the neighborhood. We're going to ride the bus home together.

EVELYN
(envious) Kind of a girls night out, huh? That's nice. (re bags) These are for you. Some linens, place settings, mostly clothes and shoes.

SCARLETTA
Thank you, Ms.

EVELYN
Thank you for taking my charity.

They exchange warm smiles. Scarletta pours last night's wine into the glass. It amounts to a sip. Awkward silence.

SCARLETTA
Want me to put water in it like I do ketchup?

INT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - SAME NIGHT

A Silverlake fixer-upper. Adrian and TAMI (28), yoga teacher, earthy, three months pregnant, get dressed to go to a party.

ADRIAN
You look nice.

TAMI
(mean) Shut up.

ADRIAN
Are you mad about something or just being pregnant?

TAMI
Just answer me this. Was the Kentucky Fried Chicken line yours?

ADRIAN
(playing dumb) The what?

She pulls a newspaper out of the trash and points to EVELYN'S SMILING FACE at the top of the column.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Tami, why? Why would you read that?

TAMI

I was recycling and it was there. Was that line yours? (off look) Oh, God it was! Is that really how you feel about the death penalty?

ADRIAN

Calm down.

TAMI

It's making me physically ill seeing you work for this right-wing bigot.

ADRIAN

This isn't forever. Just until I get a job at *The Daily Show*...or pay off this thirty year mortgage.

TAMI

We both wanted this house.

ADRIAN

I don't want to fight. Let's not fight. Please. Let's just go out and have a good time with our friends.

TAMI

If anyone at the party asks you're still writing for Trivial Pursuit.

ADRIAN

Fine. But, I'm also working on a screenplay.

TAMI

Okay. What's the screenplay...in case they ask?

ADRIAN

(finally) Trivial Pursuit. The movie.

EXT. BUS STOP - LATER THAT NIGHT

Scarletta and her FRIENDS struggle to load Evelyn's GARBAGE BAGS and their cleaning equipment onto the bus. The bags get stuck in the door, the BUS DRIVER has to get involved.

INT. EVELYN'S HOME - LATER THAT NIGHT

Evelyn, in bed with a bottle of wine, types on her laptop. She's surrounded by magazines and newspapers. TV's on.

REPORTER (ON TELEVISION)
Keri Daly was in New York to host
an event for PETA, tonight.

Evelyn turns it up.

REPORTER (ON TELEVISION) (CONT'D)
We asked the sexy political pundit
about her heated confrontation with
conservative author Evelyn Wright.

ANGLE ON TELEVISION: Keri is stunning on the red carpet.

KERI (ON TELEVISION)
Tonight is about PETA. It's a
wonderful campaign. That's my focus
this evening.

REPORTER (ON TELEVISION)
The star studded event raised one
hundred thousand dollars for the
fight against canine obesity.

ANGLE ON TELEVISION: A nude photo of Keri with a couple of well placed, very fat Chihuahuas.

EVELYN
Where were the cameras when I
collected three thousand binoculars
for the Minutemen Border Patrol?

A LOUD NOISE. Evelyn mutes the television.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
Scarletta?

Evelyn pulls a gun out of her night stand, aims at the door.

Evelyn's fiance, BAKER MCKAY (45), rugged, genuine, abiding Christian, peers around the corner. He's in a pilot uniform.

BAKER
Boo.

EVELYN
Baker!

Her eyes light up, she tosses the gun aside. This is a sweet, soft side of Evelyn we've yet to see; playful and adoring. To her credit, Evelyn is loyal to her man, she intentionally doesn't show this side of herself to just anyone.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
What are you doing here? I thought
you were in Cleveland tonight.

BAKER
We were rerouted because of
weather. I thought you were in New
York?

EVELYN
Next week...

BAKER
Well, I guess I lucked out.

She answers him with a passionate kiss.

EVELYN
Hungry? Thirsty?

BAKER
No, exhausted. I just want to crawl
into bed.

EVELYN
How tired are you?

She pulls him on to the bed.

BAKER
Honey, Cameron is here.

She freezes.

INT. EVELYN'S HOLLYWOOD HOME, LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

CAMERON (30's), ice skater handsome, Baker's copilot, sits in
the dark with his bag. Evelyn and Baker enter.

EVELYN
Hello, Cameron.

Cameron stands abruptly, knocking over a lamp, catching it.

CAMERON
All the rooms near the airport were
booked.

EVELYN
You're always welcome, Cameron.
That's what the guest room is for.

Uncomfortable pause - her speciality.

BAKER
Well, good night, Cameron. See you
in a few.

CAMERON
Good night. Good night, Evelyn.

Cameron bee-lines to the guest room.

EVELYN
 It's the second door on the--
 He obviously knows the way.

INT. EVELYN'S HOLLYWOOD HOME, MASTER BEDROOM - LATER
 Evelyn and Baker lie in the dark, talking.

EVELYN
 --She's always getting naked for one cause or another. That's why her book is at number seven. I've seen Keri's bare butt more times than I've seen my own.

BAKER
 You sell books without being sexy. (then) Not that you couldn't--

EVELYN
 One call to the NRA and I could be lying buck naked on a bear rug with my long range shotgun. But, I have more integrity than that.

BAKER
 Too bad. I'd like to see that.

He wrestles her under him.

EVELYN
 (delighted) Baker!

BAKER
 You're lucky we're waiting for our wedding or you'd be in trouble.

EVELYN
 (frustrated) Lucky me. (then) You know, we could still...fool around.

BAKER
 Better not. We're so close to the wedding. I don't want to blow it.

EVELYN
 No pun intended.

BAKER
 (horrified) No! Oh, Evelyn, I wasn't insinuating--

EVELYN
 It's okay, Baker, I know. Besides, Cameron is down the hall--

BAKER
 --the hall. Yeah, Cameron.

They move back to their own sides of the bed. Evelyn lingers a moment over Baker, letting her hair drape over him...she's struggling with this "period of abstinence." Awkward moment. She finally plops down on her side of the bed.

EVELYN
Is Cameron a Christian?

BAKER
Lapsed Catholic. I'm working on it.

EVELYN
I'm surprised he doesn't have a girlfriend. He's so handsome.

BAKER
It's tough finding a woman who can handle a pilot's schedule. (kissing her) I'm one of the lucky ones.

EVELYN
(sigh) You're my best friend, why can't I put you in a bridesmaids dress?

BAKER
Still having trouble finding a bridesmaid? Evelyn, you know, there's no rule that says--

EVELYN
No! You can't have more groomsmen than I have bridesmaids. People will think I don't have friends.

BAKER
You don't have-- (catches himself kisses her head.)

EVELYN
Women are so...difficult. I have a hard time connecting with them.

BAKER
(chuckle) You sound like Cameron.

This is mildly concerning. She lets it slide.

ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. OFFICE SUITE, KITCHENETTE - LATER

Crystal makes coffe. Gail is taking a million vitamins.

CRYSTAL
(fretful) 'Always A Bridesmaid'
canceled the dresses. I'm not going
to tell Ms. Wright. I'm just going
to make the dresses myself.

Adrian enters engrossed in a magazine. He waits for coffee.

CRYSTAL (CONT'D)
I sew. Some. I made that table
cloth once. It turned out okay.
Sort of. It was wider on one side
than the other, which is weird
because I traced another tablecloth
to make the pattern.

ADRIAN
(re magazine) Oh my god.

GAIL
I can get you bridesmaid dresses,
Crystal. Easy. I worked on 'Big
Love' they got a million of 'em.

Evelyn enters and hands Crystal a piece of paper.

EVELYN
It's a map to your desk.

Crystal rushes out.

ADRIAN
Evelyn, have you read this?
(reading) "Unlike her other
bombastic, divisive books, DEMOCRAP
manages to keep it's tirades afloat
with buoyant nuggets of
entertainingly wicked humor..."
That's a good--

She snatches the magazine.

EVELYN
That's great! *Time Magazine* gave us
a good review!

Celebratory hug. Even Adrian is joyous.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
And that's all you, Adrian. You are
"buoyant nuggets of humor!"

A little less joyous.

INT. EVELYN'S OFFICE - LATER

Gail does Evelyn's makeup. Joan is giving the hard sell.

JOAN

--Tomorrow, noon at Shutters you have a lunch date with your new best friend. She's a travel writer, a client of mine. You two have tons in common. You've both been to Bethlehem. And she's got gorgeous arms.

EVELYN

Probably from carrying luggage.

JOAN

You'll have great wedding pictures and I won't have to have arm reduction surgery. Everyone wins.

EVELYN

Just tell me her name.

JOAN

No. I don't want you picking her apart before you even meet her.

EVELYN

I don't pick people apart. (then) What kind of "travel writer?" She doesn't carry a rainstick does she? (nevermind) And what if I don't hit it off with her?

JOAN

I've made a list of alternates.

Crystal enters.

CRYSTAL

The photographer called he's running late. (then) Ms. Wright, I just want you to know that if you need me, I'd be honored to offer my bridesmaid services. I have a ton of experience, great references and I probably already have the dress.

EVELYN

Thank you, Crystal, that won't be necessary.

Crystal nods, bites her lip and leaves.

JOAN

Why not Crystal?

EVELYN

I can't cross that line with her. She'd think we're actually friends. It would be cruel.

JOAN
(scratching off) That cuts my list
in half. How about Gail?

GAIL
Going to Burning Man that week.
Already got my tent. What about
Columbus?

JOAN
The front desk guy?

GAIL
He does an amazing Diana Ross
impersonation. You've got to see it
to believe it.

JOAN
I bet he's got amazing arms.

EVELYN
No. Although, I would love to have
a woman of color in my lineup?

Crystal pops in.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
I said no, Crystal. Don't make me
hurt your feelings.

CRYSTAL
(huh?) Keri Daly is on line one.

Crystal pops out. Whaaa?

EVELYN
Did you--

JOAN
No! I did nothing.

They race to Crystal's desk...

INT. EVELYN'S OFFICE SUITE, CRYSTAL'S DESK - CONTINUOUS
Adrian is already standing there ready to stir the pot.

EVELYN
What did she say?

CRYSTAL
It was her assistant, Samson. He
said "Ms. Daly would like to speak
to Ms. Wright."

ADRIAN
Are you going to take it?

JOAN
Yes, she is. Aren't you?

EVELYN
Of course I am. The Bible says turn
the other cheek.

CRYSTAL
Matthew 5:39 "Whoever smite thee on
thy right cheek, offer him also--

EVELYN
--the other cheek." I'm familiar.

CRYSTAL
"And if he taketh action to...

EVELYN
Crystal, no one likes a bible bore.

CRYSTAL
Sorry.

Crystal tries to hand Evelyn the phone.

EVELYN
Not just yet. Let her sit a minute.

JOAN
Don't do this.

Beat.

EVELYN
How is everyone enjoying their
health insurance coverage?

CRYSTAL
It's nice. Thank you.

ADRIAN
Tami has a sonogram tomorrow
afternoon. Can I take off early?

EVELYN
Of course. Family first. (then) She
can't drive herself?

ADRIAN
I want to be there.

EVELYN
Right. (then) Okay, I'm ready.

Crystal hands Evelyn the phone. The blinking light vanishes.

CRYSTAL
The light went away. She hung up.

Uncomfortable beat. PHONE RINGS. Evelyn immediately answers.

EVELYN
Evelyn Wright.

CUT TO:

INT. CASH CAB - SAME

Baker and Cameron are in the CASH CAB (yes, the gameshow.)
Baker talks slowly into his cell phone.

BAKER
(excited) Evelyn, Cameron and I are
in the Cash Cab. What year was
Clare Boothe Luce born?

EVELYN (O.S.)
Nineteen-o-three.

BAKER
(to driver) Nineteen-o-three.

The bells go off. Cameron and Baker cheer!

INT. EVELYN'S HOME, WALK-IN CLOSET - LATER THAT NIGHT

Evelyn and Gail root around in Evelyn's closet. The
television is blaring.

REPORTER (ON TELEVISION)
--Ms. Daly was scheduled to appear
on the conservative morning show to
promote her new book, but was
bumped at the last minute by urgent
developments in the Middle East--

EVELYN
Well, how about that? That along
with the *Time Magazine* review, this
has been a stellar day. Cheers.

They click enormous glasses of red wine.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
Now if I could only find something
suitable to wear for my lady blind
date. I own nothing fun and
playful.

GAIL
If you'd given me a heads-up I
could have shopped for you.

EVELYN
Can't you go tomorrow morning?

GAIL
No. I'll be hung-over. Kiss is in
town.

Gail holds up a nautical ensemble

EVELYN
I'm not auditioning for South
Pacific. It's a lunch date.

GAIL
You've got a great ass, you need a
perfect pair of jeans to put it in.

EVELYN
No. I just can't bring myself to do
jeans. They are a sign of the lack
of individualism and ingenuity that
plagues this country. It's mindless
dressing.

Note Gail is head-to-toe denim.

GAIL
Know what would be perfect? That
Donna Karan, cream colored linen
suit. Where is that?

Evelyn thinks...suddenly remembers!

INT. EVELYN'S HOME - LATER

Evelyn is on the phone.

EVELYN
No, Scarletta. It's a pant suit. A
cream colored linen pant suit.
Cream...White. Pant suit...Yes,
with gold and white buttons! You
found it?...Ohthankgoodness...I
need to wear it one more time, then
it's all yours. Gracias...You can
iron it when you get here.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. SHUTTERS RESTAURANT - THE NEXT DAY

Evelyn, wearing a cream linen suit that she makes her look classy and young, is escorted into the dining room by the HOSTESS. Evelyn spots Keri Daly sitting alone.

EVELYN
Joan, you little sneak.

Evelyn saunters over to Keri's table and sits.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
Hello. I'm sorry I wasn't able to take your call yesterday. It's been a crazy week. I hope you can forgive my rudeness.

KERI
I called to apologize for my behavior. I let you get to me. I'm sorry. I forget it's just an act.

EVELYN
Interesting apology, but I'll take it. (then) Frankly, I'm touched you'd go to such lengths to have lunch with me.

KERI
I'm not having lunch with you. I'm having lunch with Gwyneth Paltrow. (spotting her) Gwyneth!

Keri embraces a lean blonde we assume is Paltrow. Evelyn stands so Gwyneth can take her seat. Evelyn is confused.

DONNA (O.C.)
Evelyn! Evelyn Wright.

Evelyn turns to find her lunch date, DONNA, long grey hair, Indian skirt, sandals, sitting by the window waving.

INT. SHUTTERS - LATER

Donna talks and eats without taking a breath. Keri is in the background cooing over Gwyneth's baby pictures.

DONNA
Loved India. The food is amazing. You can eat all you want because the clothes are so forgiving.

EVELYN
True. All figures look the same wrapped in a sheet.

DONNA
 Exactly. But my book isn't just a culinary journey, it's a spiritual one to understand how I traveled the world without acquiring a single friend. Joan said we share that peculiar trait.--

Evelyn smiles and fills her wine glass to the rim.

INT. OFFICE SUITE, KITCHETTE - LATER

Crystal pours rootbeer into a coffee mug, slurping it to keep it from over flowing.

CRYSTAL
 Rootbeer tastes like a birthday party in your mouth.

INT. EVELYN'S OFFICE SUITE, CRYSTAL'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Crystal runs to phone.

CRYSTAL
 Evelyn Wright's office.

INT. SHUTTERS RESTAURANT, BATHROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

Evelyn sits in a stall.

EVELYN
 Should I just move your desk into the kitchen? Would that help?
 (then) Listen, I've had too much to drink. I can't drive and I need to be rescued from this nightmare. Have Adrian drive you to the restaurant so you can drive me home.

CRYSTAL (O.C.)
 In your Hummer? You want me to drive--

Someone enters the bathroom.

EVELYN
 (whispering) Can't talk now.

Evelyn lifts her feet and huddles on the toilet.

INT. ADRIAN'S PRIUS - LATER

Adrian tries to calm Crystal down.

ADRIAN
It'll be fine. Just take it slow.

CRYSTAL
I'm not a strong driver, Adrian.
Can't you drive her home and I'll
follow in your car?

ADRIAN
I can't. I have to pick up Tami for
a doctor's appointment. I'm going
to be late as it is.

CRYSTAL
(in tears) I've side swiped two
cars in my Beetle. Behind the wheel
of a Hummer, I'll kill someone.

ADRIAN
Hey, no, don't cry. (then) I'm not
going to let you kill anyone.

INT. SHUTTERS RESTAURANT, BATHROOM - A LITTLE LATER

Evelyn is still sitting on the toilet. Her cell rings "JESUS
LOVES ME THIS I KNOW."

EVELYN
Where are you?

ADRIAN (O.C.)
We're outside.

EVELYN
Do you see a grey haired witch in a
peasant skirt outside?

ADRIAN (O.C.)
No, it's all clear.

Evelyn emerges from the stall, she pauses in the mirror.

EVELYN
(sloppy wink) Pretty girl.

Someone enters. Evelyn darts back in the stall. She peers
out. It's not Donna. It's Keri.

Keri catches Evelyn's eye in the mirror.

KERI
Evelyn?

EVELYN
Yes.

She emerges from the stall with as much grace as she can
muster.

KERI
Are you okay?

EVELYN
Splendid.

They fix their faces in the mirror.

KERI
I meant what I said earlier about burying the hatchet. Gwen and I were just talking about how divided our country is. I don't want to be part of the problem. We have this amazing new President. I want to follow his lead. Set an example for young people everywhere that despite our differences we can stand united. (then) I'm a little drunk.

Off Keri's flowery speech.

EVELYN
Would you like to be a bridesmaid in my wedding?

Long. Long pause. Did she hear the question? Then...

KERI
No.

Evelyn clenches her jaw, steadies her dignity and makes for the door, SLIPPING slightly on the slick floor on her exit.

INT. ADRIAN'S PRIUS - MOMENTS LATER

Crystal is behind the wheel driving like an old lady. Evelyn rambles.

EVELYN
--Oh, they talk a good game about unity and hope, but when you put their words to the test they are spineless hypocrites-- Ack, there's Donna!

Evelyn huddles in the floorboard.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
I left her with the check. Let Joan reimburse her.

EXT. ADRIAN'S HOUSE - LATER

Tami stands outside, checking her watch. The Hummer pulls up.

TAMI
You are friggin' kidding me?

INT. EVELYN'S HUMMER - LATER

Adrian drives. Tami won't even look at him.

ADRIAN
I'm sorry. She didn't want to drive drunk. I had no choice.

TAMI
I can't hear you over the burning of fossil fuels.

Adrian straddles the road. Other cars HONK.

KERI
(softening) Know what I think? I think you like her. I think you see through her act and relate to her on a deeper level. A human level.

ADRIAN
(realizing) I guess I do. There's something about her that's vulnerable and kind of endearing--

He freezes in Tami's cold stare. He's been trapped.

TAMI
Go to hell.

INT. ADRIAN'S PRIUS - LATER

Crystal and Evelyn are as we left them. "JESUS LOVES ME THIS I KNOW." Evelyn digs out her cell phone.

EVELYN
(livid) It's Joan. (into phone) You know I hate grown women with backpacks, that should have been your first red flag--

INT. JOAN'S OFFICE - SAME

Joan sits behind her desk.

JOAN
Evelyn--

INTERCUT BETWEEN PRIUS AND JOAN'S OFFICE.

EVELYN
I am insulted on so many levels--

JOAN
Your book is number one, Evelyn.

EVELYN
What?!!

JOAN
Number ONE!!! We just got word!

CRYSTAL
(excited) What?!! What is it?

EVELYN
We're number five Crystal!!

The women squeal sharing a real sister moment. Evelyn puts up a high five hand. Crystal, trying to drive, misses and slaps Evelyn in the face.

CRYSTAL
Sorry, sorry. I'm so sorry.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW