

CENTURY CITY

"Pilot"

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CENTURY CITY

"Pilot"

TEASER

OVER BLACK

We hear the HUM of a busy city, but not quite the kind of busy city we're used to.

SUPER: "LOS ANGELES - 2053"

With a WHOOSH and a VROOM we FADE IN on

EXT. FUTURISTIC CITYSCAPE - DAY

Gravity-defying 200-STORY SKYSCRAPERS with architectural cut-outs in their centers, MAGLEV TRAINS zipping between them on floating tracks, EXTERIOR ELEVATORS climbing the sides of the towers, ARTIFICIAL SUNS illuminating the gloomy daylight, and, yes, FLYING CARS.

MUSIC: A peppy pop tune called "Tomorrow Morning."

More zipping, climbing, illuminating, flying and then

AN EERIE-LOOKING SPACESHIP

appears in the sky. It floats down and disgorges an army of ALIEN ROBOT MONSTERS.

DARWIN (V.O.)

That's scary.

AXEL (V.O.)

- Actually, it's kind of stupid.

The monsters FREEZE. The entire cityscape FREEZES. And we pull back to reveal we are

INT. LAW FIRM - RECEPTION AREA - DAY

The monster-invaded cityscape is a HOLOGRAM floating in the air around DARWIN McNEAL, a handsome, pleased-with-himself attorney in his 30s, and AXEL SISTO, a slender 7-year-old who has just hit the freeze button on the GAME PROJECTOR he's holding.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

We're on a high floor of a 59-year-old office building (built in 1994). Through a window behind Darwin and Axel we see

THE ACTUAL LOS ANGELES OF 2053

Which is about as different from 2003 as 2003 was from 1953. The skyline mixes twentieth-century buildings with newer structures, some of them jarringly modern, others determinedly retro. Private automobile traffic on the streets is sparse, limited by severe controls; motorized scooters and streetcars and elevated trains (on non-floating tracks) are abundant. Flying cars still exist only at Disneyland.

IN THE RECEPTION AREA

LEE MAY enters. She's in her 20s, an associate in the firm of Constable, Crane, and Montero. She's pretty, smart, athletic--almost too good to be true, a condition she's not particularly happy about.

LEE MAY

Darwin, have you read the file on this breach of contract?

DARWIN

I'll read it in the room.

LEE MAY

What if the client has a question?

DARWIN

You'll answer it.

LEE MAY

(re: Axel)

Who's he?

Before Darwin can reply, TOM MONTERO enters. He's mid-40s, a former governor of California, and the firm's newest partner. He has a sublime aura of absolute self-assurance which is, oddly, not irritating. People like him.

TOM

Did the meeting start?

DARWIN

What meeting?

Now Tom notices the frozen hologram. He turns toward Axel and holds out his hand.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

TOM

May I?

Axel hands him the game controller.

TOM

(answering Darwin's
question)

New client. Hannah told me to drop
in....

Tom unfreezes the game. The alien robot monsters resume
menacing the city.

TOM

...Something with public policy
implications.

(to Axel)

You open the gates on the reservoir,
turn up the artificial suns...

Tom hits buttons on the controller. In the hologram, the dry
Los Angeles River starts to flow; the suns brighten.

TOM

...to increase evaporation. Launch
hygroscopic flares from Vandenberg.
Hire the Yucaipa Indians to perform a
ceremony...

In the hologram, a flare-dispensing missile streaks overhead;
buckskin-clad Indians appear, dancing, on a skyscraper roof.

TOM

...and...

He gestures toward the hologram, wherein it begins to RAIN.
The robot-monsters turn noticeably creaky, then retreat toward
their ship. Tom smiles, victorious.

TOM

They hate water.

LEE MAY

That's stupid.

AXEL

That's what I said.

DARWIN

(re: Axel)

Who is he?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (3)

TOM

(to Axel)

You here to see a lawyer?

AXEL

My father is.

INT. LAW FIRM - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

This room's adjacent to the reception area, separated from it by an opaque glass wall. At the table are HANNAH CRANE, a strong woman in her 40s, the creator of this firm; LUKAS GOLD, an earnest and self-critical associate in his early 30s; and their client, MILLER SISTO, 40s, who, from his resemblance to the boy, is clearly Axel's father.

SISTO

I'm desperate. I'll do whatever it takes.

LUKAS

The government has a strong case, Mister Sisto.

SISTO

That's not the point.

Lukas opens a folder and pulls out a report and SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE A PHOTOGRAPHIC SLIDE. Lukas lays the slide on the table as he reads from the report:

LUKAS

'Vial was found in shoulder bag carried by subject. Subject volunteered that he was owner of bag and all contents. Subject demanded that vial be returned.'

Lukas taps the slide, and A HOLOGRAM IMAGE OF A SMALL METAL VIAL appears, rotating, projected in the air over the table. Lukas gestures to it.

LUKAS

It's going to be hard to argue that it wasn't yours.

SISTO

I don't want to argue that it wasn't mine. I need it back.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

HANNAH

That would be an admission that you've broken a federal law.

SISTO

I'll pay the fine, do a year in prison. I don't care. I need it back, I need this back.

Now he taps the slide and the hologram vial splits open to reveal its contents -- A TINY BUNDLE OF HUMAN CELLS. Tom enters --

TOM

Hi. I'm Tom Montero.

SISTO

(recognizes...)
The governor.

TOM

Ex-governor. The people wised up.

It's his standard joke, but Sisto doesn't smile.

TOM

I've been talking to your boy out there.

Sisto nods but says nothing. Still trying to break the ice, Tom turns a knob on the wall, which makes the glass turn from opaque to transparent.

THROUGH THE GLASS

they can see Axel, alone now, reading a comic book.

TOM

Nice kid. Real nice kid.

SISTO

I know.

Tom notices the apparition -- the hologram of the bundle of cells.

TOM

What's this?

Sisto points to Axel.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

SISTO

Him.

Tom looks at Sisto, not comprehending.

SISTO

It's a clone. Of my son.

(the point)

And if you don't get it back for me,
he's going to die.

(points at the bundle of
cells)

It's nice, too.

All heads turn toward the bundle of cells, then back to Axel
as we

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

INT. LAW FIRM - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Moments later. Tom is seated at the table with Hannah, Lukas, and Sisto. Axel is still visible through the wall.

SISTO

Axel was born with a defective liver. It lacks ducts to carry bile to his intestines. He's had three operations so far, but he needs a liver transplant--a compatible liver transplant--or he'll be dead in a year. Right now the waiting list for juvenile livers is three-and-a-half years.

HANNAH

Why not have another child the traditional way?

SISTO

I'm a widower. I suppose I could carry one of those mate scanners and set it to look for women who want to have organ donor babies.

TOM

(concedes)

Not a big winner on the singles scene.

LUKAS

So you went to Singapore for an illegal procedure?

SISTO

(nods)

They took a cell from my son's skin, extracted its DNA, and created a viable embryo that will be implanted in a surrogate mother. After it's born, a surgeon will take half its liver....

HANNAH

Which it won't mind giving up for its brother?

SISTO

Its twin. Its self. Wouldn't you do the same for an identical sibling?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

TOM

My brother tried to take half my
meatball sandwich once, I bit him.

Hannah shoots Tom a look.

LUKAS

(to Sisto)

Why did the Customs Service stop you
coming back into the country?

SISTO

I don't know. The tank was concealed
in a bag--

TOM

(knows)

Informants in Singapore.

LUKAS

Anti-cloning spies?

HANNAH

He's not the only one to do this. The
government wants to set an example.

SISTO

Can you help me?

LUKAS

The law against human cloning provides
specific penalties for the doctor and
parent. It doesn't specify what should
happen to the clone.

TOM

- They catch you bringing in ivory, or
fake designer purses...they destroy
them.

Hannah shoots Tom another look -- not the most tactful thing
to say.

SISTO

Isn't this different?

Lukas and Tom look toward Hannah, whose decision this is --

INT. LAW FIRM - RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Sisto exits the conference room, puts on a smile as he approaches his son.

SISTO

Hey. Ready to go?

AXEL

He helped me kill the robots.

Axel points toward the

DOORWAY TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM

Where Hannah, Tom, and Lukas watch father and son depart.

LUKAS

I can start with the statute,
precedents, legislative history....

HANNAH

(re: Sisto)
He can't afford us.

LUKAS

He has money.

HANNAH

He needs it to finish the clone. Not
to mention pay the fine.

LUKAS

When you brought me in, you said I
could do pro bono.

Hannah considers...makes the decision....

HANNAH

Make him sign a promissory note,
installment terms, automatic debit.
(as for the case....)

And check into procedures of the
Customs Service....

LUKAS

(ahead of her)
Any discretion they have regarding
seized property. Forfeiture provisions
in other statutes....

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Lukas walks away, his mission clear. Hannah turns to Tom.

HANNAH

Of course, as we know, 'they destroy ivory and fake designer purses.'

TOM

They do.

HANNAH

I brought you into this firm to impress clients, not terrify them.

TOM

I always spoke my mind. That was part of my charm.

HANNAH

One-term charm.

TOM

(smiles, unfazed)

It was a great four years.

(off Hannah)

I'll go find somebody I can impress.

He turns and walks away, into the path of MATTHEW CONSTABLE, 75, who's "of counsel" to the firm, impeccably dressed in a tailored suit. Tom flashes his blinding smile --

TOM

Matthew....

MATTHEW

Governor....

Tom walks on. Matthew joins Hannah.

MATTHEW

(re: Tom)

How's the new boy working out?

HANNAH

He'll be fine.

MATTHEW

That bad?

HANNAH

He'll be fine.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

During which three new clients enter. RICKY, JAKE, and VINCENT are casually dressed, handsome, late 30s. They walk up to Hannah and Matthew.

RICKY
Mr. McNeal?

Matthew points.

MATTHEW
Second door on the right.

The clients walk that way. Matthew watches them thoughtfully; somewhere in his head a bell is ringing....

MATTHEW
(to Hannah)
Do they look familiar?

INT. DARWIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ricky, Jake, and Vincent sit on a couch. Lee May is in a chair, Darwin at his desk, the case file in front of him.

DARWIN
So...you were all in a band....

RICKY
Are in a band. And T.J. isn't. Not anymore.

Darwin flips through the file.

DARWIN
'T.J.'?

LEE MAY
That would be Mr. Petoskey.

RICKY
We've been offered a tour.

VINCENT
A comeback tour.

JAKE
We were never away.

VINCENT
You were. How'd that solo career work out? You sold what, twelve downloads?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

RICKY

United front, guys, remember? Us three tight.

Vincent and Jake look at each other. After a beat, they hold out their fists and tap knuckles.

VINCENT

Tight.

JAKE

Right.

DARWIN

That's the spirit.

LEE MAY

(to Darwin)

Mr. Petoskey has obtained a restraining order to stop the tour unless he's allowed to join them.

RICKY

We dropped him from the band because he didn't fulfill his obligations under our contract. Paragraph thirty-six.

Ricky finds the contract on Darwin's desk and points --

RICKY

Requirement to keep himself in 'good physical shape and appearance' to perform in public. He signed that. We all signed that.

Darwin looks at that clause in the contract, considers....

DARWIN

That should be enforceable.

LEE MAY

(cautioning)

It might take a year to enforce it.

VINCENT

We can't wait a year.

RICKY

Our sales are down a little.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

LEE MAY

I'll arrange a settlement conference.
I'm sure it's not in anyone's interest
to drag this out.

JAKE

You don't know T.J.

DARWIN

(smiles)

He doesn't know me.

INT. LAW FIRM - SNACK AREA - DAY

Lukas and Matthew in a small kitchen area stocked with mid-21st-century snacks and appliances. Matthew is picking small purplish fruits out of a bowl and popping them into his mouth.

MATTHEW

Cherries without pits. Greatest
invention of the century.

LUKAS

Cherries had pits?

MATTHEW

Grapes had seeds.

LUKAS

Ice cream have bones?

MATTHEW

Before my time.

LUKAS

What about writs of replevin?

MATTHEW

What about them?

LUKAS

For the clone case. Replevin's the
most straightforward way to recover
personal property. It evolved from the
common law....

He looks at Matthew, waiting. Matthew is eyeing a dish filled with small foodlike objects that are perfect cubes.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MATTHEW

I'm seventy-five, Lukas, not seven hundred and fifty. I don't have firsthand knowledge.

LUKAS

Replevin used to be more common.

MATTHEW

In the twelfth century.
(beat; accedes)
What's your argument?

LUKAS

That the cloned embryo belongs to our client and should be returned. Problem is, we can't show it was wrongfully taken, since the government seized it in the course of a lawful arrest.

MATTHEW

It doesn't matter if the taking is wrongful as long as the detention is. Is it?

This is good news. Lukas brightens.

LUKAS

I'd say so.

MATTHEW

(ah, feckless youth)
You'd say so.

Lukas nods, mildly chastened. Matthew finally picks up one of the foodlike cubes he's been looking at.

MATTHEW

What the hell are these?

INT. LAW FIRM - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Lukas enters to find Lee May doing research on a computer. The keyboard is hardware, the display A VIRTUAL PROJECTION.

LUKAS

Hanging on to a cluster of cells that could save a child's life, in the absence of specific statutory authority -- that's got to be wrongful, right?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LEE MAY

What do you mean by wrongful?

LUKAS

Wrong.

LEE MAY

We're lawyers. I don't remember the term coming up.

But her tone is light; there's definitely some chemistry here.

LUKAS

I could use some help. I've got a hearing in the morning for summary judgment. Emergency basis. In case the Customs Service forgets to keep the clone in a freezer.

LEE MAY

Are you sure that would be so terrible?

The question is unexpected. Lukas reacts.

LUKAS

Yes. For one seven-year-old boy.

(beat)

Can you help me out?

LEE MAY

(nope)

Hannah assigned me to Darwin. My current mission in life is to convince some washed-up musician to lose weight, or shave his goatee, or get his warts removed--

LUKAS

Your choice. Human cloning -- the frontier of technology, law, and ethics. Or...warts.

LEE MAY

Warts are important. To the afflicted.
(off her screen)

Did you know that a strip bar was held blameless for firing a dancer who had her DNA manipulated to grow a third breast? *Simmons v. Boobland*, 2037.

LUKAS

I didn't know that.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

LEE MAY
(smiles; his phrase)
Frontier of technology.

And she's out of there.

EXT. LOS ANGELES CITYSCAPE - DAY

Next morning.

INT. LAW FIRM - CORRIDOR - DAY

Lukas and Sisto walk down the hallway.

SISTO
Don't we do this at the courthouse?

LUKAS
Only if it goes to trial.

SISTO
Won't it?

LUKAS
Not if we win today.

He leads Sisto into --

INT. LAW FIRM - HOLO ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SCOTTY, 20s, the firm's technogeek and all-purpose staffer, is fiddling with an electronic console. Tom sits at a table, facing not much of anything. Lukas is surprised to see him.

LUKAS
- Tom?

TOM
Interesting case. Hannah thought I might kibitz.

LUKAS
Great. Did you practice much law before you got into politics?

TOM
No.

Oh.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LUKAS

(to Sisto; points)
You can sit there.

SCOTTY

Activating courtroom, Commander.

LUKAS

(to Sisto; re: Scotty)
And don't mind him.

Scotty adjusts his controls, and A HOLOGRAM IMAGE OF A JUDGE'S BENCH appears, complete with judge, a black woman named N'RETA WALLENSTEIN. She's sorting through papers, eyes down.

LUKAS

(to Sisto)
Judge Wallenstein. Good for us.

Scotty hits more controls to summon ANOTHER HOLOGRAM --

SCOTTY

Our honorable opponent, the United States Attorney.

His name is MATTHEW CHIN, and he's upside-down.

LUKAS

(to Sisto)
Bad for us.
(to Scotty)
Can you put him right-side up?

TOM

He's less intimidating this way. Like imagining your audience naked.

(confides; to Sisto)
- Did that before all my debates.

LUKAS

Scotty....

Scotty obeys. Chin rotates to an upright position as Judge Wallenstein looks up.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

Can everybody hear me?

LUKAS

Yes, ma'am.

CHIN

Yes, your honor.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN
Good. You're all looking lovely.
(warning)
Does anyone have me upside-down?

LUKAS
No, ma'am.

CHIN
No, your honor.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN
Good.
(to Lukas)
Mr. Gold, I've read your motion. I
find the argument for replevin clear
and strong.

LUKAS
Thank you, your honor.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN
But Mr. Chin has not yet replied.

CHIN
The government is happy to stipulate
that property seized without statutory
authority must be returned to its
owner.

Sisto looks at Lukas -- can this be over already?

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN
So we're done?

CHIN
No, ma'am. Because what was seized
from Mr. Sisto isn't property. I cite
Livengood v Markusson, where the court
ruled that Livengood could not recover
her cat through replevin, because cats,
by their nature, cannot be owned.

Lukas keeps a poker face, but he wasn't expecting this.

CHIN
Likewise, *Ireland v Higgins* concluded
there could be no property rights in a
dog.

LUKAS
I'm not familiar with the cases, your
honor, but it appears they pertain to
living animals of independent spirit,
not barely-developed clusters of cells--

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (3)

CHIN

If dogs and cats arguably can't be owned, then certainly human embryos can't.

LUKAS

There's nothing certain about it. This is barely a pre-embryo--

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

(overrides; to Lukas)

Save it. I've heard enough to take this out of the realm of summary judgment. We are going to trial.

LUKAS

(quickly)

Since the government's seizure and continued detention could on its face be considered an abuse of authority as defined by the Reconstruction Act of Two Thousand Eleven, plaintiff requests trial by jury.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

That's his right.

LUKAS

With an early date owing to the life-and-death question here--

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

So ordered.

The judge bangs a gavel and turns to a court officer who's in her courtroom but off-hologram.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

What's next, Harry? I need a pit stop.

And she vanishes. Scotty hits a switch to dispose of Chin and decides to have a little fun. Instead of simply fading out...

THE IMAGE OF CHIN LIFTS OFF THE FLOOR

and goes horizontal. It corkscrews, picks up speed, and flies out of the room (and the building) through a closed window.

All look at Scotty.

SCOTTY

Sorry.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (4)

He isn't.

INT. LAW FIRM - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Darwin and Lee May sit with their clients: Ricky, Vincent and Jake. Through the wall (now transparent), they see TWO MEN enter the reception area. One is late 30s, bearded and fat. The other's in pretty good shape -- considering he's eighty.

Scotty points them toward the conference room, where Darwin turns to Ricky as they approach.

DARWIN

That's the guy you threw out of the band?

RICKY

See what I mean? Would you call that 'good physical shape and appearance'?

Darwin shakes his head--he would not--as the Fat Bearded Guy and the Eighty-Year-Old walk in and see the assembled group.

EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD

Well...looks like we're ready to powwow.

Darwin rises and extends his hand.

DARWIN

I'm Darwin McNeal. This is Lee May. I think you know our clients. At least I know your client does.

He nods toward the Fat Bearded Guy.

EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD

(puzzled)
My client?

DARWIN

Well, before he got so...
(doesn't say 'fat')
...before his appearance changed they did work together.

EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD

(re: the Fat Bearded Guy)
This is my attorney. I'm the one they're trying to throw out of the band.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

T.J.
Because you're getting your faces
sliced up and paying quacks a fortune
to shoot you full of poison--

DARWIN
(overriding)
You're all eighty years old?

RICKY
(points to Vincent)
Seventy-nine.
(to Jake)
Seventy-six.
(to himself)
Eighty-two. But that information is
subject to attorney-client privilege.
It does not get out.

T.J.
Who do you think you're kidding?
You've been in this band since the
second Bush.

Darwin is still staring at his clients.

DARWIN
Seventy-nine, seventy-six, eighty-two?

RICKY
(explains; casual)
We've had some work done.

INT. HANNAH'S OFFICE - DAY

Carrying a printout, Lukas enters to join a sombre group --
Hannah, Tom, Matthew, and Sisto.

LUKAS
I found the cases he cited. *Livengood*
v. Markusson is Akron, Ohio, nineteen-
twenty-eight. *Higgins v. Ireland*, the
one about the dog, is from England,
fifteen-twenty-one.

HANNAH
Fifteen-twenty-one?

MATTHEW
The majestic temporal continuity of the
law.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

HANNAH

(to Lukas)

What do you have on our side?

LUKAS

An appealing seven-year-old with a life-threatening illness. That's why--

TOM

Jury trial. Good move.

Lukas nods back, acknowledging the compliment. But Matthew isn't so sure that everything is hunky-dory.

MATTHEW

I wonder how a jury's going to feel about saying a human embryo is property.

The others look at him.

MATTHEW

The government might bring up the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

(off the others)

The one that outlawed slavery? It's only two hundred years old.

LUKAS

We're talking about a tiny ball of cells, not a human being.

MATTHEW

Some people would disagree. It's certainly a potential person.

SISTO

Not necessarily.

This stops everyone. They look at Sisto.

HANNAH

You said you planned to implant the embryo in a surrogate mother.

SISTO

Well...that would be the ideal scenario.

Uh-oh.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

LUKAS

'Ideal'?

SISTO

I'm trying to save my son's life, not have a big family. All we really need is the liver. If there's any gestational problem, or we're running out of time, we can manipulate the embryo to pinch off all development except the liver and a supporting circulatory system.

LUKAS

'Pinch off'?

HANNAH

Pinch off what?

SISTO

Well...the head. If we do that, no one can say it's a person, right? It undercuts their argument. We win, right?

Everyone is stunned. Matthew speaks first --

MATTHEW

Jury's gonna love that, right?

Oh shit. Off Lukas --

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. MANHATTAN BEACH PIER - SUNSET

The first lights on the pier are coming on. Fishermen drop their lines behind the old roundhouse aquarium. And Lee May jogs down the pier toward the beach -- and encounters Lukas, who is not in running clothes. She stops, takes him in.

LEE MAY

You here to fish?

LUKAS

Sort of.

(beat)

Did you hear about my client? The one I urged the firm to take on for free? Who's going to pinch off an embryo's head?

LEE MAY

(attempt at consolation)

My clients are eighty years old and I didn't know it.

LUKAS

At least they aren't mutilating human life forms.

LEE MAY

Only themselves. Apparently they had some experimental youth treatment the other guy refuses to take.

LUKAS

- 'Frontier of technology.' Did you know cherries used to have pits?

LEE MAY

Did you come here to talk about fruit?

LUKAS

No. Hannah said it would be all right if you helped me out.

LEE MAY

No.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LUKAS

No? You're a first-year associate.
The senior partner approved my request.

LEE MAY

No...please.

Lukas considers.

LUKAS

Is this about us?

LEE MAY

There is no us.

LUKAS

There was an us.

LEE MAY

There was a fling between a summer
associate and a married attorney--

LUKAS

A 'fling'?

LEE MAY

We discussed this before I came back
here. We agreed it wasn't going to be
a problem.

LUKAS

Right. No problem. So you don't want
to work with me on this because...?

LEE MAY

It's not my kind of case.

Over Lukas's reaction --

MUSIC CUE: "Tomorrow Morning"

INT. DARWIN'S OFFICE - DAY

The closing bars of the song echo from invisible speakers.

SONG

...You know it's right/So don't be
late/Let's start tonight.

Listening are Darwin and Lee May and their clients, Ricky,
Vincent, and Jake.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

DARWIN
Catchy.

RICKY
(no false modesty)
Fourteen million downloads. It was
going strong up til June, Zero-Nine.

LEE MAY
(knows her history)
Fifty thousand dead.

JAKE
Yeah. Major terrorist attacks take
people right out of the mood for
catchy.

Darwin has been looking hard at Ricky's face.

DARWIN
What did you do?

JAKE
Took some time off.
(re: Ricky)
He went to the moon as a tourist.

DARWIN
(shakes his head; to
Ricky)
I mean....

Darwin gestures to his own face. Ricky realizes what the
question was about.

RICKY
Well, plastic surgery. Lift, nip,
- tuck, hair.

He indicates the appropriate parts of his face as he speaks.

DARWIN
(intrigued)
It's amazing.

RICKY
I can give you the name of the surgeon.

DARWIN
No doctor's that good.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

RICKY

We also took a telomerase activator.
It's an enzyme. Rejuvenates your
chromosomes.

DARWIN

Injected?

RICKY

It's kind of experimental.

LEE MAY

It causes cancer. That's one of the
reasons Mr. Petoskey gives for refusing
to take it.

DARWIN

(to Ricky)

When do you have to start?

RICKY

How old are you?

LEE MAY

It's been shot down three times by the
FDA.

VINCENT

(to Darwin)

Is she with us or with T.J.?

DARWIN

With you.

LEE MAY

We'll have to answer his arguments. He
says these treatments are dangerous and
unnatural and degrading to basic human
dignity.

RICKY

Tell it to Mick Jagger. I saw him in
Boston last year and he's doing great.

INT. LAW FIRM - CORRIDOR - DAY

Lee May is walking by Hannah's office, when Hannah sees her
through the open door and calls --

HANNAH

Lee May....Have a minute?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Lee May nods and walks into -

INT. HANNAH'S OFFICE - DAY

The nicest office in the suite. Hannah is behind an elegant antique table that serves as her desk.

HANNAH
How's your case going?

LEE MAY
Great. Just be prepared for Darwin to start looking a whole lot younger.

Hannah decides not to go there.

HANNAH
Lukas said you didn't want to help him on the clone thing.
(off Lee May)
Maybe I shouldn't have told him it was okay. I realize it hits a little close to home.

LEE MAY
(sharp)
I'm not a clone.

HANNAH
I know.
(beat)
They sent me another evaluation form. You want me to fill it out?

LEE MAY
What would you say?

HANNAH
'Excellent attorney.'

LEE MAY
(nods)
I got the genes for logic, intelligence, emotional control....

HANNAH
'Works well with others.'

LEE MAY
....Sociability, amiability, emotional control....

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

HANNAH

Lee May, we're not hard-wired for everything.

LEE MAY

Oh? Did you know cheerfulness is related to a gene? Fear of heights? Tendency to homesickness? I wake up in the morning and I'm happy and I wonder if I'm happy because I'm happy or because some lab geek tweaked my R-46 gene allele when I was in a petri dish.

HANNAH

Does Lukas know?

LEE MAY

(shakes head, no)

Our little secret. Yours and mine and the longitudinal study of the Genetic Prototype Project.

(corrects herself)

The survivors of the Genetic Prototype Project.

HANNAH

Lee May....

Lee May waits.

HANNAH

I'd just be happy to be happy.

INT. COURTHOUSE CORRIDOR - DAY

Lukas and Tom walk with Sisto, Lukas briefing --

LUKAS

You talk about your son, your concern for him.

SISTO

Of course.

LUKAS

You call the clone 'cells.' You don't call it an 'embryo.'

SISTO

Okay.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LUKAS

If the other side asks about your plans
for the cells--

TOM

We'll object.

Lukas shoots Tom a look.

LUKAS

Actually, we won't. If we're overruled
it would only alert the jury that
something damaging was being said. If
they get into that area, we yawn, play
it as a minor detail, hypothetical
lawyer stuff.

SISTO

So what do I say?

LUKAS

As little as possible.

SISTO (PRELAP)

My name is Miller Sisto.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Judge Wallenstein is on the bench, Chin at the defense table,
Tom at the plaintiff's table. The JURY listens attentively as
Lukas examines Sisto.

LUKAS

What is your occupation?

SISTO

- Industrial engineer.

LUKAS

Are you married?

SISTO

Widower. My wife died in a plane
crash.

LUKAS

Children?

SISTO

One. A boy named Axel. He's seven.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LUKAS

Mr. Sisto, did you cause a clone of your son to be created three weeks ago at a clinic in Singapore?

SISTO

Yes, I did.

LUKAS

Were you aware that was illegal?

SISTO

Yes, I was. I've been charged with a crime, and I intend to plead guilty.

LUKAS

Do you commit many crimes?

SISTO

I've never broken a law in my life. Until this.

LUKAS

Why did you break this one?

CHIN

(rising)

Objection. This might be appropriate in the sentencing phase of his criminal trial. It's not relevant here.

LUKAS

I'm getting to the relationship of the plaintiff and his son to the 'illegal item' in question. That goes to the heart of the ownership issue.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

I'll give you a little rope, Mr. Gold.

Lukas nods, turns back to Sisto.

LUKAS

Mr. Sisto, why did you break this law?

SISTO

Because I can't just sit and watch my son die. He needs a compatible liver transplant.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

LUKAS

And an organ created by cloning will be compatible?

SISTO

Yes. It will effectively be my son's own liver. The clone grew from one of his cells. There's no other human being involved.

LUKAS

But there will be, won't there? If these cells are implanted in a surrogate mother, and a baby is born.

SISTO

My son's identical brother, who can donate half its liver to save him. Where's the harm in that? I don't understand....

LUKAS

Neither do I, sir. No further questions.

Lukas sits down. Chin rises and turns to Sisto.

CHIN

Isn't it possible a cloned organ would be too similar to your son's?

SISTO

I don't know what you mean.

CHIN

If your son's condition is genetic--

SISTO

The doctors say it isn't.

CHIN

If it is, the clone's liver might have the same problem. You'd have wasted your time.

SISTO

I'll take that chance.

CHIN

So will the clone.

(beat)

(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (3)

CHIN (CONT'D)

You're not planning on asking his consent for transplant surgery, are you?

SISTO

No. As his parent, I can consent.

CHIN

But the clone will have no parent in a conventional sense, will he?

SISTO

No, but it...he...will be an outgrowth of Axel, my son. An extension of Axel.

CHIN

Do you consider your son property?

SISTO

Of course not.

CHIN

But you're asking here for the return of property, and if the clone is an 'extension' of Axel....

SISTO

It's Axel's property. It's his cell, growing.

CHIN

Even if that's true, surely the clone ceases being anyone's property once it's a living child.

SISTO

Of course. But this works either way. If it's born, it donates part of its liver. If it isn't born, it's only cells that--

Chin reacts -- and pounces.

CHIN

'If it isn't born'?

At the plaintiff's table, Tom and Lukas exchange a look.

CHIN

Mr. Sisto, do you have a plan for this embryo that does not involve implantation and birth?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (4)

Lukas, "uninterested," sorts through papers.

SISTO

Only as a backup.

CHIN

Would that 'backup' involve destroying the embryo and harvesting its liver?

SISTO

That's not what I want to do.

CHIN

Is it something you're willing to do?

SISTO

Only if necessary.

CHIN

Snuff out a potential life....

LUKAS

(rising)

Objection. Argumentative.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

Sustained.

But Sisto isn't listening. He's glaring at Chin --

SISTO

How dare you?

CHIN

How dare I? You're the one growing a human embryo like a crop.

LUKAS

(protesting)

Your honor....

CHIN

No more questions.

But Sisto isn't finished. With emotion rising --

SISTO

For God's sake, abortion is legal. A healthy fetus can be terminated because its mother doesn't want to miss a Caribbean cruise or go up a dress size.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (5)

SISTO (CONT'D)

But you're telling me I can't do what I
want with a tiny cluster of cells to
save the life of my dying child?

The jury is rapt. Tom and Lukas take note.

SISTO

How dare you?

Off Lukas, pleased --

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Sisto exits the courthouse with Lukas and Tom.

SISTO

I'm sorry.

LUKAS

Don't be.

TOM

You were great.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.C.)

Miller....

All turn to see JASON and JENNIFER SISTO, Sisto's parents.
They're in their 70s, with a small town flavor, and they're
walking up the steps with Axel. Sisto introduces --

SISTO

These are my parents, Jason and
Jennifer Sisto...Tom Montero...Lukas
Gold. They're taking care of Axel.

JENNIFER SISTO

- He wanted to see his dad.

AXEL

You said we could get ice cream.

There's a vendor nearby.

SISTO

Chocolate or aardvark?

AXEL

Dad....

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

SISTO
(to the others)
Back in a minute.

He leads Axel down the steps to the vendor.

JENNIFER SISTO
(re: Axel)
It's hard on him. He understands too
much.

LUKAS
We may have him testify.

JASON SISTO
He's only seven years old.

TOM
It's important for the jury to see him.

JENNIFER SISTO
This has been so awful....

JASON SISTO
A test of faith for all of us.

JENNIFER SISTO
Axel in and out of hospitals. Miller
arrested, after doing everything for
Axel, raising that child alone....

TOM
Wasn't his wife around? At the
beginning?

JENNIFER SISTO
(shakes head)
- She died ten years ago.

LUKAS
Axel is seven.

JASON SISTO
They had a frozen embryo or something.
Something unnatural....

Lukas and Tom look at Sisto and Axel, eating their ice creams
side by side, the family resemblance stronger than ever.

INT. LAW FIRM - RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Sisto settles Axel in a chair and heads down the hall toward Lukas's office. He doesn't notice

LEE MAY

standing in a doorway, looking at Axel. Something about the boy resonates with her.

INT. LUKAS'S OFFICE - DAY

Lukas and Tom have been waiting. Sisto enters with --

SISTO

I talked to Axel about testifying. He can do it.

LUKAS

Good. There's just a couple of things....

TOM

The government brought up the possibility of a genetic cause of his liver damage. We'd like to rule that out.

SISTO

You have his medical records.

LUKAS

Yes. And they should have noted the name of the fertility clinic.

SISTO

What fertility clinic?

LUKAS

The one that handled the embryos you and your wife created. It would have run a standard genetic screen.

TOM

Your wife who died three years before Axel was born.

SISTO

(chilly)
I'd rather not get into that.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

TOM

It's nothing to be embarrassed about,
freezing embryos....

LUKAS

If you could just give us the name of
the clinic....

SISTO

That won't help you. No.

LUKAS

(dead calm)

Why won't that help us, Mr. Sisto?

Sisto doesn't answer. After a beat --

LUKAS

Is the clinic in this country?

(beat)

Or Singapore?

Sisto looks at them.

LUKAS

This isn't the first time you've
created a clone, is it?

Sisto holds. Then pulls up his sleeve and points to his arm.

SISTO

They took a cell, right here, with a
hollow needle. And made Axel....

TOM

He's a clone. Of you.

SISTO

...It was a miracle.

LUKAS

You should have told me.

SISTO

If I had, would you have helped me?

Lukas considers. Tom looks at him -- he's curious to know,
too. Finally --

LUKAS

Where is he?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

CAMERA MOVES IN TIGHT on Sisto, and we --

MATCH CUT TO

INT. LAW FIRM - RECEPTION AREA - DAY - ON AXEL

The family resemblance really striking now. Lee May still watches as Axel puts down his book and picks up the game controller we saw in the Teaser. He hits a button and --

THE FUTURISTIC CITYSCAPE HOLOGRAM

pops into being around him. Silently, Axel begins to play with the future as Lee May looks on...and now

LUKAS

enters and stares intently at Axel as we --

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. LAW FIRM - RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Where we left off, the game still swirling around Axel. Lukas gestures to Lee May, who takes his meaning and exits. Then Lukas walks toward Axel....

Hi. LUKAS

Abruptly, Axel switches off the game.

Hi. AXEL
(beat)
Are they going to put my dad in jail?

No. I don't think so. LUKAS

He said you're going to help him. I help him, too. I clean my room and take care of Janey -- our dog. AXEL

That's good. LUKAS

He helps me with my meds. He tells me when to take them and when to use my collector. AXEL

- Your 'collector'? LUKAS

Axel pulls A HIGH-TECH GADGET the size of a pack of cigarettes out of his pocket and shows it to Lukas.

I put it against my side.... AXEL

Axel demonstrates -- a dry run.

...and it pulls bile out of my liver. If it's pink that means there's blood and I have to go on antibiotics. AXEL
(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

AXEL (CONT'D)

It's pink all the time now, but my dad says I'm going to have another operation and get better.

LUKAS

Good. That's good.

AXEL

Yeah. If I die, who'd there be to help my dad?

Off Lukas --

INT. LUKAS'S OFFICE - DAY

Tom is listening to Sisto explain himself:

SISTO

My wife insisted on taking a monoplane back to Anchorage. I like trains. She didn't have the patience.

TOM

I'm sorry.

SISTO

I never thought I'd get married in the first place. I'm mainly interested in low-temperature extruded ceramics. That's pretty much all I've thought about since my second year in college. There's a beauty in the molecular structure that...

(off Tom)

...that about twenty people in the world care about.

TOM

And your wife was one of them?

SISTO

No. But she made me want to think about something else. To care about something else.

During which Lukas appears in the doorway, returned from his talk with Axel. Tom sees him. Sisto follows Tom's gaze to see him, too. After a beat --

LUKAS

Why cloning?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

SISTO

No legal problems with an egg donor.
No mystery genes. No sorting through
desperate single women until I found
one desperate enough to consider me.
I'd been in love. I didn't expect it
to happen again.

(beat)

I just didn't want to be alone again.

Off Lukas, back on the case --

INT. LAW FIRM - SNACK AREA - DAY

Lukas and Tom confer with Hannah and Matthew over coffee.

MATTHEW

Why'd he make the kid? Spare parts for
himself?

LUKAS

He wanted company.

Darwin and Lee May walk up. Darwin reaches for an energy bar.

DARWIN

Never heard of hookers?

MATTHEW

If the boy's his clone, why doesn't he
just give him part of his liver?

LUKAS

He had hepatitis C.

MATTHEW

- The other side's gonna love this.

TOM

Do we have to tell them?

LUKAS

It's arguable.

LEE MAY

If we don't but they find out later,
they can get the verdict overturned.

LUKAS

If we win.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LEE MAY

You'll win.

HANNAH

(decides; to Lukas)
Cover yourself. Put it on the table
but convince the judge it's not
admissible.

LUKAS

If she disagrees, the government will
make our client look like Dr.
Frankenstein, making clones, and clones
of clones. There goes any sympathy.

TOM

Except for the boy.

MATTHEW

A second-generation Xerox. The other
side'll use that, too.

LUKAS

Second-generation what?

MATTHEW

Old expression. If the boy's a copy
and he's got a bum liver, a copy of the
copy'll have a worse one.

LEE MAY

Does he know?

The others react to her tone.

LEE MAY

The boy.

LUKAS

Not yet.

Lee May shakes her head, disturbed, and walks off --

INT. LAW FIRM - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Darwin follows her.

DARWIN

Now that is technology out of control.
God made sex for a reason.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LEE MAY
(not following)
Sex?

DARWIN
The other way of making babies. I was
out with Ricky last night--

LEE MAY
Our client?

DARWIN
(nods)
Club in Thousand Oaks. Kind of a mix-
and-match place.

LEE MAY
You went cruising for chicks with our
client?

DARWIN
We discussed the case.

LEE MAY
You went cruising for chicks with our
client and billed him for it?

DARWIN
Women find him very attractive. And no
sex-stim. He does things the old-
fashioned way.

LEE MAY
Except age, Darwin. It's pathetic.

DARWIN
That's what women always say when a man
tries to improve his appearance.
(smiles)
They usually say it about an hour
before they get naked.

Off Lee May --

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

All assembled as before except the jury is not present. Chin
and Lukas are arguing before Judge Wallenstein.

CHIN
Why weren't we told of this before?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LUKAS

Because we didn't know. And it isn't relevant.

CHIN

Of course it's relevant. The man churns out clones like a bunny on fertility nodes.

LUKAS

(to judge)

Did I mention this information would also be prejudicial, as evidenced by my opponent's last statement?

Chin shoots Lukas a look.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

Let's keep in mind that the issue for the jury is whether the seized clone is Miller Sisto's property.

CHIN

Or can be anyone's property.

LUKAS

Either way, plaintiff's prior experience with clones is not on point.

CHIN

It goes to the nature of Axel Sisto. And the possibility that a clone of this clone may also have a defective liver.

LUKAS

(to Chin)

- If it were guaranteed to have a healthy liver, would you drop your case?

CHIN

No.

LUKAS

(back to judge)

Which proves my point. He only wants the jury to hear about this to make my client look bad.

CHIN

The jury has a right to know it's being asked to support a fool's errand.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

LUKAS

Whether Mr. Sisto's project will succeed is not the point. As Axel's parent and guardian, he can do whatever he wants with those cells--

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

All right. I've got your motions. I'll rule tomorrow morning. Nine a.m. Sweet dreams.

INT. LAW FIRM - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A meeting in the boy band case -- Darwin and Lee May and Vincent on one side; T.J. and his attorney on the other. Jake and Ricky are missing.

T.J.

So. What's the offer?

DARWIN

You can join our clients on tour -- and on the live album....

T.J. starts to smile --

DARWIN

Provided you have a modest amount of plastic surgery -- skin tightening plus small cheek implants -- and one course of telomerase activators.

Smile gone, T.J. gets up to leave.

T.J.

That's not an offer. It's an insult.

DARWIN

It's a gift. You have no case.

T.J.

Our contract says 'good physical shape and appearance.' I'm in good physical shape and appearance.

DARWIN

For an eighty-year-old.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

T.J.

I wasn't aware we were signing a document that altered the laws of time and physics.

DARWIN

You were signing a document that meant what you intended it to mean. Lee May.

She pulls out a copy of an old magazine article.

LEE MAY

Spin magazine. Two thousand twelve. Your quote: 'We get older but our fans stay the same age. As soon as we turn forty we're thinking of getting head transplants.'

T.J.

(understatement)

Do you think that maybe could have been a joke?

(nods toward Vincent)

Even though they apparently took it literally. Where the hell are Jake and Ricky?

VINCENT

(doesn't know)

They're supposed to be here.

T.J.

Probably getting their chromosomes bleached.

DARWIN

This isn't a punishment. Most people would be thrilled to add a few years to their prime.

T.J.

I have a forty-year-old son. If I'm going to make myself look thirty, then he'd better make himself look twenty, and his kids -- they better stay in fourth grade forever or things are going to get pretty damn confusing at family reunions.

(beat)

There's a natural progression. Summer, fall, winter; not summer, fall, replay.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

During which Jake enters, looking dazed.

JAKE
(to Vincent and T.J.)
Guys....

VINCENT
Where have you been? Where's Ricky?

JAKE
(choking up)
He...died.

Reactions all around. After a shocked silence --

LEE MAY
The telomerase. Cancer.

JAKE
(shakes head, no)
A stroke. The man was eighty-two.

Off Darwin, who's taking this as hard anyone --

INT. LEE MAY'S OFFICE - DAY

Lee May enters, still a little stunned. She speaks to no one--

LEE MAY
Beethoven. One of the sonatas.
Something I haven't heard in a while.

Instantly, a Beethoven sonata plays through unseen speakers.
Lukas appears in the open door.

LEE MAY
-- How'd it go?

LUKAS
The judge is thinking. Didn't you have
a conference?

LEE MAY
One of our boy band clients just died
of old age.

LUKAS
What are you going to do?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LEE MAY

(shrugs)
Go to the funeral.

LUKAS

The law firm that cares.

(beat)
Look, I didn't mean to put you on the
spot the other night--

LEE MAY

Gerber v. Hickman.

LUKAS

What?

LEE MAY

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, two
thousand one. Overturned a lower court
that allowed the state to prevent a
prisoner from mailing his sperm to his
wife for artificial insemination.
Implies the existence of a right to
procreate by nonconventional means.
Extend it to cloning and you have an
appeal issue. If you need one.

LUKAS

I thought you didn't want to work on
the case.

LEE MAY

(smiles)
Well, when I see you floundering....

LUKAS

I'm not floundering.

LEE MAY

I work here now. I don't want the firm
embarrassed because a senior associate
doesn't know Gerber v. Hickman.

Lukas takes that in. Then --

LUKAS

We should have a drink sometime.

LEE MAY

We should?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

LUKAS

You work here now. We're colleagues.

LEE MAY

Colleagues.

(beat)

Tonight?

LUKAS

(slight hitch)

I'm having dinner with my wife.
Tomorrow?

Off Lee May --

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Lukas and Tom and Sisto and Chin are present to hear Judge Wallenstein's ruling. The jury is still absent.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

I've considered your arguments on the question of whether the jury should hear the circumstances of the... creation of Axel Sisto.

Both sides brace --

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

I've concluded that the prejudice engendered by this disclosure would outweigh any probative value.

Smiles of relief on the faces of Lukas and Sisto.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

- Therefore it will not be mentioned, by either side, or sanctions will be imposed. If the parties are ready to proceed, I'll have the officer bring back the jury.

CHIN

Excuse me, your honor, but the jury must be told that Axel Sisto is a clone.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

Were you listening, Mr. Chin? I just ruled the other way.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

CHIN

On a point of law. This is procedure.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

What are you talking about?

CHIN

The jurors need to know about Axel Sisto to understand why Jason and Jennifer Sisto must become the plaintiffs here.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

Who?

LUKAS

Those are Mr. Sisto's parents.

Lukas knows that, but still doesn't know where Chin is going.

CHIN

They're residents of Michigan, visiting Los Angeles to help Mr. Sisto care for his brother.

TOM

(low; to Lukas)
What brother?

LUKAS

(gets it)
Oh God....

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

What brother?

CHIN

- Axel Sisto. We now know he's a clone of Miller Sisto. In other words, Miller Sisto's identical twin. Miller Sisto's brother.

Lukas gets it, but he still has to fight it.

LUKAS

Identical twins born forty years apart?

CHIN

That's what happens when you make a clone.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

LUKAS

Miller Sisto has raised Axel. He has always acted as Axel's father and been known as Axel's father....

CHIN

But he isn't Axel's father. His father is Axel's father, and his mother is Axel's mother. If anyone has the right to decide what to do with Axel's cells, it's them. Miller Sisto doesn't even have standing to bring this suit.

Judge Wallenstein is reeling, but she realizes --

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

This is weird. But he's right. Mr. Gold, do the parents concur in this lawsuit?

Sisto speaks to Lukas, low and urgent --

SISTO

You can't let this happen. My parents won't understand.

LUKAS

I don't know, your honor.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

Then ask them. They join in this suit-- or it's dismissed.

Off our people --

END OF ACT THREE

FADE OUT

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

INT. HANNAH'S OFFICE - DAY

Hannah has called Lukas in on the carpet.

HANNAH

This case is just full of surprises for you, isn't it?

LUKAS

I was blindsided by the client.

HANNAH

Then by the government and the laws of nature. But so what? It's not like we're getting paid or anything.

LUKAS

I'm trying to save a child. If you're worried about the money, fire me. I'll do the case on my own.

HANNAH

And lose it in a cheaper suit. I suggest you forget about the kid and concentrate on the law. Either drop the case or do it right.

Lukas holds, then turns and heads for the door.

HANNAH

Where are you going?

LUKAS

- To do it right.

EXT. PARK/PLAYGROUND - DAY

Axel and Sisto play a version of tag that involves running around and bumping into and bouncing off of NEARLY-INVISIBLE WALLS, the product of force-field generators. Nearby, we find

JENNIFER AND JASON SISTO

watching. Lukas is with them.

JENNIFER SISTO

It's up to us?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LUKAS

Yes. Since you are Axel's parents,
technically speaking....

JENNIFER SISTO

But Miller's his father.

LUKAS

Technically, he and Axel are brothers.
Twin brothers.

JENNIFER SISTO

We're having a hard time digesting all
this...Not that we don't feel the same
as we always did about Axel.

JASON SISTO

What is Axel?

JENNIFER SISTO

Jason!

JASON SISTO

God creates life. God takes life.
Simple as that. Where was God in this?

Sisto approaches from the playground. Jennifer turns to him.

JENNIFER SISTO

Miller, do you know what they're
saying? We have to decide.

SISTO

I'm sorry. I didn't want you to be
involved.

JASON SISTO

- So you lied to us?

SISTO

I'm sorry. But what's important now
is saving Axel. You've got to help me.

JASON SISTO

By saying it's okay to kill his clone?
Who, if I'm following this, is our son,
too.

(to his wife)

We have triplets, Jennifer.

JENNIFER SISTO

Jason...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

JASON SISTO

(to Lukas)
Am I right?

LUKAS

Technically....

MATTHEW (O.C.)

Hello.

All turn to see Matthew. No one was expecting him.

LUKAS

This is Matthew Constable, a member of
our firm.

MATTHEW

I'd like a word with Mr. and Mrs.
Sisto.

(to Lukas and Sisto)

Would you excuse us?

Before anyone asks why, Matthew turns to the elder Sistos.

MATTHEW

Sir...Ma'am.

He points the way down a path. Jennifer and Jason exchange a
look...and go. Lukas and Sisto are left behind, without
explanation, as the elder Sistos and Matthew walk past

THE PLAYGROUND

where Axel, oblivious, bounces off a force-field wall, and we--

MATCH CUT TO

ANOTHER FORCE-FIELD WALL

shimmering, nearly invisible. On one side of it BROWN LIQUID
laps. We pull back to see that this wall is round...it's a
container...it's a coffee cup...and we are

INT. LAW FIRM - SNACK AREA - DAY

Where Scotty is carefully pouring coffee into his invisible
cup. Lukas, Tom, and Hannah look on. The pouring is
precarious, but nearly accomplished...when Scotty tilts the
cup without realizing and coffee sloshes onto the floor.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Scotty grabs a handful of paper towels and starts wiping up.
He feels the attorneys' eyes on him, looks up at them.

SCOTTY
Saves washing cups.

And he gets back to cleaning as --

MATTHEW (O.S.)
They're in.

All turn to see Matthew approaching.

TOM
Who's in?

MATTHEW
The grandparents. I mean the parents.
They're on board.

Relief all around.

LUKAS
What did you say to them?

MATTHEW
I told them about my great-grandmother.
Sadie.

HANNAH
Sadie....

MATTHEW
She was born in eighteen-ninety, lived
to a hundred and four. When I was a
kid I asked her what she thought was
the greatest invention of her lifetime.
She'd seen the car, the airplane,
- television, space travel....

HANNAH
Okay....

MATTHEW
She said the mop.

LUKAS
The mop.

MATTHEW
(nods)
(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

MATTHEW (CONT'D)

Before the mop was invented, women got
down on their knees and scrubbed floors
with brushes.

(beat)

Hard on the knees.

He glances down at Scotty, who's still cleaning the floor.

TOM

That's what you told them?

MATTHEW

Told 'em not to be confused by cloning,
embryos, biotech, shmiotech. What
matters is simple, is real....

HANNAH

Sore knees.

MATTHEW

Love for their grandson.

LUKAS

You mean their son.

MATTHEW

I mean it doesn't make a rat's ass of
difference. You love the kid. You do
what you have to do.

HARD CUT TO

LUKAS

Kill him.

We are --

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Closing arguments. Jason and Jennifer have replaced their son
at the plaintiffs' table. Seated right behind them in the
gallery are Miller and Axel. The jurors can't keep their eyes
off the cloned pair.

Also in the gallery: Hannah, Matthew, and Lee May.

Lukas stands before the jury, holding an open SWITCHBLADE and
gesturing toward Axel.

LUKAS

You might as well just take this knife
and kill him.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

LUKAS (CONT'D)

(beat)

If you deny him these cells -- his own cells -- he will die. But that will take a while, be messy, painful, so do him a favor --

He offers the knife to a juror.

LUKAS

-- do it quickly.

The juror shrinks back.

LUKAS

And after you've done that find those cells in the government warehouse and kill them, too. Because that's what the government's going to do if it wins here -- uphold the sanctity of human life by killing every living thing associated with this case.

In the gallery, Axel looks uneasy. Lee May takes note.

LUKAS

It says there's a greater good at stake. An important principle that requires these painful actions. Fine, let's talk about principles.

He pokes the knife into his forearm, then looks at the point.

LUKAS

There's a tiny piece of my skin here. A few cells. Who owns them? The government? Or me?

(beat)

- If I needed a new little finger, and I could manipulate these cells to grow into a finger, would that agglomeration of cells be a human being deserving of the full support and defense of the United States government, or would it be a few of my own cells manipulated into growing into a finger?

(beat)

Let's get bigger. A competent biologist could take these cells and produce a clone. Of me. They are a potential human being.

He wipes the blade with his fingers and squeezes.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

LUKAS

But not any more. I destroyed them.
Should I be prosecuted for murder?

(beat)

Those are all interesting questions.
Interesting hypothetical philosophical
questions.

He turns -- catches a glimpse of Lee May -- then points to--

LUKAS

Axel Sisto is not hypothetical. He's
not a debating point. If we determine
as a nation that clones shouldn't be
created, fine. Mobilize the troops.
Patrol the laboratories. Do not let it
happen again. But something already
happened.

(beat)

He happened.

Lukas takes his seat. Chin rises, holds a beat. Then --

CHIN

'What's the harm?' I know what you're
thinking.

Chin turns and follows the gaze of the jurors -- to Axel, who
is starting to squirm.

CHIN

'Let the plaintiffs have those cells
and save a child's life.' What
rational, feeling human being can be
against that?

(beat)

I can. And you should. And I'll tell
you why. Mr. Sisto has testified that
'if necessary' he will not let this
clone be born but will take its liver
prematurely. He realizes this raises
a certain queasiness, but he counters --
women abort fetuses every day for no
reason at all, so why not kill a fetus
to save a life?

(beat)

Because those other fetuses were not
created specifically to be killed.
They were not created solely to have
their organs harvested for the benefit
of people who have been born.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (3)

CHIN (CONT'D)

Which is exactly what the living will demand if you open this door. Save this child. Then save that child. Then save that sixty-year-old man with the weak lungs. And Aunt Tillie with the failing kidney. Clone them all, and grow the embryos until they develop the organs we need...then take what we need.

(beat)

If the image of an organ farm--fetuses waiting on hooks to be dissected--is discomfiting, then make an adjustment. Manipulate the embryos so they don't develop nervous systems or brains or heads. So they're just organs, slabs of tissue, waiting to be used to save us, the living. What's the harm? They're not human. They're just....

He stops, looks at the jury.

CHIN

...what? The plaintiffs ask you to say they're property. But if they're property, anything can be done to them. Anything. Farms of human body parts treated as...nothing.

(beat)

That's the harm.

Axel can't follow all that's been said, but he knows it's about him, and he's had all he can take. He bolts for the door. Sisto goes after him. All of our people take note.

INT. COURTHOUSE CORRIDOR - DAY

The courtroom empties. Hannah and Tom stand near the doorway and look down the corridor to where Sisto is comforting Axel. They do not comment on the scene directly.

TOM

Good closings.

HANNAH

Could go either way.

TOM

This case should go away.

HANNAH

That's your legal opinion?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

TOM
My political opinion. I have some
experience.

HANNAH
Any you can call on?

TOM
(thinks)
Deputy U.S. Attorney General owes me a
favor.

HANNAH
Call him.

TOM
You sure? He owes me one favor. We'll
have other cases.

HANNAH
(re: Axel)
We can't let him die, Tom.

TOM
You sound like Lukas.

HANNAH
Don't tell Lukas.

She puts her game face back on and walks away. Off Tom,
pulling out his cell phone --

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Lukas sits with the three senior Sistos at a table near a food
stand. They're all tense. Beyond them, Lee May sits with
Axel at another table, out of earshot.

JASON SISTO
How long's the jury been out?

SISTO
An hour.

LUKAS
Fifty-six minutes.

JENNIFER SISTO
What does that mean?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

AXEL

Can you lift this table?

LEE MAY

No. But I can run fast...and eat anything I want without getting fat. I just have to...

(hesitates)

...stay out of strong sunlight. It hurts my eyes. And I'm sensitive to a few other things....

(looks at Axel)

And I probably can't have children.

AXEL

Ever?

LEE MAY

Ever.

(ironic smile)

But I'm immune to anthrax.

She looks up to see Chin walking toward

THE OTHER TABLE

Lukas sees him, too.

LUKAS

Jury back?

CHIN

No.

(beat)

Can we talk?

EXT. CLEAR BLUE SKY

MINISTER (O.C.)

Ricky Beauchamp was born with a gift for making people happy. The gift of music.

TILT DOWN to --

EXT. CEMETERY AMPHITHEATER - DAY

It's the memorial service for Ricky. A MINISTER is speaking onstage, which is decorated with BLOWN-UP PHOTOGRAPHS of Ricky and his bandmates in their heyday. The seats are filled with AGED FANS. Also in the crowd is T.J.

FIND Lee May arriving, finding Darwin near the stage.

DARWIN

Where have you been?

LEE MAY

Talking to a client.

MINISTER

(orating)

His fans were always in his heart. He never forgot them. And they never forgot him.

LEE MAY

What are we doing here?

DARWIN

Trying to find a way to save the tour. Look at this crowd.

He gestures. Indeed, the turnout is terrific.

MINISTER

I still remember the first time I heard him sing 'Hey Hey Hey.'

LEE MAY

Well, unless these guys have some really incredible anti-aging drugs, I don't think Ricky's going on the road.

Vincent appears alongside Darwin and Lee May. He takes their hands.

- MINISTER

It defined a way of feeling for an entire generation.

VINCENT

Thanks for coming. This would have meant a lot to Ricky.

DARWIN

It was the least we could do. Look, Jake--

VINCENT

I'm Vincent.

DARWIN

Vincent, couldn't you and Jake still revive the band?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

VINCENT
(shakes his head)
Me and Jake? We were the filler. We
were Ringo. Ricky and T.J. were the
stars.

MINISTER
In song after song, he
enriched our lives then, now,
and forever.

LEE MAY
(to Vincent)
Who are they?

Lee May points toward

A ROPED-OFF SECTION OF SEATS

occupied by a dozen women of various ages, some in their
twenties and thirties (or apparently in their twenties and
thirties), others much older. T.J. has moved to that section
and is greeting some of the women.

VINCENT (O.C.)
Wives.

BACK TO OUR GROUP

DARWIN
Wives?

VINCENT
Mostly ex-wives. There's a few
twofers. Ricky and I were both married
to that one in the leggings.

There's an OLD LADY in leggings.

MINISTER
Who can forget 'You Be Mine'? Or
- Ricky's Grammy-winning 'I Love You
Never'?

Some of the wives are starting to cry.

INT. COURTHOUSE - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Chin and Lukas and Tom in intense negotiation.

CHIN
We didn't do this. This happened to
us. Is that understood?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

TOM
Completely.

CHIN
You didn't do this. You didn't 'win.'

LUKAS
Fine. We're not in this for ego.

CHIN
No. You're in this for a business.
But you don't claim credit. And you
don't make it a precedent.

LUKAS
It's not like we have a bunch of other
cloned clients lining up for service.

CHIN
You could. That's the point.

LUKAS
Fine. We didn't win. We didn't lose.
It went away.

CHIN
And they go away. Your clients go
away.

LUKAS
(insisting)
With the embryo.

CHIN
(acceding)
They all go away.

EXT. CEMETERY AMPHITHEATER - DAY

The memorial service continues. Now Jake is speaking:

JAKE
Some of you may have heard...we were
talking about putting together a
reunion tour....

APPLAUSE from the audience.

JAKE
Yeah. Well, that's not going to happen
now.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

JAKE (CONT'D)

But Vincent and I...we'd like to do one
of our songs...one more time.

(looks up)

Ricky, this is for you.

Vincent joins Jake onstage, MUSIC starts to play from
somewhere, and the two sing:

JAKE/VINCENT

*Forget your mom, forget your dad/Forget
those rules 'bout good and bad/Forget
that guy you used to kiss/Remember not
to forget this...*

(chorus)

*We've got a date for tomorrow morning/
Don't be late for tomorrow morning....*

Jake and Vincent start to dance -- a little carefully, a
little stiffly -- but unmistakably hip-hop boy band steps --
and the crowd is with them -- and someone shouts --

AUDIENCE MEMBER (O.C.)

T.J.!

He's spotted T.J. in the crowd. He shouts again --

AUDIENCE MEMBER

T.J.!

This time we see that the Audience Member is Darwin. Now
others take up the cry -- "T.J.!" "Get up there, T.J.!"

T.J. looks up at Vincent and Jake -- do they want him?

JAKE

Come on up, T.J. Come on.

And as T.J. joins them on stage, and joins in singing, the
MUSIC CONTINUES OVER --

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

No jury. The attorneys and the adult Sistos stand before
Judge Wallenstein, who's looking at a document.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN

The Lee Wing Health Center of
Singapore?

CHIN

That's correct, your honor.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN
And they obtained this ruling in a
Singapore court?

LUKAS
That's right. The tank is their
property and, as Mr. Sisto never made
his final payment for the procedure,
they want it back immediately, contents
included.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN
(to Chin)
And you're accepting this?

CHIN
We have no choice. There's a
reciprocity treaty with Singapore.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN
(skeptical)
Signed by Lyndon Johnson.

CHIN
It was never abrogated.

Judge Wallenstein knows exactly what's going on here.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN
So...there'll be no verdict, no
decision, no pro-cloning precedent that
might have been won here by an
emotional case and theatrical
summation.

She glances at Lukas, who averts his eyes modestly.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN
(to the Sistos)
I take it you're all satisfied.

The Sistos nod. The judge picks up her gavel.

JUDGE WALLENSTEIN
Case dismissed.

The BANG of the gavel meshes with the beat of "Tomorrow
Morning" as the MUSIC grows louder again and we return to --

EXT. CEMETERY AMPHITHEATER - DAY

Jake and Vincent and T.J. are still singing and dancing, the dancing still a little stiff until...

T.J. MAKES A VERY COOL DANCE MOVE

The crowd GASPS. Darwin and Lee May exchange a look. Jake and Vincent are impressed. T.J. turns to them --

T.J.

Told you guys I was in shape.

AND HE MAKES AN EVEN MORE AMAZING DANCE MOVE

And the crowd goes wild. And Jake and Vincent are inspired now. They crank up their dancing, and their singing....

JAKE/VINCENT/T.J.

*We've got a date for tomorrow morning/
We've got a date for tomorrow morning/
We've got a date/You know it's right/So
don't be late/Let's start tonight.*

And T.J. and his bandmates are hip-hopping like mad, and the crowd is on its feet, cheering and the MUSIC CONTINUES OVER

EXT. PALMDALE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

The complete Sisto family stands with Hannah and Lukas and Tom and Matthew in front of the terminal as A UNIFORMED FEDERAL OFFICER hands Miller Sisto the tank containing Axel's clone, and Miller signs for it, and the Officer departs, and the attorneys say good-bye to the Sistos, and the Sistos march into the terminal, a brave new family of the twenty-first century -- father and mother and their middle-aged son and his seven-year-old twin and their embryo triplet. As they disappear into the terminal we TILT UP to

THE CLEAR BLUE SKY

And the MUSIC comes up louder --

JAKE/VINCENT/T.J. (V.O.)

*We've got a date for tomorrow morning/
So don't be late for tomorrow
morning....*

AS A DOUBLE JUMBO SUPERSONIC JETLINER FLIES INTO FRAME

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

and off off off into the wild blue yonder....the MUSIC fades away and we --

INT. LEE MAY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

We see Lee May, wearing a T-shirt and nothing else, through the open door of her bathroom. She's in front of a mirror, brushing her hair.

LEE MAY

I got the managers and agents on a conference and booked a tour in fifteen minutes. By the time the funeral ended it was sold out in four cities.

She puts down her hairbrush.

LEE MAY

Strange how things turn out. I mean, I didn't think this was going to happen.

She turns toward camera and turns out the bathroom light and walks out of the bathroom.

LEE MAY

Some of the things you say. I'm sorry, but they're pathetic.

ANOTHER ANGLE

reveals the man she's speaking to. It's not Lukas. It's Darwin, lying in Lee May's bed, a sheet up to his bare chest.

DARWIN

I told you they say that right before they get naked.

LEE MAY

I'm not naked yet.

She switches off the light, and moves to the bed, and --

LEE MAY

Now I am.

END OF PILOT

FADE OUT