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MOMENT OF MADNESS

FADE IN:

As the music plays and credits are revealed; quick in and out shots of MICHAEL DRAY, Bradley Cooper type, seated in the middle of a long empty bar looking at his reflection through a large rectangular mirror opposite him when a beautiful chestnut haired woman passes from one end of the mirror to the other, to Michael sitting with friends in the restaurant stealing glances of that same woman, who is also stealing glances at him while sitting with a large group of people, to a stand up meeting by the ladies room to kissing each other at a rock and roll club during a live band performance, to a sea plane ride to Fire Island, to a dinner at a crowded restaurant to becoming the last two people at the restaurant to SANDRA LOPEZ, Rosario Dawson type, moving her suitcases into Michael's apartment.

EXT. NIAGARA FALLS - DAY - 5 WEEKS LATER

MIKE and SANDRA are on a tugboat wearing rain slickers. They are getting married by the Justice of the Peace. The camera takes notice of the magnitude of the falls as they kiss to cement their marriage. A crowd of strangers on the boat, also wearing rain slickers, applauds.

EXT. MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA - DAY

MIKE and SANDRA are in the ocean catching waves.

EXT. POOL HOTEL - DAY

MIKE is balancing SANDRA as she lays flat in the pool.

INT. DARK BAR BACK ROOM - NIGHT

MALE ASSASIN

(facing camera)

How would I do it? Doesn't matter  
that much to me.

(MORE)

MALE ASSASIN(cont'd)

Could be with a hunting knife, a gun, strangulation, or my two personal favorites, which is I would tie the person up then drown him or her or I could do it by lethal injection.

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Mike exits the bathroom. Sandra is intently watching him approach her.

SANDRA

You make me sick.

MIKE (

What?

SANDRA

I can't even look at you.

MIKE

What are you talking about?

SANDRA

Don't pretend you weren't checking out that girl who went to the bathroom just before you decided to go. Did you talk to her? Follow her into the Ladies Room?

INT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - NIGHT

Mike is seated with three of his friends. The crowd applauds a timely basket made by one of the KNICK players.

MIKE (ON PHONE)

Because we don't want to eat the food here, it's basically just hot dogs. No other girls are joining us at the restaurant. We haven't decided yet. I'll be home right after. Bye.

GENE (BEN STILLER TYPE)

You're getting shit already? How long have you been married now?

MIKE

Three weeks.

BILL (JASON BATEMAN TYPE)

That reminds me, I owe you a bachelor party.

MIKE

Nah. That's okay.

BILL

Yeah, well we'll discuss it at dinner. I'm not letting you off the hook so easily.

RICKY (VINCE VAUGHN TYPE)

Don't tell me you're already whipped?

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT.

HOSTESS

Your table will be ready in twenty minutes, sorry for the delay.

RICKY

It's fine. We'll be at the bar.

GENE (TO MIKE)

Would you stop looking at your watch and relax.

BILL

First round is on me. And yeah, let's talk about your bachelor party.

MIKE

Thanks, but it's too late.

GENE

When you run off and get married and don't tell anyone, especially your best friends. It doesn't really count.

RICKY  
Think of it as more of a party for  
us than for you.

PHONE RINGS

MIKE (ON PHONE)  
Hi. We're at the bar. About ten  
minutes. Okay, bye.

BILL  
You've got to tell her to lighten  
up.

MIKE  
She's extremely jealous.

RICKY  
They're all jealous.

MIKE  
Even on our honeymoon she accused  
me of flirting with some girl.

BILL  
Were you?

MIKE  
No.

GENE  
How many times has she called  
already?

BILL  
You have to get dark sunglasses and  
wear them all the time. This way  
she won't clock you for looking at  
girls.

GENE  
She could be psycho jealous. I had  
a girlfriend like that. She would  
check my phone, e-mails, called all  
the time...

MIKE  
What did you do?

GENE

I slept with her best friend just to piss her off, then broke up with her.

RICKY

You see, this is why you're one of my best friends, you're a class act. I'll get the next round.

GENE

Remember that line from the film "Fight Club", said by Brad Pitt's character, Tyler, "Things you own end up owning you."

BILL

Hey, no worries. A good bachelor party will straighten everything out.

INT. APT - NIGHT

Sandra is asleep on the couch in the living room as Mike quietly enters the apt.

INT. HALLWAY OF FASHION OFFICE - DAY

Mike, walking briskly with papers in hand, hears the phone ringing in his office and quickly attacks it.

MIKE (ON PHONE)

Hello?

INT. VICTORIA'S OFFICE - HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. - DAY

VICTORIA (JAPANESE, FASHIONABLE MID THIRTIES)

Mike. Glad I got you. Sorry for the short notice as we got backed up on all our appointments today. We have a girl here that we need you to interview straight away for the job as assistant buyer. Can you make time now?

MIKE (ON PHONE)

Yes. Send her up.

VINCE (CALIFORNIA TYPE, LATE 20'S)  
Got a minute?

MIKE  
Sure, what's up?

VINCE  
I want to cancel a few styles from  
some of the European orders. Can we  
go over it before I send an e-mail?

MIKE  
Of course.

VINCE (PUTTING PAPERS ON DESK)  
It's just three vendors and...

VICTORIA (KNOCKING)  
Mike, Hi.

MIKE  
We'll review this in about thirty  
minutes, okay?

VINCE  
Fine.

VICTORIA  
This is Helen. Alright, I'll leave  
you two. Helen, after your meeting,  
can you come back to my office?

HELEN (BLOND, LATE TWENTIES,  
MIDWESTERN, AVERAGE HEIGHT)  
Yes. Thank you.

MIKE  
Please sit down. Can I get you a  
water or a coffee?

HELEN  
I'd love a water, thanks.

MIKE  
Be right back.

INT. HALLWAY FASHION OFFICE - DAY

Mike stops by Vince's office.

MIKE  
 Vince, I think my interview is  
 going to take awhile. Can we meet  
 after lunch?

THEY both trade a smile.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Active, what you would typically expect. Sandra is at her  
 desk, working on a report.

FEMALE COP 1  
 (approaches)  
 Hey you. We owe you a dinner. When  
 are you free?

SANDRA  
 You don't have to, really.

FEMALE COP II  
 No, no, no. Now that you're a new  
 member of our club, we insist.

SANDRA  
 Fine.

FEMALE COP III  
 (Looking at photo)  
 Is that him? He's handsome. You'd  
 better keep an eye on that one.

INT. PATROL CAR - DAY

SANDRA  
 Can I talk to you about something  
 personal?

ROBIN  
 Sure.

SANDRA  
 It's about me and Mike. I mean, I  
 think it's more about me.

ROBIN  
 Tell me.



SANDRA

I feel all fucked up about us. Part of me thinks I'm becoming too possessive and the other part of me thinks if I don't, he'll cheat on me. You know? If I don't keep tabs on him.

ROBIN

You think he's cheating on you?

SANDRA

I don't think so, but that thought makes me crazy. I've always been the jealous type and sometimes I feel it gets the best of me.

ROBIN

You should speak to the in-house psychologist. Her name is Alice Etenson. She's very good. I had a situation once. This was before we became partners. It's kind of embarrassing actually, but my point is I talked to her and she made me see things more clearly. She helped, and it's confidential, just between you and her.

SANDRA

You really think I should try it?

ROBIN

I do. Trust me on this.

SANDRA

Did you have to say that? You know I hate that expression.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Mike and Sandra exit his car service door and kiss goodbye. She notices a cute blonde leaving a taxi and begins running after Mike screaming his name. It's too late, he's already gone through security.

INT. BUSINESS CLASS LOUNGE BAR - DAY

Mike exits the bathroom to find a beautiful girl in his seat at the bar.

RENEE

(British, Redhead, Early  
40's)

Are you giving me a funny look? Do  
we know each other? Oh! Am I in  
your seat? Sorry.

MIKE

You are, but I did think for a  
moment that I did know you but when  
I heard your accent I...

RENEE

And why is that?

MIKE

Never met a beautiful British girl.

RENEE

An American with a sense of humor  
and charm, how strange.

MIKE

That was a compliment, right?

RENEE

Absolutely. My name is Renee Are  
you on this delayed flight?

MIKE

I am, and my name is Michael.  
(Phone rings)  
Excuse me.

Mike exits the area and sees Helen from a distance. The phone  
call from Sandra falls into fail mode. He pauses to think  
about his current state, then walks to the gate.

INT. AIRPORT BOARDING GATE - DAY

He enters the plane and takes his seat, a few minutes later  
Renee sits next to him.

MIKE

What are the odds?

RENEE

More than a lottery ticket.

FADE TO:

A FEW HOURS INTO THE FLIGHT - DAY

Mike and Renee are asleep. Her head is on his shoulder. We see Helen, who is in coach class sneaking a peek.

INT. L.A. BAGGAGE CLAIM - DAY

RENEE  
Here's my card in case you get  
lost.

HELEN  
(approaches)  
Hi.

MIKE  
This is Helen. We work together.  
And this is Renee.

RENEE  
Hi.

HELEN  
Hello.

RENEE  
I have a car waiting. Cheers. Mike,  
remember what I said now. My cell  
number is on the back of the card.

INT. TAXI - DAY

MIKE  
Look at this mess. I had an inner  
feeling we were going to have  
traffic.

HELEN  
Is that the only inner feeling you  
had?

MIKE  
What does that mean?

HELEN  
Never mind. Our first appointment  
is not till 12:00, so we're okay.

MIKE  
Have to call my wife.

HELEN  
Did you say have to? Thought you  
would want to.

MIKE  
(on phone)  
That's what I meant.

Quick in and out shots of Helen and Mike on buying  
appointments and shopping the stores

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A group of fashion people along with Mike and Helen are  
having dinner. Helen is holding on to every word Mike says.

INT. POLICE BAR/RESTAURANT - NIGHT

SANDRA  
Hi, sorry I'm late.

FEMALE COP I (HEAVY SET, LATE 20'S)  
No problem.

ROBIN (REDHEAD EARLY 30'S)  
Our Margarita's have been keeping  
us company.

COP II  
Now, sit down and tell us all about  
him.

COP I  
And no holding back, we want  
details.

ROBIN  
What do you want to drink?

SANDRA  
I'll have the same as you guys.

Robin grabs the waitress's hand.

ROBIN  
Honey, can you get me another  
Margarita for my friend? Would you  
do that for me?

WAITRESS  
OK.

COP I

You got a real light touch, you know that?

ROBIN

Sometimes I just can't control my emotions.

COP I

And speaking of emotions, now tell, tell, tell us about him.

SANDRA

He's everything I ever wanted. He's kind, caring, he actually listens to me when I'm just sometimes, you know, venting about work and I just can't get enough of him. The sex is amazing.

COP II (EARLY 20'S WEIGHT LIFTERE'S BODY)

Don't worry that will change soon enough.

COP I

Hey girlfriend, just because your marriage is in the toilet doesn't mean it's going to happen to Sandra.

COP II

And you should talk. At least with my man I know where he is all the time. Hello. It's 10:00 PM, do you know where your husband is?

ROBIN

Sweetie, can you come here for a sec.

WAITRESS

Yes miss.

ROBIN

What's your name?

WAITRESS

Christy.

ROBIN

My name is Robin. Christy, that's a pretty name. Can you get us some menus?

WAITRESS

Sure. Be right back.

SANDRA

You're too much, you know that.

ROBIN

If I see it and I like it, I take it. That's what you've got to do, grab life and squeeze it hard as you can.

COP II

Alright, enough of this bullshit, let's make a toast to a happy marriage.

They all say "happy marriage" to Sandra

SANDRA

Is there such a thing as loving someone too much?

INT. DARK BAR BACK ROOM - NIGHT.

FEMALE ASSASIN

(facing CAMERA)

Me? It's really what you want, for that much money. But if you don't give a shit, I would prefer to push him or her in front of a train.

INT. APT - NIGHT

Mike arrives at the apartment and falls asleep. Suitcase beside him.

FADE TO:

ONE HOUR LATER

Sandra is standing over the bed and staring at him.

EXT. MONTAUK LONG ISLAND - DAY

They are windsurfing in the ocean.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

They just finished having sex.

SANDRA

Do you have any idea how much I  
love you?

MIKE

Not as much as I love you.

SANDRA

When we said goodbye at the  
airport, I noticed a cute cheesy  
blonde girl get out of her taxi and  
began running after you in the  
terminal. Who was she?

MIKE

Her name is Helen, she's one of the  
new buyers that came on the trip.

SANDRA

She seemed pretty anxious to catch  
up with you.

MIKE

She's new, guess she wanted to make  
an impression.

SANDRA

And did she?

MIKE

You're the only one who can do  
that. (She throws a pillow at him).

INT. HOTEL ROOM -A FEW HOURS LATER

Mike is on the phone, then hangs up in frustration.

MIKE

Still busy, I'll go downstairs to make the dinner reservations.

A few moments pass after he leaves the hotel room and his cell phone rings. Sandra notices it's his assistant Helen calling.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY

Helen is walking through the park with her girlfriend, Christine. They stop at the petting zoo and watch the children interact with the animals.

HELEN

You know, I'm starting to feel as if I want one of those.

CHRISTINE (FRENCH THIN, ATTRACTIVE, MID THIRTIES)

What? Which one? One of the animals or one of those kids? (They sit on a bench.)

HELEN

A kid silly. A little girl would be nice.

CHRISTINE

Not me. I mean, maybe one day, and I would want a boy. There's enough competition out there as it is. Don't want to compete with my own daughter one day.

HELEN

By that time you won't care.

CHRISTINE

Any prospects for a husband at your job? I suppose in your industry they're all gay, right?

HELEN

Most of the guys are but I have my eye on one of them.

CHRISTINE

Well I'm waiting, who is he?



HELEN

He's my boss and he's married, but just became married a few weeks ago.

CHRISTINE

So what are you saying? You're about to wait, what, 10 years before he starts to come around?

HELEN

His wife is obsessive. Keeps calling all the time, everyone says at the office it's really pissing him off. And the weird thing is, she's a cop; it doesn't add up. They're like from two different worlds.

CHRISTINE

Do you think he likes you, likes you enough to end his marriage?

HELEN

I'm working on it, but have to act fast so he can get a quick annulment.

CHRISTINE

I don't know if I like what I'm hearing, sounds messy.

HELEN

Doesn't matter. It's too late. I'm already in love with him.

INT. NEW YORK RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Mike approaches the table only to find Robin seated.

MIKE

(as he kisses her hello  
she presses her cheek  
against his lips)  
Where is your partner?

ROBIN

Which one?

MIKE

You're right. I'll rephrase it.  
Where are your partners?

ROBIN

Mine and yours are still at the  
office with some leftover  
paperwork. So, I suggest we get  
some drinks.

MIKE

You've talked me into it.

ROBIN

You're that easy?

MIKE

Especially with a pretty girl. So  
how are things with you and Donna?

ROBIN

Strained. She thinks I'm cheating  
on her which I'm not.

MIKE

Same with Sandra. Why does she  
think that?

ROBIN

She's extremely jealous.

MIKE

Welcome to my universe. Sometimes  
it's almost scary.

ROBIN

Sandra always had a problem with  
trust, even with me, and with her  
father leaving when she was so  
young, and her last two boyfriends  
were a disaster before you guys  
met.

MIKE

There is a difference between trust  
and jealousy isn't there?

ROBIN

There is, but in some ways they can  
feed off of one another. Here, let  
me see your hands.

She holds his hand with both of hers.

ROBIN

You have nice hands. Can I see the other?

MIKE

Sure. So what do my hands say about me?

ROBIN

Don't know yet. Need more time.

FADE IN:

INT. RESTAURANT - THIRTY MINUTES LATER

They both seem tipsy and too friendly.

ROBIN

You know I can see now how Sandra would get a little jealous sometimes.

MIKE

And if you didn't have a girlfriend, I know a few guys at my office that would love to meet up with you.

SANDRA (APPROACHING)

Hey. What did I miss?

ROBIN

Your husband wants to fix me up.

SANDRA

Oh yeah. With who?

DONNA

(approaching)

Are you guys wasted already?

MIKE

You know I'm a lightweight.

ROBIN

And if I drink before I eat, well that's it for me too.

SANDRA

I think we should cut them both off. Right Donna?

DONNA  
Definitely. At least until we catch  
up.

INT. BEDROOM - SAME NIGHT

Sandra is on top of Mike. They are having sex. She appears to be in a trance, her eyes are half closed.

FADE TO:

INT. BEDROOM - FOLLOWING NIGHT

Mike is getting dressed. Sandra is on the bed.

SANDRA  
I still don't understand why you  
agreed to a bachelor party. It's  
just ridiculous. Who's gonna be  
there?

MIKE  
Just the guys, you know the ones I  
go to the game with. Ricky, Bill,  
and Gene. And I don't even think it  
should be called that. It's just an  
excuse for all of us to get  
together and play poker. That's  
all.

SANDRA  
That's all? No strippers?

MIKE  
Of course not, they would have told  
me.

SANDRA  
Well you better not lose. I hate  
losers.

MIKE  
Tell you what, with my winnings  
tonight, we'll go to that expensive  
Italian restaurant you wanted to go  
to, okay?

SANDRA  
Come here.

MIKE

What?

SANDRA

Let's do it real quick.

MIKE

But I'm already late, they're all waiting for me.

SANDRA

It won't take long, come on.

MIKE

You talked me into it.

SANDRA

Oh, so that's what I have to do, talk you into it?

MIKE

Just shut up and kiss me.

INT. RICKY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The poker game is in full swing.

BILL

So how's married life? I'll bet five.

MIKE

So far, so good. I'm out.

GENE

I'm in. You realize when you get married, your life is practically over.

BILL

You can say that again.

MIKE

How would you guys know. None of you are married.

RICKY

I'm in. So who's the boss, you or her?

MIKE

It hasn't come to that yet.

GENE

At least she hasn't called you a million times like she did last time we were all together.

MIKE

Yeah, I guess my reputation when I was single has lost its shine.

HIS CELL PHONE  
RINGS

MIKE (ON PHONE)

Hi.

SANDRA (O.S.)

Hi Honey, are you winning?

MIKE

I'm up a little. What are you doing?

SANDRA (O.S.)

Just watching a cop show on TV. What time will you be home?

MIKE

(walking toward bathroom)

I don't know. We just started and were probably going to order up some food, a pizza or Chinese.

SANDRA (O.S.)

So it's just the four of you then.  
Wait, hold on a second honey.

Mike is now in the bathroom.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

Alright so if I'm asleep don't wake me up because...

Doorbell rings. RICKY opens it to let in three girls who are laughing.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

What's that noise in the background I hear?

MIKE peeks out from the bathroom.

MIKE

Just the TV. OK see you later, love  
you. Bye.

MIKE exits the bathroom and sees a few strippers already  
undressing, dancing with his friends.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sandra is preparing the laundry and discovers the business  
card in Mike's pant pocket Renee had given him. She reads the  
back of it. "Too bad you're married.

INT. BAR BACK ROOM - NIGHT

ASSASSIN

(facing the CAMERA)  
Believe me, the less you know the  
better. Just leave the money in a  
plain bag just where you're  
sitting.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mike enters; he's a little drunk.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

SANDRA

Hi Honey, had a good time?

MIKE

(kissing her)  
Yes, thank you.

SANDRA

Why is your hair so wet?

MIKE

The guys popped some champagne and  
it went all over me so I took a  
shower at Ricky's.

SANDRA

What? Took a shower? That doesn't  
sound right.

MIKE

My hair was sticky.

SANDRA  
I heard girls in the background  
just before you quickly hung up the  
phone. Just tell me, who was there?

MIKE  
Nobody. We were just playing cards.

SANDRA  
Then how come you sound so wasted  
right now?

MIKE  
It was a party.

SANDRA  
So, did you win or lose?

MIKE  
Broke even.

SANDRA  
Alright. Come to bed. I'm horny.

MIKE  
OK.

SANDRA  
You know what will happen to you if  
I catch you lying to me.

MIKE  
No, what?

SANDRA  
Believe me. You don't want to know.

INT. PSYCHOLOGIST'S OFFICE - DAY

SANDRA  
(entering Alice's office)  
Hi.

ALICE (WASPY, REGAL LOOKING)  
Hello Sandra. Please sit down.  
Would you like something to drink?

SANDRA  
Some water please. My mouth is kind  
of dry.



ALICE

Here you are. So you and Robin are partners?

SANDRA

Yeah, for about a year now.

ALICE

And how is your relationship with her?

SANDRA

It's been great from the beginning. She's like, my best friend. I've never said that to her but I'm sure we both feel it between us.

ALICE

Relationships are important to us all. Do you have any other close friends?

SANDRA

Not really. Some of the girls at work I'm friendly with, but not that close.

ALICE

What about some of your husband's friends?

SANDRA

I've never met them.

ALICE

Now why is that?

SANDRA

I don't know, we haven't been married that long, only about three months now. What are you writing down?

ALICE

Just taking some notes. Why are here to see me today?

SANDRA

I haven't met any of his friends because we come from two different parts of the city, we're the kind of people who maybe shouldn't have fallen in love, but we did and I feel afraid and threatened. I think one day he's going to realize all this. Sorry, those words just came out.

ALICE

Its good they did. Has he ever said anything to give you this feeling?

SANDRA

No.

ALICE

The why do you feel this way?

SANDRA

I'm a cop. My instincts are far superior than practical knowledge. (shows her the business card) I found this in his pant pocket day before yesterday.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - DAY

VINCE ENTERS WITH APPAREL SAMPLES IN HAND, AS MOMO LEAVES MIKE'S OFFICE.

MOMO (BLACK, HEAVY SET, LATE 30S)

Thanks MR. Michael, I appreciate it.

MIKE

Sure, no problem.

Momo exits Mike's office as Vince enters)

VINCE

Why did he thank you?

MIKE

They gave him a small severance package so I gave him another one, said it came from all of us.

VINCE  
Oh, how much do I owe you?

MIKE  
That's OK, are those the corrected samples?

VINCE  
Yes.(trying on a jacket, then looks in the mirror)  
This style is my favorite. It comes in a variety of leather skins.

HELEN'  
(enters)  
I like it.

MIKE  
(in the mirror with Vince)  
It is nice. Here, let me try it on.

PHONE RINGS

HELEN  
Want me to get it?

MIKE  
Yes, please.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

RENEE  
Hello, is Michael there?

HELEN (O.S.)  
He's kind of busy at the moment.  
Who is this?

RENEE  
It's Renee Smith, and it's kind of...

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - DAY

MIKE  
Who's on the phone?

HELEN  
Some girl named Renee. Was that the one from the plane?

MIKE

I'll take it. Hello.

RENEE (O.S.)

So I need a security clearance to speak to you?

MIKE (ON PHONE)

How are you?

RENEE (O.S.)

Good. You sound busy so I'll talk fast. I'm with a friend of mine who has an amazing collection of shirts and he's too shy to call you directly, so...

MIKE (ON PHONE)

I'll have Vince call him to make an appointment.

RENEE (O.S.)

You see, there's the problem. He's leaving tomorrow for London, so can you come by around 6:30 tonight? We're staying at the Plaza. I promise you, you won't be sorry.

MIKE (ON PHONE)

Hold on a second. (to Vince) What time is our dinner tonight with the Italians?

VINCE

Eight.

MIKE (ON PHONE)

I can make it.

RENEE (O.S.)

Great. Room 518. It's a small room, so come by yourself. Won't take long, there's only a handful of styles.

MIKE

Fine. See you then.

HELEN

So was it her?

MIKE

Yes, that was that girl who sat next to me on the plane. Her friend has a collection of shirts she wants me to see.

HELEN

When, tonight?

MIKE

6:30 at the Plaza.

VINCE

I can't make it. I have a dentist appointment at six.

HELEN

So what time should we leave the office?

MIKE

I'm going to go on this one alone, she said her room is pretty small at the hotel so I'll meet you guys at the restaurant.

VINCE

Fine.

MIKE

Any other styles you want to show me?

VINCE

Yes, two more. There in my office I'll be right back.

HELEN

Excuse me.

PHONE RINGS

MIKE (ON PHONE)

Hello.

VICTORIA'S OFFICE - DAY

VICTORIA (ON PHONE)

Hi Mike, it's me. I have a potential employee I would like you to interview, is that alright?

MIKE (O.S.)  
Sure, can you give me about fifteen minutes?

VICTORIA (ON PHONE)  
It's for six thirty tonight. Then I thought maybe we could get a drink or something.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - DAY

MIKE (ON PHONE)  
Can't, I have an outside appointment. Can she come earlier?

INT. VICTORIA'S OFFICE - DAY

VICTORIA (ON PHONE)  
No. I'll make it for later in the week, and let you know.

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - DAY

MIKE (ON PHONE)  
OK, bye.

Vince enters with samples

INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY

Sandra is getting dressed, then places a call.

SANDRA (ON PHONE)  
Hey, what are you doing?

MIKE (O.S.)  
Looking at some leather jackets, where are you?

SANDRA (ON PHONE)  
Home, but I have to go back to the station, so we can have a late dinner tonight if you don't mind.

MIKE (O.S.)  
I have the Italians tonight at eight. I told you about this dinner I have to go to, remember?

SANDRA

(takes out a business card from her pocket)

That's right, I forgot. Have a good time, bring home a doggy bag for me.

She places another call.

SANDRA (ON PHONE)  
(looking at the card from Renee.)  
Robin, I need you to do me a favor.

ROBIN (O.S.)  
Shoot.

SANDRA (ON PHONE)  
I want you to run a check on a girl named Renee Smith.

ROBIN (O.S.)  
Why?

SANDRA (ON PHONE)  
I'll tell you later. I'm in the middle of something.

ROBIN (O.S.)  
I'll do it now. I have time.

SANDRA (ON PHONE)  
I'll be back at the station in an hour, bye. (she places another call to Mike and gets his voice mail, hangs up, then places another call) Hi, Can you switch me to Vince Ehly's office please? (beat) Hi Vince, it's Sandra. Is Mike with you?

VINCE (O.S.)  
He just left for an appointment at the Plaza.

SANDRA (ON PHONE)  
I thought you were having dinner with the Italians?

VINCE (O.S.)  
We are, he's going to meet us at the restaurant.

SANDRA (ON PHONE)  
Who is he meeting at the Plaza?

VINCE (O.S.)  
Some PR girl, can't remember her name.

SANDRA  
(looking at card) Oh, it's Renee, right?

VINCE (O.S.)  
Yes that's it. Sorry, I've got to leave now, I have a dentist's appointment and can't be late.

SANDRA  
Sure. Bye.

INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Mike, Vince and the Italians are in the middle of dinner.

FRANCO (BALDING, LIGHT BEARD)  
Michael, Giorgio and I never eat Italian when we come to New York.

VINCE  
Why is that?

GIORGIO (LANKY, MODEL TYPE)  
Because for us, it's important to try the kind of food we can't have in Milan, the only Japanese food that's good is in Paris.

HELEN  
Hi, sorry I'm late.

MIKE  
What happened to you?

VINCE  
Yeah, we started already.

HELEN  
I was at the gym and the subways stopped working for some reason so we had to wait.



FRANCO

Michael, who is this beautiful girl?

GIORGIO

Please, please, sit down and have some wine.

MIKE

Sorry, this is Helen. She's a new buyer in the company.

VINCE

You're sweating, you okay?

HELEN

I know, I was like, running here the last few blocks.

MIKE

I ordered for the table, is that alright?

HELEN

Yes, it's fine.

INT. MEN'S FASHION SHOWROOM - DAY

Mike, Vince and Helen are looking at a collection of Mens clothing.

SALESMAN

Mr. Thomas, you have a call from your office.

Mike follows the salesman to a quiet office in the showroom.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

MIKE (ON PHONE)

Hi Victoria. What's up?

VICTORIA (O.S.)

Are you planning on coming back to the office today?

MIKE (ON PHONE)

I was, in about an hour or so, why?

VICTORIA (O.S.)  
 I can't say much on the phone but  
 we need you to come back now, it's  
 important. Come directly to my  
 office.

MIKE (ON PHONE)  
 I'm on my way.

VINCE  
 Everything OK?

MIKE  
 H.R. wants me back at the office.  
 Wouldn't say what it's about.

HELEN  
 What could it be?

MIKE  
 No idea, maybe Someone is quitting  
 or got fired. See you guys  
 tomorrow.

INT. H.R. OFFICE - DAY

VICTORIA  
 He's on his way.

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON (TALL, DARK  
 SKINNED, ATHLETIC, EARLY FORTIES)  
 What can you tell us about him?

VICTORIA  
 He's been with the company for  
 about eight years, and has a senior  
 position. He's well respected.  
 What's all this about?

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Robin enters.

ALICE  
 Hi. This is a surprise.

ROBIN  
 How are you? Long time.

ALICE  
 Maybe too long. Have a seat. What  
 can I do for you?

ROBIN  
 (still standing)  
 Close your eyes.

ALICE  
 What?

ROBIN  
 I said close your eyes. Don't you  
 trust me?

ALICE  
 Yeah, well that was a long time  
 ago.

ROBIN  
 Just stop talking. And do what I  
 said.

Alice obeys and Robin gently kisses her.

INT. VICTORIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Mike enters.

MIKE  
 Hi.

VICTORIA  
 Mike, this is Lieutenant Gold and  
 Lieutenant Washington.

MIKE  
 Hello.

LIEUTENANT GOLD (MIDDLE AGED ,STOCKY,  
 SHORT)  
 Have a seat please.

MIKE  
 What's going on?

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
 Please have a seat. We would like  
 to ask you a few questions, just  
 routine.

LIEUTENANT GOLD  
Where were you last night?

MIKE  
I was at a business dinner. Why?

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
What time was your dinner  
reservation?

MIKE  
Eight p.m. Alright, I will be happy  
to answer all your questions, I  
just need to know why.

LIEUTENANT GOLD  
We're investigating a possible  
homicide.

MIKE  
Who's?

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
A woman named Renee Smith.

MIKE  
What? When?

LIEUTENANT GOLD  
You knew her?

MIKE  
Yes. I was...

LIEUTENANT GOLD  
Go on.

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
Why did you just hesitate there for  
a second?

MIKE  
I'm just a little freaked out. I  
was at her hotel room before my  
dinner appointment.

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
Why?

MIKE  
She called earlier at the office  
to ask me to see her friend's  
collection.

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
In the hotel room?

MIKE  
Yes, and when I got there, there was no collection. She said he had another appointment earlier and was running late.

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
Then what happened?

MIKE  
We talked for awhile and then I left.

LIEUTENANT GOLD  
Did you know her before this meeting?

MIKE  
Yes. We met on a plane about a month ago.

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
Are you married, Mr. Thomas?

MIKE  
Yes.

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
Is your wife in the same business as you?

MIKE  
No. What did she die of?

LIEUTENANT GOLD  
What does your wife do?

MIKE  
She's a policewoman.

LIEUTENANT GOLD  
What. Why didn't you tell us this before?

MIKE  
Why should I? There's no reason to bring her into this.

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
Fuck! (to Victoria) Why didn't you  
tell us for Christ's sake!

VICTORIA  
I didn't know. His personal life is  
not a concern of ours. He's one of  
over 432 employees in this company.  
Do you expect me to know who's  
married and on top of it what their  
wives do for a living?

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
Why are you trying to keep this a  
secret from us?

LIEUTENANT GOLD  
Is her last name the same as yours?

MIKE  
It is, but I don't know if she uses  
it at work.

LIEUTENANT GOLD  
What's her maiden name and the  
precinct she's attached to?

MIKE  
Her maiden name is Lopez and she's  
at the 19th in the Bronx.

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
Your friend died of suffocation.

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
One more question. Did you kill  
her?

MIKE  
No, of course not, why would I?

LIEUTENANT GOLD  
Don't plan on going on any buying  
trips. Do we have an understanding?

MIKE  
Fine.

The detectives leave the office.

VICTORIA  
I think you should call your wife  
immediately.

He calls Sandra, but the call goes directly to her voice mail.

INT. MIKE AND SANDRA'S APT - NIGHT

He enters.

MIKE  
Sandra, are you home?

SANDRA (O.S.)  
I'm in the kitchen. How was your day?

MIKE  
Didn't the detectives contact you?

SANDRA  
That? Yeah, I met with them, before I left the station house.

MIKE  
And?

SANDRA  
Nothing. They asked a few questions.

MIKE  
What questions? What did they ask?

SANDRA  
Mostly routine. What did they ask you?

MIKE  
This is crazy. You're acting way too casual about this.

SANDRA  
I didn't know her. She was in a hotel, for all I know she could have been a drug dealer, or a hooker. Why are you so concerned about someone you sat next to for a few hours in your life?

MIKE  
Because she's a human being I had contact with.

(MORE)

MIKE(cont'd)

It doesn't matter to me whether it was an airplane flight or we just had a few words in an elevator. And because they might think I did it.

SANDRA

There was no physical evidence to suggest foul play. Just the videos of your entering and exiting the hotel, and your exit did not appear to be quick, or purposeful.

MIKE

So that's it?

SANDRA

Unless you knew her before that airplane flight you shared together?

MIKE

We just met in the business class lounge before.

SANDRA

How did you meet there?

MIKE

She was sitting in my seat at the bar.

SANDRA

And then she just happened to sit next to you on the plane?

MIKE

Yeah, that's exactly what happened.

SANDRA

That's strange. She must have planned it that way. Alright, dinner's ready.

BLACK SCREEN WITH WHITE LETTERING:

"ONE WEEK LATER"

EXT. LOFT BUILDING DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

A crowd of people are seen entering the building.



INT. LOFT APARTMENT - NIGHT

It's a party. The CAMERA circles the large group of people and then takes aim at Mike, Ricky, Gene, and Bill opening a bottle of champagne.

MIKE  
(raising his glass)  
You finally did it, you dog,  
cheers.

GENE  
Yeah, without the kidding around.  
All the best.

BILL  
And I'll need all your old phone  
numbers of the ones I should have  
been with anyway.

RICKY (JAMES DEAN TYPE)  
Thanks, guys. Mike where's your  
fantasy wife by the way, you know  
the one we never met?

MIKE  
She had to work tonight.

GRACE (BRUNETE, THIN, MODEL TYPE)  
So did you tell them?

RICKY  
What?

BILL  
Oh my god, you're pregnant.

GENE  
Wow. How did that happen?

GRACE  
No silly, now that we're going to  
be married, he won't be going to  
any more basketball games.

(silence)

GRACE (CONT'D, LAUGHING)  
I'm kidding.

As everyone has a laugh, Helen approaches. She's a little drunk.

HELEN

Hey guys.

GRACE

That's right. You guys work together.

BILL

What?

GRACE

Helen's my cousin. Her mom and mine are sisters.

HELEN

Yeah, it's like we're all family now. Funny how things works out, right Mike?

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

ROBIN

That does it. I'm done. What about you?

SANDRA

A few more minutes.

ROBIN

So, you're going to the engagement party, right?

SANDRA

It's kind of late now, isn't it?

ROBIN

Call him and find out what the deal is.

SANDRA (ON PHONE)

No answer.

ROBIN

It's still early, it's only eleven. You should go.

SANDRA

I don't know anyone and...I have to put on my makeup and change...

ROBIN

Stop making excuses, it's time you, what, you're never going to meet his friends? This is ridiculous.

SANDRA

Fuck it, let's go. I'll change in the car.

INT. LOFT APARTMENT - NIGHT.

The party is at its best, everyone is dancing, laughing and clearly enjoying the evening. Mike is talking to a few friends in the corner as Ricky approaches.

RICKY

Mike, can I talk to you for a second?

MIKE

Sure.

They walk a few steps to the side

MIKE (CONT'D)

What's up?

RICKY

Helen is over the top. I need you take her home.

MIKE

Why me? Why do I have to do it?

RICKY

Because she works for you.

MIKE

I don't think it's a good idea, and...

RICKY

Listen, she came on her own and so did you.

MIKE

There's some other single guys here and...

RICKY

Yeah, and I don't trust them, if you know what I mean, so...

GRACE  
Did you tell him?

RICKY  
Yeah.

GRACE  
Good, thanks Mike, I appreciate it.

EXT. LOFT BUILDING - NIGHT

Robin and Sandra pull up to the corner of the block on the opposite side of the street.

EXT. LOFT BUILDING- NIGHT

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Sandra begins to put on some lip gloss as Robin looks to the front door of the building and sees Mike holding Helen closely and getting into a taxi.

SANDRA  
I'm ready.

ROBIN  
There's Mike.

SANDRA  
That's the girl from the airport.  
Follow the cab. I knew it. They  
just can't keep their dick in their  
pants and that's all there is to  
it.

FADE TO:  
As they follow the taxi through the city streets a call comes through from headquarters.

ROBIN  
Shit. There's a robbery two blocks  
from here, we have to take it.

SANDRA  
No, we don't, just don't answer  
and...

ROBIN

We have to, don't worry, you know who she is and he could have just been taking her home.

SANDRA

Yeah, then why isn't he answering his cell? Fuck. Call headquarters and tell them we're in the vicinity.

EXT. HELEN'S BUILDING - NIGHT

MIKE helps her out of the taxi.

HELEN

I'm so embarrassed. I knew I should have eaten tonight.

MIKE

Don't worry about it. We've all been there before.

HELEN

Thanks.

MIKE

Driver, hold on for a minute. (to Helen) I'll walk you to the door. (She tries to kiss him and the taxi leave)

MIKE

OK, good night. Sure you can...Hey taxi!

HELEN

I live on the first floor. I'll be fine as soon as I get some more air. Can you come in with me just for awhile?

MIKE

Sure. What do you mean by more air?

HELEN

Have to walk my dog.

MIKE

You're sure you're alright?

HELEN

I am now.

EXT. POLICE BUILDING - NIGHT

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Sandra and Robin are leaving the building.

SANDRA

I'm exhausted, glad this night is over.

ROBIN

Have a good day off and don't do anything stupid. I mean it. Remember what we learned. Collect all the information first before you make any decisions.

SANDRA

Thanks, good night.

INT. APT - NIGHT

Mike is asleep as Sandra enters. She stands over him then goes to sleep on the couch.

EXT. MENS CLOTHING STORE - DAY

INT. MENS CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Vince is waiting on a male customer, then passes him onto one of the salesmen. MIKE approaches.

MIKE

Did you make the sale?

VINCE

Yes, although it took some time. He was a hard fit. Have you seen Helen?

MIKE

No.

VINCE

Strange, she wasn't in her office this morning. If she's sick she would have called me. Should I call her?

MIKE

Yes.

VINCE (ON PHONE)

Directly to voice mail.

They walk through the store checking the displays and the customers.

MIKE

Is there anything we need to put on sale?

VINCE

A few styles from Franco's shoe collection but I want to hold off until Monday. See what happens this weekend. How was the engagement party last night?

MIKE

It was good. Did you know Helen is a cousin to Ricky's fiancée?

VINCE

Hadn't a clue. So she was there last night?

MIKE

Yeah, and she did have a little too much to drink.

VINCE

Sandra wasn't there?

MIKE

Had to work late.

VINCE

Helen's probably still sleeping it off. Wasn't that one of the rules in the employees manual?

MIKE

Which rule?

VINCE

No matter how much you party the night before you still have to come to work the next day.

They trade a smile.

EXT. REEBUCK SPORTS CENTER - DAY

Mike with gym bag in hand, enters the building.

INT. REEBUCK SPORTS CENTER - DAY

He approaches the boxing room and sees Sandra hitting the bag with great determination. He hesitates, then approaches.

MIKE

Hi. How long you been hitting the bag?

SANDRA

Too long.  
(stops to catch her  
breath)  
How was the party?

MIKE

Pretty good, I thought you were going to make it later on.

SANDRA

I'd tried to, but couldn't get away from the paperwork. Did I tell you I'm seeing the in-house psychologist at the station?

MIKE

No, Why?

SANDRA

Because I feel you and I are living in parallel worlds; do you know what I'm saying?

MIKE

No, I don't, what, because we have completely different jobs doesn't mean...



SANDRA  
(hitting the bag)  
That's not the only reason I'm  
seeing her.

MIKE  
What else?

SANDRA  
She tells me I have trust issues.  
And you know what I told her?  
(hitting the bag harder)

MIKE  
No.

SANDRA  
(now facing him)  
I told her I only need to trust one  
person in my life.

MIKE  
I'm going in to change. I'll see  
you back at the apartment.

SANDRA  
(hitting the bag again)  
Sure.

EXT. HELEN'S BUILDING - DAY

INT. HELEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Helen is in the bathroom applying make-up to her black eye.

EXT. MEN'S STORE - DAY

INT. MEN'S STORE - DAY

Vince and Mike are doing another walk through the store.

MIKE  
Did all the merchandise from the  
warehouse make it over to the  
store?

VINCE

Most of it. The rest is coming on the afternoon truck.

MIKE

Can you call Helen and have her follow up with the warehouse to make sure it's leaving this afternoon?

VINCE

She didn't come in today.

MIKE

Again? Did she call?

VINCE

No. Weird, isn't it?

MIKE

Very weird. It's not like her.

VINCE

Maybe I should run over to her place after work to check in on her.

MIKE

Sure you don't mind? But first, call Victoria at H.R. just to make sure she didn't call her.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

SANDRA

(ENTERING)

Hi.

ALICE

Hi Sandra. How are you feeling? You look a little preoccupied.

SANDRA

I just have a lot on my mind.

ALICE

Are you referring to work or home?

SANDRA  
So everything I say to you stays  
between us, right?

ALICE  
Yes.

SANDRA  
Nothing can be said to my C.O., my  
partner, my husband, even like in  
court or something, right?

ALICE  
Absolutely. We have patient, doctor  
confidentiality. But why did you  
include a court of law in your  
questions?

SANDRA  
Because if he's cheating on me that  
would be adultery, right?

ALICE  
Yes. So?

SANDRA  
So I think it's either my partner  
who's doing the cheating or someone  
else or both.

ALICE  
Why would you say this?

SANDRA  
It's the way she looked at him when  
we all went out to dinner awhile  
ago. The way she always looks at  
him. I can feel something is up.

ALICE  
That's it? Is that all you have to  
go by?

SANDRA  
Instincts. A woman's instincts are  
powerful. But let me ask you a  
question. Why do you seem so  
concerned about what I just told  
you?

ALICE

That's ridiculous, Robin's a lesbian and I still don't know why you mentioned that court of law statement.

SANDRA

I just said that to throw you off.

ALICE

I don't know where you're coming from. So every girl that gives your husband a second look makes you think they're sleeping with him? What I think is, you need to find a way to start trusting people.

SANDRA

Can I trust you?

ALICE

You know what? This session is over.

SANDRA

Oh, that court of law shit? I said it in case I have to sue your ass. Oh yeah, and one more thing; let's pretend I was never here.

EXT. HELEN'S BUILDING - NIGHT

Vince approaches to find an ambulance and a crowd of people watching the paramedics putting a body on a stretcher.

VINCE

(to a girl in the crowd)  
What happened?

GIRL IN THE CROWD

Some woman from this building was killed.

VINCE

What? Who?

Another girl in the crowd, crying, overhears Vince's question.

CRYING GIRL

Her name is Helen Finer. Did you know her?

VINCE  
I work with her.

He approaches the medics.

VINCE (CONT'D)  
I knew this girl. We work  
together. What happened?

MEDIC  
We don't know. She's barely  
conscious. You can ride with us to  
the hospital.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Robin is in her local neighborhood bar having a beer when a  
male customer approaches her.

MALE CUSTOMER  
Hi. Just wanted to introduce  
myself. My name is Aaron.

ROBIN  
I'm Robin.

MALE CUSTOMER  
Mind if I join you?

ROBIN  
Look, you seem like a nice guy, so  
I want you to know that I attend a  
different church than you do.

MALE CUSTOMER  
Hey, I'm willing to convert so...  
(sees Donna approaching)  
Oh. Got it.

DONNA  
Who was that?

ROBIN  
Some guy who's lost, he was asking  
for directions.

DONNA (TO BARTENDER)  
Hey Sue, can I have the same?  
(to Robin)  
So, what's up?

ROBIN  
I'm thinking about changing  
churches.

DONNA  
All of a sudden, just like that?

ROBIN  
It's been on my mind for some time  
now.

DONNA  
Yeah, right, so who is it?

ROBIN  
It's not anyone. It's just a  
feeling I've been having and it's  
overpowering me.

DONNA  
So this is how it ends between us?

ROBIN  
You know I love you.

DONNA  
Yeah, whatever. Have a nice life.

EXT. MIKE'S OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

INT. MIKE'S OFFICE - DAY

He is on the phone talking to one of his vendors as Victoria  
knocks, then enters. He ends the call.

VICTORIA  
Hi.

MIKE  
Hi.

VICTORIA  
Vince called from the hospital.

MIKE  
What happened?

VICTORIA  
It's not him, it's Helen, she's in  
a coma, was beaten up pretty bad.

MIKE  
Oh my god. What hospital?

VICTORIA  
Lennox Hill.

MIKE  
I'm going over there.

VICTORIA  
I'll call her parents.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Mike exits the building and an unmarked patrol car pulls in front of him as he crosses the street.

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
Get in.

He hesitates, then gets in the car.

INT. PATROL CAR - DAY

LIEUTENANT GOLD  
Talk to us.

MIKE  
What?

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
Why did you also try to kill Helen?

MIKE  
Why would I?

LIEUTENANT WASHINGTON  
We're going to have to take you downtown. We're not convinced.

LIEUTENANT GOLD  
Listen, because of your wife, we're treating you with kid gloves but it's going to change real fast unless you level with us. So why did you do it?

MIKE  
I didn't do it. I'm not saying anything else until I call my lawyer.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Vince is in the waiting room as Victoria enters.

VICTORIA

Any word?

VINCE

No change. They told me I should go home. She's still in a coma and no telling when she'll come out.

VICTORIA

But they did say she'll come of it, right?

VINCE

They didn't say one way or another.

VICTORIA

Is there a doctor I could talk to?

VINCE

He just left. Here, I have his card.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Mike's lawyer enters the cell.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT (SHORT, LIBRARIAN TYPE)

Sorry, got here as fast as I could. You alright?

MIKE

No, I'm not. This is bullshit. When can you get me out?

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Not for awhile, they think you did it. Did you?



MIKE

You know, you sound like them. Did you call my wife?

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

She's on her way. Your DNA and fingerprints are all over the place. They also think you killed that British girl at the Plaza. Tell me now, last time I will ask you.

Sandra enters the room. They kiss and hold one another.

SANDRA (TO ALEXANDRA BENNETT)

Get his ass out now.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Not that simple, they think he did it.

SANDRA (TO ALEXANDRA BENNETT)

Can you give us a minute alone.

SANDRA (CONT'D)

If there is ever a time for us to be truly honest with one another...

MIKE

I didn't fucking do anything, and I can't believe that you...

SANDRA

Sorry, who do you think did it?

MIKE

I have no idea.

SANDRA

Last question. Is there anything, anything at all in your life before we met that might give the prosecution, if we go to trial, ammunition to use against you? Before you answer, please carefully consider what I just said. You did have a life before us so I'm cool with it.

MIKE

What do you mean exactly?

SANDRA  
Have you done or were you an  
accessory to anything that is  
against the laws of this state?

Alexandra Bennertt enters.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
You'll be out of here within the  
hour.

MIKE  
Great, thanks.

SANDRA  
Mike. You didn't answer my  
question.

MIKE  
The answer is no.

FADE TO:

BLACK SCREEN WITH WHITE LETTERING:

"THREE WEEKS LATER"

INT. LOWER MANHATTAN COURT BUILDING - DAY

COURT OFFICER  
All please rise for Judge Henry  
Levine.

JUDGE LEVINE (OLD, THIN, GREY HAIR,  
GLASSES)  
Please be seated. Mr. RAPP, you may  
address this court.

JIM RAPP (LATE FORTIES, TALL,  
POLITICIAN TYPE)  
Your honor, the people of this  
State will prove to this court that  
Michael Dray is guilty of murdering  
Renee Smith in the first degree.  
(MORE)

JIM RAPP(cont'd)

This murder was born out of a self-need and desire to satisfy his perverted sexual fantasies and when they were not fulfilled, Mr. Dray felt justified in his action by his warped, inflated sense of entitlement to take out his frustration on another unsuspecting woman. We will prove this beyond a reasonable doubt. Thank you.

JUDGE LEVINE

Counselor, your opening statement.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Thank you, your honor. Michael Dray is a responsible, law abiding citizen and in good standing within his community. Where this prosecution comes up with this ridiculous, inappropriate summation of my client's character must be from somewhere in outer space. He is a happily married man who has fallen victim to circumstance. This is a case of circumstantial evidence which can not be admissible because the connection between the facts and the inferences is too weak, and that's all the prosecution has. Let's suppose a man grabs another man from crossing the street before the light turns green, but the man is on his cell phone, he's preoccupied, and continues to cross the street, and gets hit by a bus. Some of the pedestrians are convinced that the man pushed him. After all, his DNA is all over him and there's no other reason given by any witness in that moment to counter the accusation so they all assume he must have pushed him. Ladies and gentlemen, this is what we have here, unfounded accusations based on a flimsy circumstance.

JUDGE LEVINE (TO JIM RAPP)

Your first witness.

JIM RAPP

Thank you your honor. The prosecution calls Lorraine Kaufman to the stand.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Objection. There's no record of this witness on the list.

JUDGE LEVINE

I have it here, plain as day. You may proceed.

JIM RAPP

State your name please.

LORRAINE (DARK, SULTRY LOOKING)

Lorraine Kaufman.

JIM RAPP

Can you tell us your connection to Michael Dray?

LORRAINE

We went to the prom together, the high school prom.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Objection your honor. This is absurd.

JIM RAPP

Your honor, this witness will aid the court in establishing the hidden true persona of the accused. Our intent is to show a pattern of infidelity coupled with an intense fear of becoming caught that drove Michael Dray to commit murder.

JUDGE LEVINE

Proceed. But don't make a day of it.

JIM RAPP

And after the prom, what happened then?

LORRAINE

We went our separate ways. I went to college in California and I think Mike stayed in New York.

JIM RAPP  
Did you see him again after you  
parted ways?

LORRAINE  
Four years later in New York.

JIM RAPP  
Go on.

LORRAINE  
I was married then, and so was he,  
and...

SANDRA (SEATED IN THE COURTROOM)  
What? You were married before?

JUDGE LEVINE  
Silence in the court.

JIM RAPP  
Go on.

LORRAINE  
We met for drinks, and, you know...

JIM RAPP  
We know what?

LORRAINE  
We hooked up.

JIM RAPP  
What about your husband? Did he  
ever find out?

LORRAINE  
He died a week later.

The courtroom goes wild as the JUDGE tries to restore order.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Objection your honor. This is  
clearly a ploy to juxtapose a set  
of unrelated events.

JIM RAPP  
How did he die?

LORRAINE

Well, they all said it was suicide,  
but I found it hard for my Tony,  
that's his name, to jump in front  
of a train.

More voices and disruption in the courtroom.

JUDGE LEVINE

Counselor, do you wish to cross  
examine?

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Not at this time, your honor, but  
we would like to reserve the right  
to call the witness back to the  
stand.

JUDGE LEVINE

Noted. Counselor, your next  
witness.

JIM RAPP

The prosecution calls to the stand  
Samantha Howard.

CLERK

Do you swear that the testimony you  
are about to give is the whole  
truth?

SAMANTHA HOWARD (BLAKE LIVELY TYPE)

I do.

CLERK

Please sit down.

JIM RAPP

Can you tell the court your full  
name and occupation.

SAMANTHA HOWARD

My name is Samantha Howard and I am  
in charge of hotel security at the  
Plaza.

JIM RAPP

Do you recognize the accused?

SAMANTHA HOWARD

I do.

JIM RAPP

And how is it, you do?

SAMANTHA HOWARD

He checked in with me at my desk before going up in the elevator.

JIM RAPP

And when was that, can you remember the date and the time?

SAMANTHA HOWARD

Yes, it was around 6:30 on the 17th of last month.

JIM RAPP

And how is it you remembered the exact date and time?

SAMANTHA HOWARD

It was my birthday and I always go for a break at 6:45.

JIM RAPP

Ms. Howard, how would you rate the security at the hotel?

SAMANTHA HOWARD

It's the best in the city. No one gets to the elevators leading to the rooms without clearance. God, we're like Fort Knox. That's why we accommodate so many dignitaries.

JIM RAPP

Impressive, what about the staircases?

SAMANTHA HOWARD

They're locked. You can only exit from the staircases, and if you chose to go to the Mezzanine on the 2nd floor, you still have to take the elevators.

JIM RAPP

As you remember the date so well, I would like to know if you can remember if it was particularly crowded that evening, that is in the lobby.

SAMANTHA HOWARD  
No more than usual.

JIM RAPP  
Thank you Ms. Howard.

JUDGE LEVINE  
Your witness.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
No questions at this time your  
honor.

JIM RAPP  
We would like to call to the stand  
Albert Fox.

The court clerk swears in Mr. Fox before he has a seat.

JIM RAPP  
Can you please state your full name  
and occupation?

ALBERT FOX (BEN KINGSLEY TYPE)  
Albert Fox. Chief of Forensics at  
the 9th Precinct.

JIM RAPP  
Were you in charge of collecting,  
if any, the evidence in the hotel  
room where the murder took place?

ALBERT FOX  
Yes.

JIM RAPP  
And can you tell us what your  
findings were?

ALBERT FOX  
We found three sets of fingerprints  
in the room, and we have two sets  
of saliva samples.

JIM RAPP  
Were you able to identify the  
fingerprints and the saliva  
samples, and if so who did they  
belong to?



ALBERT FOX

Yes. (PULLING OUT NOTES). The fingerprints belong to the night maid, Maria Valasquez, Renee Smith, and the accused, Michael Dray. The saliva samples taken from the two glasses were from Renee Smith and Mr. Dray.

JIM RAPP

Thank you, no further questions.

JUDGE LEVINE

Your witness.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Thank you, your honor. Mr. Fox, at what time did you arrive in the hotel room?

ALBERT FOX

I would say around 10:00.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

And were you the first one to arrive at the scene of the crime?

ALBERT FOX

I was. Detectives Gold and Washington came just after me.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

And when entering the hotel how did you proceed to the room?

ALBERT FOX

I knew the room number so I just went up.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

You said you just went up? How did you just go up? By the stairs or the elevator?

ALBERT FOX

I took the stairs.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Did anyone ask you for identification?

JIM RAPP  
I object your honor, the witness is  
clearly a policeman, and...

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Your honor, let's find out if it  
was clear or not.

JUDGE LEVINE  
Proceed.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
What were you wearing?

ALBERT FOX  
I was wearing a suit.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Was it a policeman uniform?

ALBERT FOX  
No, just a regular suit?

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
I have no further questions, your  
honor.

JUDGE LEVINE  
We will break for one hour for  
lunch.

FADE TO:

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF COURTROOM - DAY

Mike, and his Lawyer are sitting on a bench.

VINCE  
Hi.

MIKE  
How's Helen?

VINCE  
Nothing has changed. Where's  
Sandra?

MIKE  
She stormed out when she learned I  
was married before we were.

VINCE

Oops! I didn't know you were married.

MIKE

That's just it, it was for, like, three months which turned into an annulment. I suppose I should have told her, but for me, it was like it didn't count. Did Helen's parents arrive yet?

VINCE

Tonight, according to Victoria, I left her there at the hospital.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Do you have a good relationship with Victoria?

MIKE

Yes, absolutely, real good.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

JIM RAPP

After forensics determined the cause of death was strangulation, what were the next steps taken?

DETECTIVE GOLD

We interviewed all the employees at the hotel who were on that shift and the guests in the adjacent hotel rooms, and studied the surveillance videos.

JIM RAPP

And what evidence, if any, did you find?

DETECTIVE GOLD

As indicated in our reports, there was a fair amount of traffic in the lobby and the guest staying in the adjacent room said they heard nothing.

JIM RAPP

Anything unique or unusual from the video on the main floor?

DETECTIVE GOLD  
Nothing seemed out of the ordinary.

JIM RAPP  
And did you recognize anyone in the video?

DETECTIVE GOLD  
Yes, the defendant Michael Dray.

JIM RAPP  
And how, in your professional opinion, did he appear in these videos?

DETECTIVE GOLD  
Pretty casual when entering but kind of hurried in his exit when leaving.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Objection your honor. It's clear the counselor is going nowhere. He's fishing; and whether my client was going slow or fast means absolutely nothing.

JUDGE LEVINE  
Come to your point, counselor.

JIM RAPP  
What is clear, is that the accused was on a mission. Had an objective. And when Renee Smith rejected his advances, he (pointing) out of frustration and anger took her life.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Objection. This accusation is pure conjecture and completely baseless.

JUDGE LEVINE  
Sustained. Any further questions for the witness?

JIM RAPP  
Yes, your honor, one more. When you confronted the accused with the news of Renee Smith's death, what was his immediate reaction?

DETECTIVE GOLD  
He looked worried and ...

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Objection your honor. The  
detectives are not psychiatrists.  
They have no formal training in the  
ability to decipher true inner  
feelings. We might as well bring in  
a famous poker player to read  
people's faces and reactions in  
this courtroom.

JIM RAPP  
I have no further questions.

JUDGE LEVINE  
Your witness.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Not at this time your honor.

JUDGE LEVINE

Court is adjourned until Monday morning at 9 AM.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mike is in the kitchen when Sandra enters

MIKE  
Hi. I'm making dinner.

SANDRA  
So what happened in court today?

MIKE  
The prosecutor is trying anything  
he can to paint a picture to the  
jury that I'm this evil, sex  
obsessed guy, who has all these  
affairs and will do anything to  
protect this secret, even murder.

SANDRA  
Why didn't you tell me you were  
married before? Why hide that from  
me? I've never kept anything from  
you, nothing.

(MORE)

SANDRA(cont'd)

Remember when you were first locked up, remember I told you to tell me anything that you're hiding because it will come out in the trial.

MIKE

It was for three months and we had an annulment. I mean come on, three months, that's not a marriage.

SANDRA

In a trial everything comes out from your life and gets magnified, colored, and painted in the worst light. All these ass hole lawyers; that's what they're good at, mixing these paints and making an ugly picture of you to everybody.

MIKE

So what do we do now?

SANDRA

There's more than a chance you could become convicted and it appears to me like your lawyer is good but good isn't a guarantee, so I have an idea.

MIKE

What?

SANDRA

You're going to hire a private detective to help you solve this case. As far as Lieutenant Washington and Gold are concerned, they're convinced you did it. So they're not going to do any further investigating.

MIKE

Who are we going to hire?

SANDRA

She's not cheap, but she's the best.

MIKE

Who? How much?

SANDRA  
(begins to take off her clothes)  
Your wife, and your first payment  
is tonight. Now, tell me absolutely  
everything that went on in court  
today.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

FADE TO:

INT. HELEN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Mike and Vince are sitting on each side of the bed, Mike is holding her hand as the doctor enters.

VINCE  
Hi Doctor, this is my boss Michael  
Dray.

DOCTOR  
Hello.

MIKE  
How is she progressing?

DOCTOR  
Slowly but there's some encouraging  
signs. We're more optimistic than  
we were a few weeks ago. With her  
parents consent, we performed a  
D.B.S. two days ago.

VINCE  
What's that?

DOCTOR  
Sorry, its a brain simulation  
technique where we plant electrodes  
deep inside the brain, and I am  
happy to say she has been  
responding to it better than we  
hoped. Where's Victoria?

MIKE  
What do you mean?

DOCTOR  
She's the only one I usually see  
here when I make my rounds.

MIKE  
That's odd, I didn't know that.

VINCE  
Me either.

MIKE  
Who else has been coming around?

DOCTOR  
Your wife, and her partner came  
yesterday.

MIKE  
Here's my card, please call me if  
her condition changes either way.

DOCTOR  
Alright, bye.

MIKE  
Helen, Helen, wake up, it's me,  
Michael, I want you to wake up. We  
need you back at the office, come  
on, damn it, come on.

Helen opens her eyes, looks to Mike and smiles.

HELEN  
Hi, where am I?

MIKE  
You're safe, I'm here with Vince.  
(to Vince)  
Get the doctor, quick!

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Your Honor, we would like to call  
Lorraine Kaufman back to the stand.

Lorraine takes the stand and is sworn in.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT (CONT'D)  
So you and Mike went to the prom  
together?

LORRAINE  
Yes.



ALEXANDRA BENNETT

For some of us, high school was the best years of our lives. For others the worst. What was it for you?

JIM RAPP

Objection, your honor. Memories of our experiences in high school have no bearing on this case.

JUDGE LEVINE

Counselor, get to the point.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

I'll go directly to it. Was Michael your first?

JIM RAPP

Objection, your honor. Again this is...

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Your honor, this witness gave to this court a wrongful impression of my client and I would like the opportunity to clarify a few misconceptions.

JUDGE LEVINE

I'll allow it, but quickly.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Was he the first person you slept with?

LORRAINE

Yes.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Were you in love with him? I'll repeat the question. Were you in love with Michael Dray?

LORRAINE

Yes.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Were you still in love with him when you met him again, those years after High School?

JIM RAPP

Objection, Your Honor...

JUDGE LEVINE  
Overruled. Go ahead Counselor.

LORRAINE  
Yes.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Did you tell your husband about  
your affair?

LORRAINE  
Yes.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
What was your husband's occupation?

LORRAINE  
He was a professional football  
player.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Was he playing at that time?

LORRAINE  
No, he was retired.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Retired? How old was he when he  
retired?

LORRAINE  
Twenty eight.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Seems kind of young. Why did he  
retire?

LORRAINE  
He had three concussions. So the  
team's doctors recommended he  
retire.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
How long was he retired during that  
period?

LORRAINE  
About one year.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Was he under medication?

JIM RAPP

Objection, Your Honor. I don't see how the...

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Your Honor, it's important...

JUDGE LEVINE

Proceed.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Was he under any kind of medication?

LORRAINE

Yes.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Why was he under medication? Was he depressed, as most athletes I would think become after a quick ending career?

LORRAINE

Yes, he was.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Did he have an insurance policy, and if so how much?

LORRAINE

Yes, three million.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

And were you the bearer of that policy?

LORRAINE

Yes.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

I have no further questions, your Honor.

JUDGE LEVINE

Counselor?

JIM RAPP

No questions.

JUDGE LEVINE

You may step down, your next witness.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
We would like to call Vince Ehly to  
the stand.

FADE TO:

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Can you please state your name and  
occupation.

VINCE  
Vincent Ehly, and I am the men's  
buyer at Johnny's Department Store.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
And how long have you been employed  
at Johnny's?

VINCE  
Five years.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
And what is your relationship to  
the defendant?

VINCE  
He's my boss.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Do you work together?

VINCE  
Yes.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
And how is your working  
relationship with the defendant?

VINCE  
Very good.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
And how would you describe his  
character, his demeanor, his  
personality, as his employee.

VINCE  
He's a great boss. Easy going, and  
if you disagree with him he's open  
to a discussion about it. Not like  
some other bosses I've worked for  
in the past.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Now let's go back to the night of  
the 17th. The night you met Mike  
for dinner with the Italians.

VINCE  
Alright.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Were you aware of a prior  
appointment at the Plaza?

VINCE  
Yes.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
And why didn't you go with him  
before the business dinner?

VINCE  
I had a dentist's appointment.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
And who arrived first between you  
and Mike at the dinner?

VINCE  
He did, I was about ten minutes  
late.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
And when you took your seat at the  
table along with the Italians, how  
did he appear to you? Did he seem  
upset, nervous, did he look worried  
or preoccupied?

VINCE  
Just the opposite. Relaxed, we  
always enjoy going out with the  
Italians for dinner, they're a lot  
of fun.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Thank you. No further questions,  
your honor.

JUDGE LEVINE  
(to Jim Rapp)  
Your witness.

JIM RAPP  
You said you worked there at  
Johnny's for five years.

VINCE  
Yes.

JIM RAPP  
Were you always a buyer?

VINCE  
No, I was promoted to buyer two  
years ago from being the sales  
manager.

JIM RAPP  
And who gave you that promotion?

VINCE  
Michael did.

JIM RAPP  
Is that how it usually works within  
the company?

VINCE  
Sometimes, then sometimes through  
the H.R. Department.

JIM RAPP  
So Mr. Dray took it upon himself to  
hire you directly?

VINCE  
Yes.

JIM RAPP  
So you owe him a debt of gratitude,  
and I would think that the money is  
far better than ...

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Objection, your honor. The  
counselor is falsely trying to  
convince the court the witness is  
in some sort of debt to my client  
while his individual talent enabled  
him to secure the promotion.

JUDGE LEVINE  
Sustained.

JIM RAPP

Let's return to the dinner with the Italians. Tell us about that evening, who was there?

VINCE

Franco and Giorgio, they own a footwear company we do business with.

JIM RAPP

And there was Helen, your assistant. Wasn't she also there?

VINCE

Yes she came later.

JIM RAPP

Isn't Helen, the one who is in a coma at the hospital. Didn't Mike take her home the night before the...

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Objection, your Honor, the counselor's trying to fabricate a connection between one isolated case and another.

JUDGE LEVINE

Sustained. Stay on point, counselor.

JIM RAPP

So everyone at the table was having a lovely business dinner, while Renee Smith was lying in her...

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Objection, your honor, again no relevance to this witness' testimony.

JUDGE LEVINE

Alright counselor.

JIM RAPP

Anything unusual take place during the dinner, anything seem to you unique in its appearance at the table that night? Was there a lot of drinking that night?

VINCE

Well, the Italians like to have fun  
and do drink a lot.

JIM RAPP

And what about the Americans at the  
table, did they drink a lot?

VINCE

I don't know... Mike and Helen  
seemed a little tipsy.

JIM RAPP

What about you?

VINCE

I don't drink.

JIM RAPP

So Mike and Helen had a little too  
much that night?

VINCE

A little, I guess.

JIM RAPP

Does Mr. Dray usually have too much  
to drink at these business dinners,  
seems a little unprofessional,  
don't you think?

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Objection. The counselor is trying  
to manipulate the witness and  
exaggerate the circumstances.

JUDGE LEVINE

Sustained.

JIM RAPP

I have no further questions.

JUDGE LEVINE

Counselor? Wish to cross examine?

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

No further questions.

EXT. PLAZA HOTEL - NIGHT



INT. PLAZA HOTEL - NIGHT

Sandra and Robin enter the hotel.

SANDRA  
(showing her badge to the  
Hotel receptionist)  
Hello. I need to speak to whoever's  
in charge of hotel security.

RECEPTIONIST  
Of course. Just one moment, please.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Victoria is walking towards Helens's room, then stops midway when seeing a team of doctors entering her room. She turns around and heads to the elevators passing by Sandra and Robin

INT. HELEN'S ROOM - DAY

SANDRA  
Hi, we're detectives Thomas and  
Russo. How is she doing?

DOCTOR  
I'm pleased to say you can ask her  
yourself.

HELEN  
Hi.

SANDRA  
I'm Sandra, Mikes wife.

ROBIN  
And I'm Sandra's partner, Robin.  
Did you know Mike is accused of the  
murder of Renee Smith?

HELEN  
No, he and Vince were here  
yesterday, but I can't remember  
what he said to me.

ROBIN

Is it alright if we ask you a few questions?

HELEN

Sure.

SANDRA

Tell us everything you can remember that day that led up to the dinner that same night?

ROBIN

Even if it seems not that important, we need to know every little detail.

SANDRA

We also have a video surveillance of the hotel lobby at the Plaza for you to look at.

HELEN

Okay.

INT. VICTORIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Victoria is on the phone as Vince knocks on her door. She motions for him to enter.

VICTORIA

That's fine, we will plan it for three. See you then.

(she hangs up the phone)

Hi, what's up?

VINCE

I've heard from the doctor's you've been visiting Helen more than any of us realized you were and just wanted to say that it's really a nice thing you've done, especially with her family and all, knowing they live in California.

VICTORIA

(pouring diet coke soda from a can to a glass)

Thank you. I guess it's just the future mother in me that felt the need to do so and, besides, she's still new in town.

(MORE)

VICTORIA(cont'd)

I don't think she has made a lot of friends in the short time she's lived here.

VINCE

Well, thank god she'll get that chance.

VICTORIA

What do you mean?

VINCE

I thought you knew... she's out of her coma, she's fine now.

VICTORIA

No, I didn't know, when did this happen?

VINCE

Two days ago. I'm surprised the hospital didn't call you. She'll be out, I think, tomorrow or the day after.

VICTORIA

That's amazing. Best news I've heard in a long time. (Leaving her office) Can you excuse me. I have a meeting in the conference room.

Vince walks out with her into the hallway. She walks in the other direction, Vince stops where he is.

EXT. HELEN'S BLOCK - DAY

Sandra is walking around the neighborhood, getting a feel for the area. She notices a video camera above a shop across the street and enters the store.

EXT. MIKE AND SANDRA'S BUILDING - NIGHT

INT. MIKE AND SANDRA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

RICKY

(to the t.v)  
You suck!

BILL

I know, he's what, 6'11" and plays like he's 5'9".

GENE

I don't think he even blocked a shot this whole season. I could do a better job at coaching this team.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

MIKE

There's more pasta. Anyone wants some?

SANDRA

(enters)  
We do.

BILL

Finally, we get to meet your wife. Which one is it?

GENE

And I'm fine with whomever he isn't married to. I'm kidding.

MIKE

Sandra, this is Ricky, Gene and Bill. Guys, this is my wife Sandra and her partner Robin.  
(Everyone says hello.)

SANDRA

So these are your best friends?

MIKE

I'm afraid so.

SANDRA

OK, I'm going to need you to shut this TV off for now.

MIKE

Why?

ROBIN

Police business.

BILL

Come on.

SANDRA

We have a few videos I want you and your friends to see.

GENE

I love it.

RICKY

Do we have to?

ROBIN

Could help us figure out who killed  
Renee and messed up Helen.

SANDRA

Oh Ricky, Helen is coming along  
fine but I'm sure you knew that.

RICKY

Yeah, Grace was at the hospital  
last night, she said she'll be out  
in a day or two.

BILL

Robin, sorry I fixed you a plate,  
hope you like it.

ROBIN

Oh thank you, what's your name  
again?

BILL

Bill.

Sandra puts one of the tapes into the video

EXT. COURTHOUSE, - DAY

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

The courtroom is packed

JUDGE LEVINE

Counselor, your witness.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Will Victoria Tashiro please take  
the stand.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT (CONT'D)  
Please state your full name and  
occupation.

VICTORIA  
Victoria Tashiro and I am Vice  
President Of Human Resources at  
Johnny's Mens Store.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
How frequent is your contact with  
the accused?

VICTORIA  
Sorry?

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Can you describe your working  
relationship with the accused?

VICTORIA  
Very good.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Can you expand on that?

VICTORIA  
What do you mean?

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Do you interact with one another on  
a daily basis, weekly basis, by  
phone, meetings?

VICTORIA  
We attend Vice Presidential  
meetings weekly, and I usually  
first meet with potential employees  
before Michael or one of the other  
Vice Presidents has an interview  
with them.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
And from your working experience  
with Michael Dray, how would you  
describe his emotional stability?

VICTORIA  
Solid, he's a good guy.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Thank you, no further questions.

JUDGE LEVINE  
Your witness.

JIM RAPP  
When the counselor asked you the nature of your relationship, you responded with the answer, "I'm sorry" and she then had to rephrase the question. Why? It appeared to be a simple question.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Objection your honor, the counselor is using language as a weapon. He's implying that the syntax suggest something sinister when what we have here is simply a nervous witness.

JUDGE LEVINE  
Sustained.

JIM RAPP  
How long have you been working at Johnny's?

VICTORIA  
Three years.

JIM RAPP  
And how did you get the job?

VICTORIA  
Sorry?

JIM RAPP  
Do you always say "Sorry" when you're nervous?

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Objection your honor. Counselor is badgering the witness.

JUDGE LEVINE  
Do you have a point to this line of questioning?

JIM RAPP  
Yes, I do, your honor.

JUDGE LEVINE

Proceed.

JIM RAPP

I'll ask you again, how did you get the job at Johnny's Mens Store?

VICTORIA

Mike recommended me for the position.

JIM RAPP

Thank you, I have no further questions.

JUDGE LEVINE

Do you wish to cross examine?

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Not at this time.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

The defense calls Michelle Borden to the stand.

(She takes the stand.)

ALEXANDRA BENNETT (CONT'D)

Can you state your full name and occupation?

MICHELLE BORDEN (GLEN CLOSE TYPE)

My name is Michelle Borden and I am Chairman of the Neurological Society at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington. I also have a P.H.D. in Psychology and Criminology.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

And is there a particular field of study you excel in?

MICHELLE BORDEN

Yes, criminal acts involving heinous crimes; particular murders, rapes, and kidnapping.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

And in your expert opinion what are the reasons a perfectly normal, good citizen would become compelled to commit a crime? Let's say a pre-meditated murder?



MICHELLE BORDEN

We narrowed it down to five motives that could possibly influence someone to commit murder. We call it at the institute "a moment of madness."

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

And can you tell us what those five motives are?

MICHELLE BORDEN

Yes, of course. Greed, love, hate, fear, and jealousy.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Can you repeat that again, please, for the benefit of the people seated in the back of this courtroom?

MICHELLE BORDEN

Greed, love, hate, fear, and jealousy.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Was jealousy the last motive on your list?

MICHELLE BORDEN

Yes

JUDGE LEVINE

Thank you. Your witness.

JIM RAPP

No questions. (To his two assistants) What the fuck was that about?

JUDGE LEVINE

Your next witness.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

We call Robin Russo to the stand.

FADE TO:

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Please state your name and occupation.

ROBIN

My name is Robin Russo and I am a police officer attached to the 9th Precinct here in New York.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

And do you know the defendant?

ROBIN

Yes. He's a friend of mine, and also my partner's husband.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

So you can vouch for his character and...

ROBIN

Actually I can do more than vouch for his character.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Oh? How so?

ROBIN

I would like to present to this court additional evidence to this case by way of copies of the security videos from the hotel and an additional fingerprint sample found in the hotel room of Renee Smith. We also have an another set of prints taken from a can which may match the ones from the hotel room.

(The courtroom begins to get noisy)

JIM RAPP

Objection your honor, we have already heard from the investigating detectives and forensics last week and...

JUDGE LEVINE

Overruled. (To Robin) Before you submit this evidence, we would like to know how you obtained it.

ROBIN

My partner and I went back to the hotel and reviewed the tapes from the night of the 17th and found something we feel the court should see. We also have a sworn statement from hotel security that the hallway video cameras between the hours of 7 to 12 am on Renee Smith's floor were inoperable.

JIM RAPP

Objection, your honor!

JUDGE LEVINE

Overruled.

ROBIN

Along with our forensic chief attached to the 9th precinct, we did another testing for fingerprints and discovered another set of prints on the doorknob of the bathroom.

JIM RAPP

Objection your honor. We have conclusive evidence to...

JUDGE LEVINE

Overruled. We will accept the evidence.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

This fourth set of prints. Who do they belong to?

ROBIN

We will have the identification of those prints in a few hours.

JUDGE LEVINE

You said there is something we should see in the videos?

ROBIN

Yes, your honor.

JUDGE LEVINE  
Can you get a video monitor from  
the supply department?

CLERK  
Yes, your honor.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
I have no further questions.

JIM RAPP  
No questions your honor.

JUDGE LEVINE  
We will break for lunch. One hour.

FADE TO:

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

JUDGE LEVINE  
Your next witness.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
We would like to call Helen Finer  
to the stand.

The courtroom turns their heads to watch Helen seated in a  
wheelchair, approach the witness stand.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Your full name and occupation.

HELEN  
My name is Helen Finer and I am an  
assistant buyer at Johnny's Mens  
Store. I work for Michael Dray.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Can you tell us anything from that  
day that might be relevant to the  
events leading up to the murder of  
Renee Smith?

HELEN  
Yes, we, Vince and I, were in  
Mike's office looking at a  
sportswear collection, mostly  
leather jackets, when Renee Smith  
called.

(MORE)

HELEN(cont'd)

She said her friend had a collection of shirts and if Mike, I mean Mr. Dray, could come by the Plaza at 6:30 to have a look. She seemed kind of demanding.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Then what?

HELEN

So after we finished up the work, Vince and I went back to our offices.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Go on.

HELEN

Vince had a dental appointment so he was going to meet us at the restaurant and Mike, Mr. Dray, said it wasn't necessary to go with him, to just meet him at the restaurant also.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Then what did you do?

HELEN

So about twenty minutes later I remembered I left some of the samples in his office and went back to get them. While I was there the phone rang and I picked it up, you know, just in case it was important, maybe from the Italians, as I didn't think they had Michael's cell number. The Italians are always late for everything. Can I have a glass of water please.

(Judge motions to the clerk)

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

So was it the Italians?

HELEN

No, it was Victoria from H.R. She had a potential employee she wanted Mike to interview and she wondered if he already left.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Go on.

HELEN

So I told her he did and she seemed kind of annoyed, and asked where he had gone. I told her he had an appointment at the Plaza.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Did she ask who was the appointment with?

HELEN

Yes, and I told her.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Did you tell anyone else that Mr. Dray was at the Plaza?

HELEN

No.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

No further questions. Your witness.

JIM RAPP

I see you recovered nicely from your attack. Are you suffering from any memory loss?

HELEN

No. I'm fine. Just some headaches but I have some medication for that.

JIM RAPP

Any idea who attacked you that night when you walked your dog?

HELEN

Not a clue. I was hit from behind, at least, that's what they told me. At the hospital, I mean.

JIM RAPP

If I gave you a list of random numbers or words, do you think you can repeat them for me?

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Objection your honor, I do not see how this can...

JIM RAPP

If this witness is to be considered credible on her given testimony, I think it's only fair to make a small test. She may think she can remember but it could be only because she thinks she can.

JUDGE LEVINE

I'll allow it. Wait, what kind of test?

JIM RAPP

Verbal, your honor.

JUDGE LEVINE

Proceed.

JIM RAPP

What were your wearing that day, the day of Renee Smith's murder.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Objection, your honor. Can anyone of us remember what we wore? I know I certainly could not, and...

HELEN

I was wearing a Donna Karen black dress and red shoes. The shoes were by Calvin Klein.

JIM RAPP

I'm to going to say a few words and I would like you to repeat them for me, OK?

HELEN

Fine.

JIM RAPP

Monkey, earth, candy, yellow, horn, but before you repeat them, can you tell me if that day was a rainy day or a sunny...

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Objection your honor, the counselor is trying to cloud the questions by...

HELEN

It was sunny and you said, monkey,  
earth, candy, yellow, and horn.

JIM RAPP

I have no further questions.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Your honor. At this time I would  
like to play the security videos.

JUDGE LEVINE

Proceed.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Helen, what you and the courtroom  
are about to see is the main lobby  
of the Plaza Hotel. I would like  
you to tell me if you recognize  
anyone in the video.

HELEN

I'll try.  
(Judge motions to the  
court clerk to start the  
video)

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Do you recognize anyone?

HELEN'

Yes, that's Mike leaving the hotel.  
I know his walk anywhere.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Now that was at seven PM. And now  
we're going to speed up the camera  
to around 7:30 that same  
evening.(to clerk) OK that's fine,  
now tell us if you recognize  
anyone.

HELEN

Oh my God...that's Victoria.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Victoria who? Do you know her?

HELEN

Yes, Victoria Tashiro, she's head  
of H.R.



ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Let's see where she's going.  
(The video sees Victoria  
heading to the elevators)

ALEXANDRA BENNETT (CONT'D)  
That was around 7:33. Now let's  
move to 7:45. Do you recognize  
anyone else?

HELEN  
Yes, yes, oh my God, it's Vince,  
Vince Ehly!

(Video camera sees Vince  
inquiring about something  
at the reception desk.  
The receptionist makes a  
call, hangs up, then  
Vince exits the hotel.)

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Thank you. No further questions.  
Your witness.

JIM RAPP  
How are you able to recognize Ms.  
Tashiro? The woman, whomever she  
is, is wearing dark sunglasses, her  
body is covered in a raincoat,  
there is no distinctive physical  
traits that appear to be unique.  
How is it, you're so positive it's  
her?

HELEN  
I'm in the fashion business. It's  
what I am, and that's her favorite  
coat, she wears it all the time,  
and those sunglasses are from the  
designer Tom Ford. I remember how  
much I loved them on her when she  
first bought it and so I went and  
bought the exact pair.

(She takes it out of her  
pocketbook for the court  
to see)

HELEN (CONT'D)  
And her hairstyle, she's the only  
one who has that kind of cut, and  
it's only done by Louis Licari, who  
I know is her hairdresser.

JIM RAPP

Thank you, no further questions.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

We would like to recall Vince Ehly to the stand.

FADE TO:

ALEXANDRA BENNETT (CONT'D)

I would like you to take us with you on the day of the 17th. Everything you did leading up to your dinner with the Italians.

VINCE

I was with Helen in Mike's office when he got the call from Renee Smith. He originally wanted to have just me go at another time but she was only in town for the night. So Mike went on the appointment himself.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

And where did you go after work?

VINCE

I had a dentist appointment and told Mike I would meet him at the restaurant.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

So why did you go to the hotel?

VINCE

When I came home from the dentist, my boyfriend called freaking out because he had a late appointment with a head hunter and couldn't decide what to wear; he lives right near the Plaza. So I went over and helped him dress and figured I might as well see if Mike's still there so we can share a cab to the restaurant.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

What happened then?

VINCE

There was no answer in the room. I figured he already left.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Did you recognize anyone in the  
video I had shown earlier?

VINCE  
Yes, it was definitely Victoria. I  
mean, Ms. Tashiro.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
How do you know it was her?

VINCE  
It's the way she walked. Nobody  
else I know has the same posture I  
have.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Your honor, I have one more  
security video to be shown.

JUDGE LEVINE  
Proceed.  
(Judge silently motions to  
clerk to insert second  
video)

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Your honor, this video was taken  
outside the home of Helen Finer,  
the night of her attack, when she  
was walking her dog.  
(Crowd goes wild with  
confusion and disruption)

JUDGE LEVINE  
Order in the court!

JIM RAPP  
Objection your honor. The  
unfortunate attack on Helen has no  
relevance to Renee Smith's murder.  
There is no correlation.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT  
Your honor, that assumption is  
incorrect. There is clearly a  
parallel.  
(The courtroom watches in  
horror, the actual attack  
of Helen by an  
unidentified man. She  
falls, and hits her head  
against the lamppost.

(MORE)

ALEXANDRA BENNETT(cont'd)

The attacker picks her up  
and carries her back  
inside the building. The  
camera then sees a woman  
walking towards the  
building, about to go up  
the steps of the  
brownstone, but appears  
to changes her mind,  
turns around and runs  
away.)

Helen faints, the courtroom is in  
chaos. A doctor is identified,  
takes her pulse, and wheels her out  
of the courtroom

ALEXANDRA BENNETT (CONT'D)

Do you recognize anyone in this  
video?

VINCE

I don't recognize the man but I  
recognize the woman.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

And who was that woman?

VINCE

It's Victoria Tashiro.

Crowd goes wild.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

No further questions. Your witness.

JIM RAPP

No questions.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Your honor, I would like to recall  
Victoria Tashiro to the stand.  
(Courtroom becomes loud.)

VICTORIA takes the stand.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Victoria, when you were on the  
witness stand the other day, you  
had informed this court from your  
testimony that Michael Dray was  
instrumental in helping you secure  
your employment at Johnny's  
Department Store.

VICTORIA

Yes, that's true.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

So, it would be fair to say that you both knew each other prior to your employment at Johnny's?

VICTORIA

Yes.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Would you tell the court the nature of your relationship prior to your employment at Johnny's Department Store?

VICTORIA

We were lovers. (She breaks into tears and begins sobbing on the stand.)

The court room is in chaos. Someone yells, "She did it!" The Judge demands order.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Were you still lovers when he helped you get the position?

VICTORIA

No, we broke up three months before.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

Three months before? Was it an amicable breakup?

VICTORIA

Yes, it was.

ALEXANDRA BENNETT

But you never did get over it, did you? Michael thought you could be friends, but you had a secret desire, a need, to keep him in your life. You wanted that job so you could be near him, see him everyday, and if necessary do anything to stop anyone else from getting romantically close to him.

(MORE)

ALEXANDRA BENNETT(cont'd)

You were afraid of his wife because she's a police detective but you still had a lingering hope that maybe, maybe, maybe, one day in the near future they would break up. Word around the office was that his wife was obsessive; always calling him, texting him, checking on him to a point where it was well known that it really bothered him. So you thought he would soon enough end the marriage, but you couldn't bear the thought of other women having an interest, so you decided to do whatever it takes to prevent a possible encounter with Mr. Dray and another woman. (beat) Then you went too far. You lost your emotional control, and had a... "moment of madness". You killed Renee once you learned he was meeting her at her hotel. And you tried to have Helen killed when you thought he was going back to her apartment after a night of partying and drinking too much. Isn't this all true? Just tell us now.

Victoria totally breaks down. She holds her head in her hands, sobbing.

VICTORIA

YES! Yes...yes.

The courtroom is in hysterics. The Judge calls for a recess.

FADE TO:

BLACK SCREEN WITH WHITE LETTERING:

It took one hour for the jury to find Michael Dray not guilty for the murder of Renee Smith.

Five months later, Victoria Tashiro was convicted of murder in the first degree of Renee Smith and sentenced to 20 years at the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

Helen Finer fully recovered and moved back to her hometown of Corona Del Mar, California and accepted a job as head buyer for a new men's store.

FADE TO:

INT. MIKE AND SANDRA'S APT - NIGHT

SANDRA  
Everyone sit down. Dinner's ready.

MIKE  
What are you watching? The game is  
on.

ROBIN  
It's "When Harry Met Sally."

BILLY  
(his arm around Sandra)  
It's a classic.

The camera pulls back and sees Vince, his boyfriend, Mike, Sandra, Robin, and Bill all having a smile to each other.

FADE TO:

BLACK SCREEN WITH WHITE LETTERING:

Bill and Robin married eleven months later. They followed Mike and Sandra's suggestion and honeymooned at Niagara Falls, New York.

FADE OUT