

C'MON, BABY, LIGHT MY FIRE: OR HOW I CAUGHT FIREFIGHTER FEVER

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. PHOENIX, AZ CITYSCAPE - NIGHT

An 11-story, aging high-rise appears. To the north, mountains rise above palm trees. Below, homeless people pick through trash in slum-like scenes of urban decay.

INT. 10TH FLOOR CONDO LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A tall and thin middle aged man, JOHN, and a big-chested blonde, middle aged woman, JACKIE, stand in their living room. They are arguing. There are lots of books packed into the condo. All the furniture is black leather. Modern art hangs on the walls. This is an upper middle class home.

JOHN

You would be better off if I was dead.

The woman walks over to John and embraces him.

JACKIE

How can you say that? I love you.

She kisses him on the lips.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

I would be devastated and would probably never recover if you took your own life. I would think that it was somehow my fault.

JOHN

You would lose weight if I wasn't around. Then you would be very attractive to other men. You could find someone better than me.

JACKIE

I would probably starve to death, not knowing how to cook. But, seriously, John. What are you thinking of doing?

John walks over to the floor-to-ceiling windows and looks outside and downward.

JOHN

I've got a plan. You'll find out sooner or later.

JACKIE

John, don't do it. Once the doctors find the right medicine to improve your mood, you will feel better. I know you are depressed now, but it's only a temporary feeling.

John starts to cry. He bows his head in shame. He is trembling.

JOHN

I feel like I've tried everything already and the anxiety is eating me up.

JACKIE

Then it's time to go to the hospital. Let's go. Now.

JOHN

Okay. But I doubt it will help. I am not the man I hoped to be with you. I can't go on like this.

JACKIE

I'm not perfect either. Let's go to the emergency room.

EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - NIGHT

A 12-story building stands in the midst of an urban university campus across from a park. A sign reads, "University Center."

INT. LARGE LIBRARY IN BASEMENT - NIGHT

A large sign behind a wooden desk and file cabinets reads, "Information Commons. Welcome." Two staff members, JACKIE, and a MALE LIBRARY STAFF, sit at the service desk. A few students work nearby at computers around the corner. Suddenly, a Phoenix Police officer walks down the staircase nearby and into the library. He walks up to the service desk.

POLICE OFFICER

May I speak with Jackie Jeune?

JACKIE

That's me. How can I help you, officer?

POLICE OFFICER

Could we go somewhere private?

JACKIE

Yes. Follow me.

Jackie walks to a glassed-in study room, opens the door, and invites the officer to sit down. Jackie sits down across from him. Worry creases her face.

POLICE OFFICER

Do you know a John Dunbar?

JACKIE

Yes. He's my husband. Why?

POLICE OFFICER

At 6:30pm this evening, he was found deceased in an alley next to the high-rise where the building manager says you two live. Was he known to be suicidal?

JACKIE

He had been a year ago and has bipolar illness, but I put him in an in-patient psychiatric facility and I thought he had recovered. He seemed anxious this morning before I left for work, but I never thought he would kill himself.

POLICE OFFICER

Do you know anyone who would wish him harm?

JACKIE

No. Not at all. He had few friends other than family.

Jackie looks stunned. She wants to cry, but doesn't like to display her emotions in public, so she remains a study of composure under pressure. However, she is trembling slightly. Her lips twitch as if at any moment she could fall apart, but she holds it all in. She tells herself not to betray her emotions in front of the steely police officers, who probably do these sort of notifications all the time.

POLICE OFFICER

I am sorry for your loss. There is no need to identify the body. That has already been taken care of. However, please call the medical examiner to provide details about his medical condition and state of mind. Here is my business card as well as the medical examiner's.

INT. JACKIE'S CONDO BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jackie tosses and turns in her bed all night, crying herself to sleep. Winds outside howl and rattle the windows and it appears as if the condo is haunted by the departed husband.

INT. JACKIE'S NEW LUXURY CONDO BEDROOM - DAY

It's obvious Jackie has had a change in circumstances from her old condo, which was 55 years old. This condo is brand new. Luxury cars line the driveways: porsches, Land Rovers, Mercedes. Well heeled women with well coiffed hair and stylish outfits come in and out of the building. Maid services also are parked in the garage. This is likely one of the most expensive and luxurious condo high rises in the Phoenix Metro area.

JACKIE

(aside out loud)

Well, here goes. Gonna go fishing for single men to see what's out there, even though I'm not as slim as John had predicted. Still love food. But I can't stand being alone any more!

Jackie downloads an online dating app on her IPHONE. She looks at her phone and begins swiping furiously and messaging men on her phone in bed. Within minutes, a smile pops up on her face.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Bingo! Just what I'm looking for: Sean, age 48. Tall. Handsome. Looks like a young Sean Connery.

She messages furiously again on her IPHONE.

"Hey, handsome. Do you want to hook up for lunch sometime to see if there's any chemistry? I don't like to waste a lot of time on words."

SEAN

(split screen between each's IPHONE)

"Okay. Wow. I like a woman who knows what she wants. Sure, where do you want to meet?"

JACKIE

"Do you know Pita Place? It's near where I live."

SEAN

"Yes. How about noon Saturday?"

JACKIE

"Works for me. I'll be the sexy blonde by the window table facing Roosevelt Street, if it's available."

SEAN

"I like sexy blondes. Can't wait to meet you."

INT. PITA PLACE - DAY

Jackie walks into Pita Place, looking around. She is early as usual. She seats herself at a window overlooking the busy Roosevelt Street, and a waiter quickly comes over.

JACKIE

Hi, I'm waiting for a guy to meet me here. We haven't met before, so I'm not sure if he'll show up. You can bring me an ice tea while I wait.

WAITER

I'll be right back with your tea. Good luck with the date.

JACKIE

Thanks. I'll need it. This is the first date I've been on in a decade.

WAITER

Wow. Well, the scene is brutal, so don't take anything personally. But I'm sure you'll do fine.

JACKIE

Thanks for the confidence boost.

A tall, handsome 40-something guy walks over to Jackie's table. He sees her and breaks into a charming smile. Jackie sees him and returns the smile. They appear to have instant chemistry.

SEAN

Are you Jackie?

JACKIE

Yes, that's me. Sit down! I ordered some ice tea, but the waiter should be back soon.

SEAN

I'm going to need something a little stronger than ice tea. How about I buy you a glass of wine, Jackie?

JACKIE

I think I'll just stick to ice tea for now, but thanks for the offer.

SEAN

Fair enough. Sorry, but I need a little something to calm the nerves so to speak. I find alcohol always works wonders for that.

JACKIE

Yes, I'm sure it does. Well, tell me about yourself, Sean. Not that this defines who you are, but what do you do for a living?

SEAN

I'm a small business owner. I operate a custom welding business. I used to work for APS, the power company, but that's a long story.

JACKIE

I used to run my own public relations and freelance writing business, but I couldn't make enough money to even buy myself a drink, even living in Kingman, AZ, where rent was relatively cheap.

SEAN

Yes. You have to be disciplined to hunt down leads all over the valley to make ends meet as a business owner. It's a real hustle for sure. What do you do?

JACKIE

I work at a university library. It's kind of dull, but I love to read, so it means free books, which saves me lots of money.

SEAN

I see, a sexy, blonde librarian. I like that. By day, checking out books, but by night checking out men on online dating sites. How do I stack up?

JACKIE

So far, so good. I feel an instant sort of chemistry with you. What do you think?

SEAN

I feel the same. You are so easy to talk to. I feel like bearing my soul to you. Or perhaps at least getting nude together. (laughs devilishly)

JACKIE

Wow. You cut to the chase. I like that about you. I don't like to beat around the bush either. And I have a very nice bush. (chuckles)

SEAN

I bet you do. I would like to see it sometime.

JACKIE

Say, do you like art? There's an event coming up that's always a good party, the alcohol flows freely, and you could possibly drum up some custom welding business.

SEAN

I like how you think. Yes, let's mix business with pleasure. When and where is it?

JACKIE

It's next Thursday at Bentley Projects, an upscale art gallery that actually features a lot of metal artwork. You would like it. Also, there will be a lot of movers and shakers there, like the Phoenix Mayor, etc.

SEAN

Let's plan on it. Do I need to get tickets?

JACKIE

I'm an art curator at the library where I work, which also has a gallery. So I already have the tickets. Just need a date.

SEAN

I'm there. What's the dress code?

JACKIE

Formal but creative. Use your imagination. I'll probably be wearing a blue silk dress that highlights my curves.

SEAN

I can't wait to see that. Should we go to dinner beforehand? My treat!

JACKIE

That would be perfect. Let's go to FOUND:RE Hotel's Match Restaurant, which is next to my condo.

SEAN

I have never been there. Send me directions, okay?

JACKIE

You can park at my condo and we can walk over. Then we can take an UBER or LYFT to the event, so we can drink without getting a DUI.

SEAN

Sounds great. Yes, I don't need to get another DUI. Been there. Done that. Not fun.

JACKIE

See you in a week then. I will give you directions to my high-rise. I look forward to it.

SEAN

Me too. I will send you a photo of my suit before we go, so you can approve of it or not.

JACKIE

I am sure it will be fine. You look sort of like a young Sean Connery, so anything you wear will be fine.

SEAN

Yeah? Thanks, that is nice of you to say that.

INT. FOUND:RE HOTEL'S MATCH RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jackie and Sean walk into the restaurant in formal attire. KYLE, a bartender who knows Jackie, sees her from his perch at the bar and waves. A waiter, FERNANDO, who also knows Jackie, smiles and greets her like the regular that she is.

Fernando is a very handsome, 30-something Latin waiter whom Jackie has a not so secret crush on, like many of the men at this establishment. But Fernando likes to pretend he is unaware of Jackie's crush.

JACKIE

(smiling and blushing)
Hi, Fernando! Table for two, please. By the window on Portland Street, if possible. This is our first dinner date. This is Sean.

SEAN

(sizes up Fernando and disapproves with a frown)
Hi, Fernando. Jackie must be a regular here, eh?

FERNANDO

(seating them by the window)
Yes, she is very good to us here. We enjoy her visits. Here are the menus. Would you like to start off with a drink? We know what Jackie drinks, but what would you like Sean?

SEAN

What kind of beer do you have on tap?

FERNANDO

(hands over a menu)
Here's a list of what we offer.

SEAN

I'll take the pale ale.

FERNANDO

Got it. Be right back.
JACKIE I'm a Chardonnay drinker almost exclusively. Not a fan of beer since I tried to drink our high school quarterback under the table and got very drunk on beer. Never had a taste for it since.

SEAN

Hmm. I guess that makes sense. You are funny. Quite a woman. I like a woman who enjoys alcohol.

JACKIE

I enjoy Chardonnay, and a few mixed drinks like Cosmopolitans and Tanqueray and Tonic, but not much more.

SEAN

That's an interesting mix of tastes.

JACKIE

I'm not really that much of a drinker. As I've aged, my tolerance for it doesn't seem to be as good as when I was younger.

SEAN

Yeah. I do know what you mean, but that doesn't always stop me. Booze fuels my ... creativity and some other things. (laughing)

JACKIE

I think I know what you mean. All booze sold at this arts event will go toward arts programs and artist grants, so it's all for a good cause, a cause I definitely believe in. Do you like art?

SEAN

I like good art. I am sure we will see a lot of that tonight, if what you have told me about this event proves true.

Jackie and Sean get their drinks. They order dinner, eat, and exit.

INT. ARTS FUNDRAISER - BENTLEY PROJECTS - NIGHT

Sean and Jackie walk into the loud arts party. Sean immediately heads to a line to get some more beer. Jackie waits in line to get more white wine. Once they get their drinks, they begin walking around looking at the art and taking photos of themselves in front of it.

SEAN

This was a great idea, Jackie. I'm having a really good time. Can I buy you another Chardonnay?

JACKIE

Normally, I would say, no, but this is the one night during the year where I allow myself to get a major buzz on. So, yes, buy me another, even though I've kind of lost track of how many I've had. (laughing)

SEAN

Be right back then.

Jackie wanders around the gallery. She stops and stands in front of an eccentric piece of art that depicts a large chested woman, and smiles in appreciation.

SEAN (CONT'D)

I see you found a piece of art that inspires you. In fact, I really like this art work. It kind of resembles your ... body. Let's take a photo of me. You do it.

He sets their drinks down on the floor. Jackie picks up her IPHONE and snaps a shot of him simulating sucking the breasts of the paper sculpture of a woman's big breasts. Jackie laughs at his pose. They post the pictures to Jackie's Facebook and Instagram accounts. He takes a minute to post to his accounts, too.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Well, I'm ready to leave. Shall we contact UBER?

JACKIE

Yes, I'll do it. It's my treat. You bought me so much wine. It's the least I can do.

They exit the party.

INT. JACKIE'S NEW LUXURY CONDO KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jackie has decided to let Sean stay the night, so he doesn't get a DUI. Sean is rummaging through her refrigerator because he has the munchies after his drinking spree. She has all new Bosch appliances. She also has beautiful maple wood floors. The condo sparkles with luxury and newness.

SEAN

Wow. You really don't have much in your fridge but cheese. I hate cheese. It plugs me up, but I better have some of it. Do you have any crackers?

JACKIE

Sure. I'll get them.

Jackie walks into the

KITCHEN from the living room to retrieve the crackers from the cupboard for Sean. She hands him the crackers.

SEAN

Do you have any more booze? All I see is Chardonnay wine.

JACKIE

Sorry, that's all I have. That's all I really drink at home. Haven't you had enough alcohol anyway? We had quite a lot tonight.

SEAN

(pouring a glass of wine for himself)

No. I just need a little boost before we hit the sheets. And do you have any candles to set the mood?

JACKIE

Yes, I have candles, but we need to be careful. This is a high-rise and I don't want to set it ablaze, as much as I love firefighters.

SEAN

(making a face of disgust)

What is it with women and firefighters? Hey, do you have a fireman's outfit? Maybe I could put one on to turn you on. (laughing)

JACKIE

I wish I did have one, because that would be so hot! (laughing)

SEAN

I'm ready for bed. How 'bout it?

JACKIE

I was ready an hour ago. (laughing)

INT. JACKIE'S CONDO BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jackie and Sean walk into Jackie's luxurious bedroom. The lights of a park can be seen from the large window in the room. Jackie hasn't bothered to get shades yet as she just moved into the new building. The two lay on the bed naked after quickly tearing off each other's clothes. They make passionate love to each other.

JACKIE

Wow. You're good in bed, a regular marathon man. I like that. I don't see it too often.

SEAN

That's a shame. Glad I could make you feel good.

JACKIE

Well, I'm a widow, so I haven't seen it since my husband died. Frankly, he was sick a while and as a result, wasn't so good in bed. I think that really depressed him and led to his feelings of inadequacy with me.

SEAN

That sucks. I would die if I couldn't fuck chicks.

JACKIE

He suffered from depression, took meds that took away his sexual function. As a result, we hardly had any sex. That's probably what killed him. But enough about my late husband; you aren't my therapist. You are my lover, and a good one at that.

SEAN

Thanks. I aim to please a woman. I did get a little help from my blue little pill, just to make sure the equipment worked well.

JACKIE

Makes sense. Say, would you like to go out to breakfast at Lolita's Coffee shop nearby? They have great pastries and coffee.

SEAN

I don't know about the pastries. I'm trying to keep my figure. (laughs) But I could sure use a good, strong cup of coffee after all that alcohol last night. May have overdone it a bit.

JACKIE

Yes, I think you did. I noticed that. Who knew I can still drink a man under the table! (laughing)

SEAN

Not sure you did that. I just drank more than you did. I was kind of nervous being with all those movers and shakers you know.

JACKIE

You did fine. It wasn't noticeable until later. You will probably get a lot of customer orders out of it. I'll also post your business card to my social media to help you out. I always help my friends any way I can.

SEAN

I can tell that you are a good person. Probably too good for me. (laughing)

JACKIE

What do you mean? I think you sell yourself short.

SEAN

We'll see. Nothing personal, but I'm not an exclusive dater.

(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)

Not that you asked me to be, but just wanted to be honest. I like a lot of ... variety in women.

JACKIE

Hmm. How many women have you had unprotected sex with like we did last night in, say, the past month?

SEAN

Oh, only about six. I'm not a male slut.

JACKIE

Do you get tested regularly for diseases?

SEAN

Sure, but only when I have a problem, which you can tell relatively quickly. Because it's kinda hard to catch a disease. I've caught a few and had to get treatment.

JACKIE

You are ignorant! It's actually really easy to catch an STD like AIDS or vaginal warts or a host of other diseases that may not immediately show any obvious symptoms.

SEAN

Calm down. I don't have any diseases now.

JACKIE

I was a health care reporter in the 1980s during the AIDS crisis. I know what I'm talking about in terms of how easy it is to get an STD.

SEAN

I'm living proof with all the sex I get, that it's hard to catch stuff.

JACKIE

Shit! Now I have to get tested and you give me a bad feeling. I should have made you wear a condom.

SEAN

Condoms take all the pleasure away for men.

JACKIE

Yeah, but at least then you don't die or get a nasty disease where you have to take expensive drugs just to survive.

SEAN

I am careful in the women I date. They are professional women like you.

JACKIE

You need to educate yourself. That's probably the last time we have sex, but it was fun. I just hope I don't pay the price for my stupidity.

SEAN

You worry too much. Just get your test in a few months. You'll be fine. You'll see. Then maybe we can get together again.

Jackie points him to her front door, hinting he should exit.

SEAN (CONT'D)

Okay, I'm leaving. See you later maybe.

INT. JACKIE'S LUXURY CONDO - DAY

Jackie sits on a black leather sofa, holding her IPHONE and looking out her floor-to-ceiling windows at a lush, green park and trees outside. She is talking to her best friend, MARTA, a 40-something, single Latina, who doesn't mince words.

JACKIE

I am so tired of dating. I've tried online dating. I've tried in-person MeetUp groups. I've tried volunteering to meet guys.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

MARTA

Wow. You have tried a lot, haven't you.

JACKIE

No one so far is a good fit. It's just a humiliating and depressing process. And so many players out there!

MARTA

Now you know why I don't date. I'm not willing to put myself out there. It's too risky.

JACKIE

Yes, it is. I've already had to change my phone number once after being scammed on this one dating site.

MARTA

Oh, really. What happened?

JACKIE

Some hacker posted my phone number to a porn site, and I got tons of calls from weird men. Okay, maybe I should have kept that phone number. At least men were calling.

MARTA

(laughing)

You are doing better and more than I am in finding a man. But I agree. It's very risky for women in this day and age. You reveal too much about yourself, and someone steals your identity or uses your photos for illicit purposes.

JACKIE

Yet how else besides dating am I going to find a man to love me again? I am so incredibly lonely. And I'm so mad at John for thinking that it would be easy for me to find his replacement.

MARTA

Yeah. John was definitely wrong about the dating market for single, middle aged women.

JACKIE

Sure, I've lost a few pounds from trying to survive on my cooking, but few men want a woman who can't cook and isn't a domestic goddess.

MARTA

Hmm. Not sure that's what they want. They want skinny, passive women. That's what they seem to like. That's not me or you.
(laughing)

JACKIE

And it's so competitive. There are like a thousand women for every single middle aged man available.

MARTA

I cooked and cleaned for my lazy ex-husband, and he still left me. So who knows what men want. They probably don't know themselves.

JACKIE

Your husband, whom I never met, really sounds like he was an idiot.

MARTA

I know I'm better off without my ex. Remember that. Sometimes you're better off by yourself than with a bad man.

JACKIE

True, Marta. I need to keep things in perspective.

MARTA

Yes, you do. Remember that!

JACKIE

But dating has been particularly hard for me. I work mostly with women and gay men and live mostly with married couples and gay men in my condo and neighborhood. I see the couples dining out, and I am so envious. I dine alone now. I feel like a loser when I do so, but I just don't like dating jerks or dining with unintelligent, low income losers.

MARTA

Tell me about it. I work from home.
It's not like I meet a lot of men.

JACKIE

The men I do meet just seem to
treat me like a sex toy. They don't
consider my feelings as a woman, my
need for a more permanent
relationship.

MARTA

But you like sex, Jackie. I bet you
like all the sex you get with the
online hookups.

JACKIE

Well, okay, sometimes I don't mind
being a sex toy, if it helps me
cope with a bad day or low
feelings. And since John died, I
seem to have a lot of those low
feelings.

MARTA

I know how you feel about feeling
envious about couples. And you've
suffered a lot of trauma losing
John and the year before that your
mother. Just keep trying the dating
apps then. If it's what you truly
want, you will find someone
eventually, probably when you least
expect it and in a place where you
aren't looking for anyone.

EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - DAY

A sign on a nearby building reads, "HEALTH NORTH."

INT. SMALL CLASSROOM - DAY

Twenty university staff members sit in a circle at attention
while a tall, buff instructor scrawls, "CPR-AED Awareness,"
on a blackboard. On a desk nearby is the AED.

Jackie sits next to her attractive, much younger co-worker,
LEILA, in the corner, staring awestruck at the handsome
instructor. He speaks excitedly as if, even though it's a
Friday afternoon, he is full of energy and passion for
teaching people about CPR-AED usage.

ALEJANDRO

Hi, my name is Alejandro. Do you want to learn how to save a life? You can with the help of CPR using the AED. At the end of this class, I hope you will feel comfortable using it, while on the phone with 911.

Alejandro passes around the AED kit and class members handle the items in it and examine them.

JACKIE

What is the razor for?

ALEJANDRO

You must shave someone's chest before placing the AED on it.

JACKIE

You mean you have to put it directly on the skin?

ALEJANDRO

Yes. That's how it's done.

JACKIE

That's embarrassing for women. Remind me never to have a heart attack in public. I would hate to flash everyone.

ALEJANDRO

(grinning and holding his hands over his crotch)
Ahem. Does anyone else have any questions?

JACKIE

I have another question. What happens when you're done doing the AED on a person and they start breathing again? You've pressed on their chest and stomach pretty hard. Doesn't that cause other problems?

ALEJANDRO

Yes, you have to be careful, because sometimes they projectile vomit afterward. You don't want to get hit by that.

JACKIE

(whispers to LEILA)

Oh, my, God. Now I don't even want to do CPR on anyone if that could happen. I can't handle vomit. It makes me vomit.

ALEJANDRO

Just remember: It's a matter of life and death. You could be saving a life. But, remember, to duck out of the way to avoid any problems afterward. (smiling and laughing)

INT. LIBRARY OFFICE - DAY

LEILA

(to Jackie)

Did you get your AED-CPR certificate? I got mine already.

JACKIE

No, I didn't. I'm going to email the instructor. I asked a lot of questions. He should remember me.

LEILA

That's true, you did. Perhaps you forgot to sign in with your identification.

JACKIE

I doubt it. I think I did it at the same time that you did it. And I want my certificate. I went to that class on a Friday afternoon, so I deserve my credit for it. Plus, I want to show I am competent in this to help patrons here.

Jackie types on her computer keyboard.

ON JACKIE'S OFFICE DESKTOP COMPUTER SCREEN

Jackie's words appear on the monitor:

"Hi Alejandro, I was in your AED class last week, and everyone in my office who went has their certificate, except me. Can you provide me with my certificate, please. Thanks!"

ON JACKIE'S COMPUTER SCREEN

Alejandro's response appears:

"Hi Jackie, I'm actually not at work right now. I'm at the Tempe Fire Department getting ready to go on vacation skiing in Colorado with a bunch of crazy firefighters. That is my other job. Can I get you your certificate when I get back? Thanks."

Jackie types on her keyboard. The words appear on her monitor:

"Sure. By the way, I love firefighters. Wish I was there with you guys!"

Jackie spots Alejandro's response on her monitor:

"Hey, I remember you. I am your fire marshal for the Downtown Phoenix campus. Are you on Connect-In, the professional networking site? Could you connect with me there?"

Jackie types again on her keyboard. The words appear on her monitor:

"Of course. I'm wearing a purple shirt and a necklace in my social media picture. I have short bangs, so it doesn't look like me anymore, but it's me."

Jackie sees Alejandro's response on her monitor:

"Found it and asking you to connect. Give me a good review as an instructor now!"

Jackie looks at her IPHONE, and accepts Alejandro's invitation to connect. She reads another woman's praise for Alejandro as an AED instructor:

"Alejandro really helped me understand the practical aspects of operating an AED to do CPR. He is an engaging and informative instructor."

Jackie smiles as she wonders if that woman feels the same way she does about Alejandro, and it doesn't have anything to do with his abilities as an instructor.

INT. JACKIE'S HIGH-RISE CONDO BEDROOM - DAY

Jackie's bed has a pink, cushy feather comforter covering it. The large windows overlook a tranquil garden and pond with ducks on it. A giclee print of a sexy, scantily clad blonde woman in cowboy hat and boots hangs over the bed; it looks kind of like Jackie, but it isn't her. This painting is indicative of Jackie's general bohemian philosophy toward life and love. Everything about the bedroom and condo reeks of money.

ON JACKIE'S IPHONE

Jackie checks Connect-In, and sees that she has a message. She looks at it, and sees it's from Alejandro:

"I've been having fantasies about you."

Jackie smiles at her IPHONE and replies to him:

"And I've been having fantasies about you, too."

Jackie's face registers shock when she looks back at her IPHONE again and sees a photo of what appears to be Alejandro's large penis. She responds:

"Wow. That's very impressive, sexy fireman. Did you mean to send this photo of your penis to me or my much younger co-worker?"

Jackie attempts to save the photo to her I-Cloud photos, but because she isn't skilled with her IPHONE, she ends up accidentally deleting the photo. She swears out loud to herself.

JACKIE

Damn it. Why am I so bad with technology! I miss you now more than ever John, my personal technology expert. Are you looking down at me from heaven and laughing?

She notices Alejandro has replied to her:

"Definitely you."

Jackie types a response on her IPHONE:

"Why me? You have tons of Connect-In contacts, many of them blondes. LOL."

Jackie sees Alejandro has replied quickly:

"Because you have soul. That's why."

JACKIE (CONT'D)

(spoken aloud to herself)

Damn. I wanted to show that photo to Marta. Well, it looks like I can still inspire lust in a man. Who knew at my age that was even possible? I thought all guys were looking to hookup with 20-somethings, but it looks like some older women like me still got game.

Jackie's IPHONE pings again with a notification. She looks at the screen:

"We should get together once I get off shift."

Jackie replies immediately:

"I'd love that. Come visit me at my condo in Central Phoenix anytime. I'll text you the address. You're a fire marshal. I need a thorough inspection. LOL"

Jackie sees Alejandro's response on her IPHONE:

"It will happen, but I gotta go now. Bye."

Jackie replies smiling:

"Bye, handsome fireman!"

INT. JACKIE'S HIGH-RISE CONDO BEDROOM - DAY

Jackie looks at her IPHONE. It's a Connect-In message from Alejandro:

"Hey, I had to fight a house fire today. Saved some lives. Check out this photo (photo of house on fire)."

Jackie replies on her IPHONE:

"Wow. That looks scary. You ran into that home to save people?"

Jackie sees Alejandro's reply:

"Yes, that's part of the job. I also stand by as a paramedic to treat the people after they escape the fire. I have more saves than anyone on my team."

Jackie replies:

"You are an amazing super hero!"

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

I love men who are helpers and public servants, just like my Dad. Perhaps it's a Freudian thing."

Jackie sees Alejandro's response:

"Um. Okay. I guess I've heard of Freud. Well, gotta go save more lives."

Jackie responds:

"You are awesome! Take care!"

INT. JACKIE'S CONDO BEDROOM - DAY

Jackie hears a ping on her IPHONE. She sees it's a message from Alejandro:

"Hey, I'm at your front door. Let me in."

Jackie types a response on her IPHONE:

"Be right down. A little more notice would have been nice."

Jackie quickly puts on pink shorts and a pink top. She sprays herself with perfume, and hurries down in the elevator to the door on the first floor several floors below. When she gets there, she is puzzled as Alejandro isn't at the door. She types another message on Connect-In:

JACKIE

"I'm at the front door. Where are you?"

Jackie looks at her IPHONE for his response:

"The door by Portland Street where I parked."

Jackie types her response:

"Okay. I will come get you. You aren't at the right door."

EXT. JACKIE'S LUXURY CONDO - DAY

Jackie walks to the front of the building, where she finds Alejandro standing, looking confused.

JACKIE

There are several entrances to this building, but that one doesn't work to enter my condo. Here, follow me to the correct floor above.

ALEJANDRO

I just got off shift. I don't have much time, but I wanted to see you.

He is dressed in his station uniform, all blue with his first name and last initial on the pocket of his shirt.

JACKIE

It was a miracle we connected. I just happened to hear my IPHONE ping with your message at 6am, but as you know, I am an early riser like you.

INT. JACKIE'S LUXURY CONDO - DAY

ELEVATOR

Alejandro and Jackie stand together in the elevator not talking.

They step into

THE HALLWAY

Alejandro rushes down the hallway sweeping Jackie up into his arms as if they were rushing to escape a fire, but instead deposits her in front of the doorway she points out. Jackie unlocks the door.

Alejandro rushes through the

LIVING ROOM

and unlocks the large sliding glass door to the

OUTSIDE PATIO BALCONY

Jackie follows him outside. Alejandro leans over the balcony and looks across the vast, green park below. He holds his arms out and takes Jackie into a long kiss. Jackie stops him for a moment.

JACKIE

Sorry, I didn't have time to brush my teeth.

ALEJANDRO

Here. Take my gum and chew it.

Jackie takes the gum, chews it. Then they continue a long, passionate kiss.

JACKIE

(breathlessly)

Wow! That was some first kiss. Where do we go from here? I don't even have a couch in my living room, because I just moved in and it's on order. But we could go to my bedroom.

ALEJANDRO

Let's do it!

BEDROOM

Jackie walks over to her queen bed and lays down. Alejandro follows her and Jackie begins to remove her shirt and bra.

ALEJANDRO (CONT'D)

Before we get started, I brought you a present. We don't have a calendar at the Tempe Fire Department, but I'm making you an honorary firefighter by giving you one of my old shirts and shorts. They are great to wear to bed.

JACKIE

Oh. My. God. This is fantastic. I will always cherish these and wear them as often as possible, thinking of you.

Jackie runs her hands through the t-shirt and smells it. It has his first name and last initial on it, just like the blue station shirt he is wearing.

ALEJANDRO

You are so beautiful. I always like a woman with a little meat on her bones.

Alejandro is fondling Jackie's breasts as he says this.

JACKIE

(angrily)

What did you say? That isn't what a woman wants to hear in bed. I think that's all you will see for now.

ALEJANDRO

(confused)

I'm sorry. Do you want a back rub? Just take off your pants and I'll give you a full body rub.

JACKIE

(trying not to lose her
composure)

No, but I would like to see you
take off your pants, so I can see
what you showed me a photo of on
Connect-In.

ALEJANDRO

Sure. I did promise you this. You
will get it. It's all yours. We can
take it slowly.

He removes his pants and shirt to expose his large, erect
cock. He also has a great, shaved chest to match his shaved
head.

JACKIE

Wow. You have an amazing cock. It's
like a fire hose. You could put out
a fire with it.

Jackie fondles and caresses his penis.

ALEJANDRO

I'm glad you like the size and feel
of it. What you're doing feels
really good. We definitely have
some chemistry.

He is moaning softly as Jackie continues to stroke his penis.

JACKIE

Yeah. That's for sure.

ALEJANDRO

Do you go to Catholic Church?

JACKIE

I go only when I'm really sad, but
I don't put much trust in an
institution that allows priests to
molest little boys and doesn't
allow women to be priests.

ALEJANDRO

(weird expression on his
face)

Yeah, that's true. But would you
ever go to church with me, to
confession?

JACKIE

I can't imagine confessing to a priest who has never been married or supposed to have had sex. I mean, what do they know of sin? I'd rather confess to a friend or a woman's magazine. Why?

ALEJANDRO

Just wanted to know.

JACKIE

But, to answer your question. Yes, I would go with you to please you, if that's where you are heading next after our encounter. But it does seem incredibly funny and odd.

ALEJANDRO

(grinning)

Yes, I'm going to the Franciscan Renewal Center in Paradise Valley. Do you know it?

JACKIE

Yes, I love the Franciscans, because they are more socially liberal than other Catholic groups and more accepting of gays. I will go to confession with you, though in my memory I can't ever recall having gone before.

ALEJANDRO

That's okay. It's easy. The priest is kind and gives forgiveness for your sins.

JACKIE

Plus, I'm not sure I feel I have really sinned, as I am single. But perhaps I can think of a few things about this situation that bother me. Besides, I'm an aspiring standup comic, and this will make a funny skit I bet.

ALEJANDRO

Let's go. We better drive separately, as I have to go home after church.

INT. FRANCISCAN RENEWAL CENTER CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

Jackie and Alejandro walk through the door of the Franciscan church. Services have ended, and they head to the priest's office for a meeting. They called ahead.

JACKIE

I'm not sure why, but I'm kind of nervous. Like I am actually caring what this priest thinks of me and our actions today.

ALEJANDRO

Don't worry. You will be fine.

JACKIE

Not sure why I feel this way. I'm a little worried the priest will tell you to stay away from me. Well, I know that's what he'll say to you, but I have no idea what he will say to me.

ALEJANDRO

Yes, the priest will likely want me to stay away from you, but I want him to meet you, so he knows just how difficult that will be. Because you're so ... amazing.

JACKIE

Aww. That is so sweet of you to say. The priest will look at me as an evil temptress. Fantastic.
(laughing)

INT. PRIEST'S OFFICE - DAY

ALEJANDRO

Hi, Father! How are you today?

PRIEST

Hi, Alejandro. I didn't see you at services this morning, as I often do. Did this young woman keep you away? Is she a fellow first responder or firefighter?

ALEJANDRO

No, but I will explain in my confession, Father. That's why we are here today together.

(MORE)

ALEJANDRO (CONT'D)

As you know, I'm a married man and she isn't my wife.

PRIEST

Okay, would you like me to simply counsel you together or would you like to do confession separately?

ALEJANDRO

What would you advise we do?

PRIEST

It's up to you two, but I think I would offer you different advice, so confessing in private would make more sense. How about you go first, Alejandro?

ALEJANDRO

Okay. Jackie, do you want to wait outside for your turn?

JACKIE

Whatever you want. I'm here for you, not me. I can't see this craziness benefiting me much, but I'll do this for you, to please you. I'm a people pleaser.

Jackie steps out of the office and waits in the church lobby, looking at her IPHONE and reading email on it.

INT. CONFESSIONAL BOX - DAY

ALEJANDRO

Dear Father, forgive me, for I have sinned.

PRIEST

What is your sin, son?

ALEJANDRO

I kissed and fondled a woman who wasn't my wife, Father. I am a bad husband. I have betrayed my wedding vows and want to continue to do so. She is so smart, beautiful, and fun. I can't resist this woman.

PRIEST

I want you to say 100 Hail Marys, Alejandro.

(MORE)

PRIEST (CONT'D)

But I'm not going to advise you what to do, because you already know what you need to do or else you wouldn't have come to confession.

ALEJANDRO

Yes, Father. You are right, as usual.

PRIEST

You know your behavior is out of line with the Catholic Church teachings and violates your wedding vows. You also still have a son or sons at home, don't you? What if they find out about your behavior?

ALEJANDRO

I know, Father. I know I can't continue, but I am not sure how to end it without hurting Jackie and getting her angry with me, so she then contacts and angers my wife. That would be a nightmare! (anxiety creases his brow)

PRIEST

I don't know Jackie that well, but she is probably stronger than you think. You aren't doing her any favors by continuing an affair with her when you have no intention of leaving your marriage.

ALEJANDRO

I know, Father, but I can't decide how to proceed. Please advise me.

PRIEST

Just send her an email message or however you usually communicate with each other, but be kind about it, of course. You don't want to upset her so she then contacts your wife.

ALEJANDRO

Okay. I will do it next week at work. I will clarify that I only want to be friends with her. Nothing sexual. Just friends. I want her in my life as a friend.

PRIEST

If you think that you can keep it to a friendship and nothing more. Then that seems like a good idea. God forgives your transgressions and blesses your solution. Go with God, son. Now let me talk to Jackie.

ALEJANDRO

Thanks, Father.

Alejandro walks into the hallway and gestures to Jackie in the lobby to step into the Confessional Box. Jackie takes her place in the confessional.

INT. CONFESSIONAL BOX - DAY

JACKIE

Forgive me, Father, I haven't confessed before I don't think, so I don't know exactly how this goes. I'm not even sure I have sinned, according to my values. I think Alejandro is married, but I've never discussed it with him.

PRIEST

If you were married to Alejandro, how would you feel about another woman kissing him and engaging in sexual relations with him?

JACKIE

Hard to say. I might be willing to share him, as he is so adorable and even in the short time I have gotten to know him, I am in lust with him and his body, if not full blown love.

PRIEST

Yes, he is a wonderful man, but he already has a family that he has obligations toward and sons who depend on him, including those who still live with him and his wife.

JACKIE

Yes, I figured that was the case. I do feel bad about that.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

But sometimes you just fall in love or lust with someone on first sight and it's not fair that his wife met him first. Maybe she doesn't appreciate him anymore. If not, she doesn't deserve him.

PRIEST

You know that is a dangerous proposition. When you get in the middle of a married couple and their family, that is a dangerous situation, not just a matter of having some fun or sex or however you view this arrangement.

JACKIE

I know, Father. I guess, even though I am single, I have sinned against his wife and sons. But he is so ... well endowed physically speaking. I can't resist him I don't think. (blushes) What would you suggest?

PRIEST

Read over the part of the Bible pertaining to Adam and Eve. Then say 50 Hail Marys. And expect to be disappointed in your relations with Alejandro. He is married to his family and thus can't be devoted to you, too.

JACKIE

I know, Father, but I am just taking our arrangement day by day. I live for the moment as a bohemian now since the death of my husband to suicide. I didn't always used to be like this. I used to be someone who followed all the rules, a real good girl.

PRIEST

What prompted the change, may I ask?

JACKIE

I used to always follow society's rules, played the conventional marriage game.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

But after my husband, John, who worked at the university with me, killed himself by jumping off my condo, something changed in how I saw the world. I decided the old rules weren't working for me as a middle age woman who is discriminated against in the workplace and in the dating scene.

PRIEST

I am sorry for your loss. Suicide is a terrible way to die. The church condemns it and those who do it are relegated to hell, according to Scripture. But I am here for you, to help you get past your difficult transition to a life without John.

JACKIE

I don't expect you to understand my way of life now or coping mechanisms. I worship life experiences and feeling and sex now because I actually feel sort of dead inside. Only sex makes me feel alive again; it forces me to be in my body when usually now my head is somewhere else, wondering how I could have stopped my beloved from jumping to his death.

PRIEST

It's true, that my values are very different from yours. But I sense you want to be good and live better moral values. I sense that you want to come out of this life trauma a better, healthier person.

JACKIE

I believe people can love more than one person in their brief lives and that marriage is currently a failing institution that doesn't benefit men or women.

PRIEST

Why are you here today, then?

JACKIE

Because Alejandro asked me to confess with him, and I wanted to please him. I'm a people pleaser, just as he is. We have a lot in common that way and in having faced a lot of trauma in our lives.

PRIEST

Then just be friends with him. Nothing sexual. That is best for now. Until he decides how to proceed with his marriage, and, knowing him, he is very comfortable in his marriage and not likely to leave his comfort zone.

JACKIE

Thanks for your well-intended advice, Father, but don't get me wrong. While I sometimes go to church when I am deeply sad, I object to the lack of female priests, molestation of children, and the church's stance on abortion.

PRIEST

The church isn't perfect, yes, but you aren't taking responsibility for your behavior. You are avoiding the issues I've raised that threaten your safety and spiritual health.

JACKIE

Just because I go to church doesn't mean I buy into all of its philosophy or dogma, though I was Baptized due to my Irish Catholic Grandma being a very devout woman.

PRIEST

Well, the church has shortcomings for sure. I am glad you came today to listen to what I have to say about your relationship with Alejandro and to warn you of its consequences for your future and your spiritual health, your very soul.

JACKIE

Weirdly, I have gotten an energy boost and I feel like writing since I met Alejandro. He is definitely my muse. He makes me feel incredibly creative for some unknown reason. Perhaps its his belief in my unlimited potential.

PRIEST

Well, just be friends then and continue with that good energy.

JACKIE

I also realize this affair does take a spiritual toll on me and my soul, as I am not typically a person who enjoys hurting others, even those I don't know like his wife and sons.

PRIEST

I hope to see you more often at church, Jackie. Come even when you aren't sad and learn how you can enjoy pure spiritual forms of joy that uplift your soul.

JACKIE

I will consider it, Father. Thank you for the invitation.

Jackie departs the confessional. She meets up with Alejandro in the lobby of the church. They embrace briefly and walk to their cars in the parking lot.

EXT. CATHOLIC CHURCH PARKING LOT - DAY

ALEJANDRO

How did it go for you?

JACKIE

Well, I think I actually enjoyed it, though I'm sure the priest was probably shocked by some of what I told him. But maybe not. I'm sure they have heard a lot, if not seen a lot. (laughing)

ALEJANDRO

That's good. I feel better about things now.

(MORE)

ALEJANDRO (CONT'D)

I feel a huge sense of relief, like a burden has been lifted from my chest.

JACKIE

That's wonderful. Glad I could help. I don't like to see people in pain. I don't know how you handle seeing all the people in pain that you help as a paramedic.

ALEJANDRO

Yes. It does take a mental toll on you, dealing with all that trauma; it takes a spiritual toll. It weighs down on your soul.

JACKIE

I can't wait to use this in my standup comedy routine, my first confession with a priest. I have to play around with it a bit, but it definitely has comic potential, as well as tragic overtones.

ALEJANDRO

I suppose. One of these day, I want to see you perform your standup comedy, as long as you don't point me out as your subject matter.

JACKIE

Don't worry. I never name names in my show. That would be mean, and I try not to be mean, just funny. And I try to sting those in power the most versus innocent civilians like you.

ALEJANDRO

Good to know. That's almost as big a relief as going to confession today. (laughing)

INT. JACKIE'S CONDO BEDROOM - DAY

Jackie hears her IPHONE ping with a Connect-In message. It's from Alejandro:

"Hey, check your work email. I sent you a message."

Jackie types on her IPHONE and it displays on her phone:

"Okay, but I'm at home and it's hard for me to access my work email here."

Jackie logs into her work email from her personal laptop computer to read the message:

"Hi Jackie, You are a smart, fun, beautiful woman. I am a married man. I hope we can be friends, but nothing more than that. I've enjoyed getting to know you. Take care."

Jackie is overcome with emotion. But she gathers herself together, and replies to Alejandro on her laptop:

"Hi Alejandro, I've enjoyed getting to know you, too. I hope I can meet up with some single firefighters, if they exist. And, remember, I'm not going anywhere if you should change your mind about helping me, but I guess I have to respect your decision. I appreciate your honesty with me. I am glad we had a Justin Timberlake moment. I love his music. In friendship."

INT. JACKIE'S CONDO BEDROOM - DAY

Jackie sends a message to Alejandro via Connect-In:

"Hey, my Dad's smoke detectors won't stop going off and he can't figure out how to deactivate them. Any ideas? Help!"

Jackie reads Alejandro's reply:

"Hard to say without being there. But if he cut the power source or takes out the batteries, that should really do it. Hey, what are you doing?"

Jackie replies:

"Thinking how sexy you are and how much I've missed seeing you. I really want to give you a blow job. Just as friend to friend, of course. LOL."

Jackie reads Alejandro's reply on her IPHONE:

"Wow, you would do that for me?"

Jackie responds:
"Definitely."

INT. TEMPE FIRE STATION - DAY

He reads Jackie's response on his IPHONE. He blushes. Then he replies:

"Definitely something to think about. It would have to be over the lunch hour. I will be Downtown in a week on Thursday I think. What time?"

Alejandro reads Jackie's reply:

"My lunch hour starts at 11am. We can go to my condo. It will be fun! I have an oral fixation. You will see. LOL."

ALEX, Alejandro's brunette, female firefighter co-worker, enters the room. She sees Alejandro on his phone. She is attractive and middle age like Alejandro.

ALEX

Hey, why are you always on your IPHONE? Are you messaging with your wife?

ALEJANDRO

No, I hear enough from her when I'm at home. I'm just connecting with this hot, blonde co-worker of mine at the university. She has a thing for firefighters.

ALEX

And you obviously have a thing for hot blondes. Isn't your wife a blonde?

ALEJANDRO

Yes, but she isn't as much fun lately.

ALEX

Be careful. You don't want to get burned. This is the "Me Too" era.

ALEJANDRO

Thanks, but I have it under control. It's a controlled burn.

ALEX

As you know, when you're playing with fire, expect the unexpected. You've lit this flame, but are you an arsonist or a firefighter?

ALEJANDRO

I'm a firefighter, of course. She lit the flame, and I'm extinguishing it. (he moves his hands back and forth like he is extinguishing a small fire)

ALEX

But you're married, Alejandro.

ALEJANDRO

So what. She's single. I'm helping her with some male companionship and she's helping me have some fun.

ALEX

(sarcastically)

I'm sure you're a real hero to her, a real lifesaver.

ALEJANDRO

(angrily)

I've got more saves than you have. I have more than anyone on our team. Don't doubt me. Just mind your own business.

ALEX

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. You may be a lifesaver, but I can tell from working with you on 911 calls that you have a fear of blood. I have seen how you try to hand off the cases involving a lot of blood. Go figure: A paramedic who hates blood. (laughing)

Alejandro shoots her a dirty look.

Alarm sounds. Alex and Alejandro quickly run to get their firefighter gear and head off on a fire truck to save lives.

INT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - LIBRARY OFFICE - DAY

Jackie sits at her office desk, waiting for Alejandro to arrive for their lunch tryst. She checks her email on her computer and fidgets.

She puts her headphones on to jam to some FEMALE ROCK MUSIC on her streaming music platform. Suddenly, Alejandro comes up behind her and taps her on the shoulder. She jumps.

JACKIE

Oh, my gosh! You surprised me. I told them out at the service desk to call me when you got here.

ALEJANDRO

I know. I thought I'd sneak up on you. Let's go. I will go get my car. Walk over to the convenience store on Fillmore Street where it's parked with me, Okay?

Jackie and Alejandro walk together out of the library.

JACKIE

Okay, but the last time I walked over to that store, a homeless man was taking a piss behind the dumpster there. That place gives me the creeps. I wouldn't park my car there.

EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - DAY

Jackie and Alejandro walk outside together along Fillmore Street.

ALEJANDRO

I'm cheap. I don't want to pay for parking Downtown.

JACKIE

Park at my condo then.

ALEJANDRO

I'm too lazy to walk that far like you do.

Jackie and Alejandro walk across several intersections to the convenience store, where he has parked his car. They get inside his car.

ALEJANDRO (CONT'D)

Do you want a mint?

JACKIE

No thanks. It won't matter if my breath smells bad. It just matters if my butt smells okay.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

That will be in your face as I give you a blow job.

ALEJANDRO

Whoa. Feel this.

He gestures and holds on to his swollen cock in his pants as he drives the car. He grabs Jackie's hand, so she can feel it.

JACKIE

(smiling)

Once again, very impressive. I'm glad that I bring out the best in you.

EXT. LUXURY CONDO - DAY

They soon arrive at Jackie's nearby luxury condo and Alejandro parks the car. Jackie gives him an essay she has written about their chance meeting in the CPR-AED Awareness class at work. Alejandro quickly shoves it in the glove compartment after giving it a quick once over.

ALEJANDRO

You know I can't keep this. The roommate might find it and give me a hard time about it.

JACKIE

It is always dangerous to make love to a writer, because her whole life is her raw material. And you inspire me to write. You are my muse.

ALEJANDRO

My life is an open book.

INT. JACKIE'S LUXURY CONDO - DAY

ELEVATOR

Alejandro enters the high-rise elevator with Jackie. He is dressed in a university fire marshal's shirt with a large official badge on his hip. Jackie has on a button up jean dress that calls attention to her ice skater's legs; the buttons to the dress are nearly bursting due to her Double D-sized breasts.

HALLWAY

Jackie opens the door to her condo. Alejandro wastes no time, heading to her

BEDROOM

He immediately begins to take off his shirt and pants, hanging them on a chair. Jackie takes off her dress to reveal a tight black bra and black panties. She keeps these on.

Alejandro lays down on her bed.

ALEJANDRO
Your bed sure is comfortable.

JACKIE
Glad you like it. It likes you.

Jackie positions her butt in Alejandro's face, while her lips are wrapped around his cock, her hands massaging it as she continues to lick and suck it.

He moans louder and louder as Jackie works on his cock.

ALEJANDRO
What time is it?

JACKIE
Relax. You still have time for more pleasure.

Although she tastes his pre-cum fluid, Alejandro never cums in her mouth. But he is obviously enjoying himself. Suddenly Jackie looks at the clock.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
Sadly, our time is up. We better put our clothes back on or we're going to be late to work.

ALEJANDRO
Wow. That went better than even I had imagined it would go.

JACKIE
And that's saying something because I can tell you and I have vivid imaginations. Being with you today gave me great pleasure, too, believe it or not. I have an oral fixation that you helped me sate.

ALEJANDRO
Glad I could help with that.
(laughing)

JACKIE

Plus, I love how you are all shaved down below. That makes it even better. Do you have to shave down there, so it doesn't catch on fire? (giggling)

ALEJANDRO

Um. Sort of. Say, if you ever need me to do any handy work around your condo, just let me know. I'm very handy.

JACKIE

I will definitely take you up on that. This English major isn't handy, except when it comes to handling your cock. (giggling)

ALEJANDRO

Well, we better get dressed and back to work. Hey, do you think we could do a threesome with one of your friends sometime?

JACKIE

(laughing)

What about a threesome with your wife? Or, even better, what about with one of your firefighter friends?

ALEJANDRO

(looking worried)

No. She wouldn't like that. And, no, I wouldn't like doing it with another man. Not for me!

JACKIE

(grinning)

Too bad. Now that's my idea of fun. Oh, by the way, I'm going to start online dating to give you some competition. I want to try to make you jealous, if possible.

ALEJANDRO

Be careful. That's dangerous.

JACKIE

(mumbling to herself)

Not more dangerous than a sexual hookup with a married man.

EXT. INTERSECTION WITH LIGHT RAIL TRAIN - DAY

Alejandro is behind the wheel of his white Subaru sedan stopped at the stoplight. Jackie looks behind them and sees a light rail train coming straight for them. Alejandro has accidentally stopped the car over part of the tracks. Traffic is clear in both directions.

JACKIE

Check to make sure the traffic is clear, but go now through that red light. We are sitting on the light rail train tracks. Go. Go. Go. The train is coming for us.

Alejandro drives through the red light, turns left, narrowly missing the approaching light rail train. Worry creases his face but he remains remarkably calm.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Whew. That was a close call. I can see the newspaper headlines now, "Car of Handsome Firefighter-Paramedic and Sexy Librarian Collides with Light Rail Train."

ALEJANDRO

Yeah. That wouldn't have been good.

JACKIE

Your wife wouldn't like that too much. Not to mention you would likely have been killed or severely injured. That will teach you not to drive immediately after a blow job.

ALEJANDRO

(stopping at curb near sidewalk)

Here you are.

He opens the passenger door, so Jackie can exit. Jackie steps out of the car and onto the

SIDEWALK

JACKIE

(shouting to Alejandro in the car)

Hey, I love you. I mean, I love being with you.

ALEJANDRO
(leaning over the
passenger seat)
Hey, me too.

Jackie walks along the sidewalk, noticing that her button up dress has become unbuttoned and she is walking down the sidewalk exposing her black bra and panties to a female colleague, who looks at her strangely. She immediately buttons up her dress. She looks back for Alejandro's car, but it is long gone.

INT. LIBRARY OFFICE - DAY

Jackie gets a notification on her IPHONE. She sees it's Alejandro:

"Hey, sorry I haven't responded to your messages lately. I felt really bad about being with you right before my family left on vacation to Mexico."

Jackie replies on her IPHONE:

"I figured it was something like that. Just forgive yourself or go to confession again."

Jackie sees Alejandro's reply:

"I'm coming to the library today to check on the AED I forgot to check last time. Could you let me back into the staff area to do that? Maybe we can chat a little then?"

Jackie responds:

"Sure. I will always make time for you."

INT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - LIBRARY OFFICE

Jackie lets Alejandro back into the library staff area, so he can check the AED there. When he's finished, he sits in a chair next to Jackie to talk.

JACKIE
So how was your vacation to Mexico?

ALEJANDRO
It was awesome. You should visit Mexico. I have relatives there, so it's nice.

JACKIE

My friend, Marta, has dual citizenship between the U.S. and Mexico, and she's invited me to visit her relatives in her hometown sometime. Hey, are we going to get together again soon?

ALEJANDRO

Yes. How about next week?

JACKIE

Can't. I'm going on vacation to my home state of Michigan.

ALEJANDRO

Okay. We'll get together when you get back then.

JACKIE

Hooray! I look forward to it. I have to go to lunch now.

ALEJANDRO

Let's go together. I can take a lunch today.

Jackie and Alejandro wait for a service elevator to bring them to the first floor, where they can exit the building. As soon as they are inside the

ELEVATOR

Alejandro surprises Jackie with a passionate hug and then a kiss. The elevator door opens, and a surprised student looks at them kissing.

They step out into the

HALLWAY

and Alejandro is a perfect gentleman, holding the door to walk outside.

EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - DAY

JACKIE

Where do you want to go for lunch?

ALEJANDRO

You know Downtown better than I do. How about someplace nice in Arizona Center?

JACKIE
I know this Italian place that has
great pizza and a good view at
outside tables.

ALEJANDRO
Sounds good. I'll follow you.

EXT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

ALEJANDRO
(to host)
Table for two outside, please.

HOST
Right this way.

JACKIE
Thank you. This table is perfect.

Jackie and Alejandro sit down at the table and look at the
menu.

ALEJANDRO
What would you like? To share a
pizza?

JACKIE
Exactly. I've had it before here,
and it's good. Now, tell me a bit
about yourself and your family. I
want to know more.

WAITER
(to Jackie and Alejandro)
What can I get for you today?

ALEJANDRO
We will share a pizza. And I'll
take an ice tea.

JACKIE
I'll have an ice tea too. Thanks.

ALEJANDRO
(to Jackie)
Well, I've been married 24 years
and have three sons, including one
who is in high school and another
who is at the university or soon
will be. He is finishing up some
courses at the community college.

JACKIE

Wow. You've been married a long time. Amazing. What else? You said before you're a veteran?

ALEJANDRO

I'm a veteran of the Air Force Reserve, just recently retired. I also was spokesman for the firefighters union for a decade, but not anymore.

JACKIE

That's impressive, but what I really want to know is whether your wife is a violent sort? And do your sons have guns?

Waiter walks up to the table with their food and drinks.

WAITER

And here's your pizza and tea. Is there anything else I can get you?

JACKIE

Not that I can think of. Thanks.

Waiter leaves the table and heads to another table.

ALEJANDRO

(laughing)

So to answer your questions, my wife hardly knows I exist. Like I've said before, she's more like a roommate at this point. Once my son graduates from high school, I've thought of getting a divorce. But I wouldn't do that to him while he's still in high school. I love my sons. They are good people.

JACKIE

Of course. I bet they are tall and handsome like their father. I'm sure you are very proud of them.

ALEJANDRO

Definitely. Now tell me about yourself?

JACKIE

As you probably already know, I was a leader of Staff Council, an advocacy group for university staff, not quite a union, but something like it. Did that for three years.

ALEJANDRO

Yes, I heard that you were on Staff Council. The Fire Marshal's office does a lot of work with them on the staff appreciation barbecues.

JACKIE

I've also been involved in library leadership groups. My husband committed suicide in 2014. I have no children.

ALEJANDRO

I'm sorry for your loss. That must have been tough.

JACKIE

My life now is pretty dull -- until you showed up, that is.

ALEJANDRO

Do you have family here?

JACKIE

Only my Dad in Sedona. The rest of my family is mostly in Michigan. Dad has diabetes and heart disease. That's why I took the CPR-AED Awareness class. I hope I can keep him around for as long as possible.

ALEJANDRO

That makes sense. Did you buy that condo on your own or did your Dad help you? Do you have siblings?

JACKIE

He helped me buy my condo and has been very generous to me, his only child.

ALEJANDRO

What did your Dad do for work?

JACKIE

He is a retired social work administrator. But he inherited money and made a lot of money buying and selling Sedona real estate.

ALEJANDRO

Nice. There is a lot of money to be made in real estate. I live in Anthem. I like it out there, but it's a long drive to work in Tempe.

JACKIE

I don't know how you can stand that commute. I like walking to work. By the way, I actually know the people who built Anthem. They are our neighbors at our lake cottage in Upper Michigan.

ALEJANDRO

Oh, really. It's a small world.

JACKIE

Yes. It really is.

ALEJANDRO

Are you done? I better pay the bill, and get off to the West campus, where I have some work to do today.

He pays the bill in cash and they exit the restaurant.

JACKIE

Thanks for lunch. It was nice getting to know you better.

ALEJANDRO

Sure. I hope we can be friends forever. Maybe we can get together this Saturday, before you go to Michigan. I will let you know. Ciao, Bella!

JACKIE

Bye, handsome!

INT. FOUND:RE HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

Jackie sits down at a circular bar at a boutique art hotel with a bartender named Kyle staffing it. She is a regular.

JACKIE

Hi, Kyle. How are you? I've just spent most of my Saturday waiting around for a married firefighter to message me so we could hook up. What a waste of time! I should have known better.

Kyle is a 30-something Jack Nicholson look-alike with dark brown hair. He is incredibly efficient at the bar. The bar is filled with art exhibits of a contemporary flair.

KYLE

What would you like tonight, Jackie? A Hess Chardonnay?

JACKIE

A single, handsome firefighter, but lacking that, I guess I'll take that Chardonnay.

KYLE

You look particularly good tonight, Jackie. I guess the attire was for the firefighter?

JACKIE

No, dressing up in my purple teddy and low-cut black dress is just for you, Kyle. But, yes, it originally was supposed to be for him, but he bailed on me as I thought he would. Thanks for the compliment, though.

Jackie looks around the bar for men whom she can practice her flirtation skills on. She spots a cute, 30-something guy seated next to her. He doesn't look local because of his designer clothes. Phoenix guys don't often wear designer duds.

(to young man)

Hi, my name is Jackie. What is yours?

BOGART

My name is Bogart.

JACKIE

I love the movie Casablanca. So great name. I myself was named after Jackie Kennedy Onassis. My parents loved the Kennedys obviously. I know the importance of a name. Were you named after Humphrey Bogart?

BOGART

(laughing)

I think my Dad loved Casablanca,
too.

JACKIE

Where are you from? I can tell you
aren't from Phoenix by the clothes
you are wearing. Nice duds by the
way. I like a man of fashion.

BOGART

I'm from Denver. Here for a concert
at Comerica Theater not far away.

JACKIE

Nice. How late does the concert
last?

BOGART

Probably about 10pm or thereabouts.

JACKIE

Maybe we could meet up for a drink
after the concert. Do you have
plans?

BOGART

I would like that.

JACKIE

I really have a crush on Kyle the
bartender, but so far, he is immune
to my charms.

BOGART

Hmm. If I were Kyle, I would be
into you. And I am into you.

Bogart smiles an adorable smile. Jackie smiles back, and
winks like a good cougar.

INT. FOUNDRY HOTEL BAR - NIGHT

JACKIE

Well, Kyle, ring me up. I'm tired,
and I don't think I can wait up for
Denver concert boy.

KYLE

You heartbreaker. I'm sure he will
be disappointed.

JACKIE

I just had to stand someone up,
after I was stood up myself by the
firefighter earlier today.

KYLE

I really don't know why you waste
your time on that guy. You deserve
better.

JACKIE

I do deserve better, but it's fun
for now. Besides, he's got certain
assets, if you know what I mean.

KYLE

Too much information, Jackie.
Sometimes you overshare.

JACKIE

Just a shame I won't be able to use
the purple teddy tonight, don't you
think?

Jackie thumbs the purple lingerie, pulling it out of her
black dress, and looks coyly at Kyle.

Kyle smiles, then quickly looks away to help a bar patron.
Jackie pays her bill and departs.

INT. LIGHT RAIL TRAIN - DAY

Jackie is riding the light rail train with her Dad. They are
surrounded by shady, possibly homeless men.

LIGHT RAIL TICKET TAKER

Please have your tickets ready.

(to Jackie)

Where are you headed today?

JACKIE

We are going to the Airport to head
out for a trip to Michigan for my
annual college newspaper reunion.
It's where I relive my glory days
as a college journalist.

LIGHT RAIL TICKET TAKER

Are you a journalist now?

JACKIE

No, I work at a university library. I used to be a journalist for about 20 years, back when newspapers could afford to pay people a living wage. I quit when I realized newspapers were a dying breed. Not that libraries are that lucrative. But at least I still read.

LIGHT RAIL TICKET TAKER

(chuckling)

Have a good trip!

EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

A large airplane flies through the air on a cloudless summer afternoon.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Looks around to discover that all the stewardesses on the plane headed to Detroit are blondes.

JACKIE

Wow. The Stepford Blondes of Dependable Airlines. Don't get me wrong. I'm a blonde, and we need the paychecks. But seriously, just because blondes have more fun doesn't mean they are better airline attendants. Maybe give the brunettes a chance, okay!

Young brunette woman seated next to Jackie begins to laugh and nods her head in agreement.

JACKIE'S DAD

Hey, I like it. Don't complain. Stop practicing your standup comedy lines on the airplane. I want to be on good terms with the airplane staff!

JACKIE

Of course, Mom was a blonde. You've always had a thing for blondes, like this certain firefighter I know.

INT. DETROIT RENTAL CAR OFFICE - DAY

Jackie and her Dad wait in a long line at the rental car office. JACKIE'S DAD is a 70s-plus retired social work administrator who grew up in Detroit. Finally, they get their rental car and drive off. Cue up the MOTOWN STYLE MUSIC as they head toward Ann Arbor.

EXT. ANN ARBOR STREETS - DAY

JACKIE

You told me this hotel was on the left hand side of the street, but I should have trusted my GPS on my phone. You always think you are right, but, like many arrogant men, you are often wrong. Now I have to turn around and I'm tired.

JACKIE'S DAD

It was just an honest mistake. I haven't been here in a long time.

JACKIE

Then why did you act like you knew?

JACKIE'S DAD

Whatever. There it is on the right hand side next to the restaurant.

Jackie sees an old, run-down motel with individual rooms on the ground floor.

JACKIE

This motel is awful. This is the best you could do with all your money? What are you trying to do? Teach me what it's like to be poor again like when I was a kid?

JACKIE'S DAD

Exactly. Well, I hadn't planned that, but it's a good idea. It's just because with the football game, all the good hotels are booked.

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - DAY

PANEL MODERATOR

Welcome Michigan Daily Alumni.
Thank you for coming to our reunion
event. Make sure you introduce
yourselves to the younger
journalists here.

JACKIE

(mumbles under her breath)
Ha. Like those young journalists
care what this old lady has to say.
Right.

PANEL MODERATOR

Now I will turn you over to PAUL
CASE, chairman of the board of
student publications and a recent
winner of the Pulitzer Prize for
Journalism.

PAUL

Thank you, Lisa. Thank you all for
showing up. And thank you to all
those of you who worked with me in
the 1980s era. It's good to see so
many friends here.

Jackie sits next to her friends, BILL and JEFF. The two men
worked on the college newspaper and yearbook with Jackie in
the 1980s, along with Paul.

JACKIE

Hi, Bill and Jeff. It's so good to
see you. It's been quite a while,
hasn't it?

BILL

Yes, it has been a while. Hey, what
does that button with the letters
ITMFA on it represent that you are
wearing on your shirt?

JACKIE

Impeach The Mother Fucker Already.
An artist gave it to me at an arts
event in Phoenix that I attended.
Apparently, he could tell I'm a
former college opinion page editor
with strong views on the President.

Jackie, Jeff, and Bill laugh heartily.

The moderator of a journalism panel of 1970s Daily editors on the stage of the auditorium gives them all a dirty look in an attempt to shame them into silence.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
 (to Bill and Jeff)
 Michigan Daily 1970s editors always
 taking themselves too seriously.
 Really, folks.

INT. MICHIGAN DAILY NEWSROOM - NIGHT

Alumni are gathered around the newsroom for a Happy Hour in the old, Art Deco building's second floor. There are buckets of alcohol scattered around the room and people of all ages milling about socializing.

JACKIE
 Why is it everyone remembers Louisa from our 1980s group, but few seem to remember me? I was an editor, too. Is it because I'm not a famous journalist or working at an impressive newspaper now? I had to give up journalism as it didn't pay well enough. So I just get ignored.

PAUL
 It's because Louisa has an outsized personality.

JACKIE
 Well, she is large, I'll give her that. And that hasn't changed. I remember she regularly ate a large Cottage Inn pizza by herself and wouldn't share it when we were roommates.

PAUL
 Well, Louisa likes her pizza.

JACKIE
 So what you're saying is I'm not memorable, Paul?

Paul cocks his head to one side, but doesn't speak.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
 I can see why you were promoted to newspaper management. You know when to keep your mouth shut.

Paul laughs heartily.

ERIC

I remember you, Jackie.

JACKIE

Hi, Eric. That's nice. What's new with you?

ERIC

I'm divorced, but I have a child. I am an attorney in California.

JACKIE

Good for you. That profession sounds profitable.

ERIC

It's okay.

A handsome Asian man in a fedora hat walks over to Jackie.

KERY

Hi, Jackie. I remember you, too. I recall one night you came into the newsroom wearing cowboy boots and a cowboy hat with toy guns strapped to your hips. You started dancing to Sex Shooter on the tops of the copy tables. That is pretty hard for a guy to forget.

JACKIE

(laughing)

Exactly. That is pretty memorable, is it not?

Kery smiles handsomely, and winks at Jackie.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Okay, the men remember me, but obviously the women don't or choose not to because of my attention-grabbing antics.

PAUL

I think many women don't know what to make of you or fear you.

JACKIE

But I am a former figure skater and dancer, after all. That's what I did in high school before I came to the university.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Entertaining was my first love,
before I discovered I could force
my views on people via writing.

EXT. MICHIGAN STADIUM - DAY

Jackie talks to Paul as they walk in the crowd at a Saturday
afternoon Michigan football game.

JACKIE

Congratulations on winning a
Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the
warehouse fire in Oakland,
California. That is quite an
accomplishment.

PAUL

Thanks, Jackie. But it was a team
effort, mostly my staff that did
all the hard work.

JACKIE

It's just a shame that you had to
blame it on those adorable and
public service-oriented fire
marshals.

PAUL

But those fire marshals in that
area went to the building before
the fire broke out. They partied
there. They knew how bad conditions
were. They should have shut the
building down.

JACKIE

But then where would all those
artists live? On the streets of
Oakland, along with the tons of
other homeless people?

PAUL

Better than being dead.

JACKIE

You should have done a story on the
causes of the housing shortage
there, which prompted the people to
occupy that dangerous structure.

PAUL

Thirty-six people died, Jackie. The fire marshal could have prevented it.

JACKIE

Firefighters and fire marshals are public servants. In Arizona, their pension will likely go broke in a decade due to mismanagement and underfunding. The GOP Legislature probably won't do anything to fix it either.

PAUL

Still, people died due to their negligence in the Bay Area.

JACKIE

Being homeless on the streets of the Bay Area isn't safe for anyone either. That puts you at risk for death and injury, too.

PAUL

Okay, I will consider doing a story on the affordable housing crisis in the area.

JACKIE

I can't believe you haven't done one already.

Paul rolls his eyes at Jackie in disgust and frustration.

INT. FOUND:RE HOTEL BAR - PHOENIX - NIGHT

Jackie sits down at the bar and looks around. She sees TOBY, a bartender who used to be a firefighter.

TOBY

Can I help you, Jackie? Hess Chardonnay, as usual?

JACKIE

Yes. That's fine. Where is Kyle hiding tonight?

TOBY

He has the night off to spend with his daughter.

JACKIE

That's nice. It's a loss for me,
but good for her, I'm sure. He does
need the time off. He seems to work
a lot for a single father. I'm glad
to spend it with you, a former
firefighter. You have retained your
buff firefighter's figure I might
add.

TOBY

Thanks, Jackie. Even though I am
not a firefighter anymore, I think
I can speak on behalf of the
profession and say that we all
appreciate how you appreciate us
working stiffs.

Jackie pulls out a notebook and starts reading it.

TOBY (CONT'D)

What are you writing about today,
Jackie?

JACKIE

I'm just reading over a poem I
wrote about Kyle a few nights ago.
Do you want to hear it?

TOBY

Sure.
(reading aloud)

INSERT - THE POEM, which reads:

My favorite bartender's name is
Kyle
He has funny hair
It flips around
Like a fish in a pond
But he is attentive
And nice
And probably hasn't a love of vice
Except for encounters
With women who like rough sex
Kyle is a gentleman
In every sense

TOBY (CONT'D)

I do like that poem. You read that
to Kyle?

JACKIE

Yes. It made him blush.

Jackie suddenly laughs out loud.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

That part about rough sex is because I told Kyle that a 30-year-old that I had sex with recently after an Aerosmith concert attempted to strangle me. I thought my life was ending. It made me realize I need to stop having sex with strangers.

TOBY

Yes. You need to stop doing that.

JACKIE

Kyle told me the guy was probably just trying to bring me pleasure. Most of the women, he knows, he said, love that kind of rough sex. But not me. It was a wake-up call for me.

TOBY

I agree. You can do better.

JACKIE

I know. I will try in the future not to be such a slut. Well, except with a certain firefighter who is well endowed. For him, I make a special dispensation. Besides, he's a veteran. I'm patriotic.
(laughing)

TOBY

(laughing)

Ah. Too much information as usual, but we know you have no boundaries and we kind of love you for that here.

JACKIE

And I love this bar. I especially like the motto of this place: "Find Yourself." I have found myself writing my diary on my laptop at FOUND:RE Hotel.

TOBY

We like having you here.

JACKIE

It's great having that naked painting of Burt Reynolds in a Britney Spears wig here, too. I wish I could afford to buy it. All the art here inspires me to be creative myself.

TOBY

All the middle aged women love that painting, which is based on a Cosmopolitan magazine cover from the 1970s. Well, okay, we all love Burt, even the men.

INT. JACKIE'S CONDO LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jackie hears a ping on her IPHONE. She looks at the Connect-In notification. It's Alejandro. He says he's at her front door again. She goes to the front door and lets him inside the condo:

Alejandro walks over and hugs Jackie. Then he gives her a quick kiss.

ALEJANDRO

Hey, do you know any realtors?

JACKIE

Yes. Why?

ALEJANDRO

I am moving out of my house, and I need to find a place to live. I am thinking Tempe or around Scottsdale or in Phoenix on the border with Scottsdale.

JACKIE

Sure. I know a hot realtor named Sula. I'll send you her phone number. She also speaks Spanish like you do.

ALEJANDRO

My buddy from work has me set up with a condo to rent in Scottsdale for \$1,000 a month with a year lease. So I may go for that if it's clean. I think I can afford that.

JACKIE

Good for you. I am proud of you for being decisive and listening to your gut.

ALEJANDRO

I decided life is short. I deserve to be happy. I just need to borrow some money from my parents for the security deposit. I had a lot of money saved, but then life happened.

JACKIE

That's understandable.

ALEJANDRO

Between tuition for my two sons and this. And then my wife is a big spender, which is a real deal-breaker. I like to be financially responsible and save money. But I am done. She is always telling me I am dog shit.

JACKIE

If your parents don't loan you the money, I can probably spare it. How much?

ALEJANDRO

Just \$2,000.

JACKIE

That is no problem for me. I can help you.

ALEJANDRO

That is so nice. Thank you.

JACKIE

My Dad is a real believer in giving his friends loans that he knows they will never pay back. And by friends, I mean attractive women. (laughing)

ALEJANDRO

That makes sense. Well, ciao, bella! I have to run now.

Alejandro kisses Jackie on the mouth and exits.

JACKIE
Bye, sexy fireman.

Jackie looks sad as he exits.

INT. FOUND:RE HOTEL BAR - PHOENIX - NIGHT

Jackie sits at the bar and dabbles on her laptop while casually flirting with Kyle the bartender and drinking Chardonnay.

JACKIE
Hey, Kyle, I was at a university creative writing workshop class today reading parts of my diary and getting feedback from the group.

KYLE
That's cool. Glad you have a creative outlet.

JACKIE
One of my fellow classmates was a stripper turned writer. That's a first for me. I am not aware of having met a stripper before. Her sex scenes in her writing were excellent, by the way. I learned a lot from her.

Attractive, raven-haired, big-breasted woman sitting next to Jackie in the bar perks up when she hears the word stripper said aloud.

FEMALE BAR PATRON
(to Jackie)
Hey, what are you writing?

JACKIE
Just entries in my diary that I perhaps will turn into a movie screenplay or book.

FEMALE BAR PATRON
It sounds like you should check out this show on Netflix about a divorcee.

JACKIE
I don't have Netflix, and I don't really watch much TV, but maybe I can watch it at a friend's house.

FEMALE BAR PATRON
It's about sex and a divorced woman's love life from a female perspective. You would like it.

KYLE
I have Netflix.

JACKIE
Hey, Kyle, I'm coming over to watch your Netflix, okay?

He mumbles something under his breath that is unintelligible to Jackie.

FEMALE BAR PATRON
The show is all about love and marriage.

JACKIE
Marriage is a failing institution that enslaves women and doesn't suit most men.

FEMALE BAR PATRON
Don't say that. I plan to marry that man.

She points to a handsome, tattooed man sitting next to her. He has bulging muscles like Popeye the sailor.

JACKIE
Well, I don't know him, but he does look good.

FEMALE BAR PATRON
He's beautiful inside and out, and I plan to be with him forever.

JACKIE
I was like you once, younger and naive.

FEMALE BAR PATRON
How many times have you been married?

JACKIE
Only twice. I'm a widow. My second husband committed suicide by jumping off my high-rise when I was at work.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

The building manager who found him said he looked peaceful, but I never could bring myself to look at his body once he was dead. I think I am going to be in therapy for life now.

FEMALE BAR PATRON

(dabbing tears from her face with a tissue)

I am sorry. That is terrible. Sorry, but I am a very emotional person.

JACKIE

I am too. I cried for almost two years, but now I think I am all cried out.

FEMALE BAR PATRON

Why did he do it?

JACKIE

He was very depressed I guess. He never left a note that I could find. He suffered from bipolar illness.

FEMALE BAR PATRON

Didn't you try to stop him?

JACKIE

(laughs sadly)

I locked him up in an inpatient psychiatric facility, and he underwent lots of counseling, but his doctor took him off some anti-anxiety medication at his request. My husband felt he took too much medication, so I guess he relapsed and jumped.

FEMALE BAR PATRON

That sounds like a bad doctor.

JACKIE

I told my husband that day to take the anti-anxiety medication again the morning of his death as he still had some left and he said he was feeling anxious. I watched as he took it, but it must not have been enough in his bloodstream to stop his anxiety death spiral.

FEMALE BAR PATRON

I'm so sorry.

She is trying now to salvage her makeup.

JACKIE

I write about his death in my diary and hope to do it in my movie script and book to raise awareness of mental illness and suicide, which is a leading cause of preventable death.

FEMALE BAR PATRON

Wow. That must be a powerful piece.

JACKIE

My writing, like my life, is both comic and tragic, like most people's lives I suppose. So how did you meet your fiancée?

FEMALE BAR PATRON

I was a stripper and he was my customer.

JACKIE

Interesting. You do look attractive enough to be a stripper.

FEMALE BAR PATRON

Thank you. Want to see my new tattoos?

She lifts her shirt to show Jackie her two tattoos, including one right under her breast. Jackie, who doesn't have any tattoos, doesn't like people with tattoos. She looks at them as tramp stamps or, on men, prison or gang insignias, but she keeps this to herself. Then the stripper and her fiancée leave the bar.

KYLE

(to Jackie)

I used to be a bartender in a strip club.

JACKIE

Really? Did you have sex with the strippers?

KYLE

Yes I did.

He is smiling at the recollection.

JACKIE

Did you catch any nasty diseases?

KYLE

No, and I get tested a lot.

JACKIE

Good. Glad to hear it. Previous to today, I had never met a stripper. Now, I've met two in one day. Life is strange.

KYLE

I've known a lot of strippers. Dated them. Lived with them.

JACKIE

Wow. Interesting. I have learned a lot about you tonight, Kyle. Would you like to read my diary tonight?

KYLE

No. I have stuff to do after work. I am busy.

JACKIE

(mumbles under her breath)

I see. Hmm. I get it. Men, so hard to understand sometimes.

Jackie immediately packs up her stuff and asks to pay her tab. She pays and quickly leaves. Kyle is so busy at the bar, he doesn't even notice her leaving.

INT. LIBRARY OFFICE - DAY

Jackie picks up her IPHONE and sends Alejandro a message on Connect-In. It's her lunch hour:

"Hey, are you busy saving lives or moving out of your home? I haven't heard from you in a while."

Alejandro responds on Connect-In:

"When I went to move my stuff last Friday with my U-Haul, my family basically staged an intervention and I've decided to stay for now. I'm not sure if I should continue to correspond with you, but what do you think?"

Jackie responds on Connect-In:

"I think you should do whatever is best for you, regardless of me. Here's some well-intentioned advice: Get some counseling to determine what you really want, and not from a priest, because you are all over the place and don't make any sense."

Alejandro replies on Connect-In:
"Thank you for being so understanding."

Jackie adds on Connect-In:
"But, seriously, get some counseling. Get a personal counselor and get some marriage counseling, too. Remember that asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. Life is too short, as a paramedic should know. Make every day count."

Alejandro replies on Connect-In:
"I will take your advice. But thanks for being there in my time of need. I won't forget that. Friends forever."

INT. JACKIE'S CONDO BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jackie is on her IPHONE with her friend and fellow widow, MIGUEL, about the situation with Alejandro. Miguel is a 50-something humanist with communist sympathies.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

JACKIE

Well, the firefighter changed his mind about divorcing his wife and moving out.

MIGUEL

Of course. That is the morally right thing to do, to stay with his wife and family.

INT. MIGUEL'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT

Miguel sits on his bed and looks at his Android phone as he talks to Jackie.

JACKIE

Not every marriage should be forever, Miguel. It sounded to me like he had a lot of good reasons for leaving his wife.

MIGUEL

You would think that.

JACKIE

Yes, it serves my interests, but I'm getting whiplash from communicating with that man. He changes his mind daily. He must drive his wife crazy.

MIGUEL

"Why don't you just leave that -- situation?"

JACKIE

I don't know. I guess I must get something out of the weird relationship we have. He is a positive person who encourages me to pursue my goals and says I'm sexy.

MIGUEL

What do you get out of our relationship?

INT. JACKIE'S CONDO BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jackie stares at her IPHONE. Then she speaks:
I've known you about two years. As one who likes Russia's Putin and grieved Fidel Castro's death, I would have to say you've taught me how to be a non-conformist and stay true to my own personal values. Nice.

JACKIE

You've taught me the value of philosophy over religion for viewing my problems. You embrace Nietzsche over, say, Jesus, and I can relate to that approach. You've taught me the value of respect and manners, too.

MIGUEL

Those are all good things.

Jackie smiles back at her IPHONE:

JACKIE

Yes, they are.

MIGUEL

That makes me smile.

JACKIE

While the firefighter has made me feel positive about myself and my sexuality, he has also done me harm in terms of making me want to engage in bad revenge hookups, bad karma, and sleepless nights. While you, Miguel, have for the most part brought good things into my life: friendship, kindness, and good advice.

END OF INTERCUT

INT. JACKIE'S NEIGHBOR'S CONDO UNIT - DAY

Jackie knocks on the door of her condo neighbor and friend, SULA, an attractive, 50-something Ecuadoran native. Her condo is in the same building as Jackie's, just one floor above.

JACKIE

Wow, Sula, your place is amazing. I can tell that you are studying interior design.

SULA

Thank you, Jackie.

JACKIE

I just brought you a thank you card and some flowers for taking me to the dentist the other day for my dental surgery.

SULA

You are welcome. My pleasure. Say, do you want to take a walk outside in Hance Park while we talk? It's a beautiful day.

JACKIE
You know, Sula, that's a great
idea.

Jackie and Sula walk DOWNSTAIRS

And exit to

EXT. MARGARET HANCE PARK - DAY

JACKIE
(walking with Sula as she
talks)
I just realized something recently.
You remember how I was in lust with
that firefighter?

SULA
How could I forget that. You showed
me that magazine essay you wrote
confessing it.

JACKIE
Right. He did inspire me to write
for some reason. He was definitely
my muse. But I realized that
generally, I am probably better off
by myself. I do more things that
are better for my happiness when I
am on my own now.

SULA
Oh, yes. I understand. I know
exactly what you are talking about.
I recently broke up with my
boyfriend of ten years. Now, I'm
really enjoying interior design
school and my real estate job.

JACKIE
Me on the prowl with that
firefighter was like a cat rolling
around in catnip, but perhaps all
good times have to come to an end.
Did you ev

SULA
I just worry you will get burned.

JACKIE
An affair with him could damage my
reputation at work or hurt my
career.

SULA

Possibly. But who was it who said,
"Well behaved women seldom make
history."

JACKIE

I think it was a Harvard University
history professor named Laurel
Thatcher Ulrich. She wrote a lot of
books about early American women's
history.

SULA

Ah, that's where it comes from.
Good to know.

JACKIE

Anyway, I just feel like a woman
thwarted in love and her ambitions
by a paternalistic and misogynistic
society. It makes me feel like
seeking revenge through sex with
those who don't love me.

SULA

But that sounds so tragic and
unproductive. How does revenge sex
benefit you?

JACKIE

I'm not sure I'm conscious of that,
other than giving me pleasure in
the moment. But it causes pain to
others, such as the firefighter's
wife and family. I hate causing
others pain. I am a social worker's
daughter, after all.

SULA

Yes, you don't seem like that kind
of person by nature.

JACKIE

My friend, Miguel, whom you met
recently, made me think of the
Greek philosophers with regard to
comedy and tragedy. He is a bit of
a philosopher.

SULA

That's interesting. I don't know
much about Greek philosophy.

JACKIE

You know I am an aspiring standup comic, right?

SULA

Yes. Sorry I haven't been able to go to any of your open mic nights lately. I've been really busy with work.

JACKIE

That's okay. I understand. As a comic, I closely identify with the Greek Comic Playwright Aristophanes.

SULA

I haven't heard of him. It's Greek to me. (laughing)

JACKIE

He wrote a play, *Lysistrata*, in which the women of Greece withhold sex from their husbands to get them to stop warring.

SULA

I'd like to see that play. Sounds funny.

JACKIE

The playwright is a big believer that we are all searching for our better halves, our soulmates who will make us whole.

SULA

Fascinating. That's probably true.

JACKIE

Perhaps I want the firefighter-paramedic because I want to be a lifesaving heroine.

SULA

Interesting. Tell me more.

JACKIE

Maybe because I wasn't able to save my suicidal husband. It's my tragic flaw. And I somehow believe if I can get the fireman to love me, I will be healed from my trauma and made whole.

SULA

Interesting personal insight. Very psychological.

JACKIE

Well, my late mother was a psychologist.

SULA

Makes a lot of sense. Just don't let that adulterer hurt you, Jackie. I don't want to see you with a broken heart, or worse.

INT. LIBRARY OFFICE - DAY

Jackie gets a notification on her Connect-In on her IPHONE.
It's Alejandro:

"Hi, what are you doing?"

Jackie types a response on Connect-In:

"Jamming to music on my Beats headphones. Why?"

Jackie reads Alejandro's response on Connect-In:

"I am coming Downtown today. Can you let me into the staff area?"

Jackie responds on Connect-In:

"Sure. See you soon."

JACKIE'S OFFICE DESK

JACKIE

Hi, Alejandro. Good to see you. How have you been?

ALEJANDRO

Good. The university keeps me really busy here running around.

JACKIE

I've really missed you. Want to get together for a private lunch at my condo?

ALEJANDRO

What? (laughing)...(pauses while he considers the offer)... Sure. It's your lunch hour now, right?

JACKIE

Of course, you know it. Do you want to pick me up in your car at the usual location?

ALEJANDRO

Yes. See you in a few. I'll message you when I'm there.

He walks out after checking the AED equipment.

Jackie walks out a few minutes later once he messages her on Connect-In.

EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - DAY

Alejandro picks Jackie up in his car at the curb. They drive to Jackie's nearby condo.

JACKIE

Are you sure you want to do this? I am feeling like I'm a real temptress for you.

ALEJANDRO

Yes. You are, but I want to do it.

He grabs his penis in his pants.

ALEJANDRO (CONT'D)

See what you do to me again?

JACKIE

I bet you say that to all the women you have rendezvous with these days? All the blondes on your Connect-In account; which means hundreds. (laughing)

ALEJANDRO

You're the only one who can do this to me.

JACKIE

(laughing)

You're such a good liar, but I love that about you. You should be a politician. That sort of talent comes in handy for that profession.

ALEJANDRO

You would make a better politician than me because you're so smart about stuff, especially politics.

JACKIE

Yes, but I'm a poor liar. I'm too honest to be a politician. I tell people what they don't want to hear.

EXT. JACKIE'S LUXURY CONDO - DAY

Alejandro parks his car. They get out and walk into Jackie's

ELEVATOR

And then step into the

HALLWAY

Alejandro walks briskly, as Jackie follows, quickly opening her condo door. Then they walk into

THE LIVING ROOM

And head quickly to

THE BEDROOM

Alejandro takes off his shirt and pants, tossing them on a nearby chair.

Jackie heads to her

CLOSET

Where she undresses and puts on a purple teddy that emphasizes her breasts and butt, but covers her stomach in lace.

Jackie returns to the

BEDROOM

Where Alejandro is standing naked gawking at her.

ALEJANDRO

Wow. I like that outfit. But I may need to take it off soon.

JACKIE

I aim to please you. What's your pleasure today?

ALEJANDRO

Can I take you from behind? My wife doesn't allow me to do that.

JACKIE

We can try that with lots of lube, because you are so large. But I'm up for anything.

He pulls on a condom Jackie hands him and positions Jackie's butt against the side of the bed. She has already put lots of lube on her private parts. He inserts his large penis in her butt.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

(grimacing)

Um. That kind of hurts how you put it in. Maybe not enough lube, as we did this so fast being in a bit of a hurry.

ALEJANDRO

Sorry. Yeah, I don't want to hurt you.

JACKIE

Let's try missionary position for now, since it's our first time having intercourse.

ALEJANDRO

Okay. That works for me.

Alejandro climbs on top of Jackie.

JACKIE

Make sure you have that condom on securely now.

ALEJANDRO

I don't really like condoms because it is impossible for me to cum.

Alejandro pumps back and forth gently making love to Jackie. Jackie moans loudly and savors the feeling of his body against hers.

ALEJANDRO (CONT'D)

Do you like this? Would you like this every morning before work?

JACKIE

Are you teasing me with this fantasy? You know that's not possible as you're married now. But, yes, I am enjoying this and would love more of it on a regular basis.

Finally, she cums loudly and he pulls out.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Did you cum?

ALEJANDRO

This was mostly for you. I don't cum in condoms.

JACKIE

Well, you did this time. Look.

He pulls off the condom, squirting semen on Jackie's bedroom carpet.

ALEJANDRO

Oh, geez. I'm sorry.

JACKIE

Don't worry about it. It's no problem. I like it.

ALEJANDRO

You're funny.

JACKIE

Do you want to cum on my face? You didn't cum that much, so maybe you could jack off on me? I'd like to watch that.

ALEJANDRO

Cool. That sounds amazing.

He proceeds to masturbate, and then squirts a liquid on Jackie's face, but he's careful to avoid her mouth. Jackie's eyes are closed after he lets her know when he's going to squirt.

ALEJANDRO (CONT'D)

One of these days, I'm going to stay overnight, so we don't have to rush. Then we can take it slow. Enjoy ourselves.

(MORE)

ALEJANDRO (CONT'D)

But working 76 hours a week,
between my job at the university
and the fire department, I don't
have a lot of spare time.

JACKIE

Wow. That's a lot of hours. When do
you sleep?

ALEJANDRO

(laughing)

I don't much. And I get up daily at
3am so I have time to get ready for
work and make my long commute from
Anthem to Tempe.

JACKIE

I don't know how you do that. Do
you know they say that if you get
less than 7 hours of sleep nightly,
it's equivalent to being drunk?

ALEJANDRO

It can't be helped. I have to work
to pay the bills, and my sons'
tuition.

JACKIE

Such a responsible, good father, a
reliable provider.

ALEJANDRO

Say, I've been thinking of selling
AEDs to Saudi Arabia and other
foreign nations as a business. If I
started that business, would you be
willing to invest in it?

JACKIE

(grinning)

Depends on my return on investment.
Like whether it would grant me more
access and time with you.

HALLWAY

A contractor knocks on Jackie's door.

Hey, we're right outside. Let us
know when you're ready for us to
start the work on your doorway.

BEDROOM

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Oh, shit! I forgot that I have contractors here to work on my doorway. It's better this way, so I don't have to go back in to work after our hookup. You can just leave without me.

Alejandro and Jackie quickly get up. Alejandro hands Jackie a towel from her bathroom to wipe herself down. They quickly get dressed.

Then Alejandro heads to the

LIVING ROOM

Alejandro sits on Jackie's black leather sofa looking at messages on his IPHONE as Jackie opens the front door of her condo. The contractors have the front door blocked off, as they are going to do some work on it.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Hey, can you let my friend out first. He has to leave now.

CONTRACTOR

Yes, that's no problem.

They move their equipment briefly out of the doorway, so Alejandro can leave the condo. He exits.

JACKIE

(to contractor)

I really have to give up on married men. It's over so fast.

INT. LIBRARY OFFICE - DAY

INTERCUT - PHONE CALL

Jackie sees she has a phone call from Alejandro.

ALEJANDRO

Hey, are you busy? I need to check on the AED. I should be down there soon. I'm on an upper floor now. I know you leave for the day soon.

JACKIE

Sure, but I'm going to a movie, Bohemian Rhapsody, about the life of Freddy Mercury of Queen, one of my favorite singers and bands.

ALEJANDRO

Bummer. I had time after work to get together with you. Roommate is out of town. Sure you can't change your plans? Who is this friend of yours? Is it a guy?

JACKIE

I am dating other men, but, no, this is a librarian friend, Elaine. We often go to movies together. We are movie buffs.

ALEJANDRO

I will just stop by quickly to say hello and then I have the Fire Marshal's truck. I can give you a ride to meet your friend at the Arizona Center Theaters, okay?

JACKIE

That sounds awesome. See you soon. I will wait, but don't be too late. I have to meet Elaine by 4pm.

ALEJANDRO

It won't be too long. I'm not far away. See you soon, bella!

INT. LIBRARY OFFICE - DAY

Alejandro walks into the Downtown Library. A student worker lets him back into the staff area, where Jackie is waiting at her desk for him. It's past quitting time for her, so she is eager to leave work.

ALEJANDRO

Hi, Jackie. How are you?

JACKIE

In a hurry to get out of here today since I was supposed to leave a few minutes ago. Are you ready? Check the AED, and let's go. I want to see this Fire Marshal's truck. Sounds cool.

He quickly checks the safety equipment and comes back to Jackie's desk to pick her up.

ALEJANDRO

Let's go. I'm ready.

They head to the service elevator together to exit the basement office.

ELEVATOR

Alejandro hugs and kisses Jackie in the elevator as he likes to do.

HALLWAY

Jackie and Alejandro walk outside the building.

EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS - DAY

Jackie and Alejandro walk to the University Center parking garage, where the Fire Marshal's truck is parked.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Alejandro opens the truck door for Jackie to get into the passenger side of the truck. He has to move some equipment around. Jackie jumps in the truck quickly. They drive off together.

EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS STREETS - DAY

ALEJANDRO

How was your day?

JACKIE

Long. Fridays are always long and dull. I wish I could work just Monday through Thursday, but I can't afford to do that.

ALEJANDRO

Don't get me started talking about long work weeks.

JACKIE

Right. I know you've got me beat there. No contest. Hey, just drop me off on the corner of Third Street and Taylor Street. We are going to the Sheraton Hotel for Happy Hour first, before the movie.

ALEJANDRO

Sounds like fun. Wish I could join you.

JACKIE

Ha, right. You could, if you weren't married.

ALEJANDRO

(quickly changes subject)
I voted by mail today. Did you vote already?

JACKIE

I always mail off my ballot right away, so yes. It's already been counted. I tracked it.

ALEJANDRO

You can do that? How do you do that?

JACKIE

There are directions on the vote by mail ballot, silly.

ALEJANDRO

Do you think Kyrsten Sinema has a chance to win the Senate seat in this conservative state?

JACKIE

She's smart. She's played the center in her campaign. So I'd say that she has a better than average chance to win. It will be close in the suburbs. Every vote will count. I hope she pulls it off.

ALEJANDRO

I hope she wins, too.

JACKIE

This online date guy I'm seeing thinks Sinema looks like my twin. (laughing)

ALEJANDRO

Yeah? You two do kind of have a similar look.

JACKIE

I wish I looked like Senator material. We do have similarly centrist political beliefs.

ALEJANDRO

Well, here you are. Bye, bella.
Have a good evening. Maybe we can
connect later. I miss you. (leaning
over and kissing her again)

JACKIE

Hmm. Yeah? Well, that would be
nice, though it might be too late.
You certainly are a charming lover.

INT. PHOENIX BOOKSTORE - DAY

Jackie sits in the back at a reading by writers enrolled in the university's creative writing program at a local, independent bookstore. You can tell it's Christmas due to all the holiday decorations. Near the end of the program, she suddenly gets a notification on Connect-In. She looks at her IPHONE. It's from Alejandro:

"My wife says she's going to
confront you somehow. She found
some emails or hacked my email
account. Not sure. Just wanted to
give you a heads up. Remember, we
are just friends."

Jackie is eating a piece of cheese with crackers and starts to choke violently. Because it's disturbing the reading, she runs to the women's restroom. She hopes she can stop choking because she really doesn't want to call 911 right now.

Finally, Jackie stops choking, and walks back into her seat at the reading and responds to Alejandro's message on Connect-In:

"Hmm. Not sure how she is going to
contact me, but I will ask her to
defer to you about our
relationship, not me. It's not my
business."

INT. LIBRARY OFFICE - DAY

Jackie sits at her office desk, reading her email. She gets in about two hours earlier than the rest of the staff. She is looking at her email when she sees an odd reply to an email she had sent Alejandro a week ago.

Jackie had sent Alejandro a copy of her comedy resume for his feedback. She sent it to his personal email, instead of Connect-In like she usually does. Oops. Looks like the wife has read it and responded.

Jackie reads the response on her office computer monitor:

"You whore. What is your relationship with my husband? Your email suggests that it is more than friendship. You mentioned that he gave you one of his old firefighter t-shirts and shorts. I know from your resume you sent him where you work and live."

Jackie frowns. This is the day she feared would come and now it has. Tension grips her body as she ponders how best to respond:

Jackie types on her office email account:

"Why don't you ask your husband what our relationship is? Keep me out of it. It doesn't concern me. It's between you and him."

Wife's quick response:

"Did he tell you to say that?"

Jackie writes on her office email:

"I'm just a lonely widow whose husband committed suicide. If you knew how much sex I've had in the past few years, you would know I don't meet the definition of whore. Leave me alone. I've had enough trauma."

Jackie reads the wife's immediate response on her email:

"Ha. You are just a whore. You bitch. I will get to the bottom of it. You liar."

Jackie calls campus police on her office phone.

UNIVERSITY POLICE DISPATCHER
What is your emergency?

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

JACKIE

Hi, could you send an officer to the Downtown Library. I have to make an official report of a safety threat I may face that they need to check out.

UNIVERSITY POLICE DISPATCHER
Okay. I will send an officer over to take your report right away.

(MORE)

UNIVERSITY POLICE DISPATCHER (CONT'D)

Is there an immediate threat? Does a person have a weapon?

JACKIE

I don't think so, but I am not sure. I received a threatening email from the wife of a man I am having an affair with.

UNIVERSITY POLICE DISPATCHER

Okay. I will send an officer to you.

JACKIE

Thanks. I appreciate that.

INT. LIBRARY SERVICE DESK - DAY

University Police officer, a handsome, 40-something guy, walks down the stairs and up to the library service desk.

UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER

May I speak to Jackie?

JACKIE

That's me, officer. Okay, so I had an affair with this colleague on the Tempe campus, and his wife, TRUDY GONZALEZ, found out somehow. She is threatening to confront me. I don't know if she will come here or how it will play out.

UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER

We will look around the library to see if she is here. If you see her arrive, please call us back and we will escort her out. But I advise you to leave work if you can.

JACKIE

I plan to leave work, but first I wanted to make an official report of her harassment. I can send you the hostile emails she sent me on my work email. I also will file a report with the Phoenix Police as I live in that city and walk home from here.

UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER

Here is my business card and the case number.

(MORE)

UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

Let me know if anything else happens. Keep me apprised of any future threats.

JACKIE

Oh, I will, believe me. She seems pissed.

Jackie goes back to her office desk and sends out emails to the staff telling them as best as she can about the safety threats to herself without going into details of the affair. Then she sends an email to her boss KATHLEEN to tell her what happened and that she contacted the police.

Right after Jackie sends out the emails, Kathleen comes up to her and tells her that the Human Resource Manager is here wanting to talk to her in person.

Jackie's face creases with tension and she feels like she is going to have a stress heart attack.

KATHLEEN

You need to talk to the Human Resource Manager in the conference room now.

JACKIE

Now is not a good time for this. As I told you, the wife of the firefighter I had an affair with is coming after me and I feel unwell and need to go home as soon as possible.

KATHLEEN

The Human Resource Manager for the library is already here in person. Just go talk to her. You will feel better.

JACKIE

Okay, but then I will immediately go home.

KATHLEEN

That is fine. Do what you need to do to take care of yourself.

INT. LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

The Human Resources Manager sits in the conference room waiting for Jackie to say something. When she doesn't, she speaks up.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

What is going on with you lately, Jackie?

JACKIE

I have some personal problems. This fire marshal here at the university initiated an affair with me, and his wife found out. I had to call university police as she sent me some hostile emails and the firefighter says she will confront me, and I'm not sure where.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

You've been very erratic lately. I couldn't make sense of some emails you sent that were forwarded to me by other staff here.

JACKIE

I feel I am working in a toxic work atmosphere lately, and I've been stressed out by it. It's a shame that one of my co-workers took that approach to involve you.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

I understand you are unhappy with something a top level administrator supposedly said to you a while ago and that you are repeating it to others in an angry tone. You need to leave your anger out of the workplace. It's not the place for it.

JACKIE

Why don't you tell that to the top level administrator who was demeaning and uncivil to me. I don't deserve that treatment for all the years of service, all 15, that I have to this organization, years without any problems until now. I have just encountered a rough patch.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

If you are unhappy with the administrator, why don't you take your concerns to the chief librarian? I've always found him to be a good listener and fair.

JACKIE

I'm just a peon in this organization. It won't do any good. He won't listen to me. But it's not just me that this person vents her anger on, it's others, too.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

I think you need to reduce your stress level. Take a few weeks off to address your personal problems. Get some perspective. Vent to a friend outside of work. But keep work and your personal life separate.

JACKIE

I was planning on going home today. I also planned to take quite a few weeks off, but I have a lot of course reserve duties, which is stressing me out, too.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

Take the time you need. This is just a friendly talk. But more actions may come later if you don't change your behavior at work.

JACKIE

Okay. Can I go home now?

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

Yes. Go ahead. I'm glad we had this talk.

INT. JACKIE'S CONDO - DAY

DINING ROOM

Jackie sits at her dining room table reading her personal email. Suddenly, she notices she has a missed call from her condo front desk staff. She listens to the message on her iPHONE.

VOICEMAIL MESSAGE

Hi, Jackie. This is Taylor from the Front Desk. A Trudy Gonzalez is waiting down in the lobby to speak to you. Should I let her up to your unit or do you want to come down here? It's 10am Monday.

Jackie picks up the phone to call the Phoenix Police.

"Hey blondie. I am going to hunt you down and hurt you unless you tell me the truth about your relationship with my husband."

Jackie realizes she needs to call the Phoenix Police now to get advice. She picks up her phone and dials:

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CALL

PHOENIX POLICE DISPATCHER

Police non-emergency, how can we help?

JACKIE

I have a situation. I had an affair with a married man and his wife is threatening to stalk me and hurt me unless I tell her the nature of our relationship. Apparently, her husband is telling her it's just friendship, but she's not buying it. What are my options?

PHOENIX POLICE DISPATCHER

Let me send an officer to your house to take a report. She threatened you?

JACKIE

Yes. On Facebook Messenger. In writing, on my IPHONE.

PHOENIX POLICE DISPATCHER

You could get a restraining order, but that may not work, it costs money, and it involves the courts. Or you could just tell her the truth and hope she leaves you alone. But I will send an officer to take the report to make an official record of it.

JACKIE

Thanks. That would probably be best, and he could advise me some more.

PHOENIX POLICE DISPATCHER

We are kind of short staffed, so it may be a while.

JACKIE

That is fine. Have the officer phone me when he gets here, and I'll come down to get him. It's a large high-rise complex. It should be hard for the wife to reach me here now that I'm home.

END OF TELEPHONE CALL

Jackie suddenly sees Trudy's Facebook Messenger message to her about being at her condo, and types in her phone number for Trudy to call her back.

INTERCUT - TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

TRUDY GONZALEZ

Hey blondie. I am going to hunt you down and hurt you unless you tell me the truth about your relationship with my husband.

JACKIE

I do love Blondie. She's great. Some of my favorite music of the 1970s and 1980s. By the way, I have to thank you. Because you threatened me, I had to involve the university police, and a very handsome officer responded. So thank you for that.

TRUDY

You're welcome. (laughing)

JACKIE

But seriously, I am nothing to your husband. He just used me. He even asked me to do a threesome with my friend. I told him, 'What about a threesome with your wife?' He said you wouldn't like it. He loves you and wants to preserve your marriage. He chose you, not me.

TRUDY

You have no idea what I have had to put up with my husband. I don't care what he wants. I'm going to divorce him. I can't take it anymore. Did you know he was molested by a priest as a kid and got a settlement from the Catholic Church?

JACKIE

No. He never told me that. But after we had sex the first time, he asked me to go to confession with him, which I thought was really strange. I'm a lapsed Catholic. I don't care for the sexism of the church or its policies.

TRUDY

You went to church with my husband? We haven't been to church since our marriage 24 years ago. He never wants to go with me. Can you come down here to the lobby? I want to get a look at you?

JACKIE

As long as you promise not to hurt me. We have 24/7 security here, so you won't get away with that.

TRUDY

As long as you tell me the truth, I won't hurt you.

JACKIE

I don't lie. I'm not good at it like your husband. I will be right down. We can go to a corner of the lobby where there is more privacy, but keep your voice down or my neighbors will think I am crazier than they already think I am, and that's crazy.

Jackie walks to the ELEVATOR, pushes a button and ends up on the first floor. She walks to the FRONT DESK, where she sees a sexy blonde with strangely sculpted eyebrows that are raised in a threatening manner.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Trudy? I am Jackie. Let's walk over to the corner over here for some more privacy.

TRUDY

Okay. I don't really mean to cause a scene. I just need answers, answers my husband isn't giving me. He says you are just friends, but I'm not buying it. So you two went to church together, eh?

JACKIE

Yes, I did, because he seemed really to want me to go to church with him. Perhaps he wanted to go, to confess his sin of adultery. He really did seem to feel a lot of remorse at times. Maybe he has impulse control problems and needs to go to a support group.

TRUDY

Do you know a good lawyer? I can't take any more of this from him.

JACKIE

The university at the Downtown Phoenix campus has a law school that offers cheap legal services, and probably offers mediation or something like that. By the way, your husband inspired me to write a movie screenplay about our relationship.

TRUDY

Good luck with that.
(sarcastically)

JACKIE

Maybe I should compensate you something for all the pain I've caused your family if it proves to be a big hit movie?

TRUDY

Yeah. That would be nice. I hope it's a hit. I hope to take my husband for every last penny that he has. But more money from the movie would definitely help me.

JACKIE

Say. I hate to rush you, but I have an appointment and they are just about here now. It's with the Phoenix Police. You might want to leave now. I had to call them given your threatening tone of the emails and all.

TRUDY

Shit. I'm out of here. I will contact you later with more questions. Thanks for the information for now.

JACKIE

Can't really say I'm glad to provide the information, but thanks for not hurting me. I will let the police know you just wanted information.

TRUDY heads quickly out the front door and jumps in her car, driving away from the condo.

EXT. JACKIE'S CONDO - DAY

Jackie walks outside to greet the handsome Phoenix Police Officer who has come to take her threats report.

JACKIE

Hi, Officer. Sorry to tie you up, but I had this affair with a married firefighter and his wife recently found out and sent me threats on my work email and now my Facebook Messenger account. And she just showed up at my condo. I spoke with her. Fortunately, she only wanted information, not to kill me.

Jackie hands the officer her phone, so he can see the messages and threats.

PHOENIX POLICE OFFICER

It looks like you already have been messaging with her.

JACKIE

The firefighter, Alejandro Gonzalez, told me not to tell his wife the truth, but Trudy wouldn't take my advice to stick to her husband's account of our relationship. So I just told her the truth. I'm not a good liar like her husband.

PHOENIX POLICE OFFICER
I can tell from her comments versus yours (reading more of the messages) ... that she isn't as smart as you are.

JACKIE
She's a German immigrant. Not too bright. Obviously, we've been having an affair for two years and she is only now catching on to it. But she's smart enough to hack her husband's email. But I think my lover's son is an IT major at the university, so her son probably helped her.

PHOENIX POLICE OFFICER
I would be careful communicating with her too much. You don't want to get in the middle of an acrimonious divorce, do you?

JACKIE
No, I don't. I will find a way to end our conversation, though she asked me for legal advice and I gave it to her, so I think she likes me now. But hard to guess her true feelings toward me.

PHOENIX POLICE OFFICER
I doubt she likes you much.

JACKIE
True. She probably didn't enjoy hearing the truth. I wouldn't if I was her. I will take your advice and cut off communication on Messenger once I figure that out and block her phone number on my iPHONE.

PHOENIX POLICE OFFICER
Sounds like a good idea. Where does she live? Do you want me to contact her at home to tell her to leave you alone?

JACKIE
Whatever you think will send a message to her to leave me alone and not harm me. She lives in the Anthem community, TRUDY GONZALEZ.
(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

She is the wife of ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ of the Tempe Fire Department and my ASU Fire Marshal. I already filed a police report with ASU.

PHOENIX POLICE OFFICER

Sounds like you have your bases covered. I will briefly contact her to remind her that threats on social media or in person are a crime.

JACKIE

Thanks. Sorry to tie you up, officer. (smiling and flirting casually)

PHOENIX POLICE OFFICER

No problem. It's my job.

JACKIE

I'm feeling very much like I need to go jam to the music of Alanis Morissette now. Are you familiar with her music?

PHOENIX POLICE OFFICER

Yes I am.

JACKIE

There's a song of hers that details 21 things she wants in a lover. Well, one of those things is someone who works in public service. I can relate. That's why I love first responders, because they serve the public. My Dad was a public servant his whole career.

PHOENIX POLICE OFFICER

Nice. Well, I better run now to make contact with TRUDY. Be careful now. Remember what I said about avoiding getting in the middle of a divorce situation.

JACKIE

Duly noted, officer. (smiling her best, most charming, flirtatious smile)

Jackie waves goodbye, still smiling, as the officer pulls away in his squad car.

INT. JACKIE'S CONDO BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jackie, a light sleeper, pulls out her IPHONE in the middle of the night after she gets a notification. She discovers it's a Facebook Messenger message from Trudy:

"Did you have safe sex with my husband?"

Jackie looks at the clock. It's 3am. She types on Messenger:

"Of course. I'm not stupid. I'm sure there were other women besides me. But I don't have any diseases.

"If you catch something, it's not from me. It's from those other women. I'm clean and have been tested a lot.

"Besides, I haven't had sex with him for a while now and have dated other men. He just couldn't let go of me.

"Now I will have to cut you off. Police have advised me not to communicate with you anymore. Bye. Take care."

Jackie fumbles around and finally figures out how to block all further communication from Trudy on Messenger and to block her phone number on her iPHONE.

INT. JACKIE'S CONDO BEDROOM - DAY

Jackie gets a Connect-In message from Alejandro. She opens it on her IPHONE:

"Hey, don't ever contact me or my family again."

Jackie replies on Connect-In:

"It was your wife who contacted me, giving me fear for my life, not the other way around. Your family is dysfunctional. Keep your dysfunction to yourself.

"I've been traumatized enough and have my own problems. You're a Dark Knight in my diary now, not the hero I once envisioned."

Jackie fumbles around on Connect-In, and disconnects Alejandro as one of her contacts.

INT. LIBRARY OFFICE - DAY

Jackie and Alejandro cross paths as he prepares to check the fire and safety equipment Downtown and she heads to the service desk.

Jackie pounds her chest twice as she looks toward him and makes a peace sign as they pass, which causes Alejandro to stop and listen to her as she speaks.

JACKIE

I am sorry I had to talk to Trudy.
I like her, by the way. But I'm not
a good liar, never was. Do you know
that she threatened me if I didn't
talk?

ALEJANDRO

Yes, I heard about it. I'm sorry
for that. I gotta go now. I'll
communicate later.

INT. JACKIE'S LIBRARY OFFICE - DAY

Jackie sees she has an email from Alejandro after she invited him to her upcoming standup comedy gig at a big venue. She reads it on her office computer monitor:

"Hey, can we meet somewhere
private, like the second floor
lobby upstairs?"

Jackie replies:

"Sure, but I only have a few
minutes. Be right up."

Jackie walks upstairs to the second floor, where she sees Alejandro on his laptop. She walks over to him. They embrace.

ALEJANDRO

I'm sorry I won't be able to attend
your comedy gig, but I'm not
feeling it now. I have a lot of
personal problems to address. I had
to move out of my Anthem home to
live in a Tempe apartment. My sons
won't speak to me. Soon, I may be
homeless.

Jackie responds with an empathetic look and a frown.

JACKIE

I'm sorry to hear that. But maybe
my comedy show will cheer you up.
(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

If it helps make you feel better, your Anthem realtor, who is my neighbor in Upper Michigan, I hear is getting taken to the cleaners by his wife in a divorce, too, and I heard a rumor he had to file for bankruptcy.

ALEJANDRO

It doesn't make me feel better. I am not rich like him. I am a hard-working public servant with three sons.

JACKIE

Divorce and affairs happen to even rich guys, like Amazon Boss Jeff Bezos, the richest man in the world. I will mostly be making fun of Bezos and that situation in my comedy gig. Did you know he too sent a dick pic to his mistress? It was in all the newspapers.

ALEJANDRO

I haven't had time to read the news. I have too many personal problems now.

JACKIE

Do you like my comedy name? Mistress of Naughty? I'm thinking of changing it to Mistress of Love, which is more accurate.

Alejandro never responds to Jackie's remarks. But hurriedly picks up his laptop and walks away from her. She exits down the stairs and back to work.

INT. TEMPE COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

Jackie is one of about 20 comics performing at an improv comedy venue in Tempe for emerging comics. She nervously holds her index cards. She is dressed in red cowboy boots, black leather pants, and a black leather jacket with pink polka dot lingerie beneath it. She holds a large mic in her hand and braces herself to deliver her three minute monologue to the large crowd gathered:

JACKIE

It's women's history month folks. I have found that well behaved women rarely make history.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

And I have made a lot of history lately.

I had an affair with a sexy, married Latino firefighter, who sent me my virgin dick pic on my IPHONE.

I was so inspired by his fire hose extinguishing my feelings of desire, I wrote a movie screenplay - - C'Mon, Baby, Light My Fire: Or How I Caught Firefighter Fever. I had to add that alternate title at the end in order not to be sued by the musical group The Doors. I figured everyone is having affairs these days. I take my cues from everyone, from our esteemed President, to Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon and the richest man in the world.

Bezos sent his dick pics to a sexy Latinx, according to news reports. I bet that X in this case stands for super sexy and innovative in the bedroom.

By the way, I work for the most innovative college in the nation, so, like Bezos's mistress, this Mistress of Naughty Love (pointing to herself) is also innovative in the bedroom, where I have a mechanical bull that men have to last eight seconds or more on to make the cut with this badass cowgirl.

So as you celebrate Women's History Month this March, I want you to channel, as I do, all the misbehaving women of the world, from musicians Blondie, to Madonna, to Alanis Morissette, to Ariana Grande, or Ani DiFranco -- and female politicians, too.

Well, and, of course, I love music from that power blonde, Britney Spears. Because, Oops! I Did It Again should be our anthem, ladies! Oops! I lobbied for the Equal Rights Amendment before the Arizona Legislature -- in my pink lingerie. Oops! I cheated on my husband, a GOP legislator -- again.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Thank you, I am Jackie, Mistress of Naughty Love, channeling Aphrodite and encouraging all sexy women everywhere to use your power (pointing to boobs, brains, and pussy) to misbehave and make history!

The crowd, which includes many of Jackie's condo neighbors and students from the university library, erupts in applause.

INT. TEMPE BOOKSTORE - DAY

Jackie, dressed in Spandex pants and a tennis skirt, waits in line at a book signing event for an aging FAMOUS ACTRESS (Sally Field) known for her portrayal of strong women. Jackie is dressed in tennis attire, because she plans to play tennis later. Tons of mostly women are packed into the independent bookstore. Suddenly, Tempe firefighters come through the store. Jackie smiles.

JACKIE

(to nearby women in line)
Ah. I love first responders, especially firefighters. They are so ... hot! (laughing)

Group of women nearby jointly stares lasciviously at parade of Tempe firefighters going through the store.

Jackie asks one of the firefighters a question:

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Why are you here? Don't get me wrong. I'm not complaining. I love you guys.

TEMPE FIREFIGHTER

We are just checking to see that the bookstore isn't over crowd capacity for this big event.

JACKIE

Oh, okay. Of course. That's great. Thanks.

Finally, Jackie gets up to the table to greet the FAMOUS ACTRESS, get her book signed, and get her photo taken on her IPHONE. She hands her phone to the actress's assistant and greets the actress:

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Hi, how are you? Did you see the gorgeous Tempe firefighters coming through here recently to check on our crowd capacity?

FAMOUS ACTRESS

Yes, and I'd like to see more of them.

The actress smiles broadly and Jackie smiles back in tacit understanding. The assistant clicks Jackie's IPHONE, and hands it back to her so she has a photo memory.

JACKIE

(shouts to actress)

I wrote a movie screenplay inspired by a Tempe firefighter. Maybe one day you will see it on the big screen.

Jackie walks past an attractive, young Tempe Police Officer, who is making sure no one disrupts the event. He eyes Jackie. Jackie smiles back and asks him:

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Is everyone behaving themselves, officer?

TEMPE POLICE OFFICER

For the most part, they are, yes.

WOMEN STANDING BEHIND JACKIE IN LINE

(laughing devilishly)

Arrest her, officer. Tackle her to the ground, and cuff her. She wants you to do it.

The officer blushes a deep shade of red and covers his crotch and then looks away from Jackie to a spot behind him.

Alejandro walks up to Jackie from behind, startling her.

ALEJANDRO

Hey, what are you doing here? Are you causing problems as usual?

JACKIE

(grinning)

Of course. Wow. It's been a long time. I never see you at work anymore since you got your own access to the staff area and don't have to ask for my help.

ALEJANDRO

Yes, finally the access started working. Makes my life easier.

JACKIE

How have you been? Are you still married to that dominatrix? You still like to torture yourself, a martyr for the cause of a long, unhappy marriage in the name of property ownership at Anthem and pleasing your spoiled sons?

ALEJANDRO

(feigning anger)

Hey, hey, hey. You better watch yourself. But, yes, I am divorced. Happily. Mostly. I do miss my home at Anthem that we had to sell.

JACKIE

Have your sons forgiven you yet I hope?

ALEJANDRO

Not really, but they'll get over it someday. They are adults now anyway, though I'm still paying their college tuition.

JACKIE

It's a real delight to see you. You look handsome as ever. I was just telling FAMOUS ACTRESS how you inspired my romantic comedy based on my diary that I hope she will see on the Hollywood big screen someday.

ALEJANDRO

Yeah. How's that going?

JACKIE

It's almost done. It just needs a happy ending. Would you like to have coffee sometime to discuss it? There are a few things I need to work out. Like how you will top the kiss that you gave me on our first rendezvous at my condo?

ALEJANDRO

Sure. I would show you that here.
But I'm still technically on shift
now, and since I'm broke, and you
helped with that, I can't afford to
lose my job. Are you buying the
coffee?

JACKIE

(smiling devilishly and
holding her hand to her
forehead)

Of course. I've always wanted to be
your sugar momma. I'll show you how
you light my fire, giving me
"Firefighter Fever."

ALEJANDRO

(grinning and swaying his
hands back and forth low
as if he has a fire hose
he's using to extinguish
a fire)

And as your Fire Marshal, I'll show
you how to properly extinguish that
fire.