

The Engagement

Written By

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FADE IN

INT. DEVINE FINANCIAL BOARDROOM - EARLY MORNING

ANGIE HARPER, early 30's, single, attractive, accountant is meeting with her boss, the CEO, MS. DEVINE (30s).

Ms. Devine, a professional, business minded, stylish woman, built a fortune 500 company with her financial background and business acumen. Patiently sits at the head of the table waiting for Angie.

Angie RUSHES in and sits down at the opposite end of the semi - spacious boardroom.

ANGIE

Good morning Ms. Devine.

MS. DEVINE

I was beginning to grow impatient of your tardiness. (pause) Your work has been noticed and because of that, I wanted to meet with you.

ANGIE

Thank you Ms Devine.

MS. DEVINE

In front of you is a folder, of a potential client named Shaun White he is an established professional sports agent who's been having trouble managing his personal finances, so I decided to entrust you with bringing him in.

Angie thumbs thru the folder.

ANGIE

Thank you Ms. Devine, I won't
let you down.

MS. DEVINE

Ms Harper, it is in your best
interest to do everything in
your power to secure Mr. White
as a client. Any means
necessary. Do you understand?

ANGIE

Yes Ms. Devine.

MS. DEVINE

Dismissed.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATE MORNING - SAME

Angie sits at a table with LESA GAINES (early 30s),
and KARA (mid - 20s). They converse as they eat.

Angie and Lesa are accountants who work at the same
firm. Lesa has been there longer and has seniority
over Angie. Kara is a top - level editor for a well -
respected national magazine.

ANGIE

Ladies, my morning started off
with a bang!
(smiles)

LESA

Oh really? Does this have
anything to do with your
meeting with Ms. Devine?

ANGIE

Girl yes...

KARA
So how did it go?

Lesia takes a sip of her drink.

ANGIE
Well, I'm responsible for
landing a very BIG client!

LESA
Great!

Angie takes a bite of her food.

KARA
Expanding your clientele?

ANGIE
Yes, I am. Ms. Devine has taken
notice of my work.

LESA
Great.

ANGIE
Slowly but surely climbing my
way to partner.

KARA
She will not have any choice
but to give you what you want
once you show her how well you
can handle him.

ANGIE
Truer words have never been
spoken.

LESA
It's not easy to get what you
want, no matter how well you
appear to be good at it.

Angie looks at Lesa confusingly as she drinks her soda.

KARA

Well, I'm interviewing one of New York's top Italian fashion designers Ms. Luciana Esposito.

ANGIE

Hmmm... sounds exciting.. Well ladies, I have to prepare for my meeting so if you will excuse me..

KARA

We have to do this again ladies.

ANGIE

Yes, yes we do.

LESA

Angie, I'll see you back at the office.

Lesla and Kara leave a tip then leave out.

INT. RESTAURANT - SAME

Angie sits at the table, doing work on her laptop.

SHAUN WHITE, late 20s, handsome, heads straight for the table, eyes locked on Angie.

SHAUN

Ms. Harper?

ANGIE

Yes... Hi.

Shaun offers his hand. Angie stands up, smiles and accepts, but her focus lingers on his face.

SHAUN

Shaun White. Sorry, I'm late but I've had a lot of running around to do.

ANGIE

It's quite all right. I took the liberty of ordering you a drink...

SHAUN

(surprised)

Okay... well thank you but I don't drink.

ANGIE

Oh really? Anyway, did you bring your bank statements and financial information with you?

Shaun opens his case, pulls out his portfolio. Angie just stares at him. Shaun hands her the port. Shaun shifts in his chair.

SHAUN

I needed some discipline in my spending but with my work schedule it is has become very difficult for me to get my personal business in order.

ANGIE

(flirty)

No rest for you, huh?

SHAUN

Not exactly.

ANGIE

Sounds like you're a workaholic.

Angie looks over the documents in his portfolio.

SHAUN

Yes, always on the road.

ANGIE

That has to put a strain on your... significant other?

SHAUN

A little bit... my career has made things a little rocky between us but I am confident that it will work out.

ANGIE

I am quite sure no woman in their right mind would let you get away from them.

SHAUN

Yes well... Ms. Harper --

ANGIE

Angie is fine.

SHAUN

Angie... Your company came highly recommended so I am trusting that you are the right woman for the job?

ANGIE

With me Mr. White, you are in very good hands.

SHAUN

Good. It's official...

Shaun and Angie shake hands. Angie holds onto his hand as Shaun tries to politely pull away.

ANGIE

One more thing, if I may make a small suggestion.

SHAUN

Okay.

(while holding his hand)

ANGIE
Consult me before you make any
large purchases.

SHAUN
Such as?

ANGIE
A vehicle, home, maybe a ring.

SHAUN
Oh kay, I don't see that happening
anytime soon but if you'll
excuse me... I need to get going...
(releases his hand)

ANGIE
I will be in touch.

Angie sits back down and watches Shaun leave.

FADE TO:

INT. ANGIE'S CONDO - NIGHT

Angie is on the phone.

Moments later her doorbell RINGS.

ANGIE
Hold on girl...
(goes to the door)
Who is it?

Angie opens the door.

Lesla awaits.

ANGIE
Hey girl!

Lesla waves as she ENTERS.

ANGIE

(back to phone)

Kara, let me call you back Lesla
is here.

(End Call)

LESA

I came by because you never
went back to the office after
your meeting. How did it go?

Lesla sits on the couch.

ANGIE

It went great! Mr. White
is now a new client of
Devine Financial. (pause) Do
you want something to drink?

LESA

No I'm fine and good job!

Angie goes into the kitchen.

ANGIE (O.S)

-and I have some more good
news!

LESA

What's that?

Angie returns with a drink in her hand and sits down.

ANGIE

(smiling big)

Mr. White may be Mr. Right!

LESA

(confused)

What? What are you talking about?

ANGIE

Just what I said...

LESA

I thought you were done with relationships for a while?

ANGIE

That was until I met Shaun White.

LESA

Girl please... he's your client.

ANGIE

What does that mean?

LESA

It means you should handle his account and not worry about being interested in him... how do you know that he's not involved already?

ANGIE

(gets comfortable)

He opened up to me and told me that his "girlfriend" couldn't handle his career and work schedule.

LESA

Okay, so what does that have to do with you?

ANGIE

It was the way he spoke to me, the way he looked at me... I could feel that he felt that there was a connection, a strong attraction between us but we maintained our professionalism.

LESA

Ang... I don't know about this, you have been doing so well after your last relationship. You may be reading a little too much into this.

ANGIE

So you're indirectly trying to tell me that what happened between us today wasn't real... that you, Lesa, should be the only one who's happy.

LESA

That's not what I am saying at all... First of all, you just met him... Second of all, he's your client... and lastly you can't compare my relationship to someone you just met -- for business.

ANGIE

(pauses)

Ohhh I get it now... so Angie finally meets the man for her and you wanna tell me that I should only worry about being his accountant?

LESA

That's what you are -- his accountant -- not a love interest.

ANGIE

(stands up)

NEWSFLASH LESA! You have been in a relationship for five years... five years... and your "man," hasn't proposed to you yet! Now you have the nerve to look down on me and tell me how my love life should go? (beat) I can't believe you... you don't even have a ring on your finger... Maybe I'll take you serious when your man shows that you are worth marrying... until then, I'll handle things my way with Shaun and I can assure you that we will be married before you two are!

Lesa is visibly upset.

LESA

You'll be married before me?
It sounds to much like you're
trying to compete with me.
Again Angie, you don't want
to make this mistake and
attacking me isn't something
you want to do either...

ANGIE

Well don't tell me what I should
be doing in my love life... as
a matter of fact, I think you
should be going...

LESA

Fine.

Lesa grabs her things and leaves.

A FEW DAYS LATER

INT. DEVINE FINANCIAL - DAY

Ms. Devine, coffee and bag in hand is interrupted
by Lesa, on her way to the elevator.

LESA

Ms. Devine!

Lesa runs up to her.

MS DEVINE

(walking briskly)

Yes Lesa, I'm on my way out.

LESA

I know and I apologize but I
needed to speak to you about
Angie...

Ms. Devine impatiently stops and turns around.

MS. DEVINE

Make it quick, what about her?

LESA

I believe that she is acting
inappropriately with her new
client...

MS. DEVINE

With Mr. Shaun White?

LESA

Yes...

MS. DEVINE

What do you mean inappropriately?

LESA

From a conversation that we had,
she expressed feelings outside
of the client relationship.

INT. ELEVATOR - SAME

Ms. Devine and Lesa enter the elevator.

MS. DEVINE

Is that so?

LESA

Yes ma'am.

MS. DEVINE

Does she not realize how this could potentially damage her career and ruin the reputation of the company?

LESA

I tried to let her know.

MS. DEVINE

She's one of the best -

INT. LOBBY - SAME

They exit the elevator.

MS. DEVINE (CONT'D)

-accountants and I would hate to lose her over her careless actions...

LESA

Yes ma'am...

MS. DEVINE

I am truly disgusted by this news and since you can't seem to get thru to her, I will.

DISSOLVE TO:

I/E. OFFICE/HOME/OUTSIDE - MONTAGE

Over the next few weeks Angie and Shaun are seen working together on his account.

Angie reviews his paperwork and sees a purchase Tiffany's Jewelry Store.

Angie is in Tiffany's viewing and trying on engagement rings.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Angie and Kara walk down the street near Angie's home.

ANGIE

Kara, I really feel like he is the one.

KARA

Angie, don't you think that this maybe happening a little to fast?

ANGIE

No not at all. I deserve this.

KARA

I'm not saying that you don't Ang, I'm just saying that relationships that are rushed often crash and burn.

ANGIE

I'm not stupid Kara, I know they do but he made a purchase of \$43,000.00 from Tiffany's Kara.

KARA
Tiffany's?

ANGIE
Yes.

KARA
Angie, I love you like a sister
it just would be great if you
two knew more about each other.
I -

ANGIE
(interrupts)
We know enough about each other,
thank you... You know what?
Goodbye Kara.

Angie departs from Kara to her condo.

INT. DEVINE FINANCIAL - MORNING

Angie walks in with her briefcase and newspaper ready
to start her day, on her way to her office.

As Angie passes the receptionist.

RECEPTIONIST
Angie, Ms. Devine would like
to see you in her office.

ANGIE
(slows her walk)
Hmmm... okay...

Angie proceeds to Ms. Devine's office.

INT. OFFICE - SAME

Angie knocks on Ms. Devine's door as she opens it.

ANGIE
Ms. Devine?

Ms. Devine is on the phone. She ends the call when Angie enters.

MS. DEVINE
Right, and I will speak to you
later on this evening.
(hangs up)
Have a seat Angie.

Angie sits in the chair in front of Ms. Devine.

MS. DEVINE
I am hearing some things about
your professionalism that I am
not happy with and it involves
Mr. Shaun White.

ANGIE
I'm not understanding.

Ms. Devine gets up from behind her desk and sits
on the front of Angie.

MS. DEVINE
This is not an industry welcomed
by men, most of the top financial
companies have been built by
white men, then I come along
without having to lay on my back
to get to this position. Do you
understand what I'm saying?

ANGIE
I'm trying Ms. Devine.

MS. DEVINE
I do not want to know that my
female employees are giving
themselves to their clients
thinking that would put them
in a greater position.

ANGIE

With all due respect Ms. Devine, you told me to secure Mr. White as a client and I did that, so whatever it is that I have to do to keep him with the company I will.

MS. DEVINE

Ms. Harper, need I remind you that even though you are a great employee, women like you come a dime a dozen. My name carries a lot of weight and I will be damned if I let anyone on my team who's "hot in the pants" ruin what I have built.

ANGIE

Ms. Devine, I understand but unlike any other accountant my work speaks for itself and it speaks volumes.

MS. DEVINE

Remember whom you are speaking too so take the attitude out your voice, straighten up your act because I do not want to have this discussion with you again... This conversation is over.

INT. ANGIE'S CONDO - NIGHT

Angie relaxes on her couch reviewing some papers when she is interrupted by a phone call.

ANGIE

Hello...

-SHAUN-

Hey Angie... it's Shaun...

ANGIE
(smiling)
Hello Shaun...

-SHAUN-
You called me?

ANGIE
I wanted to talk to you about
the \$43,000.00 purchase that I
saw charged to your account and
I thought that we had agreed
on you not making that kind of
purchase without consulting me.

-SHAUN-
Yea - well I'll be back in
town tonight and I was going
to talk to you about that.

ANGIE
You can tell me now...

-SHAUN-
It's a surprise that I wanted
to share with you in person...
can I stop by?

ANGIE
(smiles)
Sure.

INT. ANGIE'S CONDO - LATER

Angie dressed in a pantsuit without a blouse, just
a bra, straightens up her place awaiting the arrival
of Shaun.

A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Doorbell RINGS.

Angie hurries to the door, stops at her mirror, unbuttons her top to show cleavage.

Angie OPENS the door.

Shaun walks in smiling. Dressed in a blue suit, white shirt unbuttoned without the tie.

SHAUN

Hey Angie...

ANGIE

Hello... Come in.

SHAUN

(walks in)

Nice place you have here.

ANGIE

Thank you.

SHAUN

(nervous)

May I sit?

ANGIE

Sure.

They walk to the couch and sit down.

ANGIE

I'm glad that you made it home safely from traveling.

SHAUN

It's been hectic but it looks like we will be adding more players to our client list.

ANGIE

Congrats... I think we need to celebrate...

SHAUN

Well before we do that... I have something that I wanted to share with you.

Angie sits attentively.

Shaun goes into his pocket and pulls out a box.

Angie tries to hide her excitement and takes a small gasp of air.

SHAUN (CONT'D)

Since I've been gone I've had a chance to think about what's been important to me... I've been to focused on building my career and material things but recently I've thought about settling down and finding the right woman to share my life with.

ANGIE

(smiling)

Go on...

SHAUN

Well having a family and being with a woman who will be there for me and work with me is very important and I think that I found her.

ANGIE

(excited)

Oh my god Shaun! Really?

SHAUN

(goes into his pocket)

Yes and I hope that she loves it.

ANGIE
(confused)
She?

SHAUN
(smiles)
Yes... take a look.

Shaun hands her the Tiffany's box.

SHAUN
Yes, I know that we agreed
on my consulting you but when
I saw this, I had to get it.

Angie holds the box... baffled.

Angie looks at Shaun then slowly opens the box.

Inside is a very big diamond ring.

Angie's eyes get wide.

ANGIE
Wow... this is very, very beautiful.

SHAUN
Not too much?

ANGIE
(takes a deep breath)
No, not at all...

SHAUN
Great! I'm glad you like it,
I'm hoping my girlfriend will
too.

ANGIE

(stands up)

You know, when I saw the purchase from Tiffany's, along with you telling me that you wanted to see me tonight, it made me feel like you were coming over here to propose to me.

SHAUN

You're kidding right?

ANGIE

Do I look like I'm playing?

SHAUN

Where in the world would you get an idea like that?

ANGIE

Well Shaun, the time that we have been spending together.

SHAUN

(stands up)

You're my accountant, that's why I thought we were meeting so much.

Shaun walks around the coffee table near Angie.

ANGIE

So you mean to tell me that you haven't felt what I've been feeling since the first day that we met?

SHAUN

What are you talking about?

ANGIE

You didn't feel the attraction that has been building between us?

SHAUN

No Angie I haven't... Are you on any meds?

ANGIE

What? Do you think this is a joke? Are you trying to tell me that what I have feeling wasn't real?

SHAUN

Angie, Angie... wait, wait, wait, slow down and calm down. This is crazy.

(wipes his brow)

I'm so lost and you're -

ANGIE

(interrupts)

I'm what Shaun? Pathetic?

SHAUN

Angie... I have no idea why you're acting like this... I came over here to share a special moment in life with you but I see that I made a mistake by coming.

ANGIE

No, no Shaun. You didn't make a mistake coming here, tonight can still be a special night for us. My girlfriends are meeting us later to celebrate our engagement.

Angie grabs his arm.

SHAUN
(pulls away)
But we aren't engaged.

ANGIE
I see, the joke's on me and
there's nothing I hate more
than to look like a fool.

SHAUN
You made yourself look like a
fool Angie so just give me the
ring back so I can go.

ANGIE
(looks at the ring)
I can't do that Shaun...

SHAUN
Stop playing Angie!

ANGIE
Tonight was supposed to be our
night and it still can be.

SHAUN
It won't be... it can't be our
night... There's nothing going
on with us, why don't you seem
to get that?

ANGIE
You're trying to ruin my night
and my life and I won't let
you!

Shaun LUNGES for the ring. Angie turns her back to
him. They wrestle for the ring.

WINE BOTTLE POV

Angie kicks Shaun off of her and falls close to the
wine bottle sitting on the table. Shaun LEAPS on
top of her to get the ring.

Angie grabs the wine bottle and BREAKS it over his head.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Kara and Lesa converse as they wait for Angie's arrival.

MOMENTS LATER

Angie ENTERS.

ANGIE

Hey ladies.

LESA

Hey.

KARA

(smiling)

Hey Ang..

Angie takes off her coat and places her drink order.

ANGIE

So what's going on ladies?

KARA

My day was eventful with Ms. Luciana.

LESA

Great.

Angie's drink is brought to her.

ANGIE

Well...

(flashes the ring)

Kara's eyes light up.

Lesia is shocked.

KARA

Oh my god Angie! That is beautiful...

LESA

It is... (beat) where did you get that from and from whom?

ANGIE

Tonight Shaun popped the question!

LESA

What?

KARA

(excited)

Oh wow! That is wonderful!

Angie smiles showing the ring off.

LESA

You're serious?

ANGIE

Getting married is not anything that I would joke around about.

KARA

He really did it...

ANGIE

Yes he did.

KARA

Say something Lesia...

LESA

(takes a sip)

I'm at a lost for words.

ANGIE

Overcome with joy?

LESA

No... overcome with disgust.

ANGIE

What do you have to be disgusted about?

LESA

With how you do things Angie.

ANGIE

Here we go...

KARA

What's wrong Lesa?

LESA

Angie, you have no idea the mistake you are making by marrying this man.

ANGIE

I don't make mistakes Lesa, I know exactly what I'm doing.

LESA

You never know what you're doing, you make these bad decisions chasing "love" and this time you're putting your career at stake... what are you going to do when all of this blows up in your face?

KARA

Come on Lesa, can we just enjoy this?

LESA

Kara, this is nothing new, you know how she is, her attitude and patterns. She's living in a fantasy.

ANGIE

Let me tell you something Lesa, my dreams are coming true... I am living my fantasy... my career is taking off, I have a man who loves and you can't stand it! I know that you went to Ms. Devine and told her about me and Shaun... you want to be where I am so bad that it eats you up but I am going invite you to be in my wedding so you can have a front row seat to my happiness.

LESA

I would never take part in your illusion of a wedding... and you were right about something, you are living in a fantasy but I am living in reality and in reality all of this will come crashing down around you and you will see that I was right the entire time!

ANGIE

This is my reality! I am engaged damnit! You will respect that!

Lesla gathers her things.

KARA

Lesla don't leave.

ANGIE

You're really going to leave during my special moment?

KARA

This is her life Lesa and we're supposed to be here for her.

Lesla gets up to leave.

LESA

Angie, this wedding is a farce and I will no longer live your lie.

(leaves out)

KARA

Wow. She's serious.

ANGIE

She's just jealous that my man proposed to me before she even got a ring.

KARA

I don't know about that...

ANGIE

I am engaged for the first time and I will not allow Lesa to ruin it for me.

KARA

Yes you are and I will help you out and be there for you, for all of your appointments.

ANGIE

I know girl...

CUT TO:

INT. ANGIE'S CONDO - NIGHT

Angie ENTERS, exhausted -- walks thru her messy living room. Picks some things up to throw in the trash. Enters the kitchen. Grabs a glass of water. She walks to her bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM - SAME

Angie gets dressed for bed.

Slides into her bed next to the dead body of Shaun.

ANGIE

Look at you, so sexy... I enjoyed
our engagement night with the
girls. You are mine forever
baby, I love you... goodnight...
(kisses his forehead)

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BUILDING - MORNING

Dimly lit room. Cold walls. A desk. A bed.

Kara ENTERS the room.

KARA

(softly)
Angie... (beat) Angie...

Angie turns over with her notebook next to her.

ANGIE

Kara?

KARA

Yes...

Angie turns around and sees Kara in a nurse's outfit.

KARA

It's time for your appointment
sweetie.

ANGIE

Kara, we were making my wedding
plans!

KARA

Okay honey, I'll let the doctor know what's going on.

ANGIE

Please take me home so I can be with my man.

Kara and the hospital transport takes Angie to the doctor's office.

EXT./INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - SAME

The transport and Angie wait on the outside while Kara goes in to speak to the doctor.

A few moments later, Kara EMERGES.

She wheels Angie in.

Kara leaves out.

ANGIE

Doctor... I don't know what's going on but my name is Angie Harper, I am a top level accountant for the Devine Financial Firm and I recently became engaged to a wonderful man who's a sports agent.
(becomes upset)
Don't you hear me talking to you? Turn the damn chair around!

The doctor slowly turns her chair around.

Angie's jaw drops when she sees that the doctor is Lesa.

LESA

Hello Ms. Harper... I know, Kara told me and it seems as though you're not making a recovery.

ANGIE
YOU BITCH!

LESA
Calm down Ms. Harper.

ANGIE
I knew that you wanted to ruin
my life!

LESA
Ms. Harper, you are a very sick
woman who needed help so you
were-

ANGIE
I had a man that wanted me, my
career was taking off and you
couldn't stand it! You're
jealous of me!

Lesla presses a button for help as Angie becomes increasingly angry.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
I had a life that you wanted!

The transporter comes in and GRABS Angie from behind and slams her into the wheelchair while Kara sedates her.

EXT. HALLWAY - SAME

Transporter wheels Angie back to her room.

ANGIE
(softly)
I was celebrating my engagement
to Shaun... Shaun White..

The transporter bends down dressed in a blue suit, white shirt unbuttoned without the tie, revealing that it's -- Shaun.

SHAUN

(whispers)

It's me Angie... you really messed
up by not giving me my ring
back... now look where you are,
time for your MEDS!

P.O.V ANGIE'S FACE - EYES WIDE

FADE TO BLACK

THE END.