

UNTITLED KESSLER/ZELMAN/KESSLER

Pilot

Written by
Todd A. Kessler & Glenn Kessler & Daniel Zelman

FINAL SHOOTING SCRIPT - 2/26/07

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. MANHATTAN - SUNRISE 1

IMAGES of the CITY, stately and serene, in the glorious morning light.

THE CAMERA SLOWLY APPROACHES the entrance to one of the City's wealthiest apartment buildings, manicured and calm.

It TRACKS into the building, through the lobby, coming to a stop at the ELEVATOR as the DOORS slide open to reveal --

A BEAUTIFUL GIRL

She's 25, terrified, wearing a DISTINCTIVE OVERCOAT over BLOODY LINGERIE.

2 EXT. NEW YORK CITY - SIDEWALK - DAY 2

The DOORMAN'S back is turned as she stumbles from the lobby, pushes her way through pedestrians. Heads turn, a BUSINESSMAN yells. She scrambles past a SCHOOL GROUP into a busy intersection where --

A SPEEDING CAB SWERVES TO AVOID FLATTENING HER

UNIFORM COP (O.S.)
I'm outside grabbin' a smoke...

3 INT. 19TH PRECINCT, MANHATTAN - OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY 3

DETECTIVE ROSARIO ORTIZ, 45, aggressive, gallows-humor, and her partner DETECTIVE DAN WILLIAMS, 40, quietly intense, watch the girl behind one-way glass. A UNIFORM COP explains --

UNIFORM COP
...she runs right into me and collapses.

DET. DAN WILLIAMS
Bloody, half-naked, wandering the streets at 7 am...

DET. ROSARIO ORTIZ
Just your type.
(to the Uniform cop)
You get a name?

UNIFORM COP
She's not responsive. All we found on her was this --

He holds up an evidence bag containing a BUSINESS CARD, tattered and bloody.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

DET. DAN WILLIAMS
(reading)
"Hollis M. Nye, Attorney-at-Law."
The rest is a mess.

PAN DOWN to reveal -- SMEARED HANDWRITING, unreadable.

UNIFORM COP
So I guess we know her lawyer.

DET. DAN WILLIAMS
Or her john.

DET. ROSARIO ORTIZ
Or both.
(to the uniform cop)
Get her some clothes.

Ortiz looks at the Beautiful Girl in the interrogation room.

DET. ROSARIO ORTIZ (CONT'D)
Who the hell are you, Honey?

TIME CUT TO:

LEGEND: "6 MONTHS EARLIER"

4 INT. OFFICES OF NYE, EVERETT, & POLK - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 4

CLOSE ON - THE SAME BEAUTIFUL GIRL. Only now she's in a BUSINESS SUIT, self-possessed, ready to take on the world.

She's ELLEN PARSONS

And she sits at a conference table across from 4 well-heeled SUITS. Junior Partner, SUSAN MARSDEN, 40, speaks first --

SUSAN MARSDEN
Ellen, I think you'll find our offer more than fair for someone just out of law school. We'd like to bring you on as a Junior Associate. 5 years guaranteed, and a starting salary of --

Susan Marsden slides over a contract. Ellen sees the number --

ELLEN
Holy shit...

HOLLIS M. NYE
(enjoying Ellen's spirit)
Damn right holy shit.

Senior Partner HOLLIS M. NYE, 62, friendly and relaxed, has been standing silently at the back of the room until now.

HOLLIS M. NYE (CONT'D)
Congratulations. You can go ahead and breathe now.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

SUSAN MARSDEN
Saying yes is going to be the easy
part.

Ellen looks at the signature page. Susan offers her a pen.
But Nye knows human nature and he just saw something...

HOLLIS M. NYE
Ellen...with whom else have you met?

ELLEN
(not one to lie)
No one, Mr. Nye. But Hewes &
Associates called me yesterday.

The air is sucked out of the room.

SUSAN MARSDEN
Wow. Patty Hewes. Good luck to you.

It's clear Susan is done with Ellen. But Nye smiles. He
likes this girl.

HOLLIS M. NYE
You might've mentioned that sooner.

TIME CUT TO:

5 INT. TAXI - DRIVING - NIGHT

5

A PAKISTANI CABBIE glances at the rear view mirror to see --

ELLEN, dressed casually now, makes out with her boyfriend,
DAVID CONNOR, 28. She sits in his lap, explaining --

ELLEN
Then I left 150 grand on the table...
(kiss)
Shrugged off a partner track job...
(another kiss)
And burnt my bridges with Nye.

DAVID CONNOR
Busy day.

Ellen puts her forehead against his.

ELLEN
That's twice the money my parents
make in a year. Combined. Am I crazy?

DAVID CONNOR
I hope so.

And as the fooling around begins anew --

6 INT. FUNKY BROOKLYN BAR - LATER

6

Young crowd after work. Ellen and David enter.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

ELLEN

Grab a booth. First round's on me.

When she turns to the bar, something catches her eye.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

What the hell is he doing here?

DAVID CONNOR

Who?

ANGLE ON - Hollis M. Nye standing at the bar, drink in hand.
Ellen crosses to him.

ELLEN

Mr. Nye --

HOLLIS M. NYE

I was told this is your spot.

ELLEN

All my secrets are out, huh? I really appreciate your offer, but --

HOLLIS M. NYE

We'll be fine. We have a lot of good candidates. It's you I'm worried about. That your boyfriend?

Ellen, a little uncomfortable, glances over at David.

ELLEN

Yeah. Why?

HOLLIS M. NYE

You two are happy?

ELLEN

Very.

HOLLIS M. NYE

Sorry to hear it.

ELLEN

Excuse me?

HOLLIS M. NYE

There won't be room for him and Patty.
There won't be room for you and Patty.
With Patty Hewes, there's only Patty.
(reaches into his pocket)
I came here for a favor.

He pulls out a BUSINESS CARD, flips it over.

HOLLIS M. NYE (CONT'D)

Sign this for me, will ya? It'll clear my conscience.

Ellen's confused. But she signs.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2)

6

HOLLIS M. NYE (CONT'D)
You're special, Ellen. But that'll
only make the fall harder.

ELLEN
What are you talking about?

HOLLIS M. NYE
Your ambition.
(beat)
Maybe we need people like Patty Hewes.
People who see their destiny in grander
terms than the rest of us. But --

Nye takes the card and writes on it as he continues --

HOLLIS M. NYE (CONT'D)
-- that doesn't mean you should go
work for her. So think about it. My
offer's still good.

ELLEN
The interview's Wednesday. I haven't
even gotten the job.

HOLLIS M. NYE
You will. Once Patty meets you,
there's no turning back. She'll see
what I see.
(hands Ellen the card)
And she'll own you.

And he's gone. Ellen looks down. For the first time, there
is a flicker of doubt in her eyes. Right above Ellen's
signature are Nye's words

"I was warned."

CUT TO:

7 INT. SILVER LIMO - DRIVING - DAY

7

Outside there's a STEADY, PELTING RAIN. In the back seat,
Senior Legal Associate TOM SHAYES, 40, talks on his cell
phone --

TOM SHAYES (ON CELLPHONE)
I'll tell Ms. Hewes.
(hand over mouthpiece)
25 million is their final offer.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
No, it isn't.

The camera moves to reveal that sitting beside Tom Shayes is --

THE GREAT PATTY HEWES

Our country's most revered/reviled HIGH-STAKES LITIGATOR.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

PATTY HEWES
They don't have the stomach for a
verdict.

8 INT. BLACK LIMO - DRIVING - DAY

8

Prominent Wall Street Attorney MARTIN CUTLER, 45, sits beside
his attractive FEMALE ASSOCIATE. She lowers the phone.

FEMALE ASSOCIATE
The answer's 'No,' Mr. Cutler.

Not what Cutler wanted to hear.

MARTIN CUTLER
Enough of this shit.
(grabs the cell phone)
Would you please put Patty on the
phone.

Now we INTERCUT the advancing limos...

INT. SILVER LIMO

TOM SHAYES
(to Patty)
He wants to talk to you.

Patty's quiet. She stares at the rain lashing her window.

INT. BLACK LIMO

TOM SHAYES (V.O. CELLPHONE)
Nothing's changed, Mr. Cutler. 150
million to settle.

MARTIN CUTLER (ON CELLPHONE)
Put her on the goddamn line!

INT. SILVER LIMO

Without turning from the window, Patty wearily holds out her
hand. Tom gives her the phone.

PATTY HEWES (ON CELLPHONE)
Yes, Martin?

MARTIN CUTLER (V.O. CELLPHONE)
You wanna be professional for a second?

A silence, then --

PATTY HEWES
Spring will be here soon. I adore
it. Rebirth. You think it's because
I'm a water sign?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

INT. BLACK LIMO

MARTIN CUTLER

I'm trying to do you a favor. You see the way the Forewoman was looking at me?

PATTY HEWES

I'm a Pisces. What're you?

MARTIN CUTLER

Who gives a shit?

Total silence on the cell.

MARTIN CUTLER (CONT'D)

Fine. Aries. April 3rd. House of the rising retrograde Mercury bullshit.
(then --)
25 million, Patty.

INT. SILVER LIMO

PATTY HEWES

Aries is a fire sign, Martin.

MARTIN CUTLER

25, Patty. Throw me back something I can work with.

PATTY HEWES

Your sign's function in life is to resolve conflict.

MARTIN CUTLER

You're right. Twenty-five.

PATTY HEWES

Guess this time you came up short.

9 EXT. NEW YORK STATE SUPERIOR COURT - STEPS - DAY

9

The two limos pull up. Patty and Martin step out. Their Associates hold UMBRELLAS for them in the pouring rain.

MARTIN CUTLER

This is charity, Patty. I shredded your experts on cross.

PATTY HEWES

Did you?

MARTIN CUTLER

You didn't prove my client was at fault.

PATTY HEWES

Children died, Martin.

She turns, starts up the steps.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

MARTIN CUTLER
Alright! Hang on!

Patty's associate, FELICIA MARQUAND, 43, bursts out of the courthouse.

FELICIA MARQUAND
Ms. Hewes, verdict's coming in.

PATTY HEWES
(to Cutler)
Last chance to get off cheap. 150.

MARTIN CUTLER
50, Patty, tops.

PATTY HEWES
Reggie Dwayne Thomas.

MARTIN CUTLER
Who the hell is that?

PATTY HEWES
A second grader and a Mets fan. You know him as Patient 61. As his immune system was being decimated, Reggie asked me for two things --

MARTIN CUTLER
75, Patty --

PATTY HEWES
That his team would make the playoffs, and that someone would punish the company that made him sick.

And Patty heads back up the steps. When she reaches the top --

MARTIN CUTLER
All right, goddammit! 150. And that's it. We're done.

TOM SHAYES
As soon as you tell it to the judge.

Tom Shayes dials a number, hands a cell phone to Cutler.

MARTIN CUTLER
(after a beat)
Martin Cutler for the defense, your Honor. We've reached a settlement.
(it pains him)
150.

He hangs up, hands the phone back to Tom. A CLAP of THUNDER.

MARTIN CUTLER (CONT'D)
You're a real hard-dicked bitch, you know that?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

Patty starts down as a WOMAN comes up the steps.

PATTY HEWES
Good afternoon, Madame Forewoman.

MARTIN CUTLER
(confused)
I thought you just reached a verdict.

MADAME FOREWOMAN
Not at Quiznos we didn't. We broke
for lunch.

Cutler looks from Felicia to Patty. He's been tricked.

MARTIN CUTLER
If you were a man, I'd kick the living
dogshit out of you.

PATTY HEWES
If you were a man, I'd be worried.

In a flash, Cutler rears back his FIST. In SLOW MOTION Patty spots it and simply closes her eyes. All SOUND cuts out.

PUSH IN on PATTY'S FACE. Peaceful. When Patty opens her eyes, the SOUNDS of the CITY return at NORMAL SPEED. She looks down at Cutler sprawled on the stairs, having slipped. Patty steps over him, and leaves. Off this Force of Nature --

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

10 INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - THE SET OF FOX NEWS' "ON THE RECORD" 10
CLOSE ON: GRETA VAN SUSTEREN SPEAKING DIRECTLY INTO THE CAMERA

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN
I've invited you on the show a hundred
times and you've never accepted. Why
now?

The camera slowly rotates to reveal

Patty being interviewed by GRETA VAN SUSTEREN.

PATTY HEWES
Actually, Greta, I thought this was
"Deal or no Deal". Where's the bald
guy?

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN
Backstage, stuffed in a briefcase.
So why are you here today?

PATTY HEWES
Because of Arthur Frobisher.

FILE FOOTAGE: ARTHUR FROBISHER, 55, testifies at a microphone.

PATTY HEWES (CONT'D)
5,000 employees lost their life savings
as a result of his actions --

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN
Alleged actions. Mr. Frobisher was
found not guilty in his criminal trial.

PATTY HEWES
No, it's a matter of public record.
Arthur Frobisher told his employees
to invest in the company, then sold
his own stock -- classic pump 'n'
dump.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN
He claims he had a previous arrangement
with his Broker to sell.

PATTY HEWES
You believe that? Frobisher made
hundreds of millions in personal
profit, while his workers lost their
pensions, 401ks, everything they had.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN
But the Government couldn't prove it.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 10

PATTY HEWES
Greta, there are a lot of things our
Government can't do.

This gets a smile from the host.

GRETA VAN SUSTEREN
And we'll be right back with high
stakes litigator Patty Hewes...

11 EXT. TELEVISION STUDIO - NIGHT 11

As Patty leaves the set, she's met by Junior Associate ANDREW
VIDA, 35, who hands her a document.

ANDREW VIDA
Tom confirmed the client reps for
tomorrow.

As Patty signs the papers --

ANDREW VIDA (CONT'D)
Wish my girlfriend could've been here.
We're huge Greta fans.

PATTY HEWES
You have a girlfriend?

ANDREW VIDA
She teaches at your son's school.

Patty takes this in, then --

PATTY HEWES
I thought you were gay.

TIME CUT TO:

12 EXT. BROOKLYN WATERFRONT PARK - THE NEXT MORNING 12

Morning breaks over the Manhattan skyline. Ellen sprints
into frame. KATIE CONNOR, 30, Ellen's best friend, trails,
running with her DOG. Ellen stops. Katie catches up.

KATIE CONNOR
(out of breath)
Okay, enough already.

ELLEN
Sorry. Was I pushing it?

KATIE CONNOR
(waves her off)
It's good. I haven't exercised in
three months.

They start walking.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

KATIE CONNOR (CONT'D)
The restaurant's killing me. I've
never worked so hard in my life.

ELLEN
You hire a staff yet?

KATIE CONNOR
Starting to. You think you could
look over some contracts?

ELLEN
Sure.

They reach David who's stretching, having finished his run.

DAVID CONNOR
(to Ellen, re: Katie)
Nice work. You actually got my sister
to break a sweat.

Ellen's cell phone goes off. She takes a look.

ELLEN
Oh my god.

DAVID CONNOR
What is it?

ELLEN
They bumped up my interview.

TIME CUT TO:

13 INT. PATTY HEWES & ASSOCIATES - DAY

13

PATTY HEWES strides into her bright modern Tribeca law
offices. She's met by Felicia Marquand.

FELICIA MARQUAND
The Frobisher Clients are ready for
you in Conference One.

PATTY HEWES
Thank you, Felicia.

REVERSE TO REVEAL -- ELLEN sitting in the reception area as
Patty approaches. Ellen stands, smiling, and --

PATTY HEWES walks right on by.

Ellen feels like an idiot. She goes to sit back down when --

PATTY HEWES (CONT'D)
(turning back)
I'm sorry, is someone helping you?

Ellen, caught mid-sit, straightens.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

ELLEN

Uh, yes... I'm Ellen Parsons.

PATTY HEWES

Who?

ELLEN

(nervous)

I'm here for the... to interview?

PATTY HEWES

(warm)

Well, good luck to you.

And as Patty disappears around a corner --

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Ellen!

Ellen turns to find Tom Shayes approaching. He extends his hand with a bright smile.

TOM SHAYES

Tom Shayes. We spoke on the phone.
Right this way.

And Tom's on the move.

A13 INT. PATTY HEWES & ASSOCIATES - HALLWAY

A13

We pick them up as Tom leads Ellen past a maze of OFFICES
and CONFERENCE ROOMS --

TOM SHAYES

-- and you won't spend your first
year buried in paperwork. Patty
believes in a team approach.

They turn a corner and run into "UNCLE" PETE MCKEE, 60.

UNCLE PETE

'Scuse me. Sorry, 'bout that.

Pete's pushing a rack of DRY CLEANING.

TOM SHAYES

Ellen, this is Uncle Pete. Been with
Patty longer than any of us. He's
the one who really keeps this place
running.

UNCLE PETE

(a nod and a smile)

Good to meet you, Ellen.

And Uncle Pete moves away.

(CONTINUED)

A13 CONTINUED:

A13

TOM SHAYES
(explains)
Dry cleaning. We've been working
24/7 on the Frobisher case. Some of
our associates haven't had a chance
to go home.

As they continue down the hall --

CUT TO:

14 INT. PATTY HEWES & ASSOC. - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

14

Patty sits at the conference table, flanked by Andrew Vida
and Felicia Marquand. She addresses her clients -- 7
FROBISHER EMPLOYEE REPS who are extremely distraught.

KAREN GONZALES, 40, the Secretarial Rep holds up a NEWSPAPER.

KAREN GONZALES
(angry)
Frobisher's lawyer called us greedy
in the Wall Street Journal.

LARRY POPLER, 62, the normally soft-spoken Custodial Services
Rep is panicking --

LARRY POPLER
On CNN he said we're the bloodsuckers!

PATTY HEWES
(calmly)
I warned you the media war was coming.

LARRY POPLER
I don't want my grandkids hearing
these lies!

PATTY HEWES
It's terribly upsetting, Larry.
Frobisher's people are spinning his
case exactly the way we would expect
them to.

KAREN GONZALES
Well what can we do about it?

Patty puts out the fire.

PATTY HEWES
First thing you can do? Stop watching
CNN. Turn off your radios, and cancel
your subscriptions. It's absolutely
crucial that the pressure and media
scrutiny don't affect our decision-
making.

ANDREW VIDA
And if any reporters contact you,
please direct them to us.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Throughout the following, the CAMERA PUSHES IN on Patty.

PATTY HEWES

I need you to understand this: We are engaging in battle with a man who will stop at nothing to preserve his fortune. High-stakes litigation can be a painful process. Frobisher will destroy us in the press. He'll attack us personally. He'll try to turn our lives upside down. And all the while, his attorneys will spin him as the good guy, the aggrieved innocent party. So we have to be patient. We have to stay strong. And most important, we all have to stick together.

(pause)

If we do that, we can win.

Patty's now in CLOSE UP. Off her determination --

15 INT. MEETING AREA - DAY

15

Tom sits across from Ellen.

TOM SHAYES

It's best not to go into an interview with Patty cold. Most likely she'll grill you on precedents for our current case, but any topic is fair game: Constitutional Law, Torts, Contracts.

ELLEN

No problem.

TOM SHAYES

We've weeded out almost 2500 applicants for this job, Ellen. You've made it this far on the strength of your scores, writings, and recommendations, but at this point every Finalist has stellar credentials.

ELLEN

At this point, does every Finalist need to pee this bad?

TIME CUT TO:

A15 INT. MEETING AREA - LATER

A15

Tom practices his golf swing. Ellen returns.

TOM SHAYES

Better?

ELLEN

(sitting back down)

Sorry. I drink too much coffee when I'm nervous.

(CONTINUED)

A15 CONTINUED:

A15

Tom presses the intercom.

TOM SHAYES

Linda? The Frobisher folders for
Ellen Parsons.

(back to Ellen)

Patty's not looking for how you handle
facts, she's looking for how you handle
yourself. How you think, how you
express yourself.

ELLEN

Got it.

TOM SHAYES

(smiles)

No you don't. When it comes to reading
people, Patty lives and dies by
Instinct.

(confidentially)

The woman's got the sharpest bullshit
meter I've ever seen. And you're at
the most difficult step, it's do or
die. If you're phony for one second,
she'll skewer you.

ELLEN

Good. Phony's not my strong suit.

And Ellen spots PATTY through the window, disappearing down
a hallway.

TOM SHAYES

(checks his Blackberry)

So it looks like you'll be sitting
down with Patty this... Saturday.

ELLEN

Come again?

TOM SHAYES

Exact time TBD. We ask that you make
the whole day available.

Ellen is visibly stricken.

ELLEN

I thought the interview was today.

TOM SHAYES

No, we couldn't set you up with Patty
until after you and I met.

ELLEN

But I can't do Saturday.

TOM SHAYES

Work it out. Patty's schedule's
impossible.

(CONTINUED)

A15 CONTINUED: (2)

A15

ELLEN

My sister's getting married on Saturday.

TOM SHAYES

All day?

ELLEN

You know you didn't just think that, you actually said it.

TOM SHAYES

Look Ellen, most people never get this chance. You want it or not?

Off Ellen --

CUT TO:

16 INT. KATIE'S RESTAURANT - DINING ROOM - DAY

16

A small, Brooklyn eatery, under construction. Katie Connor puts a crate of glasses down on the bar and starts taking inventory. She looks up to see --

Attorney RAY FISKE, 44, Southern Legal Warhorse, entering. He nods to a crew of WORKMEN as he moves to Katie.

RAY FISKE

I hear we're a little behind schedule for the opening.

KATIE CONNOR

In the restaurant business... a little behind is a lot ahead. We're doing just fine.

(wary)

You said you'd call before you came.

RAY FISKE

My boss asked me to check up on his investment. And good news, I was able to push this through.

Hands her an envelope. Katie opens it.

KATIE CONNOR

My liquor license. Fantastic. Thank you.

Fiske spots Katie's DOG.

RAY FISKE

Hey there, fella.

(pets dog)

Now, what's his name?

KATIE CONNOR

Her. Saffron.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

RAY FISKE
Got one myself. Most loyal creatures
on God's green earth. Oh, and one
more thing...

Fiske hands Katie a DOCUMENT.

RAY FISKE (CONT'D)
Need your Jane Hancock here. And
here.

Katie quickly scans it.

KATIE CONNOR
I already signed one of these.

RAY FISKE
This just clarifies your existing
confidentiality agreement. I do hate
housekeeping.
(handing her a pen)
It's standard boilerplate.

KATIE CONNOR
I'd still like my lawyer to look it
over.

When Fiske speaks, he's all smiles.

RAY FISKE
I gather there's some problem?

KATIE CONNOR
No. No problem, I just --

RAY FISKE
Permits coming through? You're getting
everything you need?

KATIE CONNOR
Yes, absolutely. You've been great.

RAY FISKE
Well, I sure am glad to hear that.
(his smile fades)
I'd hate for anything to hold up your
opening.

KATIE CONNOR
So would I.

A beat of silence. Katie is uncomfortable.

KATIE CONNOR (CONT'D)
Look, I've gotta get back to work.

RAY FISKE
By all means.

Fiske pets the dog one last time before heading out.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

RAY FISKE (CONT'D)
Good girl, Saffron.
(then to Katie)
You be a good girl, too.

Fiske walks out. Off Katie, angry she's being strong-armed --

PRE-LAP: LAUGHTER, APPLAUSE AS WE ARE --

17 INT. PARAMUS LODGE - WEDDING RECEPTION - DAY

17

CARRIE PARSONS, 30, (Ellen's older sister) stand in the middle of the dance floor, microphone in one hand, glass of champagne in the other.

CARRIE PARSONS
(sweet)
...We want to thank you all so much
for being here...

As Carrie continues, some QUICK CUTS around the room reveal a small, unglamorous, cookie-cutter wedding. Rented tuxedos. Tacky bridesmaid dresses. But the working-class crowd is warm, fun-loving.

ELLEN and DAVID sit at the FAMILY TABLE. Ellen's preoccupied.

DAVID CONNOR
You know, you actually make that dress
work.

Ellen gives him a half smile.

DAVID CONNOR (CONT'D)
You okay?

ELLEN
The one day in the year I can't
interview, and they won't reschedule.

DAVID CONNOR
They're Hewes & Associates. Nye warned
you.

They're brought out of it by --

CARRIE PARSONS
I especially want to thank my sister,
Ellen...
(raising her glass)
... who's my best friend and
inspiration in life. Even though
I've got 3 years on her, Ellie's really
been my big sister. Always giving
advice, looking out for me, and I...
(tearing up)
I swore to myself... I'd make it
through without crying...

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

ELLEN
I love you, Carrie.

CARRIE PARSONS
(smiles, wiping tears)
And there she goes again. I love you
so much and I just... I wish I could've
been a better role model...
(resentment creeping in)
... but you were always the best at
everything and there wasn't anything
you ever needed me for...
(breaking down)
But I thank you and hope you're as
proud of me as I --

And Ellen's with her now, giving Carrie a big hug.

ELLEN
Of course I am, Carrie.

As a CAMERA flashes --

18 INT. PARAMUS LODGE - LADIES ROOM - DAY

18

Ellen stands at the mirror, takes a deep breath. As she
stares at herself --

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Well, if it isn't the Maid of Honor.

Ellen turns to see -- PATTY HEWES -- enter the ladies room.

PATTY HEWES
Thought you might need a breather.

ELLEN
(stunned)
Ms. Hewes? What are you doing here?

PATTY HEWES
I had to meet you.

ELLEN
Why?

PATTY HEWES
Cause, Kiddo, you're the first person
stupid enough to turn me down.

Patty smiles.

PATTY HEWES (CONT'D)
I'm glad I'm not in your shoes. Family
toasts, public displays of affection --
absolute torture.
(offering a glass)
Bourbon?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

ELLEN

Ummm...?

PATTY HEWES

Helps take the edge off.

ELLEN

I should probably just bite the bullet.

A WOMAN enters the bathroom. Their private moment is over.

19 INT. PARAMUS LODGE - HALLWAY - DAY

19

Ellen and Patty exit the bathroom. The DJ starts a new song. WEDDING GUESTS pass by on their way to dance.

PATTY HEWES

Fun party. How 'bout you, Ellen?
You see a husband in your future?

ELLEN

Yeah, I guess. I hope so.

PATTY HEWES

Well, you know what they say: "Hope
is the thing with feathers."

ELLEN

Emily Dickinson.

Ellen takes a chance --

ELLEN (CONT'D)

That bitch'll say anything.

This gets a laugh from Patty.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Ms. Hewes, I'm sorry I couldn't make
it today.

PATTY HEWES

I understand. The Good Sister.

ELLEN

It's just that this is family, and if
I skipped the wedding for a job
interview --

PATTY HEWES

You'd confirm their worst fear.

ELLEN

Which is?

PATTY HEWES

I've been watching. They're good,
hardworking people. And they're afraid
of losing you.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

ELLEN

Wait, how long have you been here?

PATTY HEWES

They remind me of my family. You love them and you'd do anything for them. Problem is, they don't have your ambition.

Ellen gently throws this back at Patty.

ELLEN

What's the problem?

PATTY HEWES

You try to lead by example, and they want you to lead. But then they resent you for it. They put you on a pedestal, look up to you --

(she smiles)

-- Then blame you for the crick in their necks.

ELLEN

Oh, that problem.

PATTY HEWES

And yet... here you are.

(pause)

I know your resume. You worked hard to get your shot with me, but you turned it down to be with your family. Interesting choice.

Patty turns to go. Ellen stops her.

ELLEN

Ms. Hewes...is there any way I can still interview?

Patty turns back.

PATTY HEWES

It'd be a waste of time, Ellen. You're hired.

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

20 EXT. MANHATTAN - DOG PARK - EARLY MORNING

20

VICIOUS SNARLING. Quick flashes of TEETH and FUR as two LARGE DOGS try to attack each other.

As the OWNERS struggle to hold the animals apart --

OWNER #1 (O.S.)
(to the other dog)
Back off you piece of shit!

OWNER #2 (O.S.)
Don't yell at Jeter, asshole!

We WIDEN to find PATTY HEWES watching the fight with clinical interest.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
Makes you long for the reasoned justice
of the courtroom, don't it?

Patty turns to find Attorney RAY FISKE approaching.

PATTY HEWES
Didn't know you walked your own dog,
Ray. Which one's yours?

Ray looks out of frame, searches the crowd of dogs.

RAY FISKE
(points)
Under the tree. The Doberman. Yours?

PATTY HEWES
That mutt by the fence. Trying to
hump the Ridgeback.
(calls out)
Sorry.

RAY FISKE
(changing tone)
Caught you on the TV last night.
Seems foolish to get your clients'
hopes up when the government already
spit the bit. Federal prosecutors
proved nothing against my client and
heaven knows, neither will you.

PATTY HEWES
(not in the mood)
I'm at the dog park, Ray.

RAY FISKE
(retreating)
You're right, you're right.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

RAY FISKE (CONT'D)

Let's not have this get pissy like last time.

(lays out his cards)

Give me a number, Patty. Mr. Frobisher already lost 3 years of his life to a government trial. Maybe I can talk him into saving himself another 3.

PATTY HEWES

A jury will give you a number, Ray.

They watch the dogs.

RAY FISKE

You in this for your clients or to destroy Arthur Frobisher?

Patty says nothing.

RAY FISKE (CONT'D)

My guy's rich, so he's evil. You really believe that, don't you? You and the New York Times.

PATTY HEWES

And the New Testament, but who's counting.

RAY FISKE

(laughs)

You're so full of shit, Patty.

(beat)

But you know what I like most about you?

(no response)

You have no case.

Patty gives a sharp WHISTLE.

PATTY HEWES

Nice seeing you, Ray.

As her mutt obediently follows her out of the park --

21 EXT. NEW JERSEY ATV TRACK - DAY

21

The SILENCE is shattered by DEAFENING MOTORS. Polaris Sportsman ATV's race fast and dangerous.

PUSH IN ON -- The 2nd place DRIVER, in a DRIVING SUIT and HELMET, as he makes a move and blows past CAMERA.

It's CEO Arthur Frobisher and he clips THE LEAD DRIVER

Who swerves, loses control, and flips. Meanwhile -- FROBISHER accelerates, takes the lead with a shit-eating grin, oblivious to the mayhem...

22 EXT. NEW YORK CITY - MIDTOWN STREET - LATER

22

Ray Fiske walks to work. He's on his cell phone.

RAY FISKE (ON CELL PHONE)
I hate to interrupt your morning,
Art, but it's not good.
(strains)
Say again? I can barely hear you.

INTERCUT with New Jersey ATV TRACK

PARAMEDICS load the driver into an AMBULANCE.

ARTHUR FROBISHER (ON CELL PHONE)
I'm in the middle of a shit storm
here. How much does she want?

RAY FISKE
She wouldn't give me a number.

ARTHUR FROBISHER
If she's got a pulse, she's got a
price.

RAY FISKE
It's one you can't afford. She's on
a mission here, and she won't stop
till you're strung up in the public
square.

Frobisher thinks a beat, then --

ARTHUR FROBISHER
It's time you make the call.

RAY FISKE
We're not there yet, Art.

ARTHUR FROBISHER
I'm sick of this shit. First the
government, now this twat. My wife's
threatening to leave me, my kids are
harassed at school. This bullshit
never ends, Ray. I want leverage.

RAY FISKE
(worried)
Give me some time.

ARTHUR FROBISHER
Time's up. And Ray, you called them
"bloodsuckers"? Lighten up on the
rhetoric, will ya?

RAY FISKE
Art --

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

ARTHUR FROBISHER
(cutting him off)
You need me, I'm at Brewster Trauma
Center. My idiot brother-in-law can't
ride for shit.

And as Frobisher climbs into the ambulance --

23 INT. PATTY HEWES & ASSOCIATES - DAY

23

Andrew Vida hustles down the hall with Ellen.

ANDREW VIDA
Welcome to the firm. I'd congratulate
you, but I'm not that guy. Patty
wants you to dive right in.

He hands her two FILES.

ANDREW VIDA (CONT'D)
Arthur Frobisher's dossier. And his
broker Gary Genow. What do you know?

ELLEN
The government lost because they
couldn't link these two guys.
Frobisher claims he had a preexisting
agreement to sell his stock and Genow
backs him up, but that's a crock.

ANDREW VIDA
You got it. However, both Frobisher
and Genow were in Florida the weekend
prior to the selloff. Felicia and I
just got back from there.

And with that they turn into...

24 INT. PATTY HEWES & ASSOCIATES - "WAR ROOM"

24

Andrew Vida and Felicia Marquand stand before an intricate
TIMELINE of the case as they brief Ellen.

FELICIA MARQUAND
We have no case unless we can connect
Frobisher to his broker which --

ELLEN
-- the government couldn't do, even
though both men were in Florida.

FELICIA MARQUAND
...we interviewed every employee,
colleague and golf buddy within a
hundred miles of Arthur Frobisher on
the day in question.

(CONTINUED)

ANDREW VIDA

And we managed to piece together
Frobisher's whereabouts. On Saturday,
June 19, from 9AM to 1PM --

FLASH IMAGE: CLOSE ON a BALL and TEE as Frobisher drives --

ANDREW VIDA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He plays 18 holes in Palm Beach.

FELICIA MARQUAND

We interviewed club members, guests,
and employees -- no sign of his broker.

ANDREW VIDA

From 1PM to 3, Frobisher lunches with
his pals from the Fortune 500 --

FLASH IMAGE: CLOSE ON a steak. A FORK stabs it. A SILVER
KNIFE makes a clean slice revealing bloody rare meat --

ANDREW VIDA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Lobster bisque, Kobe beef...

FELICIA MARQUAND

But his broker's nowhere to be found.
From 3PM to 6PM Frobisher's in the
spa getting a full body treatment.

ELLEN

For three hours? What was he getting
waxed?

FLASH IMAGE: CLOSE ON the GLISTENING LIPS of Frobisher's
masseur as she opens her mouth, goes down out of frame --

ANDREW VIDA (V.O.)

My guess? His knob.

FELICIA MARQUAND

6PM, Frobisher flies home in his
private jet. Arrives Teterboro, 9PM,
and he's home safe and sound by 10.

ANDREW VIDA

So somehow Frobisher and his broker
communicated down in Florida -- but
no one saw them together.

ELLEN

They probably used an intermediary.
Someone could have played messenger.

ANDREW VIDA

(nods)

Unfortunately, that could be anyone
in the state of Florida. Patty's got
all her contacts in the Sunshine State
looking into it. Either way, someone
down there must know something.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2) 24

The door opens. Tom Shayes pokes his head in.

TOM SHAYES

Ellen.

25 INT. PATTY HEWES & ASSOCIATES - HALLWAY 25

Tom and Ellen on the move.

TOM SHAYES

(to Ellen)

You have a four o'clock at Bergdorf's.
Go to VIP services and talk to Suzanne,
she knows what Patty likes. But first --

They turn a corner.

TOM SHAYES (CONT'D)

Your home away from home.

26 INT. PATTY HEWES & ASSOCIATES - ELLEN'S OFFICE 26

Ellen enters, takes it in, smiles. It's a first-year
associate's office -- nothing special. But it's hers.

TOM SHAYES

Free piece of advice: don't make it
your own.

ELLEN

Okay.

TOM SHAYES

Patty doesn't want family photos,
tchotchkes, knickknacks. Don't bring
in anything you can't carry out in
one trip when she fires you.

(big smile)

Kidding. Sort of.

(points to a stack of boxes)

Frobisher discovery. Patty'll need a
full summary. She wants to see how
you write.

And Tom's gone. Off Ellen, staring at the boxes...

27 INT. PRIVATE CLUB - DAY 27

CEO Arthur Frobisher stands in front of his expansive, museum
quality wall-mounted GUN COLLECTION.

ARTHUR FROBISHER

My great-great-grandfather designed
these. He grew rich on the munition
demands of the Civil War. Started
the club over a hundred years ago. I
heard you know your way around a rifle.

Frobisher turns, he's talking to -- LARRY POPLER

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

The soft-spoken Janitorial Rep from Patty's client meeting. Larry holds a glass of lemonade uncomfortably.

LARRY POPLER

The Marines was a long time ago, Mr. Frobisher.

ARTHUR FROBISHER

These guns are all that's left of my family's fortune. The depression wiped us out.

LARRY POPLER

I didn't know that.

ARTHUR FROBISHER

I grew up with nothing, Larry. At 17, I walked out of my father's house without a dime. Bullheaded and full of pride. It took almost 3 decades, but I built my company from the ground up.

(beat)

That company meant everything to me.

(beat)

What happened to you -- to all my employees -- is a tragedy.

LARRY POPLER

Yes, it is.

ARTHUR FROBISHER

But Patty Hewes is not the answer. She's an egomaniac and she's going to lose. You know why?

LARRY POPLER

No, sir.

ARTHUR FROBISHER

Because I didn't do it. I'm a rich man. And I make no apologies for that. But I'm also an innocent man.

Frobisher is persuasive, Larry listens intently.

ARTHUR FROBISHER (CONT'D)

And I want to come to a reasonable solution on this.

LARRY POPLER

What do you want from me?

ARTHUR FROBISHER

I know you have the employees' ear, Larry, they trust you. I think you and I can end this together.

(smiles)

We'll be discreet.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2) 27

ARTHUR FROBISHER (CONT'D)
And you'll be taken care of when we
settle. All I'm asking for is a number
you think is fair.

Off Larry's face, pained, as he considers --

28 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - LATE AFTERNOON 28

Ellen enters with shopping bags. David meets her.

ELLEN
Okay, that was insane.

DAVID CONNOR
Let me grab those.

He takes her bags.

ELLEN
There were five women helping me try
on pants.

DAVID CONNOR
I'd enjoy that.

ELLEN
I'm naked and Barbara Walters walks
into my dressing room.

DAVID CONNOR
That, not so much.

TIME CUT TO:

29 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - MINUTES LATER 29

David sits on the couch as Ellen lays out her new stuff --
blouses, suits, shoes...

ELLEN
They had everything in my size, pulled
and ready to go.

She holds up the DISTINCTIVE OVERCOAT we saw in the Teaser.

DAVID CONNOR
Nice.

ELLEN
I can't wait for a reason to wear it.

She takes a small BOX out of a bag.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
Wait. This isn't mine.

DAVID CONNOR
No?

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

ELLEN

How did it get in here?

She looks up at David, senses something.

DAVID CONNOR

(playful)

I don't know.

Ellen opens it. She's beaming as she holds up --

A DIAMOND ENGAGEMENT RING.

SMASH CUT TO:

30 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

30

CLOSE ON - the RING on Ellen's finger. And that's all she's wearing. Flashes of skin as --

Ellen and David make love. It's warm. Hot. Good.

DISSOLVE TO:

31 EXT. DOG PARK - THE NEXT MORNING

31

Patty with her dog. Fiske approaches with a piece of paper.

RAY FISKE

Mr. Frobisher has a number for you.

Fiske walks away. Off Patty opening the paper --

32 INT. HEWES & ASSOC. - HALLWAY - DAY

32

Ellen and Tom on their way out.

ELLEN PARSONS

He wants to settle for a hundred million dollars?! That's ridiculous.

TOM SHAYES

It's total bullshit, but it's our duty to take it to the clients.

ELLEN PARSONS

What if they accept?

TOM SHAYES

It'll never happen. This is Patty Hewes. Watch and learn.

CUT TO:

33 INT. HOBOKEN, NJ - MEETING HALL - DAY

33

Patty and her team meet with the 7 Employee Reps. PLACARDS list their departments: CUSTODIAL SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES, I.T., etc.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

KAREN GONZALES

Why shouldn't we accept the offer?

PATTY HEWES

Because when we first met, you told me you wanted to send a message to Arthur Frobisher. Don't think for a second this settlement is that message.

(beat)

Frobisher wants this case settled before we can expose the truth.

FORMER EMPLOYEES watch from the gallery.

FORMER EMPLOYEE

You want the truth? We're broke!

KAREN GONZALES

We cannot tolerate any more outbursts!

HUMAN RESOURCES REP

100 million, Ms. Hewes, that's a 'one' with a helluva lot of zeroes.

PATTY HEWES

Absolutely, Betty. But it's also what Mr. Frobisher wants to pay to make you go away. If you want to send a message, he needs to pay a price he can't afford.

Ellen nervously spins her ENGAGEMENT RING, riveted.

PATTY HEWES (CONT'D)

Arthur Frobisher's net worth is upwards of 2 and a half billion dollars. 100 million sounds like a lot of money. But it's not even five percent of what he's worth.

KAREN GONZALES

So what's your bottom line?

PATTY HEWES

Frobisher stole your future. He stole financial security from your children, and your children's children. This offer may pay some of today's bills, but there's 5000 of you. It'll leave you with nothing for tomorrow.

(she pauses a beat, then --)

Bottom line: We have a strong case. I want to take it to a jury and let them decide what Arthur Frobisher owes you.

PUSH IN on LARRY POPLER -- the man who met with Frobisher.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

LARRY POPLER

Now hold on here a minute, people.
We discussed this. We all agreed if
Frobisher ever offered 100 million,
we'd accept it.

PATTY HEWES

(whispers, to Tom Shayes)
Did you know about this?

TOM SHAYES

Of course not.

I.T. REP

Yeah, we agreed, Larry. But she's
saying there's more money out there.

LARRY POPLER

Ms. Hewes, you're a rich lady. You
act like you're one of us, but you're
not.

KAREN GONZALES

Larry --

PATTY HEWES

Karen, it's alright.

LARRY POPLER

You work on percentage, right? More
money from Frobisher, means more money
for you. The rich get richer.

PATTY HEWES

You're absolutely right. I've made a
lot of money. I happen to be very
good at what I do. But it's given me
the luxury of taking cases I feel
passionate about. And I feel
passionate about this case.

LARRY POPLER

If we turn this settlement down, the
case could drag on for years, and we
could end up getting nothing.

FORMER EMPLOYEE

You can survive that -- we can't!

LARRY POPLER

(to his co-workers)
Let's stick to our plan, take this
money, and get on with our lives.

Some APPLAUSE from the gallery. Patty addresses the crowd.

PATTY HEWES

You know, there was a time in this
country when employees struck a simple
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (3)

33

PATTY HEWES (CONT'D)
deal with their bosses. For hard
work and loyalty to the company, they
were assured a safe and secure
retirement. And both sides honored
that contract. Today, people like
Arthur Frobisher violate that
fundamental contract because they
believe their employees are disposable.
Arthur Frobisher believes all your
years of hard work and loyalty to his
company are worth nothing. I don't.
That's why I'm here, Larry. That's
why I want to fight this fight.

LARRY POPLER
With all due respect, Ms. Hewes -- we
already agreed. I say we end this
here and now.

(raising his hand)
On behalf of Custodial Services, I
vote to accept the settlement.

And slowly, one-by-one, the other REPS raise their hands.
Ellen and Tom are stunned. Patty has lost.

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

34 INT. 19TH PRECINCT, MANHATTAN - OBSERVATION BAY - DAY 34

Ellen nervously reaches to spin her ENGAGEMENT RING. But she's not wearing it.

Detective Rosario Ortiz holds Nye's BUSINESS CARD, tattered and bloody. The Uniform Cop enters with CLOTHES and a TRAY OF FOOD.

DET. ROSARIO ORTIZ
Let her get cleaned up. We'll be back.

Detective Dan Williams raises a POLAROID CAMERA, aims it at Ellen. There's a FLASH, Williams removes the PHOTO and places it in the HANDS of --

35 INT. LAW OFFICES OF NYE, EVERETT & POLK - DAY 35

-- HOLLIS M. NYE. He stares at it as Ortiz and Williams question him.

HOLLIS M. NYE
(upset)
Her name's Ellen Parsons.

DET. ROSARIO ORTIZ
You her lawyer?

HOLLIS M. NYE
Is she okay?

DET. ROSARIO ORTIZ
Are you her lawyer?

HOLLIS M. NYE
(shakes his head)
A friend.

DET. DAN WILLIAMS
You have a current address?

HOLLIS M. NYE
Yes, certainly.
(pulling out his PDA)
She lives with her fiancé.

CUT TO:

36 OMITTED 36

37 INT. ELLEN AND DAVID'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 37

[NOTE: THIS IS THE APARTMENT ELLEN AND DAVID MOVE INTO IN EPISODE TWO.]

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

Detectives Williams and Ortiz make tactical entry, guns drawn, clearing the apt. Detective Williams moves slowly into the room. Suddenly he stops. He bends down and picks up --

ELLEN'S ENGAGEMENT RING - THE DIAMOND, SMEARED WITH BLOOD

SMASH TO:

38 INT. AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION - DAY

38

We're looking into an AWARD CEREMONY through a pair of open doors. An EMCEE is at the podium.

EMCEE

I'm please to present the American Bar Association's 2007 "National Public Service Award" -- to Patricia C. Hewes.

We hear APPLAUSE as Patty approaches the podium.

PATTY HEWES

(to the Emcee)

Thank you, George. Thanks to the ABA for this wonderful award. I am deeply honored.

(to audience)

And thank you all for being here. I wouldn't want to give up a Saturday morning listening to me, so I'll make this brief.

The audience LAUGHS. Patty begins her speech.

PATTY HEWES (CONT'D)

This is not a good time to be a lawyer. On America's "Most Depised" list, we rank somewhere between Cialis commercials and internet spam.

As the crowd laughs we PULL BACK to find Patty's legal team watching from the wings.

TOM SHAYES

(quietly to Ellen)

Look at her. Normally Patty turns this shit down. She hates awards.

ELLEN

Then why is she here?

TOM SHAYES

For the P.R.

(nods)

Most cases, you get your clients 100 mill, you're a hero. But if Frobisher gets off that easy, the whole legal world will know she tanked it.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 38

APPLAUSE. As Ellen turns to watch Patty --

CUT TO:

39 EXT. KATIE'S RESTAURANT - SIDEWALK - DAY 39

Katie exits her restaurant with a GARBAGE BAG.

KATIE CONNOR
(talking on a cellphone)
Yes ma'am, my produce is 100% organic,
locally grown...

As she puts the bag by the curb she sees a BEARDED MAN leaning against his car across the street, smoking, watching her.

KATIE CONNOR (CONT'D)
And I was trained at the Culinary
Institute --

Katie turns to head back inside, and realizes the Bearded Man is still staring. He deliberately flicks his cigarette and gets into his car.

Katie enters the restaurant, concern now on her face --

40 EXT. AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION - STREET - LATER 40

The speech is over. Patty filters out with her team when her CELL PHONE RINGS. She steps away to answer it.

PATTY HEWES (ON CELLPHONE)
There you are.

MALE VOICE (OVER CELLPHONE)
Is this the "Lawyer of the Year"?

PATTY HEWES (ON CELLPHONE)
Is this the man who kidnapped my
husband?

And now INTERCUT to meet PHIL GREY, 50's, business suit. He's Patty's second husband, and he's -

41 INT. CLUB ROOM - DAY 41

PATTY HEWES
How's London?

PHIL GREY
Is that where I am? I've lost track.

PATTY HEWES
Michael's Headmaster called.

PHIL GREY
I know. We're on for Monday morning.

A beat, then off her silence --

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

PHIL GREY (CONT'D)
I'll have a talk with Michael when I
get home.

PATTY HEWES
Another talk is gonna help?

PHIL GREY
Probably not.
(moving on)
Any headway on the witness?

PATTY HEWES
No.

PHIL GREY
Are you eating?

PATTY HEWES
More or less.

PHIL GREY
Sleeping?

PATTY HEWES
Phil, stop it. I'm fine.

PHIL GREY
No, you're not. I can hear it in
your voice.

PATTY HEWES
(end of conversation)
Fly safe. I'll see you tomorrow.

CUT TO:

42 INT. KATIE'S RESTAURANT - DAY

42

Katie Connor, upset, sits at the bar, reading her
Confidentiality Agreement. She picks up her cell phone.

43 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

43

David, in HOSPITAL SCRUBS, makes a sandwich. He answers his
cell.

DAVID CONNOR (ON CELL)
Hello?

INTERCUT with KATIE'S RESTAURANT.

KATIE CONNOR
David, where are you?

DAVID CONNOR
At Ellen's. Just got off a shift.
What's up?

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED: 43

KATIE CONNOR
We need to talk.

CUT TO:

44 OMITTED 44

A44 INT. PATTY'S SILVER LIMO - DAY A44

Tom sits with Ellen. He closes his cell phone.

TOM SHAYES
The clients want to know why Patty
hasn't accepted the settlement yet.

ELLEN
What's she waiting for?

TOM SHAYES
(worried)
I don't know.

Patty enters the limo.

PATTY HEWES
(to Tom)
Why the long face?

He doesn't answer. Patty is strangely upbeat.

PATTY HEWES (CONT'D)
Lighten up! I just won a goddamn
award. Who's hungry? I'm thinking
steakhouse. Ellen, you eat meat?

ELLEN
Sure.

PATTY HEWES
Attagirl. Tom here is a vegan.

TOM SHAYES
Only for health reasons.

PATTY HEWES
Health reasons, right. I know
everything about you, don't I Tommy?
Who's been with me 10 years this
August?

TOM SHAYES
(wary)
I have.

PATTY HEWES
And who did I trust to be my client
liaison on this case?

TOM SHAYES
You trusted me, Patty.

(CONTINUED)

A44 CONTINUED:

A44

PATTY HEWES

But who let me get blind-sided by
their intentions?

TOM SHAYES

How could I have possibly -- ?

PATTY HEWES

How could you have possibly made such
a catastrophic screw-up? Wish I could
answer that.

(beat)

Enjoy your tofu, Tom. You're fired.

TOM SHAYES

Are you serious?

Patty ignores Tom, turns to Ellen.

PATTY HEWES

What about sushi? You like fish?

TOM SHAYES

Patty, the clients purposely misled
me --

PATTY HEWES

I know a great little place.

TOM SHAYES

Listen to me --

PATTY HEWES

No, listen to me: Get out of the
car.

TOM SHAYES

This is bullshit.

PATTY HEWES

Get out.

TOM SHAYES

Don't do this, Patty. You're making
a huge mistake.

Tom exits. The car pulls away. Off Ellen's shock at seeing
Tom standing alone on the sidewalk --

45 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

45

David and Katie in mid-conversation.

DAVID CONNOR

(incredulous)

Wait a second. How do you know Arthur
Frobisher?

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

KATIE CONNOR
I catered a function for him and some businessmen.

DAVID CONNOR
When?

KATIE CONNOR
A few years ago. Then a week after the event, his lawyer called, told me Frobisher was a huge fan, and wanted to help me open a restaurant.

DAVID CONNOR
Katie, why the hell didn't you tell me you worked for Arthur Frobisher?

KATIE CONNOR
I didn't know anything about him at the time.

DAVID CONNOR
But then the government tried him, he was all over the news! Jesus, Katie, you didn't think you should mention it?

KATIE CONNOR
By that time, I couldn't tell you. I had already signed the first confidentiality agreement.

DAVID CONNOR
And now you've got some guy --

ELLEN enters talking on her cellphone.

ELLEN (ON CELL)
She needs them signed today? Okay, Andrew, I'll bring it right over.

She hangs up and and finds David and Katie on the couch.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
(off their faces)
What's wrong?

TIME CUT TO:

46 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

46

Ellen sits with Katie and David. Ellen's taking notes.

ELLEN
This function you catered -- was it in Florida?

KATIE CONNOR
Yeah. Palm Beach. How did you -- ?

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

ELLEN

Katie, this whole case turns on one weekend -- and you were there.

DAVID CONNOR

Turns how?

ELLEN

Somehow Frobisher communicated with his broker down in Palm Beach. You must have seen something they didn't want you to see.

KATIE CONNOR

But I never even spoke to Frobisher. I just cooked for him. What could I possibly know?

ELLEN

I'm not sure. But the government never contacted you?

KATIE CONNOR

No. So, obviously, I thought their case had absolutely nothing to do with me.

ELLEN

I have to tell Patty you were down there. She should interview you.

DAVID CONNOR

She can't. Katie has a confidentiality agreement.

ELLEN

A judge can override it.

KATIE CONNOR

Wait, slow down. You want me to be a witness against Frobisher?

ELLEN

Yes. If you know something.

KATIE CONNOR

He's my investor. He's the only reason I have the restaurant in the first place.

Ellen silently weighs this.

DAVID CONNOR

She's right. If she goes to Patty, she'll be screwed. She'll lose everything, won't she?

KATIE CONNOR

(to Ellen)

What should I do?

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (2)

46

ELLEN

I don't know.

Ellen's cell rings. She checks the caller ID.

ELLEN (ON CELL) (CONT'D)

Oh, shit!

(answering)

Sorry, sorry. Yes, Andrew, I'm on my way.

(hangs up, to Katie)

I have to go.

DAVID CONNOR

So are you gonna tell Patty?

47 INT. PATTY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY

47

Ellen enters, approaches the DOORMAN.

ELLEN

I'm here to see Ms. Hewes.

And we realize this is the Doorman from the TEASER.

DOORMAN

Certainly.

(turning)

Lucia, ella esta aqui. Esta es la mujer.

He nods to LUCIA QUINTERA, 60, Patty's uniformed Salvadoran maid. She has Patty's dog on a leash.

LUCIA QUINTERA

Are you Helen?

ELLEN

Um, I'm not sure.

LUCIA QUINTERA

Ms. Hewes said only to wait for Helen.

ELLEN

Then yeah. I guess.

LUCIA QUINTERA

She had to go to Michael's school.
She waits for you.

Lucia hands Ellen the address.

ELLEN

Thank you.

LUCIA QUINTERA

Goodbye, Helen.

Lucia exits with the dog --

48 OMITTED 48
49 OMITTED 49
A49 EXT. MANHATTAN PRIVATE SCHOOL - COURTYARD - DAY A49

Ellen enters to find Patty, alone, drinking coffee in the marble courtyard of her son's elite private school.

ELLEN
Ms. Hewes?

Patty abruptly turns.

PATTY HEWES
Where have you been?

ELLEN
Sorry.

Ellen gives her the summary.

ELLEN (CONT'D)
There's draft copies in the back if
you need --

PATTY HEWES
(heading inside)
I don't.

B49 INT. MANHATTAN PRIVATE SCHOOL - RECEPTION - DAY B49

Patty sits in the marble foyer outside the Headmaster's office. Ellen watches as she signs documents. Should she tell Patty about Katie?

PATTY HEWES
You're staring at me, Ellen.

ELLEN
I...sorry.

PATTY HEWES
What, Ellen. Speak.
(beat)
You think I shouldn't have fired Tom?

ELLEN
That's not for me to say.

Patty continues with the paperwork. She nods to the Headmaster's office.

PATTY HEWES
This moron always keeps me waiting.
You might as well have a seat.

ELLEN
(sitting)
Is... everything all right?

(CONTINUED)

B49 CONTINUED:

B49

PATTY HEWES
(matter-of-fact)
He's threatening to expel my son.

ELLEN
Oh. I'm sorry.

PATTY HEWES
Do yourself a favor, Ellen. Don't
have kids.

Patty keeps signing documents. Ellen waits.

PATTY HEWES (CONT'D)
I read an interview with a Nobel Prize
winner once. Physics genius, married
six times. He said don't have kids.
They ruin your ambition, keep you
from what you want in life. He said
to have wives instead. "You can leave
wives. You can't leave your kids."

ELLEN
Thanks, I'll keep that in mind.

PATTY HEWES
My son came out of me perfectly
healthy. Ten fingers, ten toes.
Everything works. I've managed to
keep him alive for 17 years, but I'm
not a good mother.

ELLEN
(feeling awkward)
I'm... sure you are.

PATTY HEWES
Kids are like clients. They want all
of you, all the time. Don't get me
wrong, I love my son.

ELLEN
Well, that's the most important thing.

PATTY HEWES
No. Love is nothing. Love's easy.
They come out of you, you love 'em.
What you do after that is the hard
part.

Ellen says nothing. Patty laughs and hands over the papers.

PATTY HEWES (CONT'D)
You know what I like about you?
(taps her own temple)
There's always something going on. I
could see it at your sister's wedding:
You don't fall for bullshit.

(CONTINUED)

B49 CONTINUED: (2) B49

Patty looks into her eyes. We HOLD on Ellen as a thought occurs to her and we're --

50 EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY/NIGHT 50

Ellen walks, lost in thought -- the city a blur around her.

MUSIC builds as she picks up her pace and day turns to night. The thoughts in her head spin faster and faster until we're --

51 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 51

Ellen enters. David is waiting up for her. Music cuts out.

ELLEN

Patty knows about Katie.

DAVID CONNOR

You told her?

ELLEN

I didn't have to. Think about it. My future sister-in-law is a potential witness in the biggest case of Patty's career.

(off David's look)

Pretty big coincidence, isn't it?

DAVID CONNOR

You think Patty hired you just to get to Katie?

Off Ellen, as the question lingers --

SMASH CUT TO:

52 INT. ELLEN AND DAVID'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM 52

PICK-UP Detective Dan Williams right where we left him -- with the BLOODY DIAMOND RING. He hears a BEATING SOUND, raises his gun and moves down a hallway toward a bathroom door.

Williams opens the door and -- a PIGEON flies out. The bathroom window is open. Relieved, Williams lowers his gun. And then he sees it --

BLOOD splattered all over the bathroom tile.

DET. DAN WILLIAMS

Jesus...

He moves into the bathroom. What he sees horrifies him --

DET. DAN WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Ortiz, get your ass over here!

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

53 INT. 89TH STREET STABLES - DAY

53

Ellen stands with Tom Shayes as he watches his DAUGHTER, 8, in a horseback riding lesson.

TOM SHAYES

You want to know if Patty knew about your friend before she hired you?

ELLEN

I know I sound paranoid, but you're the only one I can trust.

TOM SHAYES

No, you sound smart.

He smiles.

ELLEN

What?

TOM SHAYES

Patty was right about you. You're a force to be reckoned with. Less than 2 weeks, and you're already starting to think like her.

ELLEN

Did she only hire me to deliver her witness?

TOM SHAYES

Personally, I try not to guess what Patty Hewes does or doesn't know.

ELLEN

Then what about you?

TOM SHAYES

Me? Of course not. Today's the first I'm hearing about your friend.

(he thinks it over)

You know... Patty didn't even know who you were till I briefed her.

Then she saw your resume, met you at the wedding -- and in ten years, I've never seen her more excited about someone's potential. That's the only reason she hired you, Ellen. There's no way she knew about your friend.

TOM'S DAUGHTER

Daddy, look!

The little girl rides high in the saddle.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: 53

TOM SHAYES
Looking good, Megan!
(back to Ellen)
So what are you going to do?

54 EXT. 89TH STREET STABLES - MOMENTS LATER 54

We watch FROM A DISTANCE as Ellen exits and gets into a waiting CAR. Katie sits in the driver's seat. As the two women talk, we pull back across the street to discover the Bearded Man watching them...

TIME CUT TO:

55 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - HALAL STAND - DAY 55

Steam rises from the grill as a VENDOR fills two pitas and hands them to ARTHUR FROBISHER. Frobisher gives a sandwich to OWEN, his 14-year-old son, when his cell phone rings.

ARTHUR FROBISHER
Make it quick, Ray. I'm meeting with
the Chairman of the Board. We're
cooking up something big.

Frobisher winks at his son, who smiles.

INTERCUT

56 INT. CAR - DAY 56

Ray Fiske sits in the front passenger seat.

RAY FISKE
Patty Hewes has a new Associate.

ARTHUR FROBISHER (ON SPEAKERPHONE)
So what? I thought they voted to
accept the settlement.

RAY FISKE
I haven't gotten the call yet, and
I'm worried.

And now we see PHOTOGRAPHS -- Katie and Ellen in the car outside the stables. PULL BACK to reveal the Bearded Man sitting in the driver's seat.

BEARDED MAN
The new Associate's been talking to
Katie Connor.

ARTHUR FROBISHER
Who?

RAY FISKE
Our chef.

Frobisher gets dark, silent, then --

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: 56

ARTHUR FROBISHER
Ray, whatever it takes -- fix this.

57 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 57

Ellen and David unpack Chinese takeout.

DAVID CONNOR
I don't care what Tom told you, I
don't want Katie involved.

ELLEN
David --

DAVID CONNOR
Have you heard of Vanessa Tutto?

ELLEN
Who?

DAVID CONNOR
The whistleblower in that airline
case. Dateline did a thing about
her. She had a nervous breakdown.
She can't get a job. Her life turned
to shit.

INTERCUT WITH:

58 INT. KATIE CONNOR'S APARTMENT - LATE NIGHT 58

Katie, showered, steps out of her bathroom in a robe.

59 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - SAME 59

ELLEN
David, if I don't tell Patty about
Katie, the clients lose the case.

DAVID CONNOR
But the clients will still get the
settlement.

ELLEN
That's nothing. It's like a parking
ticket for Frobisher.

60 INT. KATIE CONNOR'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN 60

Katie calls out --

KATIE CONNOR
Saffron?

Silence. She looks under the table. Nothing.

61 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - SAME 61

DAVID CONNOR
I'm not sure you can be totally objective about this, Ellen.

ELLEN
What's that supposed to mean?

DAVID CONNOR
That this will help your career.

62 INT. KATIE CONNOR'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN 62

Katie glances at the dog's water bowl, moves to the refrigerator...

63 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - SAME 63

ELLEN
You think this is about advancing my career?

DAVID CONNOR
I'm just saying: you'll score points with Patty.

64 INT. KATIE CONNOR'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - SAME 64

Katie reaches out to open the refrigerator door when she SLIPS on the linoleum, hitting the floor hard. She lifts her head, sees the floor -- it's COVERED WITH BLOOD.

So Katie checks her head, but realizes it's not her blood...

65 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - SAME 65

ELLEN
I would never do anything to hurt Katie.

DAVID CONNOR
Then keep her out of this! These guys are in serious shit. Who knows what they're capable of.

66 INT. KATIE CONNOR'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - SAME 66

Katie looks up and sees that the source of the bloodbath is HER DOG

Lying on the floor, dead. Above the dog, a kitchen KNIFE is stuck in the wall with a note that reads "QUIET."

Off Katie's SCREAM --

67 INT. KATIE CONNOR'S APARTMENT - LIVING AREA - NIGHT 67

David covers the dog with a tablecloth, then enters the living room. Ellen sits on the couch, holding an ice pack to Katie's head.

ELLEN
Did you call the ER?

DAVID CONNOR
Yeah, they're waiting for us.
(turns)
Enough of this Katie. Give these
guys what they want.

KATIE CONNOR
No.

Katie's head has been down, crying. Now she looks up with fierce determination.

KATIE CONNOR (CONT'D)
(to Ellen)
Call Patty.

68 OMITTED 68

A68 INT. MANHATTAN RESTAURANT - LATER THAT NIGHT A68

Patty sits at the bar, an unfinished dinner and paperwork in front of her. Ellen, still in a coat, stands, mid-conversation --

PATTY HEWES
You know what this means? They'll
keep coming after her: legally,
personally, in whatever way they can.

ELLEN
Katie understands. If Frobisher
thought this would shut her up, it's
done the opposite.

PATTY HEWES
I want to be very clear with you,
Ellen. This is a big step.

Ellen nods, she understands the gravity of the decision.

PATTY HEWES (CONT'D)
I'll do everything in my power to
protect her.

ELLEN
What about the settlement?

PATTY HEWES
We'll depose Katie. If she knows
something, we can get our clients to
turn it down.

(CONTINUED)

A68 CONTINUED:

A68

ELLEN

(nods)

Good. I'm glad.

PATTY HEWES

I don't take this for granted, Ellen.
I know how hard this is for you.

ELLEN

If Katie can help the case, we're
doing the right thing.

MUSIC STARTS...

69 EXT. KATIE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

69

A GUARD sits parked in a SECURITY CAR.

ELLEN (V.O.)

Patty hired 24-hour security for Katie.

The Guard looks up and sees Katie in the window.

70 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - SAME

70

Ellen, in her underwear, comes out of the bathroom. David
sits in bed. They look at each other --

DAVID CONNOR

I'm worried.

ELLEN

I know.

She crosses to him.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

But we're in good hands. Patty knows
what she's doing.

David reaches out to Ellen, who climbs into bed beside him.
The MUSIC continues as we're --

71 EXT. BROOKLYN NAVY YARD - NIGHT

71

A FIGURE stands silhouetted in darkness. A VAN pulls up.
UNCLE PETE, the dry cleaning guy from Patty's office, steps
out from the passenger side and approaches the figure.

UNCLE PETE

I miss seeing you around the office,
Tommy.

TOM SHAYES steps out from the shadows.

UNCLE PETE (CONT'D)

Everyone thinks you were actually
canned.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

TOM SHAYES

So did I.

Tom hands Pete a folded NEWSPAPER. Pete hands Tom a SEALED PADDED ENVELOPE.

TOM SHAYES (CONT'D)

What's this?

UNCLE PETE

A souvenir for Patty.

Tom Shayes takes the package and walks off. Uncle Pete unfolds the newspaper, pulls out a roll of CASH --

72 EXT. PATTY'S EAST HAMPTON BEACH HOUSE - OCEAN PANORAMA - DAY 72

The MUSIC continues and the CAMERA finds PATTY standing on the beach with sunglasses and a head scarf.

Tom Shayes approaches with the padded envelope.

TOM SHAYES

Maybe one of these days I'll stop being impressed.

He hands the envelope to Patty...

TOM SHAYES (CONT'D)

Ellen figured out why you hired her, and you still got her to deliver the witness.

(beat)

You gonna start interviewing for a new Associate?

PATTY HEWES

No, I like Ellen.

(sincere)

I think she's gonna have a brilliant future.

SMASH CUT TO:

73 INT. ELLEN AND DAVID'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM 73

Detective Dan Williams holds open the bathroom door. Detective Ortiz enters to see --

LEGS SPRAWLED ON THE FLOOR.

She kneels to get a closer look. When she rolls the body, in a tee-shirt and boxers, we recognize the face...

It's DAVID CONNOR. DEAD.

74 INT. 19TH PRECINCT, MANHATTAN - INTERROGATION ROOM 74

The Detectives enter. Ortiz sits across from Ellen.

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED:

74

DET. ROSARIO ORTIZ
Ellen...you better start talking.

Ellen looks up.

ELLEN
Get me a lawyer.

AND CUT BACK TO:

75 EXT. PATTY'S EAST HAMPTON BEACH HOUSE - DOCK - LATER

75

Patty stands alone at the end of a long dock. She breaks the seal on the envelope and pulls out a DOG COLLAR.

The TAG reads "SAFFRON".

Patty hurls the collar into the OCEAN. And as she turns, walking back to the house, the CAMERA rises revealing the vastness of the ocean.

Music plays and we --

SMASH TO BLACK:

END OF PILOT