Ally McBeal: The Movie.

Ву

JuvieJay and PurpleSheep (Kevin Johnson and Vera Kubenz)

Based on characters and themes from the shows Ally McBeal, The Practice and Boston Legal

PROPOSED CAST

Calista Flockhart as Ally McBeal Peter MacNicol as John Cage Greg Germann as Richard Fish Jane Krakowski as Elaine Vassal Courtney Thorne-Smith as Georgia Thomas Gil Bellows as The Ghost of Billy Thomas Portia de Rossi as Nell Porter Lucy Liu as Judge Ling Woo Vonda Shepard as herself Lisa Nicole Carson as Renee Raddick Josh Hopkins as Raymond Millbury Regina Hall as Corretta Lipp Hayden Panettiere as Maddie McBeal Christina Ricci as Liza Bump Jesse L. Martin as Dr. Greg Butters Jon Bon Jovi as Victor Morrison James Naughton as George McBeal Dyan Cannon as Judge Jennifer "Whipper" Cone Jeri Ryan as Dr. Veronica Honeywell Ethan Phillips as Harold Blum Christopher Neiman as Barry Mathers Tara Reid as Larissa Cassidy Albert Hall as Judge Seymour Walsh Tom Skerrit as Martin Van Dorn Clay Aiken as Tyler Minx David Dean Bottrell as Daniel Burns Tracey Ullman as Dr. Tracey Clark Bernadette Peters as Cassandra Lewis Alexandra Holden as Jane Wilco Betty White as Catherine Piper Julianne Nicholson as Jenny Shaw Kathy Baker as Katherine Dawson Mary Tyler Moore as herself Costas Mandylor as Jordan Miles Dame Edna Everage as Claire Otoms Stephen Tobolowski as MAN #1 Michael Easton as MAN #2/Glen Lauren Holly as WOMAN #1 Holly Marie Combs as WOMAN #2 Harrison Page as Reverend Mark Newman Famke Jansen as Jamie and Robert Downey Jr. as Larry Paul

Special Guest Stars

Liz Phair as *herself*Debbie Lee Carrington as *Patty*Dylan McDermott as *Bobby Donnell*

Lara Flynn Boyle as Helen Gamble
James Spader as Alan Shore
William Shatner as Denny Crane
Candice Bergen as Shirley Schmidt
and Parker Posey as Marlene "The Squid" Stanger

PART I

ALLY WAKES UP

ALLY'S APARTMENT IN NEW YORK CITY.

ALLY is lying in bed. Her alarm clock goes off and she gets out of bed and walks to the bathroom. "New York, New York" by Frank Sinatra starts playing. There are pictures of Marilyn Monroe and Rudy Giuliani on the wall. Ally showers, dresses, brushes her teeth and hair, puts on her makeup and grabs her briefcase. As she goes to leave, she sees an imaginary TODDLER dressed in a Boston Red Sox uniform sitting in the middle of her entry. The toddler is eating buffaloed chicken wings and making quite a mess. It belches loudly and throws a bone at Ally's foot.

ALLY

Oh, shut up!

Ally walks to the door, grabs a HAT and walks out.

ALLY IN NEW YORK

A BUSY STREET IN MANHATTAN.

ALLY is walking down the street, seeing famous monuments -- the Empire State Building, Wall Street, Time's Square. She stops to lay a flower at Ground Zero, then starts walking again.

ALLY

(v.o.)

You know New York isn't so bad. I mean it's the Big Apple. There's Broadway, Carnegie Hall, The Rockettes. I'm really starting to like it - all the museums, restaurants and shows. Yes, I still miss my friends back in Boston, but I've got a great job here and a wonderful daughter. So what if she's gone off to college and left me all alone, and I still haven't gotten married, and I'm more likely (MORE)

CONTINUED: 3.

ALLY (cont'd)

to get struck by lightening than find a man... No, life could hardly be better. I've finally made it. Sometimes I even feel a bit like Mary Tyler Moore.

"New York, New York" fades and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show Theme" begins. Ally hears "Who can turn the world on with her smile?"

She was a little like me -- a professional, independent woman living alone in a big, bad city. Of course, she worked at a news station, while I work at a law firm. And she lived in Minneapolis while I live in New York. And she lived in the time of women's liberation, while I live in the time of women's...

Ally sees two women walking down the street with their bras and g-strings sticking out. She gives a disgusted look.

...exploitation. Still, I think we're pretty similar.

She picks up her pace a bit: "Love is all around no need to waste it. You can have the town why don't you take it? You're gonna make it after all."

Ally crosses the street, sees the STATUE OF LIBERTY. She winks at it, the statue winks back. "You're gonna make it after all." She stops in the middle of the street and throws her HAT up in the air. A man in an "I <3 New York" t-shirt runs up, snatches the hat out of the air, and takes off.

ALLY

(running after him)
Hey! Get back here! Get back here!

She breaks her heel and sits down on the curb.

Oh, I hate New York! I hate New

York!

She throws the broken heal in the direction of the fleeing man. Everyone around her stares at her.

ALLY

What?

Roll OPENING CREDITS.

ALLY ARRIVES AT WORK

NEW YORK. OFFICE OF CRANE, POOLE & SCHMIDT.

ALLY walks out of the elevator, stumbling and with mussed up hair. "New York, New York" is playing again, but more slowly. "Those little town blues are melting away..."

MARLENE enters and confronts Ally. The music stops with a screech.

MARLENE

What happened to you?

ATITIY

Well, I was crossing the street...

MARLENE

Never mind, I have a new client for you.

Marlene begins walking with Ally.

ALLY

Listen, with the cases I've got...

MARLENE

You can take on one more.

ALLY

Well, wait, I haven't even...

MARLENE

Accepted the case? That's alright, I did it for you.

ALLY

(with sarcasm)

Well thanks, Marlene. I so appreciate it.

MARLENE

You're welcome. And Ally, try to clean up a little. This is, after all, a law firm.

OPENING SCENE AT CAGE, FISH & PORTER

BOSTON. THE LAW OFFICE OF CAGE, FISH & PORTER, CONFERENCE ROOM.

RICHARD stands at the head of the table. JOHN sits at the opposite end. NELL, RAYMOND and CORRETTA sit on the sides.

CONTINUED: 5.

RICHARD

New order of business...

NELL

Well, wait, aren't we going to wait for...

She motions down the hallway.

RICHARD

She's busy. Got other clients. Bygones. Now, as I was saying, new order of business: Martin Van Dorn--very wealthy, very gay. He's married to that singer, what's his name, the one that's so popular right now. You know, the gay one.

NELL

Elton John?

RICHARD

Good guess, but younger.

RAYMOND

Lance Bass?

RICHARD

Another good guess, but gayer.

JOHN

Alright, Richard, we're not going to sit here and try and guess our client's identity by the simple clues that he's a singer who happens to be gay.

CORRETTA

Oh, I know, George Michael.

RICHARD

Another good guess, but less furry.

CORRETTA

Yeah, he is pretty... with the beard and the chest hair.

RICHARD

I'm guessing his back too. Usually guys like that...

CONTINUED: 6.

JOHN

Richard!

RICHARD

(startled)

Bear! Biscuit. Bygones.

JOHN

Why not just look at the file and see what the man's name is?

RICHARD

Oh yeah.

He opens a FOLDER and reads.

Here we go, Tyler Minx.

NELL

He's gay?

RICHARD

Well, with a name like Tyler Minx...

JOHN

Can we move along, please?

RICHARD

Yeah, anyway his, um, fellow homo...sapien...

JOHN

His partner.

RICHARD

Right, his partner wants a divorce, but Mr. Van Dorn doesn't want to lose half his assets since they've only been married a few months.

JOHN

Well, Massachusetts is a no-fault state. How does Mr. Minx expect to get any kind of settlement?

RICHARD

They're having the hearing in New York.

NELL

Well, can they do that? Gay marriage isn't legal in New York.

CONTINUED: 7.

RICHARD

But gay divorce might be.

NELL

Might be?

RICHARD

That's what you're going to find out. John, I thought I'd put you and Nell on this one. Ya know, give it our best shot. Also, you'll be going up against Crane, Poole & Schmidt...

NELL

I thought it was Chang, Poole and Schmidt.

JOHN

It was, but Shirley Schmidt was able to leverage the Chinese owners out by getting some of that bailout money from the government.

NELL

What?

JOHN

Apparently she and the Secretary of State are like-minded.

CORETTA

Isn't Crane, Poole and Schmidt from
Boston?

JOHN

They have branch offices all over.

RICHARD

I've got you booked on a flight this afternoon. Now to you, Raymond. How's your case going with what's his name?

RAYMOND

Harold Blum. I have a court-ordered settlement conference scheduled for this morning with the CEO of ExtraMan.

CORRETTA

You mean the male enhancement pill?

CONTINUED: 8.

RAYMOND

Yes, apparently my client suffered some ill effects after using it.

CORRETTA

What sort of ill effects?

RAYMOND

The kind we can sue for.

RICHARD

Corretta, you seem to know a lot about it. Why don't you jump on as second chair?

CORRETTA

Wait a minute! I've just seen the commercial. I don't know anything about it.

RICHARD

That's okay, you'll just be window dressing anyway. It'll be good to have a female attorney on our side should this go to trial.

CORRETTA

Well, thanks for the vote of confidence.

RICHARD

No problem.

RAYMOND

I have a question. Why do you always put me on cases like this, the penile dysfunction cases?

RICHARD

Easy, John's already got a case and I don't want to be associated with a client who has a small penis. People might think I have one too. Could be bad for business.

RAYMOND

Thank you for explaining.

RICHARD

No problem. Now, off you go. Make us proud.

CONTINUED: 9.

Exit RAYMOND and CORRETTA. Both give RICHARD a dirty look. NELL leaves for her office. JOHN gets up and approaches Richard.

JOHN

Richard, I'd like to see you for a moment if you don't mind.

RICHARD

Sure, my office?

JOHN

Fine.

The two walk together to Richard's office and close the door. Richard sits behind his desk. John sits at a chair in front of it.

JOHN

Richard, do you remember Ally?

RICHARD

Ally who?

JOHN

McBeal. Ally McBeal, she worked here for five years, remember? Rhetorical question, don't bother to answer. Anyway, I've been thinking about her lately.

RICHARD

Well, what have you been thinking, John?

JOHN

I was thinking I might like to see her again, that I would see her again.

RICHARD

John, she's in New York. Those long distance relationships.... Plus, it's been so long.

JOHN

Richard, I'm not thinking about dating her.

RICHARD

One night stand? Generally you want to go with someone anonymous for those so they have a hard time tracking you down afterwards. CONTINUED: 10.

JOHN

Richard, stop it. I'm not looking for sex.

RICHARD

Come on, John, we're all looking for sex.

JOHN

Well, I'm not looking for it with her.

RICHARD

Why not? Too skinny? Too nuts? I gotta tell ya, John, at this point in your life you can't afford to be too discriminating. Beggars can't be choosers. Fishism.

JOHN

Richard, that is not a Fishism, and would you please just pipe down?

RICHARD

Sorry, just trying to help.

JOHN

Well, you're not helping, so could you please just listen?

RICHARD

Okay.

JOHN

The thing is, Ally got me, she really got me. Now, no one gets me. Everyone just thinks I'm this odd, old, lonely lawyer.

RICHARD

Not everyone thinks that. I mean, you dated Nell.

JOHN

That was a long time ago.

RICHARD

Well, it wouldn't hurt to remind people once in a while.

JOHN

What, should I announce it in front of the staff one morning? "Guess (MORE)

CONTINUED: 11.

JOHN (cont'd)

what, everyone, Ms. Porter and I once dated!"

RICHARD opens his wallet to display pictures of him with WHIPPER, LING and LIZA.

RICHARD

I like to keep photographic evidence. That way it's not just your word, or if you can videotape it, even better.

JOHN

(looking away disgustedly)
Richard!

RICHARD

You should mention that you slept with her. You did sleep with her, right? You didn't run away every time she took her clothes off?

JOHN

(getting up to leave)
Alright, Richard, I can see this
was a mistake, letting you into my
personal life.

RICHARD

Look, John, I'm here to help.

JOHN

Well, this isn't helping.

RICHARD

Listen, if it's Ally you're so hung up on, relax. You're going to be facing her in court.

JOHN

What are you talking about?

RICHARD

She's opposing counsel. She works for Crane, Poole & Schmidt.

JOHN

Ally works for Crane, Poole & Schmidt!? Why didn't you tell me this, Richard!?

CONTINUED: 12.

RICHARD

Because I wanted you focused. I can't have you running around dreaming about Ally when you have to prepare for this case.

JOHN

(walking out)

Unacceptable.

RICHARD

Bugger.

He smells the pictures.

ALLY SEES LIPS AND MEETS HER CLIENTS

NEW YORK. AN OFFICE AT THE LAW FIRM OF CRANE, POOLE & SCHMIDT.

Music: "Sentimental Heart" by She and Him. "Old habits die hard when you've got, when you've got a sentimental heart..." ALLY sits alone at her desk, staring out of the window, day dreaming. Suddenly, she hears a male voice.

VOICE

Ally...

ALLY

(looking around)

He-hello?

VOICE

Ally...

ALLY

What is this? Is someone playing a joke...?

VOICE

Ally, go to him.

ALLY

Go to who? Who am I supposed to go to?

Ally looks around the room, spots a pair of LIPS on the window, along with a blurry face. She walks over to it, touches the window.

CONTINUED: 13.

ALLY

This is ridiculous. I don't even get a whole hallucination?

Ally looks around the room to make sure no one else is present.

ALLY

Oh, alright.

She cautiously bends over and kisses the lips.

MARLENE enters.

MARLENE

What are you doing?

ALLY

(startled)

No-nothing, there was a spot on the window. I was trying to clean it.

She blows on the window and wipes it with her sleeve.

There was a spot!

MARLENE

Right. Anyway, your new client is coming in. His name is Tyler Minx. Ever heard of him?

ALLY

The singer?

MARLENE

Yes. He's seeking a divorce from his husband.

ALLY

His husband!?

MARLENE

Yes, he's gay. You didn't know?

ALLY

No, I just thought he wore tight... pants...

MARLENE

Well, he's gay, and since the firm we're facing is from Boston and gay divorce law is your thing...

CONTINUED: 14.

ALLY

Wai-wai-wai-wait a second. First of all, gay divorce law is not my "thing," and second, just because the other firm is from Boston...

MARLENE

Ah, they're here.

TYLER and DANIEL enter.

MARLENE

Mr. Minx, this is Ms. McBeal, she'll be handling your case.

Tyler nods slightly.

DANIEL

(shaking hands)

My name is Daniel Burns. I'm Mr. Minx's personal assistant.

ALLY

Nice to meet you.

MARLENE

Let's have a seat, shall we?

Ally reluctantly sits behind her DESK, with Marlene sitting on the side. Tyler and Daniel sit at CHAIRS in front.

ALLY

So, Mr. Minx, why exactly are you seeking a divorce?

(looking at the file)

It says here you've only been married eight months.

DANIEL

Mr. Minx is filing for irreconcilable differences. It's in the file.

ALLY

Yes, I see that. But can you tell me what, exactly, those differences are?

DANIEL

Mr. Minx and Mr. Van Dorn no longer get along.

CONTINUED: 15.

ALLY

And they no longer get along because...?

DANIEL

It's in the file.

ATITIY

(gesturing at Tyler)
I'm sorry, but does he talk?

DANIEL

Mr. Minx is a singer; that is how he makes his living. He can't risk damaging his throat by talking too much in lengthy legal procedures. That's why he has asked me to be his surrogate.

ALLY

Okay, but sometimes it helps in a court, or in a deposition, if I know the whole story.

DANIEL

Yes, and as I said, if you have any questions for my client you can refer them to me.

ALLY

I'm sorry, but first of all, he is actually my...

(looking at Marlene)
... our client. And second, I don't
think the judge is going to

allow...

DANIEL

Listen...

TYLER

(grabbing Daniel's arm)

It's okay, Daniel. I can tell her.

(turning to Ally)

Yankees were beating the Red Sox. Maybe I teased him a bit too much. But there was no reason, no reason, for him to throw a toaster at my head. He could have killed me. The man is a pig. Oink, oink.

He NODS his head.

CONTINUED: 16.

DANIEL

(also nodding)

Oink, oink.

Tyler and Daniel continue "oinking" and nodding. ALLY looks on disgustedly.

"EXTRAMAN" SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

BOSTON. A CONFERENCE ROOM IN THE OFFICE OF CAGE, FISH & PORTER.

CORRETTA, RAYMOND and HAROLD are on one side of the table. VERONICA and her lawyer, BARRY MATHERS, are on the other. There is a MONITOR at the head of the table.

MATHERS

Mr. Millbury, let me just say, I know the judge ordered us to try and work this out, but we're not prepared to make you any offer.

RAYMOND

Before we get to that, let's have look at that infomercial of yours.

Raymond pushes a button on a REMOTE. The infomercial begins to play on the monitor.

INFOMERCIAL GIRL

Hi, my name is Larissa Cassidy and welcome to tonight's show. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be larger? You know, where it really counts? Then you're not alone. Most men have insecurities, but few ever talk about them. And now you don't have to. Made with natural and organic ingredients, this new miracle product will make you the man you've always wanted to be. And increased size isn't the only benefit. You'll also experience the ability to perform longer and recover faster. Millions of men have already tried it and were more than satisfied. So were their girlfriends and wives. Let's hear from some men on the street:

CUT TO A MAN IN THE STREET

CONTINUED: 17.

MAN #1

My girlfriend and I were having some trouble. Part of the problem was that our sex life had completely deflated - there was just no energy. Then I discovered ExtraMan and it changed my whole life. My girl told me she's never been so pleased. And it made the rest of our relationship better as well. We just got engaged last month.

CUT TO A MAN AND TWO WOMEN IN THE STREET.

MAN #2

I already have a big penis, but with ExtraMan, it's even bigger. Now I have the confidence to ask out any woman I want, and I can satisfy them too. Right, girls?

WOMAN #1

Oooh yeah.

WOMAN #2

You know it, baby.

CUT BACK TO RAYMOND, WHO SWITCHES OFF THE TV.

RAYMOND

Dr. Honeywell, can you tell us who, exactly, is your target audience?

VERONICA

It's men. We've tried marketing to women, but it doesn't work as well.

RAYMOND

But it's not all kinds of men, is it? It's men who harbor certain... insecurities.

VERONICA

Perhaps, but our product helps them improve their self image. If they feel more confident sexually, it affects their overall demeanor.

RAYMOND

Are you familiar with the term "penile dysmorphic disorder"?

CONTINUED: 18.

VERONICA

Yes, it is the irrational belief that some men have that their penis is not large enough, when in fact, it is perfectly normal.

RAYMOND

And don't you think that your infomercial might, in fact, exacerbate this belief in men who are already insecure, leading to more serious self-esteem problems?

VERONICA

Our main objective is to market our product, Mr. Millbury. It seems that there are more than enough men out there who feel they need our help. I'm sorry if your client isn't one of them.

RAYMOND

I see.

VERONICA smirks triumphantly.

CORRETTA

(to Raymond)

So what exactly is your plan?

RAYMOND

I'm working on it.

ALLY CALLS BOBBY

NEW YORK. ALLY'S OFFICE AT CRANE, POOLE & SCHMIDT.

ALLY dials her PHONE.

BOBBY

(answering)

Bobby Donnell.

ALLY

Bobby Donnell? Ally McBeal.

BOBBY

Hey, Ally.

ALLY

Hey, yourself.

CONTINUED: 19.

BOBBY

So, what's up?

ALLY

Well, I just got this case involving a man who wants a divorce because his husband's a Red Sox fan...

BOBBY

His husband?

ALLY

Never mind. Anyway, I thought of Boston and I thought of you.

BOBBY

I see.

ALLY

Well, I was wondering if we might be able to get together again soon. It's been a while.

BOBBY

I would like that, but I'm really busy right now. Can I give you a rain check?

ALLY

Um, okay.

BOBBY

Listen, Ally, don't take this as anything more than it is. I'm just swamped right now. I have this huge liability case next week...

ALLY

Oh, I understand. I just thought it'd be nice to get together again.

BOBBY

And I want to see you, I really do. Listen, I promise, I'll try to squeeze you in.

ALLY

Okay, well I guess, I'll try to be squeezed.

JOHN AND NELL MEET THEIR CLIENT

BOSTON. JOHN'S OFFICE AT CAGE, FISH & PORTER.

John's behind his desk, Nell is standing in back of him. Martin sits in front of them.

MHOL

I understand you're seeking an annulment rather than a divorce.

MARTIN

Well, I'd prefer to stay married, but if Tyler insists on seeing this through, I'd like an annulment.

JOHN

And can you tell us why your marriage should be annulled?

MARTIN

We've only been married eight months. No offense, but I've worked hard for my money. I can't afford to give any of it away for a marriage that's not even a year old, especially in this recession.

NELL

Are you sure Mr. Minx would be seeking alimony? Isn't he a successful recording artist?

MARTIN

He's successful. He's famous. But what most people don't realize is that recording artists, like most artists, only get a small fraction of the sales they generate. The rest goes to the record company, promoters, distributors. Heck, I helped finance his career for the first few years.

JOHN

And now that he's successful...

MARTIN

It's not like that. I never felt like Tyler was taking advantage of me. It was I who offered to help.

CONTINUED: 21.

JOHN

It says in the complaint that there was verbal and physical abuse.

MARTIN

Oh, we would argue, like any married couple. He doesn't like the fact that I'm a Republican. But there was never any violence between us.

JOHN

It alleges here that you threw at toaster at him.

MARTIN

That's not true. He's wrong about that.

JOHN

(turning his palms up)
Well, can we prove this?

MARTIN

(thinking for a minute)
Yes, yes I believe we can.

ALLY AND DR. TRACEY

NEW YORK. THE OFFICE OF DR. TRACEY.

ALLY stands in front of the COUCH, waiting. TRACEY walks in, looking at a file. She looks up and recognizes Ally.

TRACEY

It's you again. There is really no getting rid of you, is there?

ALLY

I'm sorry, but I really need to talk to you.

TRACEY

Wasn't leaving your file behind enough of a hint for you? What else do I need to do, join a witness protection program?

ALLY

Well, I wouldn't have come if I wasn't really in need of some help.

CONTINUED: 22.

TRACEY

Look at yourself. It's been, what, seven years and you're the same little weakling. My advice is that you start getting used to it. I'm not sure therapy can help you.

ALLY

I've been having these strange visions. Please, Tracey, it won't take long. I'll even sing my theme song if you want me to.

Tracey sits down and picks up a pencil and notepad.

TRACEY

So what is it this time, dancing babies, underwater swimming, soul singers chasing you around?

ALLY

It's not really a hallucination this time. It's just a voice that keeps on speaking to me.

TRACEY

So now you're hearing voices! I guess that's an improvement.

ALLY

It's just the one voice, actually.

TRACEY

And what does the voice say?

ALLY

It keeps on telling me to "Go to him." I've tried asking who "he" is, but that's all it ever says.

TRACEY

Well, imaginary voices don't normally do requests. What did it sound like?

ALLY

It was definitely a male voice, and it was very familiar, but I can't quite recognize it. There was a face, but it was all blurry, and lips... and I kissed them.

CONTINUED: 23.

TRACEY

You know what, Ally?

ALLY

What?

TRACEY

You're a kook.

ALLY

Hey!

TRACEY

Well, what do you want me to say? You track me down after seven years, tell me you're hearing voices and kissing imaginary lips. You're a kook.

ALLY

Is that a clinical definition?

TRACEY

Maybe not, but is that what you came here for, for me to diagnose you, start you on some kind of behavioral or drug therapy? Or did you just want me to give you advice?

ALLY

(sheepishly)

The latter.

TRACEY

Okay, well, it sounds like your subconscious is trying to tell you something. It could mean there's someone in your past, someone you haven't quite finished with yet. Probably a male someone since you hear a man's voice. Also, the lips suggest two things: either intimacy, in the form of a kiss; or advice. So you're looking for someone who you know intimately, or someone who's advice you trust, maybe both. You need to find out who this person is.

ALLY

Assuming you're correct, how do you suggest I go about doing that?

CONTINUED: 24.

TRACEY

Well, why don't you show me how you kissed him.

ALLY

I'm not showing you how I kissed someone that isn't even there. That's just silly.

TRACEY

Do you want me to help you or not?

ALLY

Oh, alright...

Ally pretends to kiss the air.

TRACEY

You're right, it does look quite silly. It also seems like you're holding back.

ALLY

What do you mean?

TRACEY

Well, it wasn't a passionate kiss.

ALLY

What do you mean it wasn't passionate? It was a soft, tender, passionate kiss.

TRACEY

No, it was a kiss you give to your grandmother. If that's how you kiss a man, no wonder you're still alone.

ALLY

Hey!

TRACEY

A kiss of real passion involves the whole body, not just the lips. Here, let me show you what I mean.

Tracey stands up and walks over to Ally.

ALLY

(fending her off)

Wo-wo-wo-wo-woe, you're not going to demonstrate on me.

CONTINUED: 25.

TRACEY

Do you want me to show you how to kiss or not?

ALLY

Not like that.

TRACEY

(sitting back down)
Okay, so maybe it's not passion
you're looking for. Let's try a
different approach. The next time
you see the lips, try matching them
to some of the men from your past.
Go through all the faces of men
that you have met, however unlikely
they may seem, and see which one
fits best.

ALLY

Do you think that will work?

TRACEY

It might work. It might not. At least you'll have closure and you can go on being unhappy with your life.

ALLY

Gee, thank you, Tracy.

She gets up to leave.

TRACEY

Now, before you go, let me show you how to properly kiss.

Tracey turns down the lights, turns on Barry White, and looks in the MIRROR.

TRACEY

(talking to her reflection)
Hey beautiful. Have you done
something with your hair?

ALLY

I'm just going to go, then.

TRACEY

I really like that shirt, too.

CONTINUED: 26.

ALLY

(edging towards the door)
I'm just going to go.

TRACY

Why don't you come a little closer? That's right.

Tracey begins kissing her own reflection.

ALLY

I'm gonna... ew.

She walks out the door.

CORRETTA ASKS ELAINE FOR ADVICE

BOSTON. THE LAW OFFICE OF CAGE & FISH.

CORRETTA walks up to ELAINE's desk.

CORRETTA

Elaine, could I ask you a favor?

ELAINE

I love being of assistance. Does it involve singing? I could do a number at the bar.

CORRETTA

No, sorry, no singing. I wanted to ask you about that infomercial you made a while ago, for the... what was it called again?

ELAINE

The Face Bra?

CORRETTA

Yes, that was it. It was quite successful, wasn't it?

ELAINE

Oh yes, and to be honest, I was expecting you to inquire about it.

CORRETTA

You were?

ELAINE

I noticed that your skin was getting a little saggy. Since (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 27.

ELAINE (cont'd)

you're a colleague and a friend, I can make you a special offer...

CORRETTA

No, that's not why I'm asking. My face is fine.

ELAINE

(trying not to laugh)

Sure.

CORRETTA

(slightly irritated)

It's about the case Raymond and I are working on. Our client is suing the makers of a product he saw advertised on an infomercial. Since you produced your own, I thought you might be able to give us a little inside information.

ELAINE

Well, the trick is to convince the viewer not that they want the product, but that they need the product.

CORRETTA

You make the viewer feel inadequate?

ELAINE

Yes. My products are different of course. They do actually improve people's lives. What is the company you're suing?

CORRETTA

Well... they make a pill...

ELAINE

What kind of pill?

CORRETTA

It's a pill that, you know, enhances a man's... manhood.

ELAINE

(laughing)

Oh please, I've been with so many men and I can tell you, size is the least of their problems.

CONTINUED: 28.

CORRETTA

I have to say I agree, though I don't have your experience.

ELAINE

That was snappish.

CORRETTA

Sorry.

ELAINE

Even if it did matter, a pill to make a man bigger doesn't sound like a good idea. Actually, I've got my own little invention for that kind of situation.

CORRETTA

Really?

ELAINE

I only got a patent on it last week. I call it "The Projector." Richard is test-driving it at the moment just to see how it feels. Richard?

CORRETTA

That's okay... no need to demonstrate. I'm very busy...

Richard joins them.

RICHARD

You wanted me?

ELAINE

Corretta was curious about my invention, so I thought I'd show her, you know, how it actually works. Hold tight.

Richard is about to protest, but Elaine gets out a remote control and presses a button.

Here we go...

The device begins to inflate and deflate. Richard is speechless.

ELAINE

(after a few seconds)
See, you can already make out the difference.

CONTINUED: 29.

CORRETTA

(bowing down to take a closer look)

Yeah, I can see it.

ELAINE

This is going to make me rich, rich, rich...

RICHARD

(slowly recovering from the shock)

W...ow.

He looks down at the bulge in his pants. I want one.

ALLY AND MARLENE VS. NELL AND JOHN

NEW YORK. A COURTROOM.

Judge Willard MANCHKIN is presiding. ALLY, MARLENE, TYLER and DANIEL are at the plaintiff's table. JOHN, NELL and MARTIN are at the defendant's.

ALLY

(standing)

Ally McBeal representing Mr. Minx, Your Honor.

JOHN

(standing)

John Cage representing Mr. Van Dorn.

Ally turns to see John.

ALLY

John, hi! How've you been? I was so excited when I found out I'd be facing you.

She gives him a big hug.

JOHN

(pointing at the judge)
A..da..da..goo... grea... good.
I've been good. How have you been?

ALLY

Oh, I've been good. I miss you.

She sees Nell.

CONTINUED: 30.

Hi Nell.

Ally waves excitedly.

 \mathtt{NELL}

(waving back half-heartedly)
Hi, Ally.

ALLY

All of you, I miss all of you. New York is just so... I don't know... not Boston, you know? How are Richard and Elaine? Does she still work there? Oh, have Richard and Liza had any children? Oh, can't you just see a bunch of little Richard Jrs. running around, spouting Fishisms and touching little girls' necks...

MANCHKIN

Ms. McBeal!

ALLY

(startled)

Yes, Your Honor?

MANCHKIN

You can catch up with opposing counsel on your own time.

ALLY

Right. Sorry.

MANCHKIN

Now, I like to remind the lawyers who appear in front of me that my name is Manchkin, not munchkin. I'm a Jew, not a midget.

JOHN

Little person, Your Honor.

MANCHKIN

What?

JOHN

Nothing.

MANCHKIN

Now, Ms. McBeal, you're the plaintiff's attorney?

CONTINUED: 31.

ALLY

Yes, Your Honor, my client is seeking a divorce from his spouse...

MANCHKIN

On what grounds?

ALLY

Well, on grounds of physical and emotional distress, as well as irreconcilable differences.

MANCHKIN

Would you have your client stand up for me? I like to get a good look at the people whose lives I'm ruling on.

ALLY

Um, okay.

Ally motions to Tyler. He stands up.

MANCHKIN

Well you're still a young man, you have your whole life ahead of you. Are you sure you want to get a divorce? Where is the young lady who once made you so happy? Is it that pretty blond woman? Forgive me for saying, but you could do worse. What's the matter, she didn't satisfy you in the bed? Let me tell you, in 47 years of marriage I've rarely been satisfied in the bed, and my wife has been satisfied even less than I have.

MARTIN

(standing)

Actually, Your Honor, I'm the spouse.

MANCHKIN

You!?

MARTIN

Yes, Your Honor, Mr. Minx and I are married.

CONTINUED: 32.

MANCHKIN

Well, I can see why he wants a divorce. You're not his type. Or rather, you are - that's the problem!

ALLY

Your Honor, my client lives in New York, but as the law stands gay couples can only get divorced in the state in which they were married, in this case, Massachusetts. This is clogging up the courts.

MANCHKIN

Then they should get divorced in Massachusetts.

ALLY

Your Honor, other states are legalizing gay marriage. You can be the first judge in New York to rule on this issue.

JOHN

Your Honor, they only want you to rule here because New York is the only state in the Union that's not no-fault. They're hoping to win a big settlement.

ALLY

I object, Your Honor. My client has been married for several months to a man whom he doesn't love because he can't get a hearing.

Martin looks disappointed.

MANCHKIN

Your client gets my sympathy, but I'm not about to overturn a century of case law for a couple that didn't even get married in this state. I'm dismissing your motion.

He bangs his gavel and walks off, muttering to himself.

Gay people getting divorced, what
is the world coming to?

CONTINUED: 33.

ALLY

(to Tyler)

Well, we gave it a shot. Do you still wish to pursue this?

DANIEL

Of course he does.

JOHN

(walking up)

Ally?

ALLY

(startled)

Ah, John, yes?

JOHN

What do you say you and I go for a drink, catch up on things?

Ally looks at Marlene, then back at John.

ALLY

That'd be great. I can meet you downstairs in five minutes.

JOHN

Alright, see you then.

John and Nell leave with Martin.

MARLENE

Ally, I brought you in on this case because I thought you'd have some insight into how to beat your old firm, not so you could date their senior partner.

ALLY

I know, and I can help you. John and I will just be discussing old times, nothing more.

DANIEL

I don't like it. She's consorting with the enemy.

MARLENE

It'll be okay. I have enough distaste to level things off.

CONTINUED: 34.

ALLY

Oh, I'm sure you do.

MARLENE

Ally, try to remember whose side you're on.

She escorts Tyler and Martin out.

JOHN AND ALLY'S FIRST DATE

NEW YORK. A BAR WITH A STAGE.

ALLY and JOHN are sitting across from one another at a TABLE. LIZ PHAIR is singing ""Somebody's Miracle" on STAGE.

ALLY

Well, John, it's so great to see you. Tell me what's been happening with you.

JOHN

Well, not much to tell, really. I wake up, go to work, go home. Sometimes Richard and I have an argument.

ALLY

Come on, there's got to be more than that. Are you seeing anyone?

JOHN

No. I mean, I date once in a while, but only sporadically.

ALLY

You and Nell never...?

JOHN

No. She's moved on. I have too. What about you? Are you seeing anyone?

ALLY

No, not really.

JOHN

So there is someone.

ALLY

I don't know, maybe.

CONTINUED: 35.

JOHN

Well, who is he?

ALLY

Oh, you know him. Bobby Donnell. We worked with him on a case a while back.

JOHN

The Lizzy Borden case, I remember. Well, he seems like a decent fellow, a little stuffy perhaps, but a decent enough man.

ALLY

Yeah, well, he has one major flaw.

JOHN

Which would be?

ALLY

He doesn't love me.

JOHN

Ah, well, you know, Ally, people think that I'm strange.

ALLY

I thought we were talking about Bobby.

JOHN

We are.

ALLY

Uh, okay.

JOHN

Anyhow, as I was saying, people think I'm strange.

ALLY

You, John? I can't imagine why.

JOHN

My nose whistles, I stutter, I have a remote toilet flusher. These are not normal things.

ALLY

No, not really.

CONTINUED: 36.

JOHN

And you, with your dancing babies and Al Green, well you're almost as weird as I am.

ALLY

Thank you for noticing.

JOHN

The thing is, as odd as we both might be, as peculiar, as eccentric... if this Bobby Donnell can't see the beauty in you, the sincerity, the compassion, well, in my mind he's the crazy one.

Ally reaches out and touches John's HAND.

ALLY

Thank you, John.

JOHN

Would you care to dance?

ALLY

Sure.

ALLY and JOHN walk to the dance floor and begin dancing slowly. Liz is singing the refrain. "There goes somebody's miracle, walking down the street. There goes a modern fairy tale, I wish it could happen to me..."

ALLY

(after a minute)
John, promise me one thing.

JOHN

What?

ALLY

That you won't give up on love. That even if we're old and alone, and even if we have no reason to hope that we'll never find anyone, that you won't give up. Will you promise me that, John?

John stares back at Ally for a moment.

JOHN

Okay, Ally, I promise.

CONTINUED: 37.

ALLY

I promise too.

She lays her head on John's shoulder. Liz finished up singing.

MARLENE GETS ALAN AND DENNY TO SPY

NEW YORK. THE LOBBY OF THE COURTHOUSE.

MARLENE pulls out her i-Phone and dials. ALAN answers, He's in his office.

ALAN

This is Alan Shore.

MARLENE

Alan, Marlene.

ALAN

Marlene, nice to hear from you. Still up to no good I hope.

MARLENE

Would you be interested in doing a little undercover work?

ALAN

That depends. Whose covers do you want me to get under?

MARLENE

Ever heard of the law firm Cage, Fish & Porter?

ALAN

I have.

MARLENE

We're facing them in a gay divorce case...

ALAN

They're letting gay people divorce?

MARLENE

That's what we're hoping. Listen, my co-counsel used to work there, and she still has some loyalty to her old firm.

CONTINUED: 38.

ALAN

T see.

MARLENE

I'm looking for a little back up here. I'd like you to go there, snoop around a bit. I don't want any surprises.

ALAN

And should I be able to successfully penetrate the formidable defenses of the law firm of Cage, Fish and Porter, what can I expect in return? Can I expect, perhaps, to get under your covers as well?

MARLENE

Perhaps.

ALAN

One question. Can I bring Denny? He just loves this sort of thing.

MARLENE

Can he be... discreet?

ALAN

I assure you, there's no one more discreet than Denny Crane. Just ask the prostitutes he sleeps with.

JOHN AND RICHARD IN THE UNISEX

BOSTON, THE UNISEX BATHROOM AT CAGE, FISH & PORTER.

Music: "Get Ready" by The Temptations. JOHN is dancing in front of the mirror. On "Here I come", he points into the mirror with both index fingers. Suddenly, he notices RICHARD in the mirror. The music stops abruptly. John turns around.

JOHN

Richard! Have you been watching me?

RICHARD

Oh John, only a little.

JOHN

Well how long have you been standing there?

CONTINUED: 39.

RICHARD

Just long enough to see you do that little whirly doo.

Richard swirls his finger in the air. Not long.

JOHN

I won't stand to be disparaged.

RICHARD

What are you doing here, anyway? Shouldn't you be in New York?

JOHN

The judge dismissed the case. We're expecting them to file it again in Massachusetts.

RICHARD

Good. So what were you doing just now? Some new pre-trial ritual I should know about?

JOHN

Richard, can't a man even have some privacy in his own unisex?

RICHARD

Apparently not. So what's the story?

JOHN

Well...

He touches his nose, then points at Richard.

RICHARD

What? You picked a booger? Finally got your nose to stop whistling?

John smiles. His nose whistles.

RICHARD

Guess not.

JOHN

I went for a drink with Ally. We danced.

RICHARD

John, I don't know if that was a good idea. She's opposing counsel.

CONTINUED: 40.

JOHN

Richard, don't worry, I can keep my private life separate from my professional life.

RICHARD

I hope so, because this client could mean a lot of money for our firm, and if you...

JOHN

Richard, we've got a solid case. But I don't want to talk about that, I want to talk about Ally.

RICHARD

Oh, okay. Ah, how is she?

JOHN

She seems fine, still slightly wacky, of course, maybe a little more than slightly.

RICHARD

You don't need to tell me.

JOHN

But the thing about her that struck me was this.

RICHARD

Was what?

JOHN

Well, just hold on a second and I'll tell you.

RICHARD

Okay.

JOHN

You know with everything that's happened to her - Billy dying, Larry leaving her, Greg, Victor... even with all that, she is still unwilling to compromise on finding love. Any normal person would have given up years ago, but not her. She keeps trying, keeps striving for this ideal. It's admirable in a way.

CONTINUED: 41.

RICHARD

Yeah, either that or stupid.

JOHN

Oh, come on Richard. Don't be so cynical.

RICHARD

John, I'm not. You said it yourself, after all her boyfriends leaving her, dying on her, breaking her heart, you'd think she'd have learned by now - love stinks.

JOHN

Richard, I'm surprised. Even for you that's a cold statement.

RICHARD

I haven't told this to anyone, John, but you're my best friend... Liza filed for divorce.

JOHN

She did what!? When?

RICHARD

A couple weeks ago. One day I come home, her bags are packed and she's gone. She said she just got bored of me. Now, she won't even talk.

JOHN

But she still works here.

RICHARD

She has her office, but I don't see her. She works her own cases, has her own clients.... She doesn't need me.

JOHN

Richard, why didn't you tell me?

RICHARD

Well, I'm telling you now. Besides, I didn't want anyone to know. The people in this office look up to me as a strong leader and, more importantly, a person with money. If she files for divorce they'll probably think it's because I don't have it. It could undermine my leadership.

CONTINUED: 42.

JOHN

Well, I never knew you were capable of feelings as... profound as those. But Richard, Liza is a very impulsive person. Maybe she'll change her mind. Is there something you can do to win her back?

RICHARD

I don't know, John. I think it's over.

JOHN

Well, isn't there anything you can think of?

RICHARD

Maybe I could dye my hair, buy new clothes and teach my penis to vibrate.

JOHN

Now, you see that's it. That's your problem. You think it's all about appearance and sex. Well, it's not for women. For women it's about sharing and intimacy.

RICHARD

John, this is Liza we're talking about. If there's anyone in the world as superficial as I am, it's probably her.

JOHN

And yet here you are, talking with your best friend about how hurt you are that your wife wants a divorce.

John and Richard both look at their reflections in the mirror.

RICHARD

Look at us, John. We're in our forties, running our own successful business, but we still don't attract the right kind of women. What's wrong with us?

Both sigh.

THE EXTRAMAN CASE GOES TO COURT

A COURTROOM IN BOSTON.

HAROLD is in the witness chair, fidgeting nervously. RAYMOND is questioning him. CORETTA sits at the plaintiff's table. DR. HONEYWELL, looking bored, and her attorney BARRY MATHERS sit on the other side. JUDGE CONE is presiding.

RAYMOND

So, tell us, Mr. Blum, how did you first hear about ExtraMan?

HAROLD

Well, I like to stay up late, watching talk shows, and they always have these ads on for "Girls Going Crazy" and "Funline Dating Services" and everything, but I never answer them. They're just obscene. Have you ever responded to one of them?

RAYMOND

I have actually, but that's not relevant here. What happened next?

HAROLD

Well, this one ad came on, and I didn't even know what it was for at first. They're real sneaky, you know, but they've got this girl, a real looker, and she's smiling and using all these big scientific words. Well, before you know it I was dialing the phone and giving them my credit card number. I didn't even know what I was buying!

RAYMOND

So you weren't sure what you were ordering, but the way it was presented persuaded you to buy it anyway.

HAROLD

Correct.

RAYMOND

Can you tell us about your actual use of the product?

CONTINUED: 44.

HAROLD

Right, so it comes in the mail one day. I opened it up and the first thing I see is instructions, but they're in Japanese! Finally, I find an English version, but it's full of medical terms so I don't really understand it. I just put it in my closet and forgot about it.

RAYMOND

But eventually you did try it?

HAROLD

Yes, well, a few weeks later this woman I work with asks me out. I don't get many women asking me out, so of course I said yes. Then, while I'm getting ready I find the box and I decide to give it another try. You know, just in case. I'm not a pervert or anything.

RAYMOND

Of course not.

HAROLD

Anyway, that night we're in a fine restaurant and it begins to itch.

RAYMOND

Your penis?

HAROLD

Yes! So I start squirming in my chair. My date asks me if I'm alright, and I say yes, but it gets so bad I finally have to go to the bathroom. When I get back she's still concerned so I tell her the truth. I didn't want her to think I had some disease or something. Well, when I tell her what it is she just starts laughing and laughing. I was so embarrassed I just paid the check and left.

RAYMOND

And that's why you are suing, because ExtraMan ruined your date?

CONTINUED: 45.

HAROLD

I wish that was the end of it. The next day I got to work my co-workers are all giggling and calling me "ExtraMan." Then they start humming that song every time they'd walk by my office. You know that song?

RAYMOND

Yes.

He begins to hum the tune.

WHIPPER

Counsel.

Raymond stops.

RAYMOND

Sorry, Your Honor.

HAROLD

I was so embarrassed I had to quit my job. I've been out of work for three months now and the bills are piling up. And it's all because of this product!

He points at the defendant's table.

It's ruined my life! I've lost what little confidence I had around women and my therapist says it is a direct result of this ordeal.

RAYMOND

Thank you, Mr. Blum. Your testimony has been very informative.

Raymond sits down.

WHIPPER

Your witness, Counsel.

MATHERS

(getting up)

Mr. Blum, you said you didn't read the directions before using my client's product.

HAROLD

I tried, but I couldn't understand them.

CONTINUED: 46.

MATHERS

I see. Did you any seek medical advice from your doctor before using my client's product?

HAROLD

No, I was too embarrassed...

MATHERS

Thank you. And it was you told your date that you had been using ExtraMan, correct?

HAROLD

Only because I didn't want her to think I was some kind of freak.

MATHERS

So, your date found out from you, and all the ridicule you had to endure was a result of your confiding in her.

HAROLD

Yes, but...

MATHERS

Thank you. One more thing, Mr. Blum, you didn't sue your date, did you?

HAROLD

No, I can't sue her. She doesn't have any money.

Raymond and Corretta both look concerned.

MATHERS

I see. No further questions, Your Honor.

Veronica smiles, while Harold gives an apologetic look to Raymond and Corretta.

ALLY CALLS MADDIE

NEW YORK. ALLY'S BEDROOM.

ALLY sits on her bed alone. She looks lonely and lost. Finally, she reaches over to the nightstand and picks up a PICTURE of MADDIE. Then she begins dialing the phone.

CONTINUED: 47.

ALLY

Yes, hello could I speak with Maddie McBeal, please?

MADDIE (V.O. ON THE PHONE)

Hello?

ALLY

Hi, Sweetie. Just wondering how you're doing.

MADDIE (V.O.)

Oh, hi Ally. I'm great. Classes are tough, especially physics, but I'm meeting lots of new people.

ALLY

That's great, honey! I really miss you, you know.

MADDIE

I've only been gone a week.

ALLY

I know, but I miss talking to you. I'm doing this divorce case against my old firm and well, it's got me thinking about old times, about living in Boston. I mean, now that you're off to college, well, I was thinking, maybe I could move back. What would you think about that?

MADDIE (V.O.)

I think that would be great.

ALLY

Really?

MADDIE

Yeah, go for it. Are you going to see if you can track down Victor?

ALLY

(snorting)

No, no. Victor is history. No I'm not looking for anyone. I'm just happy concentrating on my career, making sure you're doing okay.

MADDIE (V.O.)

Come on, Ally, I know you better than that. Who is it now? Are you (MORE)

CONTINUED: 48.

MADDIE (V.O.) (cont'd) still seeing Bobby whatshisname? He's in Boston, right? Why don't

you give him a call?

ALLY

Well, uh, I did actually.

MADDIE (V.O.)

And?

ALLY

He dumped me.

MADDIE

Oh.

ALLY

Well, not really, but I can see the end coming.

MADDIE (V.O.)

Well, what about someone from your old firm? There was a couple of cute guys who worked there, right?

ALLY

Well, I actually did go for drinks with one of them, John Cage. Do you remember him?

MADDIE (V.O.)

I think so. The short guy?

ALLY

Yes, that would be John.

MADDIE (V.O.)

Well, how'd it go?

ALLY

It went really well, actually. And you know me, now I'm worried because it might actually work.

MADDIE (V.O.)

Didn't you try dating him before?

ALLY

Yes, but John and I have always had a special connection, and maybe that's all I need. Passion doesn't last forever anyway. I've been

(MORE)

CONTINUED: 49.

ALLY (cont'd)

trying to find passion my whole life and look where it's got me. I'm single, alone and almost forty!

MADDIE (V.O.)

Well, Ally, I know you're not the type to settle for second-best. But if you really think he's a maybe, you have to give it a try. You've got to get hurt in order to happiness, at least that's what all the songs to say.

ALLY

Great, now I'm getting love advice from the Miley Cyrus generation.

MADDIE (V.O.)

What?

ALLY

Nothing. Anyway, thanks honey. I've got to get going. Got to prepare for my big case - two rich attractive men who, rather than love me, love each other.

MADDIE (V.O.)

What?

ALLY

Oh, they're gay. Anyway, I'll talk to you later. Love you, Maddie.

MADDIE (V.O.)

Bye, Ally.

Ally hangs up. She sits on the edge of the bed, closes her eyes and concentrates. Music: "Reflections" by The Supremes. "Through the mirror of my mind, time after time, I see reflections of you and me..." When she opens them she sees the LIPS. JOHN'S face appears around them.

ALLY

Hi John.

JOHN

Hi, Ally.

ALLY

Love you.

CONTINUED: 50.

JOHN

Love you too.

ALLY

Um... you're a great lawyer.

John smiles.

JOHN

Thanks.

His nose whistles.

ALLY

Oh, forget it.

Ally closes her eyes again. She opens them and BOBBY's face appears.

ALLY

Hey, Bobby.

BOBBY

Ally.

ALLY

So, wanna grab lunch?

BOBBY

I'd love to, but I've got to prepare for this deposition. Can I give you a rain check?

ALLY

Yeah, why don't ya get back to me in 2015?

BOBBY

Ally?

ALLY

I'm sorry, I just don't think this is going to work.

BOBBY

Neither do I, but I still think you're a great lady.

ALLY

And you're a great guy, that's why it won't work.

CONTINUED: 51.

BOBBY

Ally, you will find love.

ALLY

Yeah, just not in this lifetime, right?

BOBBY

Ally.

ALLY

Oh, stop Allying me.

She closes her eyes again and opens them to see VICTOR's face.

ALLY

Hey Victor. How's it going?

VICTOR

Hey, Ally. What's new?

ALLY

Oh, nothing, same old me, looking for love in all the wrong faces.

VICTOR

(smiling wryly)

Well, I guess that says it all, doesn't it?

ALLY

I'm sorry. You really were great, you know.

VICTOR

So were you.

ALLY

When you were staying with Maddie and me, that was the closest thing to a nuclear family I've ever had.

VICTOR

Well, Ally, that's pretty sad.

ALLY

Excuse me?

VICTOR

Listen, Ally, you're a great lady...

CONTINUED: 52.

ALLY

Oh, why does everyone say that?
"Hey, Ally, you're a great lady.
Now let me stomp you're heart into
tiny little bits!"

VICTOR

Ally...

ALLY

And don't say "Ally" either. Why does everyone say "Ally, Ally"?

VICTOR

You're nuts.

ALLY

Of course I'm nuts, Victor, of course I'm nuts. Why don't you fix me? Aren't you Mr. Fix It Man?

VICTOR

Listen, Ally, I can fix your plumbing, maybe help you babysit, but I can't do a thing with your emotional life. Let's face it, you're a mess.

ALLY

(indignantly)

Oh, you were boring anyway!

She waves her hand and Victor disappears. Next, she sees GREG BUTTERS' face.

ALLY

Hey Greg.

GREG

Hi Ally.

ALLY

What's up... Doc?

GREG

You blew it, Ally. We had something, something good, but you blew it. The best I can offer you now is a tetanus shot. So if you could just turn around and pull down your...

CONTINUED: 53.

ALLY

Oh, that's all men want. They just want to pull down your pants, vaccinate you and then they leave. Goodbye, Greg.

GREG

Goodbye, Ally.

Greg disappears. Ally closes her eyes again, for a long time, then opens them. LARRY"S face appears.

ALLY

Larry!

LARRY

Ally.

ALLY

I miss you.

LARRY

I miss you, too.

ALLY

You left me, Larry. You broke my heart.

LARRY

Sorry about that.

ALLY

You're sorry. Is that all you have to say?

LARRY

I loved you, Ally, as much as I've loved anyone, more than I've loved anyone. But my son...

ALLY

Oh, I know. Your son, your son... you do everything for him. I understand. I have a daughter now. Did you know that?

LARRY

Yeah, I knew.

ALLY

She's great. She's all grown up. I gave her everything, gave up my job, my house, my life, now she's gone and I'm alone again.

CONTINUED: 54.

LARRY

I know, Ally.

ALLY

Kids, why do we do so much for them?

LARRY

Because we're good parents.

ALLY

So because we're good, that means we'll always be alone?

LARRY

I love you Ally, goodbye.

Larry vanishes. Ally closes her eyes again, even more tightly.

ALLY

God isn't there anyone? Isn't there one man out there who will love me, who will never leave me, who will understand me and accept me? God, please, please.

She folds her hands and bows her hand. When she opens her eyes she sees the head of her father, GEORGE MCBEAL.

GEORGE

Hi Honey.

ALLY

Dad?

GEORGE

Feeling sad?

ALLY

Yeah.

GEORGE

Well, you know, if life gets too hard, you can always move back in with your mother and me.

Ally screams and throws herself back onto the bed and pulls the covers over her face. TYLER TESTIFIES

BOSTON. A COURTROOM.

JUDGE WALSH is presiding. ALLY, MARLENE, TYLER and DANIEL are sitting at the plaintiff's table. JOHN, NELL, and MARTIN are seated at the defendant's table.

WALSH

Ms. McBeal, are you ready to proceed?

ALLY

(standing)

Yes, Your Honor.

WALSH

Very well. Call your witness.

ALLY

We call Mr. Tyler Minx to the stand.

Tyler walks to the witness chair. Daniel follows him.

WALSH

Hold it. Why are there two people walking to the witness stand?

DANIEL

Judge Walsh, my name is Daniel Burns. I'm Mr. Minx's personal assistant.

WALSH

I know who you are, Mr. Burns. However, you were not called to testify. Please take a seat.

DANIEL

I'm going to assist Mr. Minx with his testimony.

WALSH

Mr. Burns, this is not a bipartisan commission and you are not the former vice president. Now please sit down.

DANIEL

Your Honor, my client is a professional singer. He has to save his voice for his performances.

CONTINUED: 56.

WALSH

This should only take a few minutes.

DANIEL

Even that, Your Honor... he could develop a polyp.

WALSH

Not good enough.

DANIEL

Your Honor...

WALSH

Mr. Burns, sit down or I will have you removed.

Daniel returns to his seat.

DANIEL

(whispering to Marlene)
Now he's up there alone.

ATITIY

Mr. Minx, you are seeking a divorce from Mr. Van Dorn, can you tell us why?

TYLER

He's always yelling at me.

ALLY

Yes, and can you give me a specific example of when he yelled?

TYLER

He's a Republican, a gay Republican. Can you imagine?

ALLY

I see. And why does this upset you?

TYLER

He's for the past. Me, I'm for the future.

ALLY

And how has this affected your relationship?

CONTINUED: 57.

TYLER

We can't do anything anymore: watch TV, read the paper, without it turning into an argument.

ALLY

Okay, anything else?

TYLER

Oh, yes. He threw a toaster at me.

ALLY

Mr. Van Dorn?

TYLER

Yes.

ALLY

And could you tell the court the circumstances surrounding this incident?

TYLER

The Yankees were beating the Red Sox. We teased him.

ALLY

(points to Daniel)

You and Mr. Burns?

TYLER

Yes.

ALLY

Could you please give us an account of the event?

TYLER

Daniel and Martin were in the kitchen. I was in the living room. Daniel and I were cheering, teasing him. Next thing I know, crash, shattered glass all over the floor. Daniel said he nearly hit me. Could have killed me.

JOHN

Objection, Your Honor.

WALSH

Mr. Minx, please confine your comments to what you actually saw, don't speculate.

CONTINUED: 58.

ALLY

What happened next?

TYLER

I don't remember. I think I fainted.

Daniel stands up.

DANIEL

I do, Your Honor. Martin had this crazy look in his eye like he was going to kill Tyler.

JOHN

Objection, Your Honor, now he's testifying.

Walsh bangs his GAVEL.

WALSH

Mr. Burns sit down and remain silent or I will hold you in contempt!

DANIEL

Oh, fine.

He sits down again.

WALSH

Ms. McBeal, you may proceed.

ALLY

Actually, Your Honor, I think I'm done.

She sits back down. John gets up.

JOHN

So, Mr. Minx, you didn't actually see my client throw the toaster at you, did you?

TYLER

I certainly heard it. Bang, crash, glass all over.

JOHN

You didn't actually see it?

CONTINUED: 59.

TYLER

My back was turned, Mr. Cage.

JOHN

So, for all you know, someone else could have thrown it?

TYLER

(laughing)

Don't be ridiculous, the only other person there was Daniel.

JOHN

Your Honor, at this time we'd like to introduce a videotape made by my client's home security system on the night in question.

ALLY, MARLENE AND DANIEL

(together)

Objection!

ATITIY

Your Honor, this is unfair surprise.

JOHN

This tape is being introduced to impeach the testimony of the witness. He claims my client threw the toaster at him. We intend to prove that he is mistaken.

WALSH

Mr. Cage, I'm not a fan of surprises. However, since I think this case lacks merit, I'm going to allow it.

ALLY

Your Honor!

WALSH

I said I'm going to allow it.

DANIEL

(to Marlene)

You've got to stop this.

Marlene stands and walks up.

CONTINUED: 60.

MARLENE

Your Honor, please forgive my colleague, Ms. McBeal, she's incompetent.

ALLY

(turning to Marlene)

I'm what!?

MARLENE

Incompetent, it means unable to do anything correctly.

ALLY

I know what it means.

MARLENE

Then why did you ask?

WALSH

Ms. McBeal, Ms. Stanger, please direct your comments to the bench.

MARLENE

Your Honor, I had no idea how inept she was until now, and neither did my client.

ALLY

How what?

MARLENE

At this time my client would like to fire her for inadequate counsel and seek a new trial.

WALSH

That is a question for the appellate court in criminal cases, not for the middle of civil cases.

MARLENE

I understand that, but in a situation as egregious as this, Your Honor could make an exception.

WALSH

Ms. Stanger, as creative an objection as that one was, I'm going to overrule it. Mr. Cage can play the video.

CONTINUED: 61.

DANIEL

(standing up)

Your Honor, I object!

WALSH

Mr. Burns, I warned you once. You are now in contempt of court. Bailiff, please take Mr. Burns into custody.

The bailiff walks over to Daniel.

BAILIFF

Let's go.

DANIEL

(being led away)

Tyler, don't watch it! It'll just upset you! Don't watch it, Tyler! Tyler trust me, don't watch it!

Daniel and the bailiff exit. John inserts the tape. Tyler puts his hands over his eyes.

WALSH

Mr. Minx, I'm going to instruct you to watch the video.

TYLER

(crying)

I can't!

WALSH

Mr. Minx, do you want to be held in contempt as well?

TYLER

(still sobbing)

No.

WALSH

Then remove your hands from in front of your eyes.

Tyler sniffles and wipes his eyes.

TYLER

Alright.

John begins to play the tape.

CONTINUED: 62.

JOHN

Mr. Minx, is this the night in question?

TYLER

It appears to be.

The video shows Daniel and Martin in the kitchen. Tyler is in the living room near the TV and glass cabinet. Daniel and Tyler are arguing with Martin. Tyler turns his back to Daniel and Martin. Daniel picks up the toaster and throws it towards Tyler. It hits the cabinet and breaks the glass. John stops the tape.

JOHN

Mr. Minx, do you still believe it was my client who threw the toaster at you?

TYLER

(with his head down)
It appears I was mistaken.

THE FALLOUT

BOSTON. THE LOBBY OF THE COURTHOUSE.

Music: Vonda sings "Two sides to every story" by Etta James. "There's two sides to every story... two wrongs can't make it right." JOHN, NELL, and MARTIN walk out of court and into the lobby. ALLY, MARLENE, and TYLER follow. Ally grabs John's arm and pulls him aside.

ALLY

John, can I talk to you for a second?

NELL

Ally, calm down.

ALLY

Don't tell me to calm down. What you did in there just now was a cheap stunt!

JOHN

Ally, I prefer not to talk to you when you're in this frame of mind.

ALLY

CONTINUED: 63.

ALLY (cont'd)

frame of mind because you put me there.

John and Ally begin arguing simultaneously.

JOHN

Ally, I was simply defending my client against these baseless accusations from your client. That's a lawyer's job, if you remember, to zealously defend his or her client. Maybe you missed that in law school, probably having one of your hallucinations about Al Green or Barry Manilow or the whole damn Boston Philharmonic!

ALLY

You're a fine one to talk about state of mind. When did you come up with that, when you were walking around barefoot in the office preparing your summation, pouring yourself 12 dozens glasses of water because you got sued, or swinging around in the bathroom stall of the unisex like an orangutan!

They both stop. John starts smiling.

JOHN

We're going now. Come on Nell, Mr. Van Dorn, let's go.

He motions for Nell and Martin to go into the elevator.

ALLY

Oh great, just smile and walk away.

MARTIN

Tyler...

Marlene shields Tyler.

MARLENE

Mr. Van Dorn, my client is still represented by counsel.

NELL

(pulling Martin away)
Come on, Mr. Van Dorn, let's let
them cool down a little.

CONTINUED: 64.

MARLENE

That's a wise idea.

NELL

Thanks.

MARLENE

Maybe you're more reasonable than your co-counsel.

NELL

Maybe you are as well.

Marlene and Nell stare at each other for a moment. Nell looks away and gets into the elevator with Martin and John. The elevator closes. Marlene turns to Ally.

MARLENE

Ally, what happened in that courtroom was a disaster. You should have anticipated this.

ALLY

How could I have anticipated our clients lying?

MARLENE

I'm talking about your former firm. You worked with those people for five years. You tried cases with them. You should have known their tactics.

ALLY

Their tactics? What about your tactics, accusing me of being incompetent right in front of the judge?

MARLENE

I did what was necessary to try to protect our client's interests.

ALLY

By throwing me under the bus.

MARLENE

Ally, I want you off this case.

ALLY

Fine.

CONTINUED: 65.

MARLENE

And I don't want you talking to the lawyers at your old firm, either.

ALLY

What? You can't control my life.

MARLENE

I'm going to try to settle this case, and I can't have you going behind my back.

ALLY

Going behind your back!?

MARLENE

You've already done enough damage.

She turns to Tyler.

Come on, Mr. Minx, let's go.

Marlene puts her arm around Tyler's shoulder and takes him into the other elevator, leaving Ally standing alone in the corridor.

WALKING HOME

VARIOUS STREETS IN BOSTON.

Music: "Change is Hard" by She and Him is playing. "I was never, no, never, no never enough, but I can try, I can try, to toughen up..." Montage of ALLY, JOHN, TYLER and MARTIN all walking alone through the streets of Boston.

DENNY AND ALAN INFILTRATE CAGE, FISH & PORTER

AN ELEVATOR AT THE OFFICES OF CAGE, FISH & PORTER.

ALAN and DENNY are on the elevator, camouflaged in gray coats, hats and dark glasses.

ALAN

Now, Denny, we have to be somewhat discreet here. So don't go announcing your name to everyone. They might recognize it.

DENNY

Got it.

The elevator door opens. Alan and Denny step out. Denny begins shaking people's hands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 66.

DENNY

Alan Shore, nice to meet you. Alan Shore.

ELAINE is at her desk listening with headphones. She smiles and heads for the unisex.

ALAN

De... Alan! You don't have to introduce yourself to everyone.

He pulls Denny aside.

Why, in God's name, are you using my name?

DENNY

Well, it's the first name that came into my head.

He points towards his head.
Mad Cow.

ALAN

Just don't introduce yourself.
Let's look around a little, okay?

DENNY

Fine. I'll check out the bathroom. You know you can tell a lot about a place by the way they keep their bathrooms.

He walks off towards the unisex.

ALAN

Fine. See you back here in a half hour or so.

Alan walks towards Nell's office, opens the door and enters.

CUT TO THE UNISEX.

Denny enters and begins washing his hands. He sees ELAINE standing at the sink and is stunned.

DENNY

Oh, excuse me. I thought I was in the men's room.

ELAINE

No, that's alright. This is a unisex bathroom. We like to share everything around here, including the toilets. My name is Elaine Vassal.

CONTINUED: 67.

She extends her hand. Denny shakes it.

DENNY

De... Al... ah...

ELAINE

Oh, you don't need to tell me. I know who you are. You're quite a legend around here.

Denny's eyes light up.

DENNY

Really? What have you heard?

ELAINE

Just that you're brilliant in court, and even better out of it.

DENNY

Really? And what do you do here, Miss Vassal, being sued for something sexual?

ELAINE

No, I'm a legal secretary. I am also the designated office slut.

DENNY

(becoming more interested)
Really?

ELAINE

If there's anything written on that wall, it's probably about me.

Denny walks over to the first stall and opens the door.

DENNY

In that case, would you mind showing me... the facilities?

Elaine walks over.

ELAINE

It would be a pleasure.

She pulls him into the stall.

INSIDE THE STALL

Denny is about to undo his belt.

CONTINUED: 68.

ELAINE

Wait.

Elaine gets out a REMOTE and pushes a button. The door to John's hole opens.

ELAINE

One of our partners had this fitted. It used to be his private little hole, but now we've all got access to it. It's great for occasions like these!

DENNY

(amazed)

We need one of these in our office.

Denny and Elaine disappear into the hole.

CUT TO NELL'S OFFICE.

Alan is behind Nell's desk, looking through it. NELL enters.

NELL

(exasperated)

Can I help you?

Alan closes a drawer and walks out from behind the desk.

ALAN

No, just finishing up.

NELL

What are you doing in here?

ALAN

Just checking out your drawers.

NELL

Well, are you in need of legal representation?

ALAN

(walking around her)
Not at the moment, but seeing you there with your hair wrapped so tightly behind your head, not a strand out of place; your makeup perfectly applied to accent your lovely porcelain features; your suit snuggly concealing what must be an incredibly lithe and supple body, I'm moved to all sorts of legal and ethical indiscretions.

CONTINUED: 69.

NELL

(confused)

I'm sorry, Mr..?

ALAN

Shore, Alan Shore.

NELL

The attorney?

ALAN

You've heard of me.

NELL

Yes, but I was expecting someone less...

ALAN

uninhibited?

NELL

Short.

Alan moves to Nell's side.

ALAN

Well, Miss Porter, it is Miss, isn't it?

NELL

(somewhat suspiciously)

Yes.

ALAN

Well, Miss Porter, though I may be somewhat shorter in stature, you'll find, should you get to know me, and I don't just mean in the Biblical sense of the term, that in other ways I can be quite long.

Nell pulls back.

NELL

You don't say.

ALAN

I do say, in fact. My... summations... can go on for quite some time, and be very rewarding, for both parties involved.

CONTINUED: 70.

NELL

You mean for you and the jury?

ALAN

I've got great courtroom stamina.

Nell looks Alan up and down.

NELL

Funny, you don't look it.

ALAN

Oh, you'd be surprised what my mouth can do.

NELL

(beat)

Well, Mr. Shore, you're every bit the silver-tongued devil you're purported to be. But beware, people call me the Ice Queen, and you know what happens when you put your tongue on something frozen.

ALAN

It gets stuck?

NELL

It gets ripped off.

ALAN

Ouch.

NELL

Don't you work for Crane, Poole & Schmidt?

ALAN

I do.

NELL

Well, did you come to make me an offer?

ALAN

Of sorts.

NELL

Oh, God.

ALAN

CONTINUED: 71.

ALAN (cont'd)

perhaps I could find some dirt on you that she could use in court, but from where I'm standing you appear to be exceptionally clean. Though, to be thorough, I'd have to check everywhere.

NELL

Are you for real? I could have you brought up on charges - sexual harassment, trespassing, breaking and entering.

ALAN

You see, Miss Porter, I find that women are most willing to give up their secrets after sex. So, do you want to tell me your secrets now, or should we wait until our post-coital moment?

Nell walks to the door and opens it.

NELL

You're disgusting. I'm going to the bathroom. When I get back I expect you to be gone. If you're not gone, I'm phoning the police.

She walks out. Alan watches her walk away.

ALAN

Terrific, we've only just met and already she wants me in handcuffs.

DR. HONEYWELL'S TESTIMONY

BOSTON. A COURTROOM.

Judge CONE presiding. VERONICA is sitting in the witness chair. Her attorney, BARRY MATHERS is questioning her. RAYMOND, CORRETTA and HAROLD are seated at the plaintiff's table.

MATHERS

So, Dr. Honeywell, how long have you been CEO of ExtraMan Industries?

CONTINUED: 72.

VERONICA

About two and a half years.

MATHERS

And in that time, have you ever been sued?

VERONICA

No, this is the first time.

MATHERS

And how big is your customer base?

VERONICA

Worldwide, about two million.

MATHERS

Thank you.

Mathers sits down. Raymond gets up and walks around the table.

RAYMOND

You run advertisements on late night television.

VERONICA

Some of our advertising is on late at night, yes.

RAYMOND

And you buy an entire half hour to run your advertisement?

VERONICA

Yes.

RAYMOND

You're not regulated by the FCC.

VERONICA

No.

RAYMOND

So, you can say pretty much anything you want.

VERONICA

All of our advertising is truthful.

RAYMOND

Are you aware of any side effects caused by your product?

CONTINUED: 73.

VERONICA

The side effects are negligible.

RAYMOND

I see. Tell me, doctor, are you familiar with a substance known as yohimbe?

VERONICA

Yes, it's a tree bark.

RAYMOND

It's also one of the ingredients in your product.

VERONICA

Yes.

RAYMOND

And can you tell the court what its function is?

VERONICA

Yohimbe increases blood flow to the penis, causing an increase in size and firmness.

Raymond pauses.

WHIPPER

Mr. Millbury?

RAYMOND

Sorry, Your Honor, but when I hear a beautiful woman start talking about the size and firmness of a penis I just lose my train of thought.

MATHERS

Objection, Your Honor.

WHIPPER

Sustained. Mr. Millbury you will keep your libido in check.

RAYMOND

Sorry, Your Honor. Dr. Honeywell, ever been with a man who has used your product?

CONTINUED: 74.

MATHERS

Your Honor!

WHIPPER

Mr. Millbury, you will refrain from making lascivious comments or I will hold you in contempt.

VERONICA

Actually, I'd like to answer that question if I may.

WHIPPER

Go ahead.

VERONICA

I have been with men both before and after they've used our product. And, let me tell you, from a woman's point of view, there's a big difference.

RAYMOND

Really? How so?

VERONICA

The men I was with were larger, they lasted longer, and they recovered faster. And I was more satisfied - over and over again.

RAYMOND

Really?

VERONICA

But you know what the best part was?

RAYMOND

What?

VERONICA

It was their confidence. There was none of that insecurity that is so un-sexy in a man. They knew what they wanted and they knew they could get it. And they knew they could satisfy me as well.

RAYMOND

Oh yeah?

CONTINUED: 75.

CORRETTA

(getting up)

Objection, Your Honor, I would like this whole speech stricken as non-responsive.

WHIPPER

Ms. Lipp, your co-counsel asked the question.

CORRETTA

Then may I be allowed to ask the witness a few questions?

WHIPPER

The court would be delighted.

RAYMOND

(to Corretta)

Just a second, I think I'm making some progress here.

CORRETTA

Raymond, sit down.

RAYMOND

Just one more minute...

CORRETTA

Raymond!

RAYMOND sits, but continues staring lovingly at VERONICA.

CORRETTA

Dr. Honeywell, you mentioned that yohimbe is one of the ingredients in your product.

VERONICA

Yes, one of many.

CORRETTA

Well, were you aware that it causes dizziness in some men?

VERONICA

That is only when it is used in large amounts.

CORRETTA

Were you aware that some suffer nervousness, nausea?

CONTINUED: 76.

VERONICA

We've had no reports of that.

CORRETTA

Insomnia? Increased blood pressure?

VERONICA

Most drugs have some side effects if taken in excessive amounts, however, the one you speak of...

CORRETTA

Yohimbe.

VERONICA

Yes, is in very small quantities in our product.

CORRETTA

I see. And Dr. Honeywell, is your product approved by the FDA?

VERONICA

No.

CORRETTA

Thank you, I have nothing further.

CUT TO THE LOBBY. Veronica and Mathers walk towards the elevator.

VERONICA

That didn't go well.

MATHERS

I thought you held up.

VERONICA

Of course I did, but that lawyer, what was her name, Ms. Lipp? She made us look... reckless.

MATHERS

Perhaps, but as I said...

VERONICA

We need someone to counter her, a female someone. Do you know lawyers who, on the outside seem sweet and innocent, but underneath is a killer?

Mathers crosses his arms, thinks for a minute, then nods.

CONTINUED: 77.

MATHERS

(smiling)

I know just the one.

JOHN AND ALLY'S SECOND DATE

BOSTON, THE MARTINI BAR.

LIZ PHAIR is on stage singing "Why I Lie." ALLY is sitting alone at a table sipping an appletini. MARTIN approaches her from behind.

MARTIN

Ms. McBeal, can I speak with you for a moment?

ALLY

Oh, um, I don't think that's a good idea since I'm opposing counsel, or was. I'm not anymore.

MARTIN

Could you give Tyler a message for me?

ALLY

I guess I could do that.

MARTIN

Just tell him that I miss him, and that I have no hard feelings.

He starts to walk away.

ALLY

Um, Mr. Van Dorn?

MARTIN

(Turning back)

Yes?

ALLY

Can I ask you something?

MARTIN

Sure.

ALLY

Well, why would you want to get back together with someone who doesn't want to be with you? CONTINUED: 78.

MARTIN

You don't like him.

ALLY

It's not that...

MARTIN

No, I understand. Tyler can be... temperamental.

ALLY

To say the least... sorry.

MARTIN

It's okay. Ms. McBeal, I'm going to tell you something that I haven't even told my lawyers.

ALLY

Oh, I don't know if that's a good idea.

MARTIN

I'm not gay.

ALLY

Well, of course you... what?

MARTIN

Not openly. No, besides you and the other lawyers involved, only Tyler, Daniel and a few family members are aware of it. No one knows that I'm a homosexual. That's why I've tried to keep these proceedings low key. I don't want the whole world to find out. That's also part of the reason Tyler's so upset with me.

ALLY

Well, I don't understand, why don't you just come out?

MARTIN

Easy for you to say -- you're not gay... You're not, are you?

ALLY

Well, no.

MARTIN

Neither was I. I lived the first 52 years of my life as a heterosexual.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 79.

MARTIN (cont'd)

I dated women, even married one. But after I saw Tyler, I knew I could no longer deny the truth to myself. He was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen. He was singing at a club in Detroit of all places.

ALLY

(piqued)

Detroit?

MARTIN

Yes, Tyler's from Michigan.

ALLY

(whistfully)

Michigan.

MARTIN

Something magical about Michigan?

ALLY

Ap-parently.

MARTIN

Some of the men I was with, business associates, they joked, even laughed at him, right while he was on stage. I even had to laugh a little myself, just to keep them from knowing how I really felt. But I knew right then what I was. I've been keeping up this façade so long. If I started telling people now that I'm gay, well, I could lose friends, colleagues. I'd stand to lose millions, maybe tens of millions. Attitudes towards homosexuals in this country are bad enough, but some of my overseas accounts would certainly be lost.

ALLY

Mr. Van Dorn, can I give you some advice, not as a lawyer, but as a fellow... person who believes in love?

MARTIN

Okay.

CONTINUED: 80.

ALLY

If you love someone, really love someone, you have to go all the way. It might be difficult, but you have to commit, really commit.

MARTIN

Is that what you do?

ALLY

No, actually. That's probably why I'm still alone.

MARTIN

Well, I guess it's easier to give advice than to take it.

ALLY

Yeah.

MARTIN

Ms. McBeal, it's important that Tyler and I reconcile. For all his talent, all his intelligence, he's not emotionally well off. When he's alone he becomes depressed, even suicidal. That's why he let Daniel into our lives. As bad as Daniel was, at least he made sure Tyler was functioning. Now that Tyler's alone... could you talk to him, try to convince him to come back?

ALLY

Well, I could, but I think you're the one he really needs to hear from. Listen, I can appreciate that you have a lot to lose by coming out. But it is, after all, only money. By not doing so, you not only risk your marriage, you risk Tyler's safety. And for what, to go on living a lie? Besides, do you really want to do business with people who discriminate against homosexuals?

Martin stares at Ally for a moment.

MARTIN

Maybe you're right. You don't happen to know where he is do you?

CONTINUED: 81.

ALLY

The last time I talked to him he said he needed some time to sort things out.

MARTIN

If he contacts you, will you let me know right away? Please, this is more important than legal ethics.

ALLY

I will. I promise.

MARTIN

Thank you, Ms. McBeal.

ALLY

Good luck.

Martin exits. JOHN enters and sits down next to Ally.

JOHN

Ally, were you just talking with my client?

ALLY

John! Um, yes, we were talking.

JOHN

(exasperated)

Ally, I don't want you talking with my client when I'm not present.

ALLY

Oh, relax John, he approached me. Besides what I said to him is going to help you more than it helps me.

JOHN

So you discussed the case!? I could report you to the Bar for this. What were you thinking?

ALLY

Oh, just pipe down, John, Marlene took me off the case. Besides, with that stunt you pulled you have no right lecturing me on legal ethics.

JOHN

Ally, there was nothing legally unethical about what I did today.

CONTINUED: 82.

ALLY

Maybe not, but you didn't have to make me look foolish in court, in front of my client, in front of Marlene.

JOHN

I had to impeach your client's testimony.

ALLY

Listen John, I can understand you doing that to another lawyer. And if I were still working with you I'd have probably thought it was a neat trick. But I thought you and I were friends, and friends don't take advantage of one another, or try to embarrass one another in open court.

JOHN

Ally, friendships aside, when I step into that courtroom the only friend I have is my client. If I try to be nice to opposing counsel, try to make friends with the person suing my client, I'll lose my focus and probably lose my case.

ALLY

I see, and if you have to trample on a few friendships to win...

JOHN

Well, it's unfortunate, but I'll do it. I have to in order to be successful.

ALLY

You know what, let's just dance and not talk about it.

JOHN

Fine.

John and Ally get up, walk to the dance floor and start dancing slowly. Liz starts singing "Got My Own Thing." Ally and John dance silently for a few moments. Finally, Ally turns to John.

CONTINUED: 83.

ALLY

So, let me get this straight - you prioritize your job over your personal life?

JOHN

Well, yes. Don't you?

ALLY

No, of course not. I'm sorry, but I think that's kind of an empty way to live. I mean look at you, John, you're 44, a brilliant attorney, but you go home alone every night.

JOHN

Well, Ally, you know, I'm not exactly George Clooney in a suit.

ALLY

Oh, come off it, John. Looks aren't everything. I'm sure there are plenty of women out there who'd fall for a man like you - a kind, sensitive, intelligent, man like you.

JOHN

You're just not one of them, right?

ALLY

That's not fair. I tried... we, we tried. We ended up bickering constantly, remember?

JOHN

I don't know that we did ever really try, Ally. What, we went on one or two dates? That's not really trying.

ALLY

John, we shared so much. If I could will myself to love you, you know I would.

JOHN

Would you? It seems like you only will yourself to love men who end up leaving you.

CONTINUED: 84.

ATITIY

John, that's not fair.

JOHN

Well, look at your past relationships. Billy left you, Greg, Larry moved to Detroit.

ALLY

Stop it, John.

JOHN

Face it, Ally, for all your talk of prioritizing relationships over work and not giving up on love, you don't seem to have been very successful. At least I have gained some success in the professional realm.

ALLY

So, what are you saying, you're a better lawyer than me?

JOHN

Well, I am beating you in court.

ALLY

You know what, John. I consider you a friend, and over the years you've said some pretty nice things to me, some very nice ones. But what you said just now, that was one of the worst.

She stops dancing and walks off the dance floor.

JOHN

Ally, wait, I'm sorry.

John stands alone in the middle of the dance floor. Liz finishes up her song, singing, "Pretty girl, there she goes..."

SHIRLEY GOES TO GET ALAN AND DENNY.

BOSTON. THE LAW OFFICE OF CAGE, FISH & PORTER.

RICHARD is talking to RAYMOND. The elevator door opens. SHIRLEY walks out and enters the office, moving in Richard's direction. "I just want to make love to you" by Etta James begins playing. "I don't want you to be true. I just want to make love to you..."

CONTINUED: 85.

RICHARD

(mouthing)

Wow.

He walks up to her.

Excuse me, can I help you?

SHIRLEY

I'm here to pick up two of my colleagues. They're disguised as undercover agents. You've no doubt spotted them.

RICHARD

And you are...?

SHIRLEY

Schmidt.

RAYMOND

As in Crane, Poole and...?

SHIRLEY

Schmidt.

Richard continues to check her out, saying nothing. Shirley rolls her eyes.

SHIRLEY

I'm looking for Alan Shore and Denny Crane. They seem to have gone missing.

RICHARD

Certainly, I'd be more than happy to help.

He starts to lead her away in the direction of his office.

But before I do, would you mind
following me into my office. I have
a proposal that I'd like to make.

He closes the door. Shirley looks around confused.

SHIRLEY

What is this? What proposal?

RICHARD

Well, ah, sex. You and me, together.

CONTINUED: 86.

SHIRLEY

(sarcastically)

As hard as that is to refuse, I think I'm going to have to say no.

RICHARD

Please, hear me out. I've got more to offer than you might guess.

SHIRLEY

Oh really? And what would that be?

RICHARD

Money. Lots of it. You're senior partner at one of Boston's most successful law firms, so am I. It would only be natural for us to...

Shirley looks around.

SHIRLEY

Well, this is a cute little office you've got here, but since I'm a named partner in one of the largest law firms in the country, it takes a bit more to impress me. And judging from the bulge in your pants, I'd say your business isn't the only thing that would need to be at least twice as big.

RICHARD

Oh, that.

He reaches in his pocket and pulls out a roll of quarters.

I just keep that in there for when
I go to the theater. It's 25 cents
a minute. They can trace you on the internet. Bygones.

She starts to walk out. He grabs her arm.

Ah... before you go, Ms. Schmidt,

you have a bit of soot...

Richard stretches out his finger toward Shirley's neck. Just before he touches her wattle, the door opens. JOHN walks in.

JOHN

Richard, can I see you... what are you doing?

CONTINUED: 87.

SHIRLEY

Are you John Cage?

JOHN

And you are?

SHIRLEY

Shirley Schmidt.

JOHN

Of Crane, Poole and...

SHIRLEY

Schmidt, yes.

JOHN

Well, what are you doing here?

SHIRLEY

I came here trying to find a couple lawyers from our firm. I was diverted by Mr. Fish, here, with an indecent proposal, a roll of quarters and an attempted sexual assault.

JOHN

A wha.. a..dee...a...bob...

RICHARD

He stutters when he gets nervous. Right, John?

JOHN

Dee... ah... duh...

RICHARD

See?

SHIRLEY

Great, first I get propositioned by Goofy, now I'm trying to carry on a conversation with Porky Pig.

JOHN

Ah... dee... ah... poop.

SHIRLEY

Well, Mr. Cage, I've heard you're a good lawyer, and that was very succinct. Now if you will excuse me.

She walks out into the lobby.

CONTINUED: 88.

JOHN

Richard, did you sexually harass Shirley Schmidt? She could sue us for everything we have. What are you thinking!?

RICHARD

Come on John, you know me, I was just trying to finger her wattle.

JOHN

Yeah, well you'd better keep that finger in your pants. What is she doing here anyway?

RICHARD

Oh, she came to look for someone... ah, Denny, someone.

JOHN

Denny Crane!?

RICHARD

Yeah, that's it? Friend of yours?

JOHN

No, Richard. He's not a friend of mine. He's opposing counsel.

RICHARD

Oh.

JOHN

In other words, the enemy! Richard, you've got to be more responsible. Here you are at the helm, trying to finger the nearest wattle, while the ship's about to ram into an iceberg!

RICHARD

Come on John, not just any wattle, Shirley Schmidt's. She's like the Mercedes of wattles.

John turns away and waves his hands.

JOHN

Oh!

He walks out into the lobby. Shirley is there looking around. ALAN walks out from Nell's office.

CONTINUED: 89.

SHIRLEY

Alan.

ALAN

Shirley, yet another cool blond who won't give in to my advances. Are you here to take us home like two naughty schoolboys who've been playing hooky?

SHIRLEY

I can't believe you. I had to pull a lot of strings to get you and Denny back and this is how you behave? Where is Denny anyway?

ALAN

He said he was going to check out the bathroom.

JOHN

Oh, great.

Shirley, Alan, Richard and John all head towards the unisex.

ALAN

(to John)

Alan Shore. And you are?

He extends his hand.

JOHN

Don't give me that. I know who you are. You destroy law firms. Now you're here to destroy this one. Well you won't get away with it.

He walks ahead.

ALAN

That wasn't very polite.

RICHARD

Captain of the ship. Bygones.

All four walk into the unisex.

IN THE UNISEX.

NELL is splashing water on her face.

CONTINUED: 90.

JOHN

Nell, have you seen Denny Crane?

Nell points at Alan.

NELL

What are you still doing here?

ALAN

I've come to check out your pipes.

NELL

Oh, please.

Noises heard from behind a stall.

SHIRLEY

What is that?

JOHN

Oh no!

He opens the stall door.

RICHARD

John's hole, somebody's in it.

John slides open the door to reveal DENNY and ELAINE having sex. Denny is wearing the FACE BRA.

ALAN

Mr. Cage, may I present Denny Crane
- attorney, philanthropist,
plumber.

JOHN

Poughkip... Poughkip... Unacceptable!

He storms out.

ALLY'S MORNING BLUES

ALLY'S BEDROOM.

It's morning, ALLY is asleep in bed. Suddenly, the RADIO ALARM CLOCK is playing. The song is "Some things you'll never get used to" by The Supremes. Ally starts and sits upright in bed. She stares at the radio in disbelief. The song continues "...can't find a reason to make living worthwhile." Ally pushes the off-button forcefully. She pushes it again. The music is still playing. She begins to

CONTINUED: 91.

push all the buttons. The Supremes sing "Another day without the love that once was mine..."

ALLY

Stop it!

Ally takes a PILLOW and pushes it on top of the radio. As this doesn't produce any effect, she picks it up and throws it onto the floor. The radio breaks and the music stops.

ALLY

That will teach you.

Ally gets out of bed. She sees herself in the MIRROR and groans. She stands upright, looks at her reflection again and tries to motivate herself.

ALLY

Alright, I can do this. I don't need a man, I don't need anyone.

"Don't stop me now" by Queen starts playing. "Tonight I'm gonna have myself a real good time..." As the tempo of the song picks up, Ally begins to dance more and more wildly. At the end of the refrain, the music stops abruptly and Ally stops dancing.

ALLY

Oh, who am I kidding?

She angrily kicks the pillow on the floor and hits her foot on the broken radio that is hidden beneath it.

ALLY

Ouch! Oh, damn it!

CAGE, FISH AND PORTER IN CRISIS

BOSTON. THE LAW FIRM OF CAGE, FISH & PORTER. RICHARD FISH'S OFFICE.

RICHARD is at his desk. CORRETTA, RAYMOND, and ELAINE are standing around him.

RICHARD

But how can she give closing arguments, she works here!? Isn't that a conflict or something? Where's the Biscuit when we need him?

CONTINUED: 92.

CORRETTA

We argued that, but the judge overruled it.

RICHARD

Well, can't we get a continuance?

CORRETTA

I don't think so, the case is nearly over. Besides, there's no new evidence, just a new lawyer.

RICHARD

This isn't fair. Try and stall. Recall one of the witnesses if you have to. Elaine?

ELAINE

Yes, Richard?

RICHARD

Go through my contacts. See if you can find a number for a Jane Wilco.

ELAINE

You mean that bimbo from L.A. you hired hoping she'd sleep with you?

RICHARD

Elaine, just get the number!

ELAINE

Fine. I'll get right on it.

Elaine exits. Richard turns back to the window and Corretta and Raymond shrug.

TYLER AND MARTIN RECONCILE

NEW YORK. A CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE LAW OFFICE OF CRANE, POOLE & SCHMIDT.

ALLY and MARLENE are waiting for their client to arrive.

MARLENE

Ally, you really need to behave professionally this time. You're only here because Tyler asked for you. He called this last minute meeting but wouldn't say what it was about on the phone.

CONTINUED: 93.

ALLY

Whatever.

MARLENE

I mean it, Ally. If you ever want to make partner... ah, here he is.

TYLER and MARTIN arrive, holding hands.

TYLER

(cheerfully)

Ms. McBeal, Ms. Stanger!

ALLY

Hey, Tyler... where's Daniel?

TYLER

He doesn't work for me any more. Listen, I've come here to thank you both. We won't be needing your services any longer.

MARLENE

Really?

MARTIN

We've talked things over and decided to give our marriage another try. I'll be more open about my homosexuality and Tyler won't drag me into court anymore.

TYLER

Oh, stop it.

ALLY

That's great! I'm so happy for you.

Ally hugs them both.

MARLENE

(through clenched teeth)

Yes, great. So you won't be needing us anymore?

TYLER

No, but as I said I wanted to thank you both personally for all you've done...

(to Marlene)

By the way, if you're ever interested in coming to one of my concerts, I'm sure I can arrange (MORE)

CONTINUED: 94.

TYLER (cont'd)

something. I've got a number of lesbian friends.

MARLENE

(forcing a smile)

Thanks. Thanks a lot.

MARTIN

And I wanted to thank you again, Ms. McBeal, for your advice. You made a lot of things clear to me.

ALLY

No problem. I'm glad I could help. But I do think that some marriage counseling would be a good idea.

MARTIN

We're way ahead of you. In fact, our session starts in half an hour. We better get going. Goodbye Ms. Stanger, Ms. McBeal.

Tyler gives a wave and they leave. Ally looks after them, pleased.

MARLENE

Ally?

ALLY

What?

MARLENE

What did he mean just then when he thanked you for making things clear to him?

ALLY

Oh, nothing. I just told him that sometimes, in love, you need to make sacrifices.

MARLENE

Are you saying that you talked to opposing counsel's client ex parte, and that this resulted in our case being dropped?

ALLY

Well you took me off the case so I was acting in my capacity as a concerned citizen, and friend.

CONTINUED: 95.

MARLENE

I specifically forbade you from interfering further in this case.

ALLY

No, you said I wasn't to have contact with my old firm.

MARLENE

This is unbelievable. We will need to discuss your future here.

ALLY

Well, let's hear it.

Marlene gives Ally a hard stare. Ally stares back.

MARLENE

You're fired.

ALLY

You can't fire me!

MARLENE

Yes, I can, I'm a partner. It is within my discretion to dismiss any attorney whose work I feel is not up to the high standard of Crane, Poole and Schmidt. Now get out.

ALLY

Oh, I never liked working here anyway!

Ally turns around and stomps out.

JOHN ARRIVES IN L.A.

LOS ANGELES. LA-X AIRPORT.

JOHN is standing in the terminal waiting for his luggage. JANE approaches.

JANE

Hi, John.

JOHN

Well, Jane, hello. What are you doing here?

CONTINUED: 96.

JANE

Richard called and said...

JOHN

Oh, I see. Richard called you to tell you I was here. Well, you can tell Richard...

He points at his chest.

I'm a Mariachi. I'm a Mariachi.

JANE

John, wait...

John grabs his bags and starts walking off.

JOHN

!Yo soy un mariachi! No soy un abogado. !Yo soy un Mariachi!

(I'm a mariachi! I'm not a lawyer!
I'm a mariachi!)

JANE

John... John...

John runs off.

ALLY GOES TO SEE RENEE

A BAR IN BOSTON.

ALLY enters the front room. The bar is not yet open. There is a tall, sturdy looking man at the door.

ALLY

Hi, I'm looking for Renee Raddick. Is she here?

BOUNCER

(Pointing towards the back) Just in there.

ALLY enters. The bar is still empty. Waiters are busy taking the last few chairs from the tables and putting them on the ground. RENEE is on the stage, wearing a very elegant dark red evening dress. She and the band are practicing "Locking up my heart" by the Marvelettes. RENEE sings: "I'm locking up my heart and throwing away the key..." She sees ALLY and waves at the band to stop.

CONTINUED: 97.

RENEE

Ally McBeal! As I live and breathe. What are you doing here? I haven't seen you in, what, seven years? Are you back in Boston?

ALLY

(Hugging Renee)

Hey Renee. I'm back for a little while.

RENEE

(To The Band)

Take a short break, guys.

(To Ally)

What are you doing here?

ALLY

I had a hard time tracking you down.

(Looking around)
Is this your new office?

RENEE

Funny. I gave up the law a few years ago to become a full-time singer. I might not make as much money, but I get to wear great outfits.

(Does a little twirl) And meet lots of hot men.

ALLY

(Looking at an old, haggard drummer)

I can see that. Well, it looks like you've found your dream job...Oh, Renee, I've missed you.

RENEE

Ally, what's wrong?

ALLY

Oh, you know, the usual...losing cases, getting fired, destroying friendships...

RENEE

What happened?

ALLY AND JOHN

I came here with a colleague, Marlene "The Squid" Stanger...

CONTINUED: 98.

RENEE

The Squid?

ALLY

They call her "The Squid" because she can bring down a shark, she has connections from here to Nantucket and she stares at you with these big white eyes, just stares at you.

Ally leans in and stares at Renee.

RENEE

Um hum.

ALLY

Anyway, she wanted me on this case because we're up against Cage, Fish & Porter.

RENEE

Porter?

ALLY

Yeah, Nell made partner.

RENEE

That bitch.

ALLY

I know. Anyway, instead of breeding distrust, shaping the facts and getting a huge settlement like a cold-blooded lawyer should, I decided to help opposing counsel's client reconcile with ours, and I got fired.

RENEE

(Knowingly)

Ally.

ALLY

And that's not even the worst part. I also screwed things up by going on a date with John.

RENEE

John Cage? You and the Biscuit? I always figured you two...

CONTINUED: 99.

ALLY

Well, that's just it, Renee, it didn't work out. We ended up arguing about the case and I left him in the middle of the dance floor.

RENEE

You left him?

ALLY

I know, but he just made me so angry.

RENEE

Ally, John's a pretty sensitive guy. I don't know if that was I good idea.

ALLY

I know! And normally I wouldn't want to jeopardize our friendship by going on a date with him, but I figured I'm not getting any younger and 'You never know' and...but now I think I really blew it.

RENEE

Have you tried talking to him?

ALLY

Of course I have, but nobody in his office even picks up the phone.

RENEE

Maybe you should go see him, and bring him a frog or something. It worked for Nell.

ALLY

(Slumping down)

Oh, God, what am I going to do, Renee? I lost my case, my job and my best friend, present company excluded, all in one week.

RENEE

(Putting her arm around her)
Relax, if it doesn't work out you
can always come sing backup for me.

CONTINUED: 100.

ALLY

(Smiling weakly)

Gee, thanks.

ALLY VISITS CAGE, FISH & PORTER

BOSTON. THE RECEPTION OF CAGE, FISH & PORTER.

ALLY gets off the elevator and heads straight in the direction of JOHN'S office. On the way there, she bumps into NELL and falls down.

ALLY

Dammit!

She gets up.

NELL

Hey! Ally, what are you doing here?

ALLY

I'm looking for John. Is he here?

NELL

John's gone to L.A.

ALLY

What?

NELL

He said he's moving to L.A. to become a Mariachi singer.

ALLY

Well, did he say when he'd be back?

NELL

He's not coming back. What did you do to him anyway?

ALLY

Nothing, nothing... I only possibly broke his heart.

NELL

Great, our best lawyer and between you Richard and Elaine, you make him quit the law and fly off to the other side of the country. CONTINUED: 101.

ALLY

Well, what did Richard and Elaine do?

NELL

Richard tried to finger Shirley Schmidt's wattle, and Elaine had sex with Denny Crane.

ALLY

He did what!? She did.... Oh God, this whole thing is getting way too incestuous.

NELL

Tell me about it. I had Alan Shore practically pawing me in my office.

ALLY

(starting to giggle)
Well did he find your defrost
button?

NELL

Oh, don't make me talk about it.

ALLY

Fine, Nell, could you please help me, I really need to talk to John.

NELL

I don't know, Richard's gone after him.

ALLY

Well, maybe I should go too.

NELL

Ally, I don't think that's a good idea. He can probably forgive a finger wattle, but from the sounds of it, you really hurt him.

ALLY

Oh, God, this is awful. I screwed everything up and now I can't even fix it. Can it get any worse?

There is silence, like Ally and Nell are waiting for something. Then the elevator opens and LING gets out.

CONTINUED: 102.

LING

(to Nell)

Hey, bitch!

She sees Ally.

(very cheerfully)

Oh hello, Ally, it's so good to see you again! How are you doing?

ALLY

Not very well right now, Ling.

LING

That was a hard G.

ALLY

Well, LinG, that's my new thinG. I just go around screwing up everythinG!

Ling stares at Ally. A growling sound is heard. Ally stares back, also growling.

LING

What is wrong with you?

NELL

John's disappeared again, this time to L.A. because Ally broke his heart.

LING

(cheerful again)

Is that all? Oh, how fun!

ALLY

It's not funny, LinG!

LING

Bite my head off!

Ally starts to leave.

ALLY

(distractedly)

I've gotta go find John.

LING

Great, maybe you can hurt him some more and he'll never return.

CONTINUED: 103.

ALLY

(turning back)

Oh, why don't you go eat your own young?

LING

I don't have any, because I choose not to. There are plenty of men out there who would mate with me, but I decline them all. You, on the other hand, don't have any because no one will love you. Poor, pathetic little Ally. Still looking...

Ally leaps into the air and tackles Ling. They roll around on the floor screaming and pulling each other's hair. Nell tries to break them up, but can't. CORRETTA and ELAINE enter.

CORRETTA

What's going on?

NELL

Ally went crazy and attacked Ling!

ALLY

(getting up)

I did not. She was mean, and said I'd never find love.

LING

(getting up)

What is wrong with you!?

ALLY

Oh, I've gotta go find John.

NELL

Ally, I don't think that's a good idea, not in the state you're in. You might kill him.

LING

Maybe we'd get lucky and they'd kill each other.

ALLY, NELL, CORRETTA AND ELAINE

(simultaneously)

LinG!

LING

That was a hard L and a hard G. The crazy woman attacks me and you're all on her side! I'm leaving.

CONTINUED: 104.

Ling stomps off.

NELL

Ling, wait.

Nell goes after her.

CORRETTA

(to Ally)

Are you okay?

ALLY

I... I don't know.

CORRETTA

Why don't you sit down for a minute?

ALLY

Oh... okay.

She sits down in a nearby chair.

Boy, it's just like old times. I'm back here at my old firm fighting with Ling and Nell and going crazy.

ELAINE

Oh, Ally, you've always been crazy, it doesn't matter where you are.

ALLY

Thank you, Elaine.

ELAINE

You know, Ally, sometimes I look at you and I think you're the dumbest person I know.

ALLY

Thank you, Elaine.

ELAINE

I mean look at you - you're smart, attractive, funny. You've had all these men throw themselves at you and ultimately you always find a way to ruin it.

ALLY

I didn't ruin it with Billy; he left me.

CONTINUED: 105.

ELAINE

He left you, and what did you do? You chose to work at the same law firm that he did. What for, to torture yourself?

Ally looks at Elaine, annoyed.

ELAINE

Then Greg fell for you, and what did you do? You went and kissed Billy.

ALLY

Hey!

ELAINE

Greg broke up with you, Billy left Georgia, but did you go back to him? No, you didn't.

ALLY

Well, I might have if he hadn't died.

ELAINE

No you wouldn't have, you always find a way to screw it up. What happened with Larry?

ALLY

Larry left me to be with his son.

ELAINE

Oh, Ally, you don't think he could have worked it out if you'd have let him? You got mad seeing him with his ex-wife, you broke up with him and he left.

ALLY

No, that's not what happened. You weren't there. You don't know.

CORRETTA

Ally, Elaine's right. Larry was going to propose to you.

ALLY

(stunned)

He was going to propose?

CONTINUED: 106.

CORRETTA

That's why he went to see his ex-wife - to find out what he could do differently so he wouldn't make the same mistake with you.

ALLY

(still stunned)
He was going to propose?

ELAINE

Ally, he loved you. They all loved you, and here you are fighting on the floor with Ling instead of going out and getting one of them. Why don't you take some of that abundant energy that you obviously have and gear it towards finding what you ultimately want?

ALLY

(getting up)
He was going to propose. Oh, I've got to go. I've got to go to

"My Bionic Eyes" by Liz Phair starts playing: "I love my bionic eyes. I love my crystal vision. If there's anybody out there, baby I'm not gonna miss him..." ALLY imagines herself wearing a SUPERHERO SUIT and a JETPACK. She turns it on and flies all the way to Detroit, to the place where Larry lives. She kicks in the door, revealing JAMIE and LARRY looking very surprised. She knocks Jamie out with some karate kicks, grabs Larry's hand and drags him outside. Then she picks him up and they fly off into the sunset.

ALLY GETS ARRESTED

BOSTON. LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

Detroit.

ALLY runs through the terminal to "Last Minute Miracle" by The Shirelles. She looks up at the flight announcement boards. Close-up on an announcement saying "Detroit - last call". She keeps on running, suddenly she bumps into someone and falls down. The other person is CATHERINE PIPER.

CATHERINE

Oh, watch where you're going, dear!

ALLY

(getting up)

I'm sorry, are you okay?

CONTINUED: 107.

CATHERINE

You young people are always in such a hurry.

ALLY

Sorry, I've got a really important flight to catch.

CATHERINE

I suppose you have to catch up with some long-lost love of yours.

ALLY

Yeah, how did you know that?

CATHERINE

Oh, it's just that you've got that certain look of desperation on your face, like you know this is your last chance at love.

ALLY

Wait a minute, don't I know you?

CATHERINE

I don't think so, dear.

ALLY

Funny, you look really familiar.

CATHERINE

I get that a lot. Anyway young lady, could you do me a favor? Would you mind helping me distract that security guard over there?

ALLY

Sure... wait a second. Why do you need me to distract him?

CATHERINE

Well, sweetheart, I've got a little plastic bomb in my handbag and I don't think they'll let me through security with it.

ALLY

You've got a what?

CATHERINE

They're so handy, not as easy to detect as the metal ones but still, one doesn't like to take chances now, does one?

CONTINUED: 108.

ALLY

You must be joking. Very funny, but look, I've really got to go.

CATHERINE

Oh, I'm not joking, dear. Here have a little peak.

Catherine opens her small HANDBAG to reveal a little BOMB with a flashing red light and quiet ticking sound.

ALLY

Oh my God, you're crazy!

CATHERINE

Why, yes, I am. But it doesn't really matter. I'm just doing this to highlight the hypocrisy of today's airport security checks. If you look even vaguely Middle Eastern, you'll be searched ten times before they let you even enter the cafeteria. With an old lady like me, nobody looks twice. It's blatant racism, and there'll be a huge scandal once I go public about this afterwards.

ALLY

You're completely nuts. You can't do that! What if the bomb goes off?

CATHERINE

Oh, don't be such a whiner.

ALLY

Please, you can't do this, Ms...

CATHERINE

(extending her hand)
Piper, Catherine Piper. Pleased to
meet you.

ALLY

Never mind pleased to meet you. You're putting everyone in danger! And you're risking my future. You'd better leave the airport right now or I will alert security.

CATHERINE

Oh, don't get all high and mighty with me. You're just bitter because (MORE)

CONTINUED: 109.

CATHERINE (cont'd)

deep down you know that your life will always be unfulfilled.

ALLY

How can you say that? You don't even know me.

CATHERINE

I know enough. What are you, 44, 45?

Ally imagines taking the bomb out of Catherine's bag and shoving it down her throat.

ALLY

(clenching teeth)

39.

CATHERINE

Whatever. If you haven't found the love of your life by now I don't think you're going to.

ALLY

How can you say that?

CATHERINE

Face it, dear. You're not getting any younger. You're starting to get crow's feet, your ovaries are shriveling, you're biological clock is tick, tick, ticking away. Just like this bomb in my bag.

ALLY

Stop it.

CATHERINE

Tick, tick, tick.

ALLY

Gimme that!

Ally tries to snatch the bag from Catherine. They start wrestling. Two SECURITY GUARDS approach them.

SECURITY GUARD #1

Woah, ladies, break it up.

Security Guard #2 pulls them off each other and keeps them apart.

CONTINUED: 110.

ALLY

She's crazy! She's got a bomb!

CATHERINE

Only a little one, and it's just for demonstration purposes.

Security Guard #1 picks up Catherine's bag, which has fallen to the floor. He opens it and is shocked.

SECURITY GUARD #1

(into his walkie-talkie)

A bomb! Emergency! Emergency! Control room, we need backup here! Cordon off the entire terminal B.

SECURITY GUARD #2

You two come with me.

The security guards put HANDCUFFS on Ally and Catherine and lead them away.

ALLY THE DETAINEE

BOSTON. LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. A HOLDING CELL.

ALLY, still in handcuffs, is brought to her cell. MARLENE is standing there, waiting. The SECURITY GUARD takes the handcuffs off Ally, puts her in her cell and exits.

ALLY

Marlene, oh thank God. Are you here to bail me out? It was a huge misunderstanding. I was running, trying to catch my flight...

MARLENE

Ally, I'm not here to bail you out.

ALLY

You're not?

MARLENE

No, though I can't say I'm surprised to find you in a place like this.

ALLY

Then why are you here?

CONTINUED: 111.

MARLENE

We've decided to sue you.

ALLY

Sue me? For what?

MARLENE

You failed to disclose the degree to which you suffer from mental instability at the time you were hired, and you've cost this firm a lot of money.

ALLY

Mental instability!? I'm not mentally instable, unstable.

MARLENE

That will be for a jury to decide.

ALLY

This is ridiculous. You don't seriously believe that you can sue a lawyer at your own firm.

MARLENE

We're Crane, Poole & Schmidt. We can do whatever we want.

Marlene leaves.

ALLY

Oh, God, what am I going to do? I lost my job. I'm being sued. They think I'm a terrorist... I'm going to die a lonely, crazy, barren, old woman with 17 cats, an ankle bracelet and no grandchildren.

Ally puts her head in her hands and remains still for a few seconds. When she looks up, she sees the ghost of BILLY.

BILLY

Hey there.

ALLY

Billy!

She tries to hug him but passes right through.

I forgot; you're dead. Oh, it
figures you should turn up now, the
one friend who can't help me. Where
were you when I needed you?

CONTINUED: 112.

BILLY

The schedule up there is pretty tight, but I'm here now.

ALLY

You're right. I'm sorry.

BILLY

Ally, believe me when I tell you, you're going to be alright.

ALLY

Well, that's easy for you to say. You're already dead!

Billy sulks and slowly begins to fade away.

ALLY

I'm sorry, I didn't mean that. Come back, please. You're the only one I've got left. I need your advice. What should I do?

Billy becomes fully visible again.

BILLY

Ally... go to him.

ALLY

You! It was you, all along, the voice, it was you.

BILLY

It was me.

ALLY

Well, can't you give me a little more than that? I mean, who am I supposed to go to? Is it Larry? I tried and got arrested. I tried Bobby and he broke up with me.

BILLY

Just go to him, and everything will be fine.

Billy smiles and disappears.

ALLY

Billy wait. Come back. Oh, great, why do ghosts of old boyfriends have to be so cryptic? Go to him. Go to him. Might as well tell me vaya con Dios.

CONTINUED: 113.

Ally paces around the cell for a few seconds. Then she sees JOHN's face.

ALLY

John... Guard? Guard?

The Security guard re-enters.

PRISON GUARD

Ma'am?

ALLY

Could I please make a phone call?

CUT TO ALLY STANDING IN THE HALL TALKING ON THE PHONE.

ALLY

Richard, listen, you've gotta get John back. I need him. I've been arrested... no... no. I'm being charged with alleged terrorist activities... Richard... Richard... I didn't do it. It was a big misunderstanding. There was this old lady and I tried to stop her from blowing up a plane... Richard... Richard... Just please tell John. He's the only one who can help me... Yeah, I will, thank you.

ELAINE and CORRETTA arrive with the other security guard.

ALLY

Elaine, Corretta, what are you doing here?

CORRETTA

We're coming to get you out. We've convinced the arresting officers that you're not actually a terrorist.

ELAINE

I've personally vouched for your character.

ALLY

They released me because you vouched for me?

CONTINUED: 114.

ELAINE

Don't sound so surprised.

ALLY

Sorry. Well, thank you. I was beginning to get nervous. I don't look good in orange.

ELAINE

Listen, we've also talked to the airline and they can get you on the next flight, but you've got to hurry. It leaves in 20 minutes.

Ally looks sadly at Elaine

ELAINE

What?

ALLY

Listen, I appreciate all that you've done, but while I was in here I had some time to think. I haven't seen Larry in over seven years. I'm sure he's moved on with his life. It's time for me to move on with mine.

ELAINE

Ally, a few hours ago you were ready to jump on a plane and go see him. Now, you're going to just give up?

ALLY

I've thought about it a lot, and I just don't think it would work.

ELAINE

What are you talking about? Get on that plane!

ALLY

Elaine, no. Remember when I was with Larry and Jamie came back into his life? It threw both of us into utter turmoil. Now, seven years later I'm going to do it to him again, to myself again? I can't, Elaine. I can't be the woman from his past who returns and upends everything in his life, especially when there's a child involved.

(MORE)

CONTINUED: 115.

ALLY (cont'd)

Maybe getting arrested was some kind of sign. Who knows, maybe he and Jamie are happy. Or maybe he's moved on and found someone else. I can't ruin that.

ELAINE

But what if he isn't? What if he's as miserable as you are?

ALLY

I am not miserable, and knowing Larry, I don't think he is either. Please, just take me out of here.

Elaine and Corretta look at each other and shrug. Elaine puts her arm around Ally and the three walk out.

JOHN AND CASSANDRA MEET UP

A MEXICAN RESTAURANT IN LOS ANGELES.

JOHN is dressed as a MARIACHI and is playing "Ring of Fire" along with the BAND. He sings, "And it burns, burns, burns, burns. The ring of fire. The ring of fire." He sees CASSANDRA sitting alone at a nearby table and misses the last note. The band stops playing and he goes and sits down with her. The band starts another song.

JOHN

Cassandra, what are you doing here?

CASSANDRA

Oh, I was just in the mood for a little Mexican. Do you know any?

John takes off his HAT.

JOHN

Oh, ah, don't let the sombrero fool you. How have you been?

CASSANDRA

Oh, you know, aside from not having a little bandolero to sing me to sleep every night, pretty good. How have you been?

CONTINUED: 116.

JOHN

Oh, ah, okay.

CASSANDRA

So what are you doing in L.A.? New career move?

JOHN

Something like that, yeah.

CASSANDRA

Tired of being rich, well respected lawyer?

JOHN

Sometimes being a lawyer isn't all it's cracked up to be.

CASSANDRA

I see... Is that all?

JOHN

Well, that's part of it.

CASSANDRA

What's the rest?

JOHN

Oh... Ally.

CASSANDRA

What about her?

JOHN

She doesn't love me.

CASSANDRA

And did you want her to?

JOHN

Yes. I don't know, maybe. I hoped. She came back, after all these years, she came back and I thought maybe, maybe she's the one.

CASSANDRA

Well, John, if I may say, it seems like you always come out here heartbroken.

JOHN

And I always seem to run into you. It's rather remarkable when you (MORE)

CONTINUED: 117.

JOHN (cont'd)

think about it. What are the odds that we'd bump into each other in a city of 10 million people?

Cassandra looks over John's shoulder and shakes her head.

CASSANDRA

Well, perhaps not as remarkable as you might think.

John turns around.

JOHN

Richard! Oh, so this was all a set up, huh? That's just great!

RICHARD and JANE enter and sit down.

JANE

Hi, John.

JOHN

Ah, hi.

RICHARD

Come on, buddy, we need you back at the firm. The associates don't trust me, clients are threatening to leave. We need you back.

JOHN

Well, maybe you should have thought of that before you let Crane, Poole & Schmidt slip their tentacles into every one of our portholes.

JANE

Ew.

RICHARD

I admit I made a mistake. That's why I need you there, to keep me from screwing up.

JOHN

I was there, Richard. You still screwed up!

RICHARD

Yeah, but you can fix it. You can work your little Biscuit magic...

CONTINUED: 118.

JOHN

No, Richard, not this time. This time you're on your own.

RICHARD

Why? What did I do that was so unforgivable? All I did was try to finger Shirley Schmidt's wattle. There's no crime in that, at least I don't think there is.

Richard sniffs his finger. John points at Richard.

JOHN

You betrayed me with that finger. You betrayed me, and you betrayed the firm. You took your finger and you violated me with it.

RICHARD

John, calm down.

JOHN

(getting louder)

No, Richard, I'm going to calm down! You betrayed me! And not only that, you, Elaine and Denny Crane violated my hole!

John, Richard, Jane and Cassandra look around to see the entire restaurant staring at them.

JOHN

Oh great. That's just great. I'm just a funny little man with a funny hole. That's just great.

He folds his arms and frowns.

RICHARD

John...

JOHN

Richard, why don't you go home before you ruin this job for me as well?

RICHARD

Well, John, after that outburst... bygones. Before I go, I made a promise to Ally that I would ask you to come back and defend her.

CONTINUED: 119.

JOHN

Defend her? Now what's she done?

RICHARD

She's being sued by her former firm - Crane, Poole and Schmidt.

JOHN

Her former firm?

RICHARD

Yeah, they fired her. Apparently they weren't happy that she worked out a settlement in the Van Dorn Case.

JOHN

You mean she reconciled Tyler and Martin?

RICHARD

Yeah, and she's being sued not only for that case, but for some past cases as well.

JOHN

They're suing her for past cases, why?

RICHARD

They're saying she wasn't competent, and that she put her own interests ahead of theirs.

JOHN

Well, that part I can believe. But do they really think she's incompetent?

RICHARD

Unstable, perhaps, is a better word for it. Face it John, we always thought she was too, she just fit in better at our firm. She gave me a message to give to you. She said she's sorry, that she still loves you - though not in love with you - and she needs you.

JOHN

I don't know, going up against Crane, Poole & Schmidt... I'm a good lawyer, but they've got an army of good lawyers.

CONTINUED: 120.

CASSANDRA

You know John when you represented me you went up against one of the best divorce attorneys in L.A., and you beat him, you beat him badly.

JOHN

I did, didn't I?

RICHARD

Come on, buddy. I know you're mad at us now, but do you really want to leave the firm you helped build? Do you want to risk its future? Do you really want Ally to lose her career? Captains don't abandon ship. You're our captain, John.

JOHN

It would be a chance to face Denny Crane in court. Beating him would be quite a feather in our cap.

RICHARD

I know you can do it, buddy.

JOHN

Alright, Richard, you've convinced me. But from now on any lawyer from Crane, Poole & Schmidt has to make an appointment before coming into our law firm.

RICHARD

Agreed.

JOHN

And no fingering of strange wattles, especially while at our office.

RICHARD

Fine, I'll quit fingering strange wattles, if you'll come back. Now can we go please?

JOHN

Okay, but first let me say goodbye to my fellow musicians.

He addresses the band.

Amigos mio, necesito ir. (My friends, I must go.)

CONTINUED: 121.

THE BAND

Adios, Senior. (Goodbye, Sir.)

JOHN

A todos, bien suerte y seran fuerte. (To all of you, good luck and be strong.)

THE BAND

Gracias, y bien suerte tambien. (Thank you, and good luck to you.)

John reverently places his sombrero on the stage.

JOHN

Adios, my friend, I guess I have another hat to wear. But I won't soon forget you.

John, Richard, Jane and Cassandra leave.

A MEMBER OF THE BAND Es un hombre poco y loco. (That's a crazy little man.)

THE REST OF THE BAND Si. (Yes.)

MARLENE ENLISTS ALAN AND DENNY

BOSTON. THE LAW FIRM OF CRANE, POOLE & SCHMIDT, ALAN SHORE'S OFFICE.

ALAN is sitting at his desk, seemingly alone. MARLENE bursts in.

ALAN

Marlene, this is a pleasant surprise.

MARLENE

Can I talk to you?

ALAN

Just a second.

He slides back his chair and looks under the desk. Would you excuse me for a minute?

PATTY pops out from under Alan's desk.

CONTINUED: 122.

PATTY

No problem.

She begins walking out of the room.

ALAN

Patty, this is Marlene. Marlene, Patty. I like to bring her in once a week to polish my...

Marlene raises her eyebrow. Patty turns around and faces Alan.

ALAN

...shoes! She polishes my shoes once a week.

PATTY

I'm done, Alan. I'll see you later.

ALAN

Thank you, Patty. See you next week?

PATTY

Sure.

Patty turns and tosses a TOWEL over her shoulder. Then she walks out.

ALAN

Now, what can I do for you?

MARLENE

You have to help me get her.

ALAN

Get who?

MARLENE

Ally McBeal.

ALAN

Why? Where's she gone?

MARLENE

She reached a settlement in the Minx case after I had already removed her from it.

ALAN

So, she was acting as a lay person.

CONTINUED: 123.

MARLENE

Exactly.

Alan gets up and walks around to Marlene's side.

ALAN

Tell me, Marlene, have you ever been a *lay* person?

MARLENE

I've always been a professional.

ALAN

I have no doubt.

DENNY walks in.

DENNY

Alan, did a midget just leave your office?

ALAN

Yes, that's my friend Patty.

DENNY

Good. I thought I was losing my mind. Mad Cow.

MARLENE

Mr. Crane.

DENNY

Ms. Squid.

MARLENE

Anyway, she'll be represented by her former firm - Cage, Fish & Porter.

ALAN

Ah, Denny and I have already made some friends at that firm. Tell me, will Ms. Porter be attending?

MARLENE

Yes, there's a rumor she and John Cage will be defending her. I went up against him before and he's good.

Marlene leans closer to Alan.

Alan, I want to nail this Ally McBeal, and I want you're help in doing it.

CONTINUED: 124.

ALAN

Tell me, Marlene, with all this talk of nailing should I bring my hammer?

MARLENE

You can bring your hammer, your screwdriver, your whole tool belt.

DENNY

What about me? Name's on the door.

MARLENE

Mr. Crane... you can watch.

ALAN

What do you say, Denny? It'd be a chance to be in court again together.

DENNY

Oh, I'm looking forward to this.

RICHARD SAVES THE DAY

THE HALLWAYS OF THE BOSTON COURTHOUSE.

Music: "It's money that I love" by Randy Newman is playing as RICHARD's theme song. "I don't love the mountain, I don't love the sea..." RICHARD, CORRETTA and RAYMOND are walking towards the courtroom in a confident stride.

RAYMOND

Are you sure you're up to this, Richard?

RICHARD

I'm ready. Bring it on.

CORRETTA

And you've read all the facts?

RICHARD

I don't need facts. I'm in the zone.

Randy sings "It's money that I love". Richard gives a nod and wink. Corretta and Raymond look at each other, worried.

CUT TO INSIDE THE COURTROOM

CONTINUED: 125.

"WHIPPER" Cone presiding. Richard, Corretta, Raymond and HAROLD sit at the plaintiff's table. LIZA, VERONICA and BARRY MATHERS sit at the defendant's table.

WHIPPER

Okay, Mr. Mathers, you're up.

MATHERS

(standing)

With your permission, Your Honor, my client would prefer that my co-counsel, Ms. Liza Bump, make the final statement.

He steps aside to reveal LIZA sitting behind him.

RICHARD

Objection, Your Honor. Let the record show opposing counsel's last name is Fish.

LIZA

No, it's not. I changed it yesterday.

Richard sneers at Liza, then sits down.

HAROLD

Do you know that woman?

RICHARD

You could say that. She's my wife.

WHIPPER

Go ahead Ms. Bump.

LIZA

(getting up)

Thank you, Your Honor. First of all, I would like to take issue with the notion that size is so important. I myself might be puny, but I like to think that I'm able to make a big impression.

WHIPPER

I'm sorry, but your client markets a product that claims to make a man's penis larger. Now you're saying that size doesn't matter?

CONTINUED: 126.

LIZA

Your Honor, if I may continue, I'd like to explore the male psyche for a little bit.

WHIPPER

Okay, but let's not get too deep, alright?

LIZA

I promise, I'll stay in the shallow end. Just like Mr. Fish likes to.

RICHARD

(standing)

Objection.

WHIPPER

Sit down, counsel.

Richard sits back down.

LIZA

As I was saying, it's so typical of men to reduce everything to sex. What most don't seem to realize is that for most of us women, sexual prowess isn't the most important thing in a relationship. What we look for is someone who can entertain and challenge us, on an intellectual and emotional level. If we have that, the sex is secondary. This is obviously something that goes above opposing counsel's Viagra-filled head. I am sure you will agree with me there.

WHIPPER

Whether or not I agree with you, the question is, does your client deliberately target and exploit people's insecurities?

LIZA

Well, duh! All advertisements do that. Most of the time, it's us women who are targeted. We are constantly told that if we have even the tiniest wrinkle, or the slightest hint of cellulite, we have to feel miserable. And that the only way to be happy again is (MORE)

CONTINUED: 127.

LIZA (cont'd)

to buy the creams and ointments that will make these imperfections go away. Many women do buy into this belief and purchase those products. But these things don't change our lives forever. If everyone ended up suing, where would we be? You can't blame Dr. Honeywell for an overemphasis of sex in our culture. While her product might not help to change this, there is obviously a demand for it and she has the right to put it out there.

WHIPPER

This, however, does not apply if the product potentially causes physical or emotional harm.

LIZA

ExtraMan is perfectly safe if used as advised, and my client's infomercial clearly states that results may vary from person to person. Now, you heard Mr. Blum testify that he did not read the instructions prior to using the product, nor did he consult a doctor either before, or after using it. Furthermore, it was Mr. Blum who told his date that he was using ExtraMan, so he, himself, is responsible for the ridicule he suffered that lead to his loss of employment. Harold Blum, I'm afraid to say, is a deeply insecure man. He saw the problem of his low self-esteem in his lack of size. When he didn't find the answer through enlargement, he decided to blame someone else. But winning this lawsuit won't make him any happier. What he really needs is to learn to love and accept himself for who he is, and no amount of money can give him that.

She walks back towards the plaintiff's table.
So please, send a message to Mr.
Blum that he doesn't need this
lawsuit. By pursuing this, he's
just turning himself into a victim.

CONTINUED: 128.

She strokes Harold's head.

Which is a shame because actually, I think he's really cute.

RICHARD

Oh, objection, Your Honor.

WHIPPER

Mr. Fish, that's enough. Alright, Mr. Millbury, are you ready to proceed?

RAYMOND

With the court's permission we'd like to have our senior partner, Richard Fish, do the closing.

WHIPPER

Fine, go ahead Mr. Fish. This should be interesting.

RICHARD

Thank you, Your Honor. Your Honor, the most important thing in a man's life is his penis.

WHIPPER

Really, Mr. Fish? I wasn't aware of that.

RICHARD

It's true. Family, career, a nice car, those things are all important, but the penis, that stands supreme. It is both literally and figuratively the stick by which all men measure themselves against other men. Res ipsa penitor, Your Honor.

WHIPPER

Well, Mr. Fish, thank you for sharing your insight with the court. Now do you have anything relevant to say concerning this case?

RICHARD

Your Honor, this is relevant to my case. My client has a small penis; he wanted a bigger one. These people preyed on him. They get a beautiful woman to come on TV,

(MORE)

CONTINUED: 129.

RICHARD (cont'd)

maybe flirt with the camera a little, spew some pseudo-scientific mumbo-jumbo in a forum that doesn't even require them to tell the truth, and before you know it poor Mr. Blum is dialing the phone, giving them his credit card number, and hoping to hit the jackpot. When, in truth, there was no jackpot. Their whole campaign is specifically geared towards men who are already insecure, and what do they do? They attack them, in their most private, most vulnerable area. It's not fair.

WHIPPER

I'm sorry counsel, but in this country we have a concept known as "Buyer Beware." No one forced your client to buy the product. He chose to, and I'm certainly not going to tell them how they can and cannot market their product.

RICHARD

Your Honor, their product doesn't work. It doesn't work. It may make the penis harder and increase the frequency of erections, but it doesn't make it longer, either erect or flaccid. Not only that, it's dangerous. Studies have shown that it may also contain yeast, mold, E coli, bacteria, pesticides and lead. This is a dangerous, unregulated product, and they claim that it is safe. They claim it is backed by scientific evidence, when no clear evidence exists. They claim it works; it doesn't. My client was promised a bigger penis. Instead he got discomfort, embarrassment, ridicule and loss of employment. Don't let them get away with this, Your Honor. This is America. Our penises are in your hands.

WHIPPER

Thank you, counsel. I'll be sure to consider that before I making my ruling.

CONTINUED: 130.

RICHARD

I would be honored if you would.

ALLY'S DAY IN COURT

A COURTROOM IN BOSTON.

JOHN, ALLY and NELL are sitting at the defendant's table. MARLENE, ALAN and DENNY are at the plaintiff's table. The gallery is filled. LING walks in in a RED ROBE. Before she sits down she pauses and looks over the courtroom.

LING

What the hell is going on here?

BAILIFF

Case number 426: Crane, Poole & Schmidt versus McBeal. The Honorable Judge Ling Woo presiding.

LING

(sitting)

Oh, God. Why do I always get the worst cases?

MARLENE

(standing)

Your Honor, may I approach?

LING

Go ahead.

Marlene, Alan, Denny, John and Nell approach The Bench.

MARLENE

At this time I would ask that Your Honor recuse herself because of her relationship with the defendant and her previous employment at the law firm representing her.

LING

Oh relax, after Ms. McBeal attacked me I'm not in much of a mood to be charitable towards her. You probably want me on this case.

JOHN

In that case, Your Honor, I too would ask that you recuse yourself on the grounds mentioned by opposing counsel, as well as those (MORE)

CONTINUED: 131.

JOHN (cont'd)

that you've just mentioned. I wasn't aware that you and my client had been in a fight...

LING

(interrupting)

Didn't you hear me? I didn't say there was a fight, I said your client attacked me!

JOHN

A... um... a... da...

LING

And stop that stuttering! I don't want to be here all day waiting for you to stumble through your opening statement.

JOHN

... a... da... dragon lady.

Ling stares at John with a growling sound.

JOHN

Your Honor, I nevertheless renew my request that you recuse yourself, and since opposing counsel agrees...

MARLENE

I withdraw my request.

JOHN

(pausing momentarily)
Even so, I feel Your Honor's
presence would be highly
prejudicial.

LING

Oh, I can be impartial.

JOHN

Your Honor, with all due respect...

LING

I said I could be impartial!

JOHN

Well, I want my objection noted for the record.

CONTINUED: 132.

LING

So noted. Now let's go.

All five walk back to their tables and sit, save Marlene who walks back but remains standing.

Ms. Stanger, are you ready with your opening statement?

MARLENE

I am, Your Honor.

LING

Proceed.

MARLENE

(walking out)

Thank you, Your Honor. Members of the jury, I regret having to summon you all here today. A lawyer never likes to sue another lawyer, especially a former colleague... and friend.

ALLY

(whispering)

Oh, give me a break.

MARLENE

But sometimes even loyalty to your profession, loyalty to your workplace, loyalty to your friend, sometimes even those are not enough. When Ms. McBeal was hired to work at Crane, Poole and Schmidt, she failed to disclose the degree to which she suffers from mental instability. And it is this instability that has brought us here today. In the time of her employment at Crane, Poole & Schmidt, we have estimated that, rather than benefiting her firm, Ms. McBeal has actually cost her firm over 2 million dollars in lost cases, reduced damage awards and other expenses. You know what they say, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. And Ms. McBeal, I regret to say, was that link. Now, you may notice sitting at our table is the distinguished litigator, Mr. Denny Crane

CONTINUED: 133.

DENNY

(points to himself)
Denny Crane.

MARLENE

Mr. Crane is here because he supports our lawsuit.

DENNY

Damn right.

MARLENE

I tried to work with her, tried to help her, but I failed. Mr. Crane, has worked a lifetime building this law firm from the ground up using grit, determination and hard work. Don't let all of that effort be jeopardized by an unstable, selfish, and I'm sorry to say, incompetent lawyer who cares more about her love life, or lack thereof, than the well-being of her clients.

She turns her back to the JURY, smiles at Ally and sits down.

LING

Mr. Cage?

JOHN

(getting up and walking out) Your Honor, members of the jury, I'm troubled. On the one hand we have my client - a single, female attorney, trying her best to earn a living while raising a teenage daughter all by herself. On the other, we have the biggest, most powerful, some might even say the most ruthless law firm in the city. Well, I should give them credit, maybe the whole country. And yet, it is not she who is suing them, not she who is bringing this lawsuit, but it is they - a firm with nearly limitless financial resources, political ties that reach the highest echelons of our government and some of the best legal minds in the world; who have turned their attention, their

(MORE)

CONTINUED: 134.

JOHN (cont'd)

focus, nay even their ire, upon my client. Well, one has to wonder why this would be the case. Now, Ms. Stanger contends that my client somehow poses a threat to this mighty institution known as Crane, Poole & Schmidt. Please. As good an attorney as Ms. McBeal is, and I can personally vouch for that having worked closely with her for nearly five years, she is simply no match for a law firm that has branch offices in New York, Los Angeles, London and Tokyo. No, I suspect this lawsuit brought before you today has more to do with anger, with retribution, with vengeance, than any perceived threat to the law offices of Crane, Poole & Schmidt. It wasn't enough that they fired her. It wasn't enough that Ms. Stanger, who claims to be her friend, questioned her abilities in open court. No, now they have to go and sue her. Well, maybe that's how you get to be the most powerful, most feared law firm in the country, by going after the little guy. Or, in this case, the single mother.

THE CASE AGAINST ALLY

BOSTON. A COURTROOM.

Judge LING Woo presiding. Same characters as in the last scene.

LING

Ms. Stanger, are you ready with your first witness.

MARLENE

Your Honor, we call Dr. Greg Butters to the stand.

JOHN

Objection, this witness has no direct relevance to the case.

CONTINUED: 135.

MARLENE

We're attempting to demonstrate Ms. McBeal's deceitful and disloyal nature in her professional, as well as in her personal life.

LING

I'll allow it.

JOHN

Your Honor?

LING

I said I'd allow it, and I believe I said it nicely.

GREG takes the witness stand.

MARLENE

Dr. Butters, you and Ms. McBeal dated?

GREG

Yes, on and off for about a year and a half.

MARLENE

Thank you. And can you tell us how your relationship ended?

GREG

I broke up with her after I found out that she had kissed her ex-boyfriend, who was married at the time.

MARLENE

I see, and was that the end of it?

GREG

No. Later, in I guess what was an attempt to win me back, she hired an escort who pretended to be her new boyfriend, to make me jealous.

JOHN

(standing)

Objection, these salacious attacks against my client serve no purpose other than to perhaps titillate the jury. This is a courtroom, Your Honor. No one ought to be titillated.

CONTINUED: 136.

Pan to a shot of a BUSTY WOMAN in the jury box and a MAN next to her gazing at her chest.

LING

Objection overruled.

MARLENE

Dr. Butters, would you consider dating Ms. McBeal again?

GREG

No, I would not.

MARLENE

Thank you. Nothing further.

Marlene walks back to the plaintiff's table.

JOHN

(stepping out)

Dr. Butters, you, yourself, were a client of Ms. McBeal's on a couple of occasions, were you not?

GREG

Yes.

JOHN

Got you off of some pretty serious charges, isn't that correct?

GREG

Yes.

JOHN

What about in the bedroom? Got you off there too?

ALLY

Objection!

JOHN

Withdrawn. Now, you mention her betraying you. Isn't it true that some of your own actions were detrimental to your relationship?

GREG

I suppose. But it wasn't my intention to hurt her. When she kissed Billy, she knew it would hurt me.

CONTINUED: 137.

JOHN

Yes, and we can clearly see now that there are no hurt feelings involved in your testimony.

MARLENE

Objection.

JOHN

I have nothing further.

A MONTAGE OF OTHER FORMER CLIENTS TESTIFYING AGAINST ALLY FOLLOWS.

KATHERINE DAWSON

She had an affair with my husband.

MARLENE

I see. Anything else?

KATHERINE DAWSON

Then she got up at his funeral and gave this ridiculous eulogy, after we'd both agreed that she shouldn't....

DR. HOOPER

I invited her in because she was the third person in the marriage of a couple I counseled.

MARLENE

I see. And can you tell us what happened in that session?

DR. HOOPER

I happened to get her name wrong a few times. I'm not good with names. Anyway, after a few questions I realized she was no longer needed so I told her she could leave. She got furious, stomped in my foot and broke my toe...

RISA HELMS

She tried to ruin my wedding.

MARLENE

How?

RISA HELMS

She kept interrupting, first pulling my fiancé aside to talk to (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 138.

RISA HELMS (cont'd) him, then pulling me aside to talk to me. Eventually it worked, and I called it off.

MARLENE

And why did she keep pulling you both aside?

RISA HELMS

She had had sex with my fiance a day before the wedding.

The JURY looks disapprovingly at ALLY....

MARY TYLER MOORE

I was negotiating with a publisher on the price of an audio CD for my latest book. I hired Crane, Poole & Schmidt with the understanding that they were the toughest, shrewdest law firm in town. Instead they give me this ditz to represent me. She actually got up and started singing right in the middle of negotiations.

John, Ally and Nell all take a moment....

JORDAN MILES

She handled my divorce settlement.

MARLENE

And, what were the terms of that settlement?

JORDAN MILES

I had to pay my wife alimony - \$300 a month for two years, even though she had cheated on me. On a cop's salary, that's a lot of money.

MARLENE

Understood. And why did you end up paying?

JORDAN MILES

She, Ms. McBeal, told me I should go and talk to my wife, try to smooth things out. But the other lawyer, she knew Ms. McBeal's tactics and she told my wife to record the conversation. Next thing (MORE)

CONTINUED: 139.

JORDAN MILES (cont'd)

I know she plays the tape in court and I end up looking like the bad guy....

END OF MONTAGE.

MARLENE

Please state your name for the record.

GEORGIA

Georgia Thomas.

MARLENE

Thomas, is that your maiden name?

GEORGIA

No, it was the name of my late husband.

MARLENE

And you still keep his name?

GEORGIA

To honor him.

John is heard scribbling with a PLUME which he then dips in an INKWELL. Marlene stops.

JOHN

(standing up)

Forgive me, Your Honor, but if opposing counsel insists on digging up the past I felt it appropriate to take notes, and since we are in the historical city of Boston...

MARLENE

Objection, Your Honor.

LING

Mr. Cage, I am not amused. Ms. Stanger. You may continue.

John sits back down. Ally smiles.

MARLENE

Now, Ms. Thomas, weren't you going through a divorce at the time of his passing?

CONTINUED: 140.

GEORGIA

Yes, he had a brain tumor and his personality had changed radically.

MARLENE

When would you say was the first time you considered separation?

GEORGIA

After he kissed Ally.

MARLENE

The defendant?

GEORGIA

Yes.

MARLENE

And you and the defendant were friends at the time?

GEORGIA

I thought we were.

She gives Ally an apologetic look.

GEORGIA

Sorry, Ally.

MARLENE

(sits down)

Thank you, nothing further.

JOHN

(getting up)

Ms. Thomas...

Ally grabs John's arm.

ALLY

John...

She shakes her head "No."

JOHN

Your Honor, we have no questions for this witness.

John sits back down.

LING

The witness may step down. Ms. Stanger?

CONTINUED: 141.

MARLENE

We rest, Your Honor.

LING

Very well, defense can begin its case in the morning.

WHIPPER MAKES HER RULING

BOSTON. A COURTROOM.

Judge "WHIPPER" Cone presiding. RICHARD, CORRETTA, RAYMOND and HAROLD sit at the plaintiff's table. LIZA, MATHERS and VERONICA are at the defendant's table.

WHIPPER

As ridiculous as this to say, the decision I had to make was not an easy one.

RICHARD

Does that mean we win?

WHIPPER

If you would let me finish, Mr. Fish...

RICHARD

Go ahead.

WHIPPER

I agree that the ExtraMan infomercials are exploitative in nature, and are targeted at the potential buyers' insecurities. However, I also see Ms. Bump's point that this is simply an inherent feature of advertising. We do, despite our recent history, have a relatively free market in this country, and companies sometimes need to be aggressive in order to compete. Even so, there are limits to this freedom, and those limits are reached when the customer suffers physical or mental distress as a result of using the product. There is no mention of potential side effects in the infomercial, nor is there any recommendation to consult a doctor either before of after using the

(MORE)

CONTINUED: 142.

WHIPPER (cont'd)

product. It may not be easy for the plaintiff to show damages, but this is something that will have to be decided by a jury. Motion for summary judgement denied.

RICHARD

Thank you, Your Honor.

WHIPPER

I assure you, Mr. Fish, my ruling was in no way a personal favor to you. We're adjourned.

She bangs her GAVEL, gets up and leaves. Harold shakes hands with Richard, CORRETTA and RAYMOND.

HAROLD

Thank you Mr. Fish, Ms. Lipp, Mr. Millbury.

VERONICA walks over with LIZA.

VERONICA

Mr. Fish, as a sign of goodwill we are interested in settling this case before it goes to trial. We'll be in touch with an offer.

She turns to Harold.

And to you, Mr. Blum, without admitting any liability, I apologize for any distress that may have resulted from using our product. You seem to be a sweet and kind man. And from what I glimpsed when you stood up from that witness chair, you do not actually need our product.

She kisses him on the cheek. Veronica and MATHERS leave.

HAROLD

(smiling widely)

Wow.

CORRETTA

Careful, Harold, she's probably just trying to get on your good side so she won't have to pay you much in the settlement.

CONTINUED: 143.

HAROLD

I don't care. Wow!

LIZA

Well, congratulations, Fishy.

RICHARD

You didn't think I had it in me, did you? Beating you in court like that.

LIZA

It was a surprise to be honest. Somehow it was quite... exhilarating.

RICHARD

I have to go now to another trial, but maybe we can meet later at the bar, work out the details.

LIZA

Sure. I'd like that.

DEFENDING ALLY

A COURTROOM IN BOSTON.

Judge LING WOO presiding. ALLY, JOHN and NELL are at the defendant's table. MARLENE, ALAN and DENNY are at the plaintiff's. The JURY BOX and GALLERY are full.

LING

Okay, Mr. Cage, are you ready to call your first witness?

JOHN

We are, Your Honor. We call Ms. Jennifer Shaw to the stand.

LING

Oh, yes, the freckly one.

JENNY walks to the witness chair and is sworn in.

JOHN

Miss Shaw...

JENNY

It's Mrs. Shaw. Glen and I got married, see?

She shows off her wedding ring proudly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 144.

But I decided to keep my last name so the name of our firm would still be Foy and Shaw, rather than Foy and Foy, sounds kind of silly, don't you think?

JOHN

Um, yes. Mrs. Shaw, can you state your relationship with my client?

JENNY

She hired me to work for you, at your law firm.

JOHN

I see, and did she have the authority to do that?

JENNY

Not technically, but she was able to convince the partners, you and Mr. Fish, that I was worth it.

JOHN

And did you find her to be a good co-worker?

JENNY

She was great. She helped me win my lawsuit against the phone company. She came up with this brilliant idea to make a commercial inviting people to join our lawsuit. They settled quickly after that. We made a lot of money that day.

JOHN

So, Ms. McBeal proved herself a competent litigator in your eyes?

JENNY

Not just competent, creative and resourceful too.

JOHN

Thank you, nothing further.

He sits back down.

LING

Ms. Stanger?

CONTINUED: 145.

MARLENE

(getting up)

Thank you. Mrs. Shaw, how did your employment at Cage & Fish end?

JENNY

Ms. McBeal terminated my employment.

MARLENE

And did she have to get the partners to agree to this as well?

JENNY

No, by that time she had been made partner.

MARLENE

I see, and did she fire anyone else?

JENNY

Just Glen, my husband, though we weren't married at the time.

MARLENE

Mrs. Shaw, isn't it true that Ms. McBeal and your now husband dated while both of you worked at Cage & Fish?

JANE

Yes, but only after Glen and I had broken up, temporarily, and I had given her permission.

MARLENE

I see. Tell me Mrs. Shaw, is it possible that Ms. McBeal fired you out of jealousy since you were both dating the same man, a younger man, and you won out?

JENNY

No, that's not possible. Ms. McBeal said she had to fire me to cut expenses to help the firm survive.

MARLENE

And you believed that?

CONTINUED: 146.

JENNY

Yes, I did.

MARLENE

Well, did she ever show you any evidence that this was the case?

JENNY

No, but...

MARLENE

Thank you. That's all.

JOHN

Redirect, Your Honor?

LING

Go ahead.

JOHN

Mrs. Shaw, didn't my client offer you a part time position at the D.A.'s office as an alternative to termination?

JENNY

Yes, she did.

JOHN

And you turned that down?

JENNY

Yes.

JOHN

Thank you. Nothing further.

LING

The witness may step down.

Jenny walks down into the gallery and sits down.

JOHN

You honor, defense calls Ms. Elaine Vassal.

LING

Oh please, are you going to call everyone from your office?

JOHN

Just one more witness, Your Honor. I promise I'll be brief.

CONTINUED: 147.

LING

Oh, alright then.

ELAINE takes the stand and is sworn in.

JOHN

Ms. Vassal, can you tell us how you know the defendant?

ELAINE

I worked as her assistant for five years. I also consider her a close personal friend.

JOHN

And in that time what did you learn about Ms. McBeal's character?

ELAINE

She's a very loyal friend. Many people think she's self-centered, but she always sensed when there was something wrong with me and offered me advice.

JOHN

Ah, thank you. Ms. Vassel, having worked closely Ms. McBeal, do you have an opinion about her skills as a litigator?

ELAINE

She was excellent. She helped me when a relative tried to sue me for one of my inventions. For a while, it looked bad, and some of the other lawyers at our firm doubted me, but she stuck by me the whole time, and we ended up winning.

JOHN

Thank you, I have nothing further.

LING

Your witness, Ms. Stanger.

MARLENE

Thank you. Ms. Vassal, did you immediately get along with Ms. McBeal when she was hired?

CONTINUED: 148.

ELAINE

Well, at the start she was a little... snappish. But that soon changed when I got to know her better.

MARLENE

How so?

ELAINE

Ally - Ms. McBeal - has many things on her mind.

MARLENE

Such as?

ELAINE

Well, sometimes she used to hear music that nobody else could hear. She also slammed the door in my face a number of times.

MARLENE

I see. Ever see her act violently towards anyone?

ELAINE

Well, she, Ms. Thomas, Ms. Porter and Her Honor all got in a fight in the unisex one time, and she assaulted a woman in a grocery store once, and a man on the street... Oh, and she kicked a midget one time.

ALLY

Objection. That was a mistake!

MARLENE

Ms. Vassel, do you know why Ms. McBeal did that?

ELAINE

Oh, yes, she thought he was a baby.

ALLY AND JOHN

Objection!

SHOULD ALLY TESTIFY?

BOSTON. LOBBY OF THE COURTHOUSE.

JOHN, NELL, and ALLY are huddled in the hallway.

JOHN

That didn't go well. Ally, would you be willing to take the stand?

ALLY

I suppose.

NELL

John, I don't know if that's a good idea. Stanger could have her up there for hours on cross with all the wacky behavior she's committed. No offense.

ALLY

None taken.

JOHN

But we can't end on Elaine's testimony. Ally needs to explain herself. Can you do that, Ally?

ALLY

I can try my.

CUT TO ANOTHER PART OF THE LOBBY.

DENNY and ALAN are there. CASSANDRA walks by.

ALAN

Judge Folger? What are you doing here?

CASSANDRA

Excuse me?

ALAN

You're Judge Folger. I appeared before you in court.

DENNY

And I took my pants off for you in your office.

ALAN

(turning to Denny)

You did?

CONTINUED: 150.

DENNY

Legal strategy.

ALAN

I see.

CASSANDRA

I'm afraid you gentlemen are mistaken...

She starts to walk way.

ALAN

(turning back to Cassandra)
No, I recognize you. You asked me
to drop my pants as well.
Unfortunately, at the time I was
involved with another judge or I
may have. Of course, now...

CASSANDRA

(moving in)

Listen gentlemen. What happens on another network, should stay on another network. Understand?

She walks away.

DENNY

What the hell did she mean by that?

ALAN

Who knows? Women, Denny, they're all crazy.

DENNY

Maybe she's got mad cow. I should go after her.

Denny starts to follow Cassandra. Alan holds him back.

ALAN

Denny... Denny...

CLOSING ARGUMENTS

A COURTROOM IN BOSTON.

Judge LING WOO presiding.

CONTINUED: 151.

JOHN

Your Honor, with your permission I'd like to call one more witness before closing arguments.

LING

Who?

JOHN

The defendant, Your Honor, Ms. McBeal.

LING

I don't think you'll help your case, but go ahead.

NELL

John, are you sure?

JOHN

Don't worry. I have a plan.

JOHN

Ally?

John motions towards the witness chair. ALLY walks up to it and sits down.

JOHN

Your Honor, members of the jury, before I begin to question this witness I'd like you all to take a look around. More specifically, I'd like you all to look at the gallery. Now every day of this trial it has been filled. And every day of this trial opposing counsel has paraded witness after witness to tell you, well to tell you some pretty terrible things about my client. Former clients of hers, former co-workers, even a former lover were persuaded, subpoenaed, maybe even coerced...

MARLENE

Objection, Your Honor. No witnesses were coerced.

JOHN

(to the jury)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 152.

JOHN (cont'd)
you? Did she look like a willing
participant in this witch hunt?

MARLENE

Is counsel going to ask a question of the witness?

LING

I'm wondering that as well.

JOHN

No, Your Honor, I'm not. I've decided not to question this witness after all.

ALLY

(to herself)

I'm not going to testify?

JOHN

Instead, I would just like you all to observe the gallery, which is made up of not only Ms. McBeal's family and friends, but of all the people she's touched over the years, all the people whose lives were enriched immeasurably by coming into contact with her.

John motions to the gallery to reveal GEORGIA, VONDA, ELAINE, RICHARD, CORRETTA, JENNY, GLEN, GEORGE and JEANNIE MCBEAL, RAYMOND, many of Ally's FORMER CLIENTS, and INDIANA JONES. Ally shakes her head and Jones disappears.

JOHN

They are all here in support of her: a silent army, ready to go to battle if need be, ready to comfort her, win or lose. They are her testimony, ladies and gentlemen. They bear witness to her integrity, to her honesty, to her skills as a litigator. And let me just ask, though I probably don't need to, would a person who is incompetent, unstable, back-stabbing, vengeful, and all the other negative adjectives opposing counsel has tried to ascribe to my client; would a person such as this have all these people here, coming of their own volition, in a city she (MORE)

CONTINUED: 153.

JOHN (cont'd)

hasn't lived in for seven years if those accusations were true? I think you know the answer to that one, don't you?

John sits down. BOBBY DONNELL enters and walks up.

BOBBY

Your Honor. May I be heard?

MARLENE

Objection. I would first like an opportunity to cross the witness.

JOHN

Your Honor, since I didn't ask the witness any questions, and since I as well, decided to withdraw her, opposing counsel has nothing to cross her on.

LING

Unfortunately, he's right.

MARLENE

Your Honor!

LING

Oh, don't worry. I'll rule in your favor next time to make up for it. Mr. Donnell, you have the floor, but make it brief.

BOBBY

(walking up the the jury)
Thank you, Your Honor. Ladies and
gentlemen, I know this woman.

(points to Ally)

I've worked with her on cases.
We've even dated a few times. And I can tell you from my experience, there's no one who conducts herself in court with more dignity, more skill or more concern for the lives of her clients, than Ms. McBeal. And I'm not just talking about their cases. I'm talking about their lives. See, often times in the practice of law, the lawyers get caught up in the game, the tactics, the ins and outs of our system. We want to win, not just

(MORE)

CONTINUED: 154.

BOBBY (cont'd)

for our clients, but for ourselves. But not her, not Ally. She always cares first and foremost about her clients. And she doesn't limit her concern just to what is best for them legally, or financially. She concerns herself with what is best for them, period. And, let me tell you ladies and gentlemen, in our profession, in the legal profession, that is a rare, rare thing.

Ally smiles at BOBBY. He smiles back.

LING

Thank you, Mr. Donnell...

Ling looks into the gallery.

You there, you look familiar, do I know you?

HELEN GAMBLE steps forward.

HELEN

District Attorney Helen Gamble, Your Honor.

LING

Are you here in support of Ms. McBeal as well?

HELEN

No, Your Honor. I was just in the next courtroom and I heard this case was going on.

LING

Well, do you have anything you'd like to add?

HELEN

Nothing, Your Honor, except to say that Ms. McBeal's skirt is still too short, and she should still eat a cookie.

ALLY

We should share one! We should share one!

Ling bangs her gavel.

CONTINUED: 155.

LING

Quiet.

Marlene looks over at Helen, who looks back at her. They stare at each other for a few seconds.

LING

Ms. Stanger?

Marlene stares at Ling, who stares back. Then Ling stares at Helen, who stares back at her, then back at Marlene. Imaginary laser beams begin shooting back and forth between Helen, Marlene and Ling. It becomes a three-way laser triangle. Finally Ling bangs the gavel and the lasers disappear.

LING

(shouting)

Silence!

All three women avert their eyes at the same time. John looks around, confused. Ling regains herself.

LING

Ms. Stanger?

ALAN

Your Honor, if I may.

LING

(sighing)

Go ahead.

Alan walks up past Helen.

ALAN

So you're the D.A.? How come you and I never...?

HELEN

Bad timing?

ALAN

Well, I'd certainly like to...

LING

Mr. Shore?

Alan smiles wryly at Helen.

ALAN

Forgive me, Your Honor, I was just flirting with the D.A.

CONTINUED: 156.

Bobby looks perturbed at Alan.

ALAN

As Mr. Donnell correctly points out, Ms. McBeal, it appears, is very concerned about the private lives of her clients. So much so, in fact, that she seems to quite possibly have lost track of what it means to be a lawyer. She's not her clients' psychiatrist, she's not their priest, she's not even their life-coach. Nor is she educated to be. Yet, it seems, that she often tries to act precisely in these capacities. And as I'm sure you're all aware, it can be very dangerous to have unqualified people making decisions that are going to affect other people's lives. It's bad enough when they run the country. Our former president, for example...

Ling bangs her gavel.

LING

Mr. Shore, I'm not going to let you turn this trial into a forum for you to air your political grievances.

ALAN

No? Why not? I used to do it on our show all the time.

Ling stares at Alan for a moment.

ALAN

Fine. As I was saying, Ms. McBeal is a lawyer, and in that capacity she has neither the skill nor the authority to interfere in her clients' personal lives. Now, when you add in the fact that she, herself, is unstable; that she, herself, has sought psychological treatment on a number of occasions; that she, herself, hallucinates—seeing babies, soul singers, dancing lawyers, etc.; well, one has to really wonder about how good her advice, her (MORE)

CONTINUED: 157.

ALAN (cont'd)

meddling can be. You know, it's quite scary when a person of limited mental capacities thinks he or she knows what's best for the world. If I may make one more parallel with the Bush administration...

LING

You may not.

ALAN

That's okay. The jury knows what I'm getting at.

Alan walks back to his seat. Nell stands up and walks out in front of the court.

NELL

Your Honor, I'm afraid I have to object to Mr. Shore's entire closing statement. Not only was it way off the mark - comparing our client to the Bush administration - it was completely disingenuous. In defense of his own clients Mr. Shore himself has been guilty of extortion, breaking privilege, conspiring to conceal evidence, assuming the identity of an airline pilot, and setting up a sting operation to illegally video tape people having sex.

There is a giggle from the GALLERY. Alan acknowledges them.

NELL

(doggedly continuing)
In addition to this, he embezzled
from a firm he formerly to worked
at, effectively dissolved another,
and judging from an encounter we
had earlier, has probably sexually
harassed dozens of women.

LING

(a bit condescendingly)

Nell.

NELL

(a bit sarcastically)

Yes, Ling?

CONTINUED: 158.

LING

You know I'm your friend, and I hate to overrule you, but this case isn't about Mr. Shore, it's about Ms. McBeal.

NELL

I realize that Your Honor, but Mr. Shore puts his own credibility, or lack thereof, into evidence when he gets up and argues before this court. If he is going to attack my client for not following the law, the court should at least take note of his hypocrisy.

ALAN

(to Marlene)

It appears Ms. Porter has done her homework. I find that very sexy. I might have to let her stay after school to earn some extra credit.

Marlene glares at Alan.

ALAN

Or not.

MARLENE

(getting up)

Your Honor, Ms. Porter makes a valid point.

NELL

Thank you.

MARLENE

You're welcome. However, the fact is Mr. Shore is an excellent attourney and he knows the difference between fantasy and reality. Ms. McBeal does not. Whatsmore, Ms. McBeal does personalize her cases, perhaps too much. I suppose one could argue that this might benefit her clients - having a lawyer who generally invests herself in their cause. But when you consider the fact that she has committed adultery, cheated on lovers, betrayed friends, and even tried to break up a marriage; one has to wonder if a person like this

(MORE)

CONTINUED: 159.

MARLENE (cont'd)
really does have her clients' best
interests at heart. But let's
assume for a second that she does.
Even if this is true, can we really
afford to trust someone who can't
distinguish between reality and the
fantastic illusions in her own
head? In my opening statement I
mentioned the founding member of
our firm, Mr. Denny Crane. But it
was another named partner, Ms.
Shirley Schmidt,

Marlene points to Shirley, who is sitting behind Alan and Denny.

who recently saved the firm from being taken over by Chinese investors. If you want to find a competent, ethical, tough, female attorney I suggest you consider her. Not that one.

(points to Ally) Just prior to assigning her her last case as a lawyer at Crane, Poole & Schmidt, I found Ms. McBeal in her office, kissing the window entranced in some dream world that only she, herself, seems to understand. During her last case she was surprised by opposing counsel, Mr. Cage in fact, by a video exonerating his client. Then, when I removed her from the case, she had an ex parte meeting with Mr. Cage's client, resolving the case and earning no money whatsoever for either her client or her firm. Ladies and gentlemen, enough is enough. It's time for her to start paying for some of the things she's done, instead of always having someone else always pick up the tab.

Marlene walks back to the plaintiff's table. On the way she bumps into the defendant's table, spilling the INKWELL that John has been using.

NELL

(whispering)

John, she was pretty good. I don't think we can rest on that.

CONTINUED: 160.

JOHN

(wiping up the ink)
Well, since you pretty much agreed
with her, I suppose not.

He stands up and addresses Ling.
Your Honor, if I may be permitted to speak once more.

LING

You already gave your closing.

JOHN

Which was interrupted. May I be allowed to finish?

LING

Oh, I suppose.

John gets up and walks to the front of the court.

JOHN

Ladies and gentlemen, before, when I talked about Ms. McBeal's supporters, I failed to mention one important member, one member who does understand her ability to go into a separate, perhaps in many ways better, reality. That member, ladies and gentlemen, is myself. In the five years she worked at our law firm I had no greater friend, no greater confidant, indeed, no one that I trusted and admired more than Ms. McBeal. You see, I'm a bit of a kook myself. Sometimes, I hang upside down in my office. Sure, it's a bit odd, but I function perfectly well, even perhaps excel, in the field of law, and so does Ms. McBeal. In a way, we're soul mates, she and I...

LING

Mr. Cage, get to the point.

JOHN

I'm getting there, Your Honor. You see, ladies and gentlemen. I love this woman. We all love her. Like some bright star she was cast into our lives. Her hope, her joy, her sense of wonder, have touched us (MORE)

CONTINUED: 161.

JOHN (cont'd)

all. And I, maybe I stared a little too long and got blinded just a bit. And I, maybe I, flew a little too close and came crashing back to earth just a bit. But that's okay. I no longer mind that. Because without her my life, indeed all of our lives, would have been a lot less bright.

John paces a bit.

See, we all experience pain in our lives. Some of us more than others. My client fell in love with the boy next door when she was just eight years old. They dated all through high school and college. He was the man she'd thought she'd marry and raise a family with. But he ended up leaving her while they were in law school. He met another woman, married her, and by some coincidence of fate, the three of them ended up working side by side for over two years at our firm. Sure, they would argue, there would be tension, but they were also all great friends. Tragically, a few years later, this man passed away. Died of a brain tumor, right in court, right in front of her. Can you imagine? Have any of you ever witnessed a loved one pass? Well, then you know the feeling.

LING

Counsel?

JOHN

I'm getting to it, Your Honor. A few years later, another man that she fell deeply in love with, left her to be with the mother of his child. Sure, it's understandable, it was the responsible thing to do. But for someone who believes in love, who believes in fairness, who believes the world is a just and kind place, well, these events were just devastating. But through all of that disappointment, through all of that (MORE)

CONTINUED: 162.

JOHN (cont'd)

tragedy, my client has maintained her good humor, her integrity, her sense of right and wrong. I wonder if the lawyers sitting at the other table can still say that about themselves.

He looks over at Marlene, Alan and Denny. Well, I suspect not.

LING

(impatiently)

Mr. Cage?

JOHN

Okay, Your Honor, but in closing I'd just like to say one more thing to my client...

He walks up to the witness chair.

Ally, I know you're disappointed that you've never found anyone to love you like you have so longed to be loved, but believe me when I tell you, what is truly important, what matters more than any of that, what to me is your most admirable and heroic quality, is that you have loved. And I'm not just talking about your relationships with other men, I'm talking about your relationship with your daughter, with your family, with your dear friends and co-workers, and most importantly with your clients whom you have served so admirably. The generosity with which you have given of yourself is well, trust me ladies and gentleman, it's something we all could never even come close to repaying.

Ally is now crying. She grabs John's hand.

ALLY

Thank you, John. Thank you. That is enough. That is all I need.

Suddenly, LARRY bursts into the courtroom. Ally looks up.

CONTINUED: 163.

ALLY

Larry! What are you doing here?

LARRY

Elaine called. Said it was urgent.

LING

Mr. Paul, we are just finishing closing arguments.

LARRY

Then I'll be brief.

He walks up to the witness chair and takes Ally's other hand.

Ally, these last few years without you I've been miserable. I've made a lot of mistakes in my life, but the biggest one I ever made was walking out on you. With the court's permission, and in front of all these witnesses, I would just like to ask...

He gets down on one knee.

ALLY

Oh my God.

LARRY

Allison Marie McBeal, would you marry me?

BOBBY

(to Helen)

What? This is the craziest trial I've ever seen.

ALLY

Well, ah...

She looks back and forth between John and Larry. Oh, okay.

LARRY

(to John)

You didn't just ask, did you?

JOHN

No.

CONTINUED: 164.

LARRY

Good. Hate to be second on something like that.

Ling bangs her gavel.

LING

Hold it. We haven't finished her trial yet. Mr. Paul, please take a seat. Ms. Stanger, do you have anything else?

Marlene looks at Alan who looks at Denny, who is asleep.

ALAN

(whispering)

Denny, have you got anything?

DENNY

(startled)

What do you mean?

ALAN

Have you got anything else to say?

DENNY

Denny Crane.

ALAN

I mean about the case. Do you have anything to say about the case?

DENNY

What about the case?

ALAN

Well, Mr. Cage just gave an excellent closing. That was followed by a marriage proposal from the defendant's old boyfriend. I think the jury's with them right now. We need you to pull this out.

DENNY

You mean we might lose?

ALAN

It's a distinct possibility.

DENNY

I can't lose. I'm Denny Crane.

Marlene slides her skirt up a bit to reveal part of her thigh to Alan and Denny.

CONTINUED: 165.

DENNY

(walking up)

Your Honor, members of the jury, I've been a lawyer for over 40 years, longer than most of the other lawyers in this room have been alive, longer than the judge... and I've never lost a case. That's right, I am undefeated. However, as you get older, it gets harder to win. You forget names, forget faces, even forget the facts of the case sometimes. But you learn to compensate. You learn how to charm the judge, frustrate the other lawyer, intimidate his witnesses. Then, you get up and give a passionate, compelling closing. You look the jury right in the eye, you put your hand firmly on the jury box, and you tell them your side is right. That's how you win a jury trial....

He walks up to the JURY BOX and looks them all squarely in the face.

So what if she sees dancing babies, doesn't mean she can't be an effective lawyer. Your Honor, in light of Mr. Cage's closing and the ah... the state would like to drop all charges against Ms. McBeal.

There is a gasp from the GALLERY

LING

Mr. Crane, you can't drop all charges. You're not a D.A. and this is not a criminal case.

DENNY

In that case, Your Honor, we'd like to settle.

He turns to John.

How about we settle this whole mess for, say, a dollar?

JOHN

Ally?

Ally nods.

CONTINUED: 166.

JOHN

Done.

He lets go of Ally's hand and shakes Denny's.

DENNY

Still undefeated. Denny Crane.

LING

(getting up)

I've had it!

ALLY

Ling, do you think before you go you could do me one small favor?

LING

What!?

ALLY

Do you think you could marry us?

LING

Ally, I don't think...

ALLY

Listen! I've waited over half my life for someone to finally propose to me, and I'm not waiting a minute longer to get married. And so help me, Ling, if you don't marry us right now I'm going to crawl up on the bench, wrap my long fingers around your skinny little neck and squeeze it until your eyes pop out!

LING

I could hold you in contempt for that.

ALLY

(quietly)

Oh please Ling, soft 1, soft g.

LING

Alright, Ally. You take him?

ALLY

I do.

LING

(to Larry)

You take her?

CONTINUED: 167.

LARRY

T do.

LING

You're married. Now if you'll excuse me I'm going to go barf. Court dismissed!

She bangs her gavel loudly and walks out.

MARLENE

(getting up)

Well that was a waste of three months.

ALAN

(getting up also)

What are you talking about? Denny secured us a dollar.

MARLENE

I don't consider that a win.

ALAN

Does that mean you won't be compensating us for our services?

MARLENE

As I said, I don't consider this a victory.

ALAN

Well then perhaps you'd prefer a different type of conquest.

He glances over at Nell. Marlene glances over, too.

MARLENE

Perhaps.

BOBBY

What the hell just happened?

Helen takes him by the arm.

HELEN

Come on, Bobby. Let's go before we're infected by them.

She takes his arm and leads him out.

CONTINUED: 168.

DENNY

(to John)

You tried a hell of a case. You should come work for me.

They shake hands again.

JOHN

It was an honor, but I think I'll stick with my own firm. Maybe we'll meet again.

DENNY

Just so you know, if you were to beat me, I'd have to shoot you, Denny Crane.

JOHN

I'll keep that in mind.

Denny walks back to the plaintiff's table. John walks back to Nell.

JOHN

Technically, we lost, but people, other lawyers, they will interpret this as a win.

NELL

Congratulations, John.

Larry embraces Ally.

LARRY

Hey, Ally.

ALLY

Hey, Larry.

LARRY

Heard you lost your case.

ALLY

I did, but I gained a whole lot more.

THE RECEPTION

BOSTON, THE MARTINI BAR.

CONTINUED: 169.

ELAINE and DENNY are on stage together, singing a duet ("Spoonful" by Etta James & Harvey Furqua) - "Just a little spoon of your precious love is good enough for me". Many other couples are dancing. Larry is dancing with Ally.

ALLY

So let me get this straight, you thought you'd help my case by proposing to me?

LARRY

It worked, didn't it?

ALLY

I guess. I still can't believe you're back. I was so angry when you left.

LARRY

I wanted to explain, but you wouldn't let me.

ATITIY

Well, you have plenty of time to explain now.

Larry and Ally dance silently for a moment.

ALLY

How's Sam by the way?

LARRY

He's great. He's all grown up.

ALLY

I have a daughter. Did you know that?

LARRY

Yeah, I heard. Maybe we could get them together some time. I'm sure they'll get along great.

ALLY

Larry, I've missed you so much.

LARRY

I missed you too, Ally.

Larry and Ally kiss. JOHN and CASSANDRA are also dancing.

CONTINUED: 170.

CASSANDRA

John, you were wonderful in court today. I was very impressed.

JOHN

Thank you.

CASSANDRA

Except for that part about loving Ally. What was that all about?

JOHN

Oh well, she's married now so I guess that's over.

CASSANDRA

So does that mean you're looking?

John smiles shyly. His nose whistles.

CASSANDRA

I'll take that as a yes. Tell me, do you still want to be a Mariachi?

JOHN

Well, maybe I can moonlight on the weekends. What about you, when are you planning on going back to L.A.?

CASSANDRA

I was actually thinking of closing my gallery and reopening it somewhere on the East coast. People here seem to have so much more appreciation for art. Also, if I'm ever in need of legal representation, I know a great lawyer.

JOHN

Oh, ah...

CASSANDRA

My only problem is I don't have anyone to take me to the movies. Do you know anyone?

JOHN

I might.

CASSANDRA

Good, 'cause I love a good movie.

She puts her head on John's shoulder.

CONTINUED: 171.

JOHN

Me too.

LIZ takes the stage and begins singing "Stars and Planets." MARLENE and NELL are sitting at a table watching the others. There is some obvious chemistry between them.

MARLENE

I want to congratulate you, Ms. Porter. You presented an excellent argument. If you ever think of joining a larger firm, I have very good connections.

NELL

I've heard many positive things about your firm. I was less impressed with the lewd behavior of your colleagues.

ALAN turns up behind them.

ALAN

Talking about me?

MARLENE

Alan, there you are. I hear you and Ms. Porter have already met.

ALAN

We have, and it was a huge pleasure. By the way, Marlene, you still owe me a little favor.

MARLENE

The agreement was, you had to help me nail her. You didn't do that.

ALAN

Well, then perhaps I could help you nail someone else. Ms. Porter, are you free?

NELL

You really are disgusting.

ALAN

You have no idea.

MARLENE

Come on, let's just dance.

CONTINUED: 172.

Nell looks disgusted, but Marlene gives her a look and a smile and she reluctantly joins them on the dance floor. Ally and John are now dancing.

ALLY

John, I really can't thank you enough. I mean what you said, how did you come up with all of that?

JOHN

It was easy, actually. I just held you up to a mirror.

ALLY

Every time I look in the mirror I get depressed.

JOHN

Well you shouldn't. You're a beautiful woman, Ally McBeal.

ALLY

And you're a beautiful man, John Cage.

JOHN

Yes, yes I am.

ALLY

John, that's great, you've actually learned to take a compliment. When did this happen?

JOHN

Just recently, actually. Cassandra, she allows me to see myself through her eyes. That's what I tried to do for you.

ALLY

Well, whatever you did, it worked.

JOHN

You know, if you hadn't rejected me, I'd have never reconnected with her. So thank you.

ALLY

Anytime.

Cassandra is dancing with Larry.

CONTINUED: 173.

CASSANDRA

So you just flew out here after not seeing her for seven years and proposed?

LARRY

What can I say? I had an itch.

CASSANDRA

Generally, men get the itch to cheat on the women they love after seven years, not marry them.

LARRY

I tend to do things in reverse. Besides, I could see that John had things in hand.

CASSANDRA

I see. Well, it worked. Tell me, do you have any advice for me? I flew all the way out here from L.A. to be with John.

LARRY

Yeah, don't go to Detroit.

Larry and Cassandra dance close. Ally and John approach.

ALLY

Hey, you two. You're dancing awfully close. I'm not sure I like that.

CASSANDRA

Well, your husband here was just telling me that you might be interested in swinging with John and me. What do you say, John?

JOHN

A...da...aye...de...Hillary Clinton.

ALLY

I think we'd better switch back.

They switch back partners. Liz is finishing up, "Shine, shine, shine. We all shine, shine, shine..."

LARRY

You know, technically, I deserve a bachelor party.

CONTINUED: 174.

ALLY

You had one, for seven years in Detroit.

LARRY

Ah, well if you want to look at it that way.

ALLY

I do.

LARRY

I do too...

LIZ walks by Ally and Larry.

LIZ

It's about time.

She continues walking until she's off camera.

LARRY

Who was that?

ALLY

She's, ah... I think she's stalking me.

Ally and Larry look confusedly after Liz.

VONDA begins singing, "Let's Stay Together." "I'm so in love with you, whatever you want to do is alright with me..." LIZA walks in and approaches RICHARD who is just finishing dancing with ELAINE.

LIZA

Richard?

RICHARD

Liza.

Liza starts dancing with him. Elaine walks away.

LIZA

Your closing, it was very... passionate.

RICHARD

Well, you know, spoken from the heart, or in my case, a little lower.

CONTINUED: 175.

LIZA

Is it really that important to you?

RICHARD

All I can say is, he hasn't been happy for a long time. We miss you, Liza - both of us.

LIZA

I miss you two, too. And the money I'm spending on batteries...

RICHARD

Well, you know me. I'm like the Energizer Bunny.

Liza looks down.

LIZA

Oh look, he's perking up a bit...

Elaine walks up to HAROLD, who is sitting by himself.

ELAINE

Mr. Blum?

HAROLD

Ms. Vassal, hello. Nice song. You're very talented.

ELAINE

Thank you. You know, one of my other talents is inventing things. May I show you my latest invention?

She pulls THE PROJECTOR out of her purse. It's called The Projector, and it helps men, how do I say it, appear bigger.

HAROLD

Oh, no thank you. I've had enough bad experiences in that area.

ELAINE

If I may, Harold, you wanted to know what it was like to be bigger. Now you can try it with no risks.

HAROLD

I don't know. Wouldn't it be kind of deceitful?

CONTINUED: 176.

ELAINE

Harold, women wear makeup, dye their hair, wear girdles, push up bras. Other men wear toupees and use lifts. People get Botox injections, silicone implants, liposuction, face lifts, and penile implants. Everyone tries to look better.

HAROLD

I don't know.

ELAINE

Harold, you're a great guy. Why not attract the women first, then let them know what you're really like inside?

Harold thinks about it for a moment. DENNY and SHIRLEY are dancing together.

SHIRLEY

You know Denny, I'm proud of you.

DENNY

Does that mean you'll have sex with me?

SHIRLEY

My God, don't you even want to know why I'm proud of you?

DENNY

Denny Crane.

SHIRLEY

Yes, well besides that.

DENNY

Alright, Shirley. Why are you proud of me?

SHIRLEY

Because you showed compassion in court today. Perhaps you saw that as the only way to win, or not lose, but you showed it nonetheless.

DENNY

Thank you, Shirley. Sex tonight?

CONTINUED: 177.

SHIRLEY

Boy, you really have got a one-track mind.

DENNY

So, what's your answer?

SHIRLEY

Denny, I'm a married woman.

DENNY

And I'm a married man.

SHIRLEY

Yes, well obviously that doesn't constrain you.

DENNY

Would you like to constrain me?

SHIRLEY

How about for now I just give you this...

She leans closer and whispers in his ear.

Denny Crane.

Denny shivers. CORRETTA and RAYMOND are dancing together.

CORRETTA

So, have you ever considered using a male enhancement product?

RAYMOND

Don't need to.

CORRETTA

Really?

RAYMOND

Want to see for yourself?

Corretta keeps dancing but thinks about it. Ally and Larry are still dancing.

ALLY

Give me a minute, there's someone I need to thank.

Ally leaves him on the dance floor

CONTINUED: 178.

LARRY

No problem. I'll just stand here by myself in the middle of the dance floor on my wedding day. Where's John?

Enter CLAIRE OTOMS.

CLAIRE

Helloooooo!

Larry looks around.

LARRY

Ah, hello.

CLAIRE

I heard there was a party going on down here.

She looks at Larry.

My, aren't you a strapping young man. Say, I notice don't have a partner. Would you care to trip the light fantastic?

LARRY

Well, actually...

CLAIRE

Terrific!

She begins dancing with Larry.

LARRY

Ally... Ally...

He is pulled away. Ally sits down next to Elaine.

ALLY

I just wanted to thank you, Elaine. Thank you for believing in me when I didn't have the courage myself.

ELAINE

You deserve it. You may have been snappish sometimes, but you have been such a good friend. I was simply repaying you. Be happy, Ally.

CONTINUED: 179.

ALLY

I am happy. I'm very happy. Now we just need to find you somebody.

ELAINE

Well, unless Denny Crane divorces Alan Shore... seriously, I am happy too. I have a great friends and a fantastic job... and now, with you coming back, it will be even better.

ALLY

I promise not to shut the door in your face. At least not more than once a day.

ELAINE

Thanks.

ALLY

Now all I have to do is worry whether or not Maddie's life is perfect.

ELAINE

With a mom like you it's probably too perfect. And one more thing. You'd better have a real wedding so I can be your maid of honor. And do another number, of course. Congratulations.

She hugs Ally.

ALLY

Thank you, Elaine...

Harold walks out with The Projector on underneath his pants while Elaine looks on. Harold's groin expands and contracts several times. Several LADIES at the bar take notice. Harold walks up to them with new-found confidence.

HAROLD

Would any of you young ladies care to dance?

LADIES

Sure. Okay. I will...

They all move to dancefloor with Harold, leaving MAN #2 (GLEN) alone at the bar. He sees Elaine and smiles. She smiles back.

CONTINUED: 180.

ALAN

(seeing Harold)

My God, look at that.

RICHARD

What's that guy got?

ALAN

Whatever it is, I want some.

Marlene grabs Alan's tie.

MARLENE

Mr. Shore, I think you've got more than you can handle right here.

ALAN

Quite right.

Alan, Marlene and Nell all begin slow dancing, with Marlene in the middle.

LARRY

(looking at Harold)

Lucky guy.

Ally grabs his face and points it back at hers.

ALLY

Hey!

LARRY

But not as lucky as I am.

Ally looks at Alan, Marlene and Nell.

ALLY

You know, we'd better have a real wedding because I don't want that image to be associated with my reception.

LARRY

Understood. You know, Ally, other than the day Sam was born, this is the luckiest day of my life.

ALLY

Oh yeah?

LARRY

Yeah.

CONTINUED: 181.

ALLY

And except for the day I found out that there was a screw up at the lab where I donated my ovaries ten years earlier and that I had a pre-teen daughter who suddenly wanted to live with me, this is the luckiest day of my life... Larry, why did you leave?

LARRY

Ally, I told you, I left to raise my son... and for a long time I thought that was the reason. But the truth is, I was scared.

ALLY

Scared? Scared of what?

LARRY

Scared of failing again. Scared of you. I didn't want to hurt you, Ally. I didn't want to fail you. And yet, by leaving you, that's exactly what I did.

ALLY

Yeah, you did. But you came back.

LARRY

Yeah, I did.

Ally sees the BABY. It has wings and a bow and arrow. It winks at Ally. She winks back. Then it shoots an arrow into her heart. ALLY nearly faints. The baby flies off into the sky and disappears. Meanwhile, TYLER gets up on stage.

TYLER

If it's alright, I'd like to sing a song.

ALLY

Of course it's alright.

TYLER

I'd like to dedicate this song to my husband, Martin, the kindest, most understanding man I've ever met. And to Ally, who helped bring him back to me. I guess good things come to those who do good things. Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. McBeal.

CONTINUED: 182.

Ally laughs.

ALLY

Thanks.

LARRY

Did he just call me Mr. McBeal?

ALLY

Oh, shut up.

She kisses Larry.

TYLER begins singing "At last, our love has come along..."
The camera pans away slowly to reveal everyone dancing. Roll credits.

THE WEDDING

Music: "Tell him" by Vonda Shepard. "I know something about love, you gotta want it bad." During the credits, there are shots of Ally and Larry's wedding: ALLY walks down the aisle of a church, dressed in a white gown. She is led by her father, GEORGE. MADDIE, ELAINE and JENNY are her bridesmaids. LARRY is waiting for her, in a black tuxedo and a top-hat. SAM, JOHN and RICHARD are his groomsmen. Behind them, Ally sees the ghost of BILLY. She gives him a little wave, he smiles a broad smile and points at her. Ally and Larry are married by REVEREND MARK NEWMAN. There are shots of ALLY throwing the bouquet, LARRY throwing the garter, LARRY and ALLY cutting the cake, and everyone is having a great time.

(BONUS SCENE): ON THE BALCONY

Boston. Ally's office at Crane, Poole and Schmidt.

ALLY is cleaning out her desk, putting things in boxes. MARLENE enters.

MARLENE

Oh, Ally, hello.

ALLY

Um, hi.

MARLENE

So, congratulations on winning your case.

CONTINUED: 183.

ALLY

Thanks, but you actually won.

MARLENE

Oh yes, how could I forget? So tell me, are you going to pay us with a structured settlement?

ALLY

No, I think I'll have it garnished from my paycheck.

MARLENE

(smiling)

So, you've found other employment then?

ALLY

Cage, Fish and Porter, they've agreed to take me back. They're even making me a partner again.

MARLENE

Ah, any chance they might want to swap you out with Ms. Porter?

ALLY

I'll ask.

MARLENE

Well, best of luck.

She starts to leave.

ALLY

Marlene?

MARLENE

Yes?

ALLY

Listen, I'm sorry, I know I wasn't the greatest employee. I wouldn't want me to work for me either.

MARLENE

I guess I kind of overreacted, suing you and all.

ALLY

Maybe a bit, but if you hadn't I'd have never gotten married. So, thanks.

CONTINUED: 184.

MARLENE

Anytime... seeing it's your last day here. Have you ever been out on the balcony?

ALLY

No, why?

MARLENE

Come with me.

Starts leading Ally out.

ALLY

You're not going to push me off, are you?

MARLENE

No, nothing like that.

CUT TO DENNY AND ALAN ON THE BALCONY DRINKING SCOTCH AND SMOKING CIGARS.

DENNY

You see, the thing about lesbians is they make excellent lawyers.

ALAN

Do tell.

DENNY

Well, they think like a man, but they look like a woman.

ALAN

They are women.

DENNY

Exactly. They get you all worked up, strutting around with their high heels and tight suits, talking about precedents and punishments. It's all very erotic.

ALAN

You don't say.

DENNY

I do say. But it's all a tease because you know you'll never get any.

CONTINUED: 185.

ALAN

Perhaps.

DENNY

If it were up to me, we'd hire all lesbians. We'd never lose a case.

Marlene and Ally walk in.

DENNY

(Seeing MARLENE)

Case in point. Ms. Stanger, how'd you like to come and work for me?

MARLENE

(sitting on Denny's lap) I do work for you, Mr. Crane.

DENNY

Yes, but in New York. How'd you like to come here to Boston, be my personal assistant?

MARLENE

DENNY

(To Alan)

See what I mean? They always tease you.

ALLY

(Sitting on Alan's lap)
You know, I wasn't crazy about that
closing you gave, comparing me to
George Bush. I think you owe me an
apology.

ALAN

Quite right.

ALLY

Or barring that, at least a sip of your whiskey.

ALAN

It's Scotch, actually, and...

Ally takes a drink and starts coughing and choking.

CONTINUED: 186.

ALAN

Well, am I forgiven?

MARLENE and DENNY both start laughing.

ALLY

(Still coughing)

Barely.

ALAN

You know, Denny, all these times up here with you, a fine cigar and a 12 year old Scotch, I thought that this was it, that it couldn't possibly be any better than this. But now, here, having these two vivacious, intelligent, fetching young women joining us, why, this is the tops. It couldn't get any better.

DENNY

(Raises glass)

To the women.

ALAN

(Raises glass)

To the women.

MARLENE

(Raising Denny's cigar)

Ally?

ALLY

(Taking Alan's cigar)

To us!

Denny and Alan take a drink. Marlene and Ally take a puff. Ally starts coughing again.

ALAN

And to you Denny Crane, for allowing this all to happen. For giving us a place to come to after a long day's work, a place to relax, to commiserate, to laugh, to enjoy each other's company. Thank you, Denny, and here's wishing you many more nights like this one.

DENNY

Anytime, my friend, anytime.

LARRY enters.

CONTINUED: 187.

LARRY

Ally, are you ready to go?

Larry and Alan exchange a look.

ALLY

Oh, hi honey. I'm just having... uh oh.

Ally runs over to the edge of the balcony and throws up.