

# **BioDad**

by

Keith Clemens

3510 Clarington Ave #2  
Los Angeles, CA 90034  
310-866-1400

INT. MANSION - KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen is spacious and luxurious, Southern California sunshine beams through the windows. CAROLINE is placing photos of her twin daughters in frames. The photos are high school graduation portraits and other graduation group shots. REGINOLD, her husband enters the kitchen.

REGINOLD

Hello dear.

CAROLINE

Reggie, Look what arrived today.

Caroline, glowing with pride holds up two of the framed portraits.

REGINOLD

Ah, Andie and Alex's graduation pictures.

Reginold holds the pictures and gives them a good look.

REGINOLD (CONT'D)

The girl's grew up so fast.

Reginold puts down the pictures. Andrea and Alexis enter the kitchen from a patio door.

ANDREA

Please tell me you're not going to put those pictures all over the house.

CAROLINE

Of course I am. I also bought extras for you too.

ALEXIS

That's OK, I'm ready to forget high school.

CAROLINE

Hmm, well I'm putting these up anyway.

Caroline continues to admire the photos.

REGINOLD

Caroline, I'd like to take a set for my office.

CAROLINE  
(to the girl's)  
See, I'm not the only one who  
appreciates these things.

ALEXIS  
(sotto to Andrea)  
But you're parents, this kind of  
stuff is like heroine for parents.

REGINOLD  
Have you young scholars given more  
thought to where you want to go to  
college?

ALEXIS  
More thought? We already decided a  
long time ago that we're going to  
UCLA to be close to home.

REGINOLD  
There's still time to change your  
mind. An Ivy League education could  
prove invaluable.

ANDREA  
You already sent us away to  
boarding school for four years.

REGINOLD  
(correction)  
A prep school.

ANDREA  
And now you want to exile us again.  
Besides, you said if we got good  
grades we could go to any college  
we wanted.

REGINOLD  
I meant the best college.

CAROLINE  
(to Reginold)  
Stop trying to discourage them,  
it'll be nice having them close by.

REGINOLD  
I don't understand, you say you  
want to be close to us, but you  
want to live in the dorms.

ALEXIS

We want to have the full college experience. Is that so bad?

REGINOLD

Well, just remember Harvard, Yale... I can still make some phone calls.

The girls grab a snack and make their exit back to the patio.

EXT. MANSION - PATIO - DAY

The girls sit down at a patio table overlooking a beautiful backyard. A closed laptop is on the table. It's a gorgeous day. Sun sparkles on the pool and the landscaping is immaculate. They take a moment to sink into their chairs and look utterly relaxed. Andrea gets a smirk.

ANDREA

We finally get liberated and Dad thinks we'd want to live on the East coast, when we're already in paradise.

ALEXIS

Yeah, especially after being cooped up at St. Moritz Academy for four years.

ANDREA

Ugh, and those uniforms, I'm never wearing plaid again.

ALEXIS

Somewhere a Japanese businessman just shed a tear.

Andrea lets out a brief laugh and swats at Alexis.

ANDREA

Shut up.

ALEXIS

Speaking of St. Moritz, lets see how the blog is doing.

Alexis opens the laptop and goes to their blog page.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Check this out.

Andrea leans over to look.

ANDREA  
Over 500 hits in the last hour!

ALEXIS  
I told you that the Coach Phillis  
exposé would be juicy. Or should I  
say Coach Phillip?

ANDREA  
They say a picture is worth a  
thousand words.

CLOSE ON laptop screen showing blog posts with photos of a  
rather masculine looking woman Coach with shaving cream all  
over her face shaving her beard area. Above the photo the  
headline says "Born in Czech Republic as Phillip Vacek"

ALEXIS  
(jokingly)  
She was still faster than all the  
men so do you think she should give  
back that Olympic gold medal?

ANDREA  
She should get two medals, but  
seriously you're sure this can't  
get back to us?

ALEXIS  
Don't worry about it. The site is  
registered in China to Sum Yung  
Gai.

ANDREA  
Our journalism careers are starting  
to take off, I can feel it. All I  
care about is winning my first  
Pulitzer by age 25.

ALEXIS  
(beat)  
I'm so over High School journalism,  
we need to break a huge story with  
national exposure. Something people  
will talk about for years.

ANDREA  
Do you think Dad will ever let us  
write for him?

ALEXIS

Are you crazy? All he ever talks  
about is Harvard this, Yale that.  
After we get our bachelors degrees,  
he's going to be all,  
(Reginold impersonation)  
"Time to go to Harvard, get that  
Masters, and don't forget that  
PhD."

ANDREA

I don't know... I still think we  
can convince him. We just need to  
show him that we can do it.

INT. MANSION - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dinner is on the table. Reginold and Caroline take their  
seats.

CAROLINE

Girls, dinner is served.

After a beat the girls dash in and take their seats.  
Everybody begins their meals. Reginold sprinkles a bit of  
salt.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Reginold, not so much sodium.  
Doctor's orders.

ALEXIS

(to Reginold, concerned)  
What? Are you OK Dad?

REGINOLD

Blood pressure is just slightly  
higher than I'd like it. Nothing to  
worry about.

The girl's look a bit worried.

REGINOLD (CONT'D)

Really, It's under control.

The girl's become more at ease. After a beat, Andrea's eyes  
seek approval from Alexis. Alexis squints questioningly.

ANDREA

So, Dad. I read the story The Times ran about the mismanagement in the Department of Transportation.

REGINOLD

Yes, front page, and we've got a follow-up story in the works.

ANDREA

It was really good. And remember how I was telling you last year that every time I drove by that road widening project all the workers were napping and loafing? They even had a portable TV.

REGINOLD

Hmm. Vaguely.

ANDREA

Looks like I was on to something after all. I guess, technically that was my scoop...

Alexis looks on, trying to gauge her father's temperament.

REGINOLD

(Interrupting and raising his tone)

If you're going to try convincing me to let you work at The Times, just stop. For the hundredth time, this discussion is closed.

Andrea looks dejected. Alexis takes a beat trying to muster support.

ALEXIS

You always taught us to find our passion in life and if we are truly blessed then we can feel that passion in our work. We already know what we want to do.

REGINOLD

I know what I said. Please girls, when you're older you'll understand.

(MORE)

REGINOLD (CONT'D)

If you want to make it in this world you need to concentrate on getting a good college education, and then I expect a graduate degree from both of you.

CAROLINE

Listen to your father. He's trying to do what's best for you. It's not that he doesn't want you at The Times. If you decide to get MBA's, I know he'd love for you both to help run the paper and then pass the torch when he retires.

ANDREA

(defeated tone)

We want to be writers not suits.

Both girl's look a little down.

INT. MANSION - PARENT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Reginold and Caroline are getting ready for bed.

REGINOLD

You don't think they hate me do you?

CAROLINE

Of course not. I think part of the reason they are so headstrong about journalism is because they want to make you proud. Remember when we were that age? We thought we could do anything.

REGINOLD

It's probably my fault for letting them come to the office so much when they were younger. For them it was like going to Disneyland. Now look what I've created.

Caroline moves closer for an embrace.

CAROLINE

Actually,  
(beat)  
I think we did good.



INT. MANSION - BREAKFAST TABLE - DAY

Reginold and Caroline are having breakfast and drinking coffee. Reginold is perusing the newspaper. Reginold sets down the newspaper, after a beat he has a small chuckle.

CAROLINE  
What's so funny?

REGINOLD  
I keep thinking about when I used to bring the girls to work. I miss those times.

After a beat the girls stagger in looking lethargic.

ANDREA  
Good morning.

ALEXIS  
Good morning.

CAROLINE  
What do you girls have planned for today?

ANDREA  
(tersely)  
Nothing.

REGINOLD  
You're not going to mope around because of last night are you?

ANDREA  
Maybe.

REGINOLD  
(to both girls)  
Well I'm not going to change my mind. And as long as you understand that, perhaps you'd like to come to the office with me today?

The girls both perk up, like they just got a shot of adrenaline.

ALEXIS  
I'm not sure if you're trying to be nice or cruel.

REGINOLD  
I'm being nice, I assure you. But for the last time, don't get any wise ideas.

The girls quickly shovel a couple of mouthfuls of breakfast, then take a little extra food with them as they scramble out to get themselves ready.

CAROLINE

Reggie... I hope you know what you're getting yourself into to.

REGINOLD

I know, I know. I just thought it would be nice.

INT. TIMES OFFICE - DAY

Reginold briskly leads the girls through a bustling high energy office.

REGINOLD

We've made a lot of changes since the last time you girls were here.

Reginold motions to an expansive section of the office.

REGINOLD (CONT'D)

This department is our online edition... Just as the world we report on changes, so does our own industry. We must always adapt or go extinct. Of course we also still have the highest circulating print edition.

They approach a man who seems to be directing things.

REGINOLD (CONT'D)

Gus, I'd like you to meet my daughters, Andie and Alex.

GUS

Ah, the dynamic duo really do exist.

REGINOLD

(to the girls)

Meet Gus, my editor in chief. He's keeping this newspaper fit for 21st century consumption.

ANDREA

(to Gus)  
Hello.

Hi

ALEXIS

An ASSISTANT jogs over to Reginold.

ASSISTANT  
(to Reginold)  
Sir, there is phone call for you.  
They say it's urgent.

REGINOLD  
(to the girls)  
I'm sorry, I have to take this.  
(to Gus)  
Do you have a few minutes to show  
the girls around?

Gus gestures for Reginold to go ahead and take the call.

GUS  
By all means, go ahead. I'll take  
good care of them.

Reginold heads to his office. Gus and the girls continue touring the office as they talk.

GUS (CONT'D)  
Your father tells me you're more  
than a handful. Personally, I  
admire tenacity.

ALEXIS  
I'm sure he was exaggerating.

GUS  
I doubt it. Apparently you two  
cause quite a stir with that blog  
of yours. I hear the traffic it  
gets is no joke.

ALEXIS  
I suppose we can take that as a  
compliment.

ANDREA  
But with all the studying we have  
to do, there's no blog anymore. No  
time for it.

Andrea gives a furtive wink to Alexis while trying to look innocent. The group approaches a section of the office with corkboards and whiteboards covered with writing and clippings forming complex flow charts and networks of diverse pieces of information.

GUS

I think this might be right up your alley. You're looking at our investigative journalism department.

The girls stand in awe, their eyes darting about trying to fully absorb the work space. They realize there is one empty desk, completely devoid of the usual clutter. Alexis points to the empty desk.

ALEXIS

(rapidly)

Look! Oh my god, oh my god.

ANDREA

I know!

GUS

In the interest of full disclosure, yes I have already been briefed about your aspirations. And I have to say, please no submissions.

ANDREA

Why is there an empty desk?

GUS

Strangest thing happened. The guy just quit out of the blue. Just didn't show up.

EXT. APARTMENT UNIT - DAY, FLASHBACK

Gus persistently knocking on door.

GUS

Hello! Jimmy open up!

Gus takes a peek through a window and sees the apartment has been vacated, completely empty.

LANDLORD (O.S.)

He moved out!

Gus turns to see the landlord.

GUS

Did he say where he was going?

LANDLORD

Nope. He gave written notice and the next thing I knew the place was spic 'n span.

END FLASHBACK

INT. TIMES OFFICE - DAY

Gus sternly eyes the two girls in an attempt to be discouraging.

GUS

This particular job can get especially stressful.

The girls don't look anything close to discouraged.

GUS (CONT'D)

(beat)

Let's keep it moving before your dad sees us.

ANDREA

(sotto Alexis)

That story seemed a little fishy.

They continue the tour.

INT. TIMES OFFICE - MAILROOM - DAY

The girls are sitting at a desk with a pile of mail. Both of them are slicing open envelopes with a letter opener, then taking a quick look at the contents before sorting. There are two tall prominent stacks of sorted letters in front of them.

ALEXIS

These people are way too into their pets.

Alexis pulls out a letter with an enclosed photo. A closer view of the photo reveals a tiny dog looking ridiculous wearing a sweater, hat and booties. Andrea smirks and places the letter she is holding onto the stack which is about an inch taller.

ANDREA

The people have spoken. It turns out man's best friend is actually cat.

ALEXIS

How does a light hearted column about pets turn into a raging debate over which is better, cats or dogs? This one's like ten pages long.

Alexis finds a letter that interests her.

ANDREA

Look at this. Some guy sent in his resume and some writing samples... Not bad.

ALEXIS

You know, that's exactly what we should be doing.

ANDREA

What do you mean?

ALEXIS

Let's just send out resumes and see what happens. Maybe we could become correspondents for an out of state rag.

ANDREA

What if it actually works? Dad will go ballistic.

ALEXIS

Maybe he doesn't need to find out... We could use a false identity.

ANDREA

Hmm, that might actually work.

They notice someone approaching and clam up. Reginold is walking towards them.

REGINOLD

Oh, there you are. I'm sorry, I've got to go to City Hall. There's a bunch of red tape with this new business venture.

ANDREA

(protesting)

But we came to spend the day with you!

REGINOLD

I know, maybe we can do it again another day... The towncar will take you home when you're ready.

ALEXIS

Fine, you're not cool enough to hang out with us anyway.

Reginold begins to speak but stops not wanting to dignify the last remark with a reply. He starts to make his exit.

REGINOLD

(stearnly)

Stay out of trouble.

Reginold disappears around a corner.

ANDREA

When the cat's away...

ALEXIS

the mice will play.

ANDREA

You want to find out more about this guy Jimmy?

ALEXIS

You just read my mind.

The girls drop what they are doing and start walking.

INT. TIMES OFFICE - DAY

The girl's walk together.

ANDREA

You think Dad has changed his password?

ALEXIS

I doubt it.

They approach an office, the door reads Reginold Wentworth, President. The SECRETARY gives a suspicious look as the girls go for the door.

ANDREA

(to Secretary)

Dad said we could hang out in his office until our ride gets here.

The secretary considers it for a second, then goes back to her work. The girls enter the office and close the door.

INT. TIMES OFFICE - REGINOLD'S OFFICE - DAY

Alexis gets on the computer then types in a password and logs in.

ALEXIS  
Works like a charm.

ANDREA  
Let's see if we can get access to the employee records.

After a bit of typing.

ALEXIS  
Looks like our disappearing man is Jimmy Coolidge. Six years with the paper. He's only taken one sick day and has about four months of vacation racked up.

ANDREA  
Doesn't sound like a guy who would just quit without saying a word. See if we can get into his email.

Alexis tries a thing or two on the computer.

ALEXIS  
Hmm, doesn't look like Dad has email snooping ability.

ANDREA  
Move over, this calls for some social engineering.

Alexis scoots over and Andrea takes over at the keyboard. CLOSE ON COMPUTER SCREEN as Andrea opens up Reginold's email account and begins composing a new email to the IT department.

ANDREA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Urgent. Please email me Jimmy Coolidge's email password and voicemail PIN number. We need to reassign his work in progress ASAP. Regards, Reginold Wentworth.

ANGLE ON BOTH GIRLS as they lean back and take a breather.



ANDREA (CONT'D)  
Now we just wait.

ALEXIS  
(skeptically)  
Yeah but how long? We can't just  
camp out in here?

ANDREA  
Come on... an urgent email from  
Dad? Some guy downstairs is  
tripping over himself right now.

As they wait they notice an opened envelope on the desk. From Dr. Peterson. They know they shouldn't look, but they are compelled to know if Reginold is in good health. They look at the contents. CLOSE ON LETTER, Blood pressure 140/90, cholesterol 150 mg/dl. Skipping down the page, blood type A+.

ALEXIS  
(sotto)  
A+, that can't be.

The computer makes a ding sound. They put the letter back in the envelope and turn their attention to the new email.

ANDREA  
Looks like we're in business.

Andrea writes the info on a piece of paper then scrunches it into her pocket. CLOSE ON COMPUTER SCREEN as Andrea deletes all traces of the email and logs off of the computer leaving the scene looking undisturbed. ANGLE ON BOTH GIRLS as they start to exit.

ALEXIS  
I had complete faith in you, as  
always.

ANDREA  
(sarcastically)  
Riiiiight... Let's get out of here.

They make for the door.

INT. TIMES OFFICE - DAY

They walk down the hall together looking as innocent as they can.

ALEXIS  
Isn't Mom's blood type A?

ANDREA  
Yeah, I'm pretty sure.

ALEXIS  
We're type B. Dad said he was type  
B, but he's actually type A.

Andrea looks alarmed.

ANDREA  
That can't be... Unless...

INT. MANSION - GIRL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The girls are lounging around in their pajamas on their beds.

ANDREA  
If the blood types don't match, it  
means we're either adopted or...

ALEXIS  
Dad isn't out Dad.

ANDREA  
But do you think it would change  
anything? You know, it shouldn't  
right?

ALEXIS  
Well, you still want to know for  
sure don't you?

ANDREA  
Yeah, I want to know.

Andrea grabs a small makeup bag.

INT. MANSION - HALLWAY - NIGHT

It's late at night and all the lights are off. The girls are sneaking around. The floor boards give a creak and the girls freeze for a second. They continue towards a closed door and enter it.

INT. MANSION - REGINOLD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The girls turn on a desk lamp and start snooping around Reginold's desk, looking through his filing drawer.

ALEXIS

Nothing here. Looks like we need to crack the safe.

Carefully they lift a painting off the wall and set it aside revealing a wall safe with a keypad lock.

ANDREA

Now for the grubby fingers test.

Andrea unzips the makeup bag and removes a blush brush and some dark eye shadow. A couple quick dabs of the brush on the eye shadow and then some gentle stokes over the keypad reveal the frequent use of four numbers.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

That narrows it down a bit... Any ideas?

ALEXIS

No. I don't think it's a date.

ANDREA

Yeah, I don't think so. But assuming every number is only used once...

ALEXIS

Brute force attack?

ANDREA

Exactly, only twenty four possible combinations.

Andrea begins to systematically punch in four number combinations. Each attempt is followed by a red light beside the keypad.

ALEXIS

This shouldn't take more than two minutes.

The light turns green.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

Or thirty seconds.

Andrea grins. They open the safe CLOSE ON DOCUMENTS and some valuables. Sifting through the documents they find their passports. Andrea checks the validity of the passports, they are still valid.

ANDREA  
 (irritated)  
 That's so bogus.  
 (Reginold impersonation)  
 You can't go to Cancun for Spring  
 break because your passports are  
 expired.  
 (normal voice)  
 Yeah right!

They find their birth certificates.

ALEXIS  
 Nothing unusual here. I don't think  
 we could be adopted.

They keep looking and find a document from a company named  
 CyroVault.

ANDREA  
 Oh God. Is that what I think it is?

ALEXIS  
 (reading)  
 Congratulations, and thank you for  
 choosing sperm donor #1072...

The girls slump to the floor, leaning against each other and  
 the wall. Their minds are racing, yet they remain speechless.  
 Andrea takes the letter looking for more answers.

ANDREA  
 That's it? Just a number.

Their minds snap back and they put everything away as they  
 found it. They close the safe, wipe off the keypad and hang  
 the painting.

EXT. COFFEE BEAN - DAY

The girls are sitting in the patio area drinking coffee and  
 eating croissants. Alexis is on the cell phone while Andrea  
 is fiddling with a micro PC, a fully functional laptop with a  
 4.5 inch screen.

ALEXIS  
 (on phone)  
 What about for a medical emergency?  
 (beat)  
 Never mind.

Alexis hangs up the phone

ALEXIS (CONT'D)  
 (mocking tone)  
 Sperm donor confidentiality, blah  
 blah blah.  
 (normal tone)  
 If anyone has the right to know,  
 it's us.

The girls contemplate.

ANDREA  
 Hmm, finding Biodad might be a  
 challenge, but I've made some  
 progress with our disappearing  
 journalist. Check out this  
 recording I got from Jimmy's  
 voicemail.

Andrea plays a clip she recorded on the micro PC.

SMITH (O.S.)  
 (from PC with a tense  
 voice)  
 It's Smith. They're on to me, and  
 probably on to you too. I've gotta  
 get out of town. I can get you the  
 rest of the dirt. The same place,  
 be there in one hour. If I don't  
 see you... good luck.

ANDREA  
 That was from the last day Jimmy  
 came to work. Now look at his email  
 calendar.

Andrea hands the micro PC to Alexis which is displaying the  
 email calendar.

ALEXIS  
 A prior meeting with Smith at Joe's  
 Diner... Let's check it out.

EXT. COMMERCIAL BLVD. - DAY

The twins drive by in a black BMW 3 series convertible.

INT. BMW - DAY

Alexis is driving slowly looking at addresses.

ANDREA

Should we be doing this? Dad will go nuts if he knew what we're up to.

ALEXIS

That never stopped us before. Besides if something happened and you disappeared, you'd want some to look into it, right?

ANDREA

Yeah.

ALEXIS

And if you had kids you never meet, you'd want them to find you, right?

ANDREA

How do we always find ourselves on the moral high ground?

ALEXIS

We're good like that.

A sign up ahead says Joe's Diner. Andrea points.

ANDREA

There it is.

They park the car and go inside.

INT. JOE'S DINER - DAY

The diner has a classic layout, a long counter with swivel stools and booths along the windows. A few customers are drinking coffee and reading newspapers. The girls approach the WAITRESS and pull out micro PC which has Jimmy's picture on the screen.

ANDREA

(to Waitress)

Excuse me, has this guy been to the diner before?

WAITRESS

Hmm, yeah looks like a guy who came in here recently.

The girls look upbeat sensing that they are on to something.

ALEXIS  
(excitedly)  
Can you tell us what you remember?

WAITRESS  
Well, I tried to get his order, but  
he said he was waiting for someone  
to join him.

ALEXIS  
(expecting something  
juicy)  
And.

WAITRESS  
He waited for about an hour, no one  
came and he left.

The girls look disappointed.

ANDREA  
That's it?

WAITRESS  
Yeah, he just sat by himself.

ANDREA  
Oh, thanks for you time.

The girls turn and begin their exit.

ALEXIS  
That was a let down.

INT. BMW - DAY

Alexis starts the engine.

ALEXIS  
Where to now?

ANDREA  
Home, I guess.

They start driving down the road.

ALEXIS  
Yeah, Jimmy's probably just laying  
low for a while. Only time will  
tell what he was working on.

About a block up on the other side of the road is a parked car which looks out of place. It looks deserted, with a thick layer of dust and some parking tickets under the wiper. As they get closer they notice something through the dirty windshield. CLOSE ON something hanging on rearview mirror. It's a press parking pass.

ANDREA

Stop! That car has a press pass.

They abruptly slow down and park. They get out of the car.

EXT. ROAD WITH PARKED CARS - DAY

They approach the dirty car and squint to see inside. CLOSE ON press parking pass, the name on it is Jimmy Coolidge.

ALEXIS

It's his car!

ANDREA

Something must have happened to him after he left the diner.

They check the doors, locked. They brush some dust off the passenger side window to get a better look inside. A sheet of paper is on the seat. It says City Pension Fund Portfolio then it has a list of stocks with figures. One item has been highlighted, Pharmamed.

ALEXIS

Pharmamed... I bet this is what he was investigating.

INT. MANSION - BEDROOM - DAY

The girls are digging through their closet, opening boxes.

ALEXIS

Here it is.

Alexis sorts through a box with a bunch of electronic gadgets. She picks up a voice changer box and switches it on then puts it to her mouth.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

(SFX scary deep voice)

I'm the Hulk, Arrggggg!! Arrggggg!!

Alexis adjusts a knob on the voice changer and tries again.



ALEXIS (CONT'D)  
(SFX realistic male voice)  
Bond. James Bond.

ANDREA  
That'll work. Here, use this  
disposable phone.

Andrea hands Alexis a disposable cell phone. Alexis dials a  
number. It rings.

INT. TIMES OFFICE - GUS'S OFFICE - DAY

GUS  
This is Gus.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

ALEXIS  
(using voice changer)  
I have information about Jimmy  
Coolidge.

GUS  
What? Who is this?

ALEXIS  
I have reason to believe there was  
foul play. Jimmy was last seen at  
Joe's Diner and you can find his  
car abandoned a block North of  
there.

GUS  
Who are you?

Alexis seems stumped. Andrea grabs the voice changer and  
phone.

ANDREA  
I'm a freelance reporter following  
the same story as Jimmy. I'll  
contact you again when I have more  
information.

Andrea hangs up the phone.

EXT. ROAD WITH PARKED CARS - DAY

Gus is standing in front of Jimmy's car scratching his head. Police cars are parked nearby and there are Police Officers asking Gus questions and taking notes.

GUS  
I hope he's Okay.

POLICE OFFICER  
We'll do our best to find him. If you get anymore phone calls let us know immediately.

GUS  
Of course.

The Police Officer continues writing in his note pad and turns his attention away from Gus.

POLICE OFFICER  
I think we're done here.

Gus starts to walk away.

GUS  
(to himself)  
What the hell is going on here?

INT. BMW - DAY

The girls are sitting in the parked BMW. Both girls are dressed and styled identically. Matching blouses, slacks, hair and makeup.

ANDREA  
I'm not doing it. It's your idea you should do it.

ALEXIS  
Rock paper scissors?

ANDREA  
Fine.

The girls shake their fists. Andrea throws rock, Alexis throws scissors.

ALEXIS  
Best two out of three?

ANDREA

Not a chance. I'll see you later  
and try to imagine a happy place.

Andrea gets out of the BMW.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Andrea walks along the sidewalk in a commercial area. She opens a glass office door. The door reads Cryovault.

INT. CRYOVAULT - RECEPTION - DAY

A receptionist sits behind a glass window.

ANDREA

Hi, I'm Polly Parker. I have an appointment.

RECEPTIONIST

OK, Someone will be with you in a moment.

Andrea waits for a beat.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Alright, come on back.

The door makes a buzzing noise as the receptionist operates the locking mechanism. Andrea enters.

INT. CRYOVAULT - HALLWAY - DAY

A lady is approaching.

LILY

Hi, you must be Polly. I'm Lily.

ANDREA

Yes, pleased to meet you.

They start to walk down the hall.

LILY

You're much younger than you seemed on the phone.

ANDREA

I get that a lot.

They reach Lily's office.

INT. CRYOVAULT - LILY'S OFFICE - DAY

LILY  
Well, tell me a little about  
yourself.

ANDREA  
First of all, I just love babies.  
Their chubby cheeks and little  
feetsies.

LILY  
(uncertainly)  
Oh, that's good.

ANDREA  
I do a lot of baby sitting and one  
day it occurred to me. I need my  
own baby.

LILY  
Really?

ANDREA  
Do you have any kids?

LILY  
Uh...

INT. CRYOVAULT - RECEPTION - DAY

RECEPTIONIST'S P.O.V.- Alexis comes through the front door.

The receptionist looks confused, not sure what to say.

ALEXIS  
I'm back, just had to get something  
from the car.

RECEPTIONIST  
I... I didn't see you leave.

ALEXIS  
Well here I am.

The receptionist buzzes the door open. Alexis enters.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)  
Thank you.

INT. CRYOVAULT - HALLWAY - DAY

Alexis walks down the hall scanning the layout and trying to avoid any contact with workers. She spots a kitchen area and ducks inside.

INT. CRYOVAULT - KITCHEN - DAY

Alexis makes sure no one is looking, and opens the cabinet beneath the sink. REVEAL THE CABINET contains cleaning supplies which have apparently never been used in the cabinet itself. Dust bunnies and grime abound.

ALEXIS  
(sotto)  
Lovely.

Alexis moves the contents to one side and does a contortionist routine to squeeze herself inside. The door closes behind her.

PAN to kitchen entrance. Andrea and Lily walk past. Andrea is holding some pamphlets.

INT. CRYOVAULT - HALLWAY -DAY

Lily is walking Andrea out.

ANDREA  
You mean I can't get the baby  
batter today?

LILY  
Just read the literature I gave you  
and give it a little more  
thought... a lot more thought.

ANDREA  
Hmm, what do you think of  
Pomeranians? Are they the cutest or  
what?

They reach the exit.

LILY  
Alrighty then, thanks for stopping  
by.

INT. CRYOVAULT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Alexis opens the cabinet door a crack and peers out. The lights are off. Everyone has gone home.

ALEXIS

Finally.

Alexis climbs out of the cabinet and dusts herself off. She walks stealthily to the hallway, and peaks both ways to make sure nobody is around.

INT. CRYOVAULT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

She makes her way down the hallway until she reaches a door which reads Donor Coordinator. She opens the door.

ALEXIS

(sotto)

Bingo.

INT. CRYOVAULT - DONOR COORDINATOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Inside there is a desk and a number of filing cabinets. Alexis starts searching. CLOSE ON open drawer with files labelled with sequential numbers.

ALEXIS

(sotto)

Here we go.

Alexis' finger skims over the tops of the files and then stops on #1072. She pulls out the file and hastily uses a digital camera to photograph the pages. Once she's done, she puts everything back to normal. She opens the door and the hallway light is on.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

(sotto)

Oh crap!

Alexis takes a peek into the hallway. A janitor is dusting around the reception area while he listens to a walkman. He is looking down and not in her direction. Alexis quickly makes a break in the other direction.

INT. CRYOVAULT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Alexis looks behind and then rounds a corner.

JANITOR (O.S.)  
Hello? Anybody there?

Alexis finds the back door. A sign on the door says for emergency exit only, alarm will sound.

ALEXIS  
Emergency? I'd say so.

Alexis charges through the door, a second later an alarm is sounded.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

The BMW is parked 20 yards away, the engine fires up, the lights remain off. Andrea drives up to her running sister. Andrea leans over and throws the passenger door open. Alexis jumps in and they speed off.

EXT. MANSION - POOL - DAY

Alexis is sunning herself on a floating pool recliner. Andrea swims just under the surface towards Alexis, and emerges next to Alexis. Alexis lifts her head and winces while she nurses her soar neck.

ALEXIS  
Ouch... You owe me big time. This body was not meant to hug a sink trap.

ANDREA  
Just think of all the airfare we'll save with you hiding in the luggage.

ALEXIS  
Not funny.

ANDREA  
So what do you think he's like... Biodad?

ALEXIS  
AKA Jeffery Dukowski? Well, he lives in Malibu right on the PCH. So maybe a doctor, lawyer, entertainment mogul.

ANDREA

Do we call him? Or just show up and say "Guess what."

A laptop chimes, DING.

ALEXIS

Data mining is complete.

The girls get out of the pool grab some towels and walk over to the patio table with the laptop. They begin analyzing the results.

ANDREA

Out of all the stocks in the City pension fund, Pharmamed is the only one that has a spam and junk fax campaign.

ALEXIS

A pump and dump scam?

ANDREA

I wonder what the City Treasurer has to say about that.

ALEXIS

The junk faxes came from a phone number with an address downtown.

EXT. BOILER ROOM OFFICE - DAY

The office is in a seedy area downtown. They try the front door and it is locked. They move to the alley on the side of the building and find a fire escape.

ALEXIS

It's probably the second floor office right there.

Alexis points to the first landing on the fire escape.

ANDREA

I'm not getting all dirty.

ALEXIS

Don't be a baby.

Alexis positions a garbage dumpster underneath the fire escape ladder. They help each other onto the dumpster and up the ladder. They peek through the window and see that nobody is there. It's a boiler room setup with a bunch of phones.



ANDREA  
It looks deserted.

ALEXIS  
What do you want to do now?

A door slams inside the office. The girls duck down below the window. They cautiously peek in and see a MYSTERY MAN with a briefcase. He's picking up any last shreds of paper, removing any trace of information.

ANDREA  
Should we call the cops?

The MYSTERY MAN looks around the office and seems satisfied. He leaves.

ALEXIS  
There's no time. We need to follow him ourselves or we're going to lose him.

The girls hurry down the fire escape, then they wait at the entrance to the alley checking for the MYSTERY MAN to leave the building.

ANDREA  
This could be dangerous, we should--

The man exits the building and starts walking down the sidewalk in the opposite direction.

ALEXIS  
Come on, let's go.

They follow him staying a good distance behind. They continue for a few blocks.

ANDREA  
It looks like he's heading to the park.

They continue pursuing. Occasionally the MYSTERY MAN checks behind in case he's being tailed. The girls try to blend in. They reach the park and the MYSTERY MAN takes a seat on a bench and looks around. After a beat he nonchalantly places an envelope with double sided tape under the bench. He then leaves.

ALEXIS  
A dead drop.

After the MYSTERY MAN has walked off the girls retrieve the envelope from the bench. They open it. CLOSE ON contents consist of risque blackmail photos, a man and woman in a hotel room. Also a note "You're not buying enough. You need to ramp in up. Continue purchasing Pharmamed until target price of \$50 is met."

ANDREA  
Blackmail.

ALEXIS  
And who's the guy in the photo?

ANDREA  
I think I've got a hunch.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - DAY

The girls are driving the BMW top down.

ANDREA  
I don't know if I'm ready to meet Biodad. Let's turn around.

ALEXIS  
What's the worst that could happen?

ANDREA  
Well I could faint or I could puke on his front door or--

ALEXIS  
Think positive.

ANDREA  
You can't tell me you're not nervous.

ALEXIS  
Kind of, but I'd say more excited.

INT. BMW - DAY

They approach a drive way directly off of the highway. A large sign reads 16001 PCH.

GPS NAVIGATION  
Turn right at next street.

ANDREA

This is it, look at the sign. This must be a big estate.

They turn up the drive way which is long like those belonging to folks with more than a handful of acres. As they drive twenty five yards they notice some structures.

ALEXIS

Are these the kind of houses that have wheels?

They drive further, mobile homes abound. They are in the thick of a genuine trailer park. Andrea slaps the GPS navigation system a couple times.

ANDREA

This thing has got to be broken.

They seem doubtful that they are in the right place. A beat.

GPS NAVIGATION

You have reached your destination.

They stop the car. The mail box reads Dukowski. A pale blue mid 70's Pontiac Gran Ville convertible is parked outside. The front door to the trailer is open with only a ratty screen door obscuring the view inside.

ALEXIS

What ever we see in there, I promise I won't look at you any differently.

ANDREA

You say that now. What if our destinies have just taken a turn down "S" creek and this is the first stop?

ALEXIS

You're psyching yourself out. Let's just do it, like bungee jumping into self discovery.

EXT. DUKOWSKI'S TRAILER - FRONT YARD - DAY

Alexis gets out of the car, Andrea follows shortly after. They walk toward the screen door, as they approach they faintly hear the sound of LASER BLASTS and EXPLOSIONS. The sounds get louder as they reach the screen door. Alexis knocks on the screen door making a CLANKING noise.

DUKOWSKI (O.S.)

Yeah, come on in.

The girls give each other a brief look acknowledging this is the point of no return. They open the screen door and enter.

INT. DUKOWSKI'S TRAILER - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The trailer is fairly spartan, furniture is minimal and worn out. Vintage orangy brown shag carpet. Raymond is wearing a rent-a-cop uniform and is sitting playing Asteroids on a Atari 2600. Dukowski approaches. He's in his fifties, longish somewhat grey hair with a rubber band to keep it from falling in his face. He's a hippie. Wardrobe consists of a hemp aloha style shirt, shorts and huarache sandals, all of which look about ten years old. He's holding a glass of carrot juice.

DUKOWSKI

Oh... what brings you two angels to my humble abode?

Dukowski turns down the television volume. Raymond's attention remains fixed on the game.

ALEXIS

Are you Jeffery Dukowski?

DUKOWSKI

Why yes I am. Can I get either of you a carrot juice?

ALEXIS

No.

ANDREA

No thanks.

DUKOWSKI

Or maybe a tomato and celery blend? Did you know you can actually live entirely off juice?

ALEXIS

No, but--

DUKOWSKI

Yeah, you should check out the Juiceman. I actually have an original Juiceman juicer.

ALEXIS  
 (butting in)  
 Did you donate sperm at the  
 Cryovault nineteen years ago or so?

DUKOWSKI  
 Yeah, did you guys run out?

ANDREA  
 I think we've already gotten all  
 that we need.

ALEXIS  
 We're your biological daughters.

Raymond's gaming attention is broken and stops playing. His  
 eyes turn to the girls.

DUKOWSKI  
 What a trip. I figured there had to  
 be some rug rats running around.

RAYMOND  
 (rapidly)  
 I told you. What did I say? Didn't  
 I tell you?

DUKOWSKI  
 Yeah, yeah.

RAYMOND  
 I said they'd just start showing up  
 on your doorstep.

ANDREA  
 (attempting to bail)  
 Maybe this wasn't a good idea. We  
 should just--

DUKOWSKI  
 No, no. Don't worry about Raymond,  
 he just likes being right. Kudos to  
 you for finding me, I bet it wasn't  
 easy. Must be destiny.

The girls take his choice of words to have some higher  
 meaning. Their reticence washes away and they feel compelled  
 to take that leap. They move slowly toward Dukowski and give  
 him a timid hug. Dukowski reciprocates.

ANDREA  
 I'm Andie.

ALEXIS

I'm Alex.

DUKOWSKI

Mi casa es su casa.

RAYMOND

I'm not baby sitting.

Raymond goes back to playing Asteroids.

EXT. DUKOWSKI'S TRAILER - BACK YARD - DAY

Dukowski and the girls are sitting on lawn chairs facing the ocean. The view is first class. Each has a glass of carrot juice. Andrea takes a sip.

ANDREA

This stuff is actually pretty good.

DUKOWSKI

Oh, the best. All in moderation though.

ALEXIS

Or you'll turn orange?

DUKOWSKI

That's part of it. Mostly it's all the Cheetos jokes and the George Hamilton called, he want's his tan back jokes.

The girls can't help but crack a smile.

DUKOWSKI (CONT'D)

I'm cool with it, but you two could get scarred for life.

ANDREA

So what now? I don't even know what any of this is going to mean tomorrow or the next day.

DUKOWSKI

It's what ever you want it to be. Life is too short to worry about mental hangups.

ALEXIS

But, usually life isn't that simple. Especially with us.

DUKOWSKI

It's all about perception, ying and yang. Take a situation, you would say it's complicated, but if you can get tuned in you'll see that it is also simple.

ALEXIS

Is this some kind of acid trip stuff?

DUKOWSKI

No, no. OK tell me what you want most in the world.

ANDREA

I want to be an acclaimed journalist but--

DUKOWSKI

No buts. Simple, that's what you should do.

ANDREA

You don't even know what I was about to say.

DUKOWSKI

Hey, a lot of people think I make an awesome life coach. Not professionally or anything, more like on a good samaritan basis. And I already know what you were going to say.

ANDREA

What's that?

DUKOWSKI

You were going to list a bunch of baggage the establishment has dumped on you.

ANDREA

Something like that.

DUKOWSKI

Just look at all the people that do what the "Man" says they should do. Most of them... not happy. If you really want to find happiness you need to follow your own heart.

The girls look contemplative as they turn their attention back to the view.

EXT. DUKOWSKI'S TRAILER - FRONT YARD - DUSK

Everybody is loitering around the front door. The girls are getting ready to leave.

DUKOWSKI

If you need anything or someone to talk to, just give me a call.

RAYMOND

I've been friends with this guy since we were little kids... so I guess I'm kind of like your uncle.

ANDREA

OK, it was nice meeting you.

DUKOWSKI

My door is always open.

They wave goodbye and the girls head for their car.

INT. BMW - DUSK

They drive off and turn onto the PCH. A grey crown victoria has been following them.

ANDREA

I'm glad we did that.

ALEXIS

Yeah, me too.

The crown vic turns on a red light to pull the girls over, it was an unmarked cop car.

ANDREA

What the hell?

The girls pull over to the side of the highway. A police detective approaches the driver's side window.

DETECTIVE

Could you both please step out of the car?



ALEXIS  
What's the problem officer?

DETECTIVE  
Please step out ma'am.

EXT. SHOULDER OF THE PCH - DUSK

The girls get out of the car, the detective eyes them cautiously. The girls look petrified.

DETECTIVE  
You mind explaining to me what you were doing breaking into the Cryovault office last night?

The girls are in complete shock.

ALEXIS  
Huh... uh, you've got the wrong guys.

DETECTIVE  
You fit the description. Do you mind coming down to the station to answer some questions?

ANDREA  
Are we under arrest?

DETECTIVE  
If you don't come willing, then yes.

The girls look at each other wondering what they got themselves into.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTEROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

The girls are seated behind a table. The door opens and the detective enters.

DETECTIVE  
You goofed up. Dukowski, he's number 1072 and you put his folder inside the 1073 folder. Don't feel too bad, it's an easy mistake.

ANDREA  
We don't know what you're talking about.

DETECTIVE

And the janitor says he saw two girls speed off in a black BMW. Not much to go on. But... imagine my surprise when I go to visit Mr. Dukowski and end up see you two leaving.

ALEXIS

That doesn't prove anything.

ANDREA

There's a lot of black BMWs around.

DETECTIVE

There's also a lot of people in jail based on circumstantial evidence... You see I've got a sixth sense about these things. You did it, and a signed confession will probably get you probation.

ANDREA

We still haven't gotten our phone call.

DETECTIVE

If you didn't do it, just tell me where you were last night.

ALEXIS

We're not saying anything until we get our phone call.

The detective gives them a piercing stare.

DETECTIVE

I know guilty when I see it.

The detective leaves the room.

INT. POLICE STATION - JAIL HALLWAY - NIGHT

The girls are standing in front of a pay phone mounted on the wall. Jail cells are seen in the background.

ALEXIS

We're in such big trouble. We can't call Mom or Dad, they'll kill us.

ANDREA

What do you suggest we do? Just rot in jail. Don't you think Mom and Dad are going to notice that we're missing?

ALEXIS

They don't have anything on us.

ANDREA

(sotto)

You're sure that janitor didn't get a good look at you.

ALEXIS

Pretty sure.

ANDREA

Before I thought you said 100% sure.

ALEXIS

After all this, I don't know anymore.

INT. DUKOWSKI'S TRAILER - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dukowski is watching the Animal Channel on TV while he is slapping together a sandwich in the kitchen. The phone rings and he answers.

DUKOWSKI

(on the phone)

Yellow.

(beat)

Yeah sure.

(beat)

Jail!

INT. POLICE STATION - JAIL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Andrea and Alexis are sharing the phone receiver, their heads pressed together.

ALEXIS

Please, can you help us?

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Dukowski holds the front door open as Andrea and Alexis exit the building.

ANDREA

We're sorry you got involved in this mess.

They start to walk to the parking lot.

DUKOWSKI

Don't worry about it. I just told them you guys were at my place last night.

ALEXIS

(concerned)

Are you sure?

ANDREA

You won't get in trouble?

DUKOWSKI

I figure it was my info you took, and since I don't mind, then you guys shouldn't be punished. Besides they were only grasping at straws.

ANDREA

Huh?

DUKOWSKI

They didn't really have any solid evidence. No sign of forced entry, nothing stolen. I wouldn't worry about it.

ALEXIS

(wearily)

I worry about that detective. He could see right through us.

INT. MANSION - GIRL'S BEDROOM - DAY

The girls are in bed sleeping, the door opens. Caroline enters abruptly causing the girls to awaken.

CAROLINE

As long as you live in this house I expect you to get home at a decent hour! I tried calling you and you never answered your cell phones.

ALEXIS

(sleepily)

Sorry, we were at a friend's house.

CAROLINE

You could have called.

The girls prop themselves up in bed.

ANDREA

I know, we messed up.

CAROLINE

It's almost noon. Get your lazy bones out of bed.

INT. MANSION - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Reginold is reading the newspaper. The girls make their way to the living room. When they enter Reginold puts down the newspaper.

REGINOLD

You know just because you graduated high school, it doesn't mean you can go out partying until the break of dawn.

ALEXIS

We just got caught up and couldn't get away.

REGINOLD

You have to stay focused, I don't want you goofing around.

ANDREA

We are focused.

REGINOLD

And what were you doing?

ALEXIS

Uh... networking.

REGINOLD

(scoffs)

Networking? Now I've heard  
everything...

(sternly)

I expect a phone call next time.

Reginold begins reading the newspaper again. The girls walk into the kitchen.

INT. MANSION - KITCHEN - DAY

The girls open the refrigerator and grab some milk then get a box of cereal.

ANDREA

Maybe we should cool it with the  
Pharmamed lead for a while?

They then get some bowls and pour in the cereal and milk.

ALEXIS

Now? We're this close to breaking  
the story wide open.

Alexis gestures holding her index finger and thumb a millimeter apart. They start eating their cereal.

ANDREA

I guess we do have a responsibility  
to those pension holders.

ALEXIS

Exactly, besides you heard Dad. He  
said stay focused.

ANDREA

You've gotta point.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Dukowski and Raymond are looking at the menu while seated at a booth.

RAYMOND

So why did we come way over here to  
eat?

DUKOWSKI

They wanted to show me this project  
they've been working on.

RAYMOND

What? You gotta help them with their homework now?

DUKOWSKI

No. They're just sharing. That's what fathers and daughters are supposed to do.

RAYMOND

OK, I'll pretend to look interested.

The girls arrive with big smiles and sit down. Raymond puts on a fake smile expecting to be bored out of his mind.

LATER

The extortion photos and note are on the table. The girls are wrapping up their briefing. Raymond's face is riveted and in disbelief.

ANDREA

And that's about it.

RAYMOND

That's some heavy duty stuff.

ALEXIS

Yeah, pretty much.

RAYMOND

And this guy is coming here?

ALEXIS

Should be any minute.

The man in the photo walks into the coffee shop. He looks around then takes a seat at the counter. The girls move in and flank him on both sides.

TREASURER

Who the hell are you?

ALEXIS

We're your meeting.

TREASURER

No, I don't think so. I'm meeting someone else. Beat it.

ANDREA

No really, that message about the  
dead drop that didn't happen.  
That's us.

TREASURER

I'm outta here.

The Treasurer starts to get up.

ALEXIS

We've got some very interesting  
photos of you.

ANDREA

And we know what your up to. You  
know... Pharmamed.

The Treasurer sits back down and takes a threatening posture.

TREASURER

(angrily)

You don't know what your getting  
into. Give me the photos and forget  
everything you think you know about  
what's going on.

ALEXIS

I don't think so.

The treasurer looks ready to wring some necks.

ANDREA

Don't do anything rash.

Andrea tips her head towards Dukowski and Raymond. The  
Treasurer looks at the men.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

The rent-a-cop and crazy guy are  
with us.

ALEXIS

They're deranged, I wouldn't start  
anything if I were you.

The Treasurer sizes up the strange situation and takes on a  
more peaceful tact.

TREASURER

What do you want?



ANDREA

We want the whole story, who else is involved.

TREASURER

I don't know. I don't like the whole thing, any of it, but they're blackmailing me.

ANDREA

Who?

TREASURER

You can get in on the action. Just leave this thing alone.

ALEXIS

No thanks.

TREASURER

Forget about me, buy Pharmamed stock, the price is going to shoot up real soon. You can make a killing.

ANDREA

You can't go through with it. The scam is over. It's just a matter of how you want this to go down.

TREASURER

I'm not a bad guy. These people, they put you in an impossible situation.

ALEXIS

We're not particularly interested in your bedroom indiscretions. How about you sell the Pharmamed stock you already bought and resign.

ANDREA

Tell us the whole story and the racy photos stay buried.

The Treasurer thinks while remaining stubbornly silent.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

Or the whole enchilada will be all over the news.

TREASURER

There's this mob guy. I don't know his real name, but people call him Mr. Bliss. He got his start dealing in drugs and prostitutes.

The girls look at each other acknowledging that they've hit on something.

ALEXIS

And what's your connection to him?

TREASURER

He figured out he can use his working girls to get leverage on important men. They setup a hotel room with hidden cameras.

ANGLE ON Dukowski and Raymond, the girls are in the background with the Treasurer.

RAYMOND

I'm telling you, it sounds like this thing is ready to roll. We just load up on Pharmamed and make a mint.

DUKOWSKI

Nah. You can't do that. It's bad karma man.

RAYMOND

Who's gonna know?

DUKOWSKI

That's one of the qualities of karma, no one needs to know.

The Treasurer gets up and leaves. The girls return to the booth.

RAYMOND

(to the Girls)

So are we gonna make some money?

ANDREA

Huh?

DUKOWSKI

Raymond. Come on man.

Raymond pulls out a pen and scrap of paper to take notes.

RAYMOND

So the stock symbol is? And what's our target price.

ANDREA

That's not happening. We gave him twenty four hours to straighten out the shares already in the portfolio and then he's going to resign.

ALEXIS

(to Dukowski)

But if you're interested in some easy cash, we could use a favor.

ANDREA

And it's legit for the most part.

DUKOWSKI

OK, sure.

RAYMOND

Hey, what about me? The stock symbol?

ALEXIS

Don't you get it? The scam's a no go.

RAYMOND

Hey I'm not stupid. It's all about tactics. That stock's gonna be worthless tomorrow. Before I was gonna buy, now I'm gonna short.

DUKOWSKI

Raymond, come on man. It's not cool.

RAYMOND

(emphatically)

Are you crazy? It's totally cool.

The girls look at each other like it's time to leave.

ANDREA

Let's split.

INT. MANSION - GIRL'S BEDROOM - DAY

The girls have the voice changer and their disposable cell phone at the ready.

ANDREA  
Are you ready?

ALEXIS  
Yeah.

Alexis pushes call on the cell phone.

INT. TIMES OFFICE - GUS'S OFFICE - DAY

The phone rings and Gus answers.

GUS  
Hello.

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

Alexis is using the voice changer.

ALEXIS  
(SFX realistic male voice)  
I'm the guy who unofficially picked  
up Jimmy Coolidge's last project.

GUS  
Oh, I remember.

ALEXIS  
It's wrapped up. There's going to  
be some big news about the City  
Treasurer tomorrow. Do you want the  
scoop?

GUS  
Yes, I'm interested.

ALEXIS  
How about you give me Jimmy's old  
staff position and you've got a  
deal?

GUS  
Hmm, I'll consider it. But let's  
hear what you've got.

ALEXIS  
Oh, it's good.

INT. TIMES OFFICE - RECEPTION - DAY

Dukowski is waiting on the couch. He has some typed pages on his lap. Gus approaches.

GUS

Hi, are you Jeffery Dukowski?

Dukowski stands up.

DUKOWSKI

That would be me.

GUS

Nice to meet you.

They shake hands and start to walk together.

DUKOWSKI

How's it goin' dude.

GUS

My office is this way. You sound a bit different than on the phone.

DUKOWSKI

Yeah whenever I hear myself on an answering machine I think I sound weird too.

Gus doesn't know if Dukowski is being serious, then gives Dukowski's bum like appearance a once over.

GUS

You know, as far as attire, this office is more business casual.

DUKOWSKI

Oh yeah, so you guys don't believe in freedom of expression?

GUS

Sure we do. It's just to promote a more professional work environment.

DUKOWSKI

Cool. This is my urban camouflage, helps me blend in. Strictly professional.

INT. TIMES OFFICE - GUS'S OFFICE - DAY

Gus takes a seat behind his desk and motions for Dukowski to take a seat, he does.

GUS  
Strictly professional, I see...  
Well let's see what you've got.

Dukowski hands over the papers he was carrying. Gus starts to read.

LATER

Gus puts the papers down.

GUS (CONT'D)  
It's good work. And you can  
substantiate all of this?

DUKOWSKI  
Yeah, it's solid. You can check it  
out if you want.

GUS  
OK... But do you really think you  
are a good fit for us here at the  
Times? Maybe you're more of a  
Village Voice kind of guy.

DUKOWSKI  
Yeah probably. So you don't want  
the story.

GUS  
No, I definitely want the story.  
It's the staff position, I don't  
know if you're right--

DUKOWSKI  
Oh, so you're worried I'm not gonna  
pull the corporate line for you?  
Need to maintain your slant?

GUS  
No, we're not slanted. We only  
promote balanced reporting.

DUKOWSKI

Maybe only hiring people that fit into your cookie cutter world is tantamount to a slant. Have you ever considered that?

GUS

Hmm... I suppose you have something of a point there.

DUKOWSKI

So do we have a deal?

GUS

Well, maybe you can add an... interesting perspective to this newspaper... I guess it's a deal.

They both rise and shake hands.

DUKOWSKI

Right on... So where do I get my check?

INT. MANSION - KITCHEN - MORNING

The girls enter. The newspaper is on the table with the front page showing the scandal with the Treasurer. They rush over and grab it giddy with excitement.

ANDREA

Oh my god. Front page!

ALEXIS

(confidently)

Of course. Definitely front page.

CLOSE ON the article which shows Jeffery Dukowski as the writer.

ANDREA

This is awesome. It'll be our names on there soon.

ALEXIS

As far as I'm concerned, I couldn't be happier right now.

Reginold enters curious what all the commotion is about. He see that they are looking at the newspaper. The girls notice his presence and act more normal.

REGINOLD  
Is that what you girls are getting  
all worked up about?

ANDREA  
(playing it off)  
What do you mean? We're not worked  
up.

REGINOLD  
I was expecting to find Brad Pitt  
in here.

Reginold picks up the newspaper and gives it a once over.

REGINOLD (CONT'D)  
You really do love the newspaper  
business don't you?

Both girls nod enthusiastically.

REGINOLD (CONT'D)  
Well college doesn't start until  
the Fall, do you want to do some  
interning at the Times?

ANDREA  
Yeah!

ALEXIS  
Of course!

REGINOLD  
OK, I feel bad I didn't get to  
spend much time with you the last  
time you were in the office.

ANDREA  
Oh, That's alright.

ALEXIS  
Thanks Dad.

The girls give Reginold a hug.

INT. LIMO - DAY

Reginold and the girls are being chauffeured to the office.

REGINOLD  
We hired a new reporter yesterday.

ALEXIS  
Oh yeah.



REGINOLD

I haven't met him yet. He came to Gus with that scoop we ran on the front page today.

ANDREA

Hmm. So how did you like his article?

REGINOLD

It's a good piece of work. You can come with me when I met him, maybe he can teach you a thing or two.

The girls try to keep from laughing.

ALEXIS

(sotto Andrea)

Like how to play in a hippie drum circle?

Andrea cracks up.

REGINOLD

What?

ALEXIS

Inside joke.

INT. TIMES OFFICE - DUKOWSKI'S DESK - DAY

Reginold and the girls approach Dukowski sitting at his desk. Dukowski is intently staring at the keyboard of his computer not knowing what to do with it. Reginold reaches out for a handshake.

REGINOLD

(to Dukowski)

Hi, welcome aboard. I'm Reginold Wentworth, President.

DUKOWSKI

Oh, Hi.

REGINOLD

These are my daughters Andrea and Alexis.

DUKOWSKI

Oh, so you're their regular Dad? I mean that's great, being a Dad that's cool.

Reginold doesn't know what to make of the comment. The girls shoot Dukowski a cautionary look.

REGINOLD

They can't stop talking about your article. Maybe you can give them a little journalism lesson.

DUKOWSKI

Yeah sure, no problem.

REGINOLD

Great. Nice to meet you.

Reginold walks off.

DUKOWSKI

So how long do I have to fart around here?

ALEXIS

I suspect you'll be doing most of your work in the field.

ANDREA

Or relaxing in a field.

DUKOWSKI

You know, I was thinking I should take this thing a little more seriously. Maybe do a piece about the evils of consumerism.

ALEXIS

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

DUKOWSKI

There's a lot of people who need enlightenment.

ANDREA

Why don't you leave the writing to us.

DUKOWSKI

Come on, we're a team.

The girls are shaking their heads, clearly not swayed.

DUKOWSKI (CONT'D)

No? Why don't we try to transcend--

The girls laugh at his unrelenting hippie mindset.

No!

ANDREA

No!

ALEXIS

Fine.                      DUKOWSKI