

A
DOUBLE TAKE
ON
WOMANHOOD

WRITTEN BY
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INT. DTLA YMCA - CAREGIVERS' SUPPORT GROUP MEETING - DAY

In the middle of a 15x15 foot room with scuffed-up floors are 10 participants sitting in folding chairs that form a circle. There's a large sign on the bulletin board that reads, "Weekly Caregivers' Support Group Meeting."

MIMI LIMERICK, 27, tall, athletic with auburn hair in dreadlocks, rushes over from her work and is still dressed in blue scrubs and a white lab coat with her name tag that reads, "RN ICU Supervisor, UCLA Medical Center." She found a seat next to JOEN GOMEDA, 33, 5'7" with a graceful stature and long, silky black hair, who just set aside appointments with her design company's clients before arriving. She's nicely dressed in skinny designer jeans and hot pink flats that match her tailored blazer.

Joen is today's group leader and is listening attentively to TOM, 40, a polite regular member who's in the middle of sharing with the group.

TOM

It's not that I don't love my mother, but it's just at times, she gets on my nerves, especially when she criticizes my husband while I'm taking care of her.

MIMI

I know what you mean, Tom. My dad's been pointing out more and more how I haven't found the right person to settle down with. Maybe it's because he has more time on his hands since having his stroke.

JOEN

Listen, everyone, seems we're nearing the end of our time. Does anyone else have a burning desire to share before we close out?

When no one responds, Tom straightens up in his chair-

TOM

I just want to say that since I've been coming here, I'm not feeling as overwhelmed while I'm caring for my mother during her chemo therapy. Thanks for all of your support.

JOEN

Tom, it's so good to hear you share today. OK, everyone, take care until our next meeting.

Most of the members stand up, and a few go over to give kudos to Tom, while Joen and Mimi greet each other.

MIMI

Hey Joen, you did a good job of leading the group today.

JOEN

Oh, thanks, Mimi. It's been a while, and it feels good to be back.

MIMI

By the way, how's your mom doing since her mastectomy?

JOEN

Well, she has her good days and bad days, but she's definitely getting better. Like they say, one day at a time. (beat) How about yourself? Things coming along all alright for you?

MIMI

Oh, my dad can't wait to get back on his audio board for remote TV shoots. His recovery is slow but steady, and the strength on his right side is gradually improving.

JOEN

Can't keep a good man down for long. So, ya been up to anything else lately?

MIMI

Yeah, Joen. I met someone that I feel has potential. I'm so excited about going out with him tonight at a comedy club.

JOEN

Wow, that's great! You have a good time. Just keep me posted, OK?

MIMI

I sure will. Hey, I better run. Bye, Joen.

JOEN

See ya, Mimi.

Mimi rushes out the open door while Joen picks up her Louis Vuitton oversized handbag full of upholstery fabrics.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF YMCA - DAY

Joen walks to her parked late-model GRAY RANGE ROVER and unlocks, then opens the door.

INT. RANGE ROVER - DAY

Joen gets in her car, turns on easy-listening music, and drives onto the street.

INT. JOEN'S CONDO UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - DUSK

Joen pulls into her parking space then walks up to the street level.

EXT. JUICE BAR - ON STREET LEVEL - DUSK

At the popular hole-in-the-wall spot for organic smoothies, LOUD POP MUSIC is playing as Joen peers through the open upper Dutch door. The lights are on but nobody's there. She pounces the bell on the ledge of the door, then a CUTE GUY, college-age, in a half-apron comes to the door. He points to the CLOSED SIGN in the window. Joen gives him a little grin.

JOEN

Hi. Oh, darn, I know you're closed,
but any chance you can give me
change for a twenty?

CUTE GUY

Oh, sure. Just give me a minute.

Joen gazes across the street as he fumbles for fives and ones. There's a sizable gathering of people in evening attire schmoozing in front of a restored 1930's mission style building.

Two young men in white shirts and black slacks are carrying guitars toward an audio set-up on the sidewalk. A woman in her twenties dressed in a safari jacket snaps photos of two hot babes posing in gowns on a rolled-out red carpet.

CUTE GUY (CONT'D)

Here you go, Miss.

JOEN

Oh, great. Thanks.

CUTE GUY

No problem.

Joen begins to wonder about the event taking place nearby.

JOEN (V.O.)

If it's an opening art reception,
why didn't I receive an invitation?

EXT. C GALLERY ON BROADWAY - DUSK - CONTINUOUS

She walks across the street onto the sidewalk, then she gingerly passes through a crowd of couples whose ages ranged from early twenties to mid-sixties. Most of them were sipping drinks from clear plastic cups.

Two large signs are propped against the front of the gallery with text of, 'C Gallery On Broadway Opening.' A large bay window displays large abstract art pieces. Joen sways into one of the open doors.

INT. C GALLERY ON BROADWAY - DUSK - CONTINUOUS

Once inside, Joen is greeted by an attractive woman in a red dress, 50, the gallery owner. She hands Joen a list of the exhibiting artists. Then Joen ventures around to look at several of the well-lit paintings and sculptures.

JOEN

I see Susan Moss is on exhibit.

After she whispers to herself, she circles Susan Moss's name on the list of artists while standing in front of the abstract watercolor painting with organic shaped designs.

She walks to a counter where a young bartender with tattoos covering her forearms serves her a glass of champagne. After Joen places a five in the tip vase, a petite server dressed in black comes by with a tray of salmon.

While looking over the appetizers, Joen is accidentally bumped by PATRICE BUENO, 40, an old friend who attended the Fashion Institute of Merchandise and Design with Joen about ten years ago.

To top it off, Patrice has an amazing muscular stature and blunt-cut jet-black hair with trendy, thick-frame glasses. She's also wearing one of her abstract fashion designs: a clear plastic raincoat with a colorful all-over-pattern of splashed-on paint.

PATRICE

Oh my God! Is that you, Joen?

They laugh while they give each other a big hug.

JOEN

Patrice? I can't believe it! Where have you been hiding yourself?

PATRICE

Oh, Joen, I never hide. I just wear a lot of camouflage to stay under the radar.

JOEN

Wow, I missed you. So, tell me, what are you doing now?

PATRICE

Joen, you must come over to my mural painting project. It's near our old stomping ground and practically around the corner from

(MORE)

PATRICE (cont'd)
the Fashion Institute in the Cental
Art Gallery.

JOEN
Oh yeah! Haven't been there for
over five years. When?

Patrice pulls out her card and hands it to Joen.

PATRICE
How about next weekend? Just give
me a call anytime.

JOEN
Sure, let's do it. Oh, by the way,
I live right across the street.

PATRICE
Oh, that's great, Joen. Hey, I've
gotta go, but we'll connect
again, right?

JOEN
No doubt, it'll be amazing, I can't
wait.

They exchange kisses on each other's cheeks before calling
it a night.

INT. MIMI'S CONDO IN ECHO PARK - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Mimi walks in her front door, kicks off her Nikes, pulls off
her scrub jacket, and tosses it on a toppled laundry basket
near the couch.

She CRANKS UP a song by the Dave Matthews Band ON HER OLD CD
PLAYER, then sorts through a pile of mail on the sofa table.
She grins as she opens her biweekly auto-deposit paycheck
statement, showing the amount paid for 16 hours of
over-time, then she SIGHS and frowns after she views the 40%
amount in taxes deducted. A Felix-the-Cat clock on the wall
reads out 6:10 as she runs out of the living room

INT. MIMI'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

After turning on the faucet of the tub shower and tying up
her long dreadlocks, Mimi gets into a steamy shower. When
the water pipes rattle, she hops out and stumbles on a
rolled up yoga mat, leaning on the towel rack wall.

MIMI
Oh, shit!

INT. MIMI'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

While still drying off with a towel, Mimi looks over two
outfits laying on her bed: one is a red form-fitting dress,
and the other is an ensemble of vintage ripped jeans with a

loose drawstring peasant top. She flings the dress back into her crammed closet and gets dressed.

INT. MIMI'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mimi is BELTING OUT A SONG BLASTING from the speakers as she's tying the strings on her blouse, then she picks up a pair of Dave Matthews Band concert tickets for the LA Crypto.com Arena. As she kisses the tickets she performs a little dance.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Yeow, for my next big date out with Mr. Right.

When the DOORBELL RINGS, Mimi TURNS OFF THE MUSIC and opens the door to JAMES MENKEY, 30, a dead ringer for the comedic actor, Russell Brand. He JIGGLES the keys on his BMW key ring and points to the face of his Tissot wrist watch.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Oh, hi James. I know it's getting a little late, but do you wanna come in?

JAMES

Hey Mimi, I think we better get a move on. Traffic's heavy, but if we leave now, we'll just make it on time.

MIMI

Oh, I'll get my purse. (beat) OK, let's go.

JAMES

Wow, Mimi, you look amazing.

MIMI

Thank you, James.

EXT. MIMI'S CONDO - JAMES'S PARKED BMW - NIGHT

After walking to his RED BMW, James opens the door for Mimi, she gets in, and then he gets in before they drive away.

INT. JAMES'S BMW CAR - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

After merging onto the freeway, James and Mimi look around at the bumper-to-bumper traffic.

MIMI

Wow, you weren't kidding about the traffic.

JAMES

LA is one big giant freeway--like the old song.

MIMI

That's funny, my dad used to play that song a few times when I was growing up.

JAMES

Oh yeah, what does your old man do for a living?

MIMI

He's been working in the music and television industry most of his life.

James begins to loosen up as the traffic starts to let up.

JAMES

Hum, I'm impressed. He must be familiar with all the rappers, including Jay-Z.

MIMI

Of course. He's met quite a few famous celebs since working on the audio equipment for shows like American Idol and The Voice.

JAMES

So, I grew up around a pretty famous guy who I'm sure you've heard of.

MIMI

Wait, who's that?

JAMES

Trentin Sarentino.

MIMI

Oh my God, really? I love all of the films he's directed.

JAMES

We were pretty tight all through middle school in the South Bay area; even back then, he was sort of a rebel.

MIMI

What do you mean?

JAMES

Well, let's put it this way: he had all these raw and edgy ideas for movies going on in his head long before he made his first film.

MIMI

He sounds like a true visionary.

JAMES

Yeah, well, that's a story for another time. (beat) Oh, my exit is coming up. I'd better get over.

After leaving the freeway, James looks for a parking space near the LAUGH FACTORY ON SUNSET BOULEVARD. He drives a couple blocks down on a residential street.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET ON A HILL - NIGHT

JAMES

Sorry, but parking has always been tough around here. It looks like we'll have a ways to walk. Hope that's OK?

MIMI

Oh, that's OK.

James parks in a space that's on a hill. After Mimi and James walk past the crosswalk in front of the Laugh Factory.

EXT. LAUGH FACTORY - IN A MOVING LINE - NIGHT

James and Mimi get in a line of about twenty people. The headliner on the marquee is Carol Leifer, who was a staff writer for the Seinfeld sitcom; the other comics are unknowns. James takes Mimi by the arm as they move forward.

JAMES

All right, here we go.

MIMI

I'm so excited. I've never been here before.

JAMES

Really? I thought you loved stand-up comedy.

MIMI

Oh, I do. I've been to the Comedy Store on the strip and the Irvine Improv.

JAMES

How about the Second City?

Mimi one-ups his challenging inquiry.

MIMI

Of course, my dad took me there a couple of times when we were in the Windy City of Chicago.

INT. THE LAUGH FACTORY - NIGHT

After Mimi and James sit near the stage at a round table with a lit candle in a red jar, their SERVER arrives to their table.

SERVER

What can I get for you two tonight?

JAMES

Just a diet coke for me.

James glances at Mimi before she gives her order.

MIMI

Um, I'd like a sprite please.

SERVER

OK, I'll be right back with your drinks.

JAMES

Thank you.

After the server leaves, James leans in closer to Mimi.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Mimi, I believe you're aware that I don't drink, right?

MIMI

I sort of figured that.

JAMES

Yeah, I realized I had a problem with drinking and gave it up two months ago.

MIMI

Well, good for you. I hope it's been working out for you.

Before James could respond, the FIRST COMEDIAN hits the stage running with a loud bang, and they both look up as the show begins. The comic's routine was loaded with spin-offs of Jim Carrey's physical attics.

The NEXT COMEDIAN moves his routine along with jokes about cheap dates, and a bad impression of a T-Rex gestering to reach for his front pants-pocket to pay out.

NEXT COMEDIAN

Oh, the bill, give me a minute while I get my wallet.

James joins Mimi in booing and frowning as the comic bombs.

Lastly, Carol Leifer received sizable laughs from the crowd with her performance and comedic references to sex and the

7-eleven convenience store. The show ended with a standing ovation after she plugs her upcoming events.

EXT. THE LAUGH FACTORY - NIGHT

Mimi continues to LAUGH as James takes her hand and escorts her out of the crowded exit and onto the sidewalk in front of the signal light.

JAMES

What a nice night. How did you like the last comedian?

MIMI

Oh, she's a bit of a celebrity, and I though she was pretty funny.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET ON THE HILL - NIGHT

They are walking toward the car now as they converse.

JAMES

I know she's been around for a long time, and yeah, she wasn't bad.

After they were walking briskly down the street on the hill, James pauses, turns around, and then looks at Mimi.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Wow, I thought this was the street we parked on, but I don't see my car anywhere, do you?

MIMI

No, I don't see it. Wanna walk down a little farther.

JAMES

Yeah, sure.

James leads the way as they walk down, and then back up the hill. When they end up at the empty parking space where he had originally parked, an older WOMAN in curlers walks out to her lit front porch to look around.

WOMAN

You two alright? Do you need any help?

JAMES

Hi ma'am. My name's James. I think I parked my car here earlier tonight, but it's not here.

WOMAN

Sorry, but I think your car was towed away over an hour ago.

Mimi gets James attention by pointing to a sign next to the empty parking space that reads, "Parking By Permit Only."

MIMI

James, this is a restricted parking zone.

JAMES

Damn! (beat) Excuse me, ma'am. I'm sorry to bother you, but do you happen to know of any impounds near here where my car could have been towed to?

WOMAN

Try Ace or Express Impound.

JAMES / MIMI

Thank you, ma'am.

WOMAN

Good luck.

As the weary woman returns inside, James and Mimi turn away and look downheartedly at each other as the race is on to hurry back to Sunset Boulevard in search of a phone booth.

EXT. SUNSET BOULEVARD - NIGHT

About three blocks down from the Laugh Factory, James and Mimi find a phone booth with an old chained-down phone book.

JAMES

Thank God, this must be the last phone booth on the planet.

MIMI

James, I'm so sorry about not charging my cell phone before we left my condo.

He's flipping through the yellow pages and while rolling his eyes, he nearly kicks himself.

JAMES

Yeah, and what about me leaving mine in the glove box. (beat) OK, here's Ace Impound.

He dials the number and waits for an answer. A man with a GRUFF VOICE answers.

GUS (O.S.)

Ace Impound, this is Gus. What can I do you for?

JAMES

Hi, my car was towed away tonight near Sunset Boulevard. Can you tell me if you picked up a red 1986 BMW tonight?

GUS (O.S.)

We got lots of BMW's here, bud. What's the license plate?

JAMES

It's 86 BMER.

GUS (O.S.)

Hold on, I'll check.

James looks at Mimi with elation, but he's not jumping up and down yet.

JAMES

They're checking.

Mimi looks at him with widened eyes as they wait.

GUS (O.S.)

Sorry, no such vehicle's been towed here on our lot tonight.

After hanging up, James shakes his head, then he goes through the phone book again. He dials, gets an answer from MAC, 35, the rock star of impounds, and inquires once again.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - NIGHT

INTERCUT WITH

INT. EXPRESS IMPOUND - OPEN-AIR TRAILER COUNTER - CONTINUOUS

MAC

This is Mac, Express Impound.

JAMES

Hello, my name is James, and I think my red BMW, with plates 86 BMER, just got towed over to your impound tonight.

MAC

Oh yeah, it's right out front. It was towed away close to Sunset.

JAMES

How much to get it out of impound?

MAC

About three hundred.

JAMES

We'll be right over.

James SIGHS right after hanging up, and then Mimi raises her eyebrows.

MIMI

You found your car, right?

JAMES

Yes, and it's going to cost a small fortune to get it out of impound.

He bows his head and puts his hands in his pockets while staring into her brown eyes.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Listen, Mimi, I'm going to have to ask you for a favor.

MIMI

Oh, James, it's getting pretty late. What exactly is it?

JAMES

This is really embarrassing, but is there any way you can lend me three hundred dollars? (beat) I just don't have that kind of cash to pay for the impound fee tonight, and of course, I would pay you back.

MIMI

Well, if that's the only way we can get your car, so that we can drive back home.

She looks all around before inquiring.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Is there an ATM somewhere around here?

JAMES

I saw one across the street while we were walking over here.

MIMI

Oh, I see it. OK, let's go.

JAMES

I can't tell you how sorry I am about tonight. Please, let me call a cab before we go over, so we can get picked up while we're there, OK?

MIMI

Yeah, sure.

While James is back on the phone, Mimi turns away and shivers in the night air as she SPEAKS UNDER HER BREATH.

MIMI

Shit! What a date from hell.

EXT. ATM ON SUNSET BOULEVARD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Mimi makes a withdrawal while James remains at her side. Then, a DRIVER with an East Indian accent in a yellow taxi cab starts to pull up to the curb as Mimi walks over to James and hands him the cash.

MIMI

Here, James. This is a loan.

JAMES

Yes, it's a loan--agreed, and thank you, Mimi.

DRIVER

Hey, you called for a cab?

JAMES

Yes, we did.

INT. YELLOW TAXI CAB - MOVING - NIGHT

Mimi and James get in the back seat and close the door. Then their cabbie pulls into the light street traffic.

DRIVER

Where to tonight?

JAMES

Express Impound.

DRIVER

OK, that's not too far from here.

The ride over is swift and while James and Mimi get jerked around on the back seat, they remain quiet. The crowd of people walking on the strip are colorful along the way until they reach the huge impound lot.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

OK, this is Express Impound.

JAMES

Thanks, and here you go.

EXT. EXPRESS IMPOUND LOT - NIGHT

After James hands over cash to the driver, they get out of the taxi and look around the lot with bright over-head lights and lots of dirty vehicles of all make and models.

Mimi tags along as James leads the way to the open-air office trailer where MAC, 35, in a dark blue shirt with an oval name patch above his top right pocket, is standing.

JAMES

Hi, I'm James. When I called tonight, I was told that my 1986 red BMW was towed here.

MAC

Oh yeah, with license plates 86 BMER? (beat) It's right over there.

After Mac points to his car, James looks over then NODS.

JAMES

Yes, that's my car. How do I get my car tonight?

MAC

It's up to you, man. If you want it tonight, I need your driver's license, and you need to fill out a form before paying.

James takes his driver's license out of his wallet and places it on the counter in front of him. Mac looks at it and sets it back down.

JAMES

Can you please give me the form to fill out?

Mac pulls out the form on a clip board and hands it over. As James is completing the form, Mimi stands by passively. Then Mac looks over the form.

MAC

OK, James, here are the damages.

James eyes Mac's TATTOO, A BAT with the text OUT OF HELL on his forearm, before he looks at the bill and pulls out the cash.

JAMES

Hum, just under 300.

James spreads out the cash on the counter.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Here you go.

After James signs the receipt, Mac picks up the money, and then gives James his copy.

MAC

Thank you, got your keys, right?

JAMES

Yes, no problem.

MAC

Then you're good to go.

James leaves with a copy of the bill and takes Mimi by her hand as they walk to his car. He examines the full body of his car and after seeing no blemishes, he opens the passenger door and gets his cell phone out of the glove box.

INT. JAMES'S BMW CAR - ON THE MOVE - NIGHT

When they both get in his car, James starts the car, then he slowly pulls out of the lot unto the street. Mimi looks blankly straight ahead through the windshield.

JAMES

Mimi, are you alright?

MIMI

Yes, I'm alright.

JAMES

Oh my God, what a night! Let's get you home now.

MIMI

That's the goal. I'm so glad we survived this night without any scraps or bruises.

JAMES

You can say that again. You're a lifesaver! I can't thank you enough.

MIMI

Don't mention it.

Mimi's mood changes from making light of the situation, to becoming downright irritated as she RAISES HER VOICE.

MIMI (CONT'D)

I think we could use a breather. Maybe we should talk about something else?

JAMES

Oh, sure.

An awkward period of silence lingers before James attempts to strike up conversation again.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Remember when I was talking about an old school friend of mine earlier tonight?

MIMI

Yes, I remember. You mean the director, Trentin Sarentino?

JAMES

Yeah, well, we hung around together up until high school before he went on to make films. And, Boy, did we have some unusual experiences.

MIMI

Oh, yeah? Heard he got into filmmaking at a really young age.

Mimi squirms a little in her seat and thinks to herself-

MIMI (CONT'D/ V.O.)

Where's he going with this story? Nothing too crazy, I hope-

MIMI (CONT'D)

So, what kind of things did you do together?

JAMES

Well, you never knew what was next with Trentin when it came to some really crazy stuff happening.

He was driving off the freeway and onto surface streets that led to Mimi's place.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I'll never forget the time Trentin's stepdad kidnapped me and kept me in this really big abandoned warehouse--nobody knew where I was for over a week.

MIMI

Holy shit! That sounds like hell.

More reflective thoughts rise up in Mimi's head.

MIMI (CONT'D/ V.O.)

Yeah, real hell, sort of like our date tonight.

At last, he pulls up and parks in front of her condo.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Guess, it's time to say goodnight, James.

They both sit in his car facing each other.

JAMES

Goodnight, Mimi.

James's POV: He watches her as she leaves his car, closes her door, and then walks into her front door.

INT. MIMI'S CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

After entering her front door, Mimi flips on a light, leans up against the closed door while taking a slow deep breath, and then walks like a zombie to turn on NEW WAVE MUSIC. She lights a stick of incense, and then sits in a chair next to a table full of mail and a subscription magazine of Psychology Today with the cover subtitle: "Ten Signs of Co-Dependent Relationships"

She raises her eyebrows when she opens this month's Citi MasterCard statement and SIGHS as she views the hefty charges for: Cyrpto.com Arena concert tickets, Wine and Dine restaurant, and the Gentlemen's Tissot Watch Company.

Mimi UTTERS A MANTRA to herself as she crashes on the sofa and starts a text on her iphone to: DHARMA'S YOGA STUDIO.

MIMI

OK, I am not going to stress myself out, not tonight and not tomorrow. Dear Lord, help me forget this night ever happened.

INSERT OF TEXT SCREEN: "Dharma, please squeeze me in your Stretch Out Stress session in the morning... Mimi"

INT. MIMI'S WHITE MINI COOPER CAR - MOVING - MORNING

As Mimi drives past Dharma's Yoga Studio, from her POV: there's a long line of people carrying rolled-up mats waiting at the entry to get in. Then she SPEAKS TO HERSELF.

MIMI

Damn, I might as well forget about yoga today.

She takes a sip of tea from her cup, spills some on her blouse, and then CUSSES while at a stop sign on the street. Mimi ends up checking a few of her long dreadlocks.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Oh, shit. (beat) Hum, looks like I should pay a visit to Stephanie's salon today.

She hits the accelerator and leaves tire skids marks on the street after a car behind her HONKS.

EXT. ENVY BEAUTY STUDIO - DAY

Mimi parks her car, and then walks toward the hair studio. The front windows are decked out with abundant pastel flowers and a banner with cursive text: 'Jump into Spring with a New Hairdo'.

INT. ENVY BEAUTY STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

When Mimi walks in the front door, she is greeted by the owner, STEPHANIE Cortez-Stump, 42, whose muted green-tinted short hair really stands out next to her olive-skinned complexion. With an infectious smile, Stephanie SHOUTS OUT to Mimi while she's blow-drying her client's hair.

STEPHANIE

Hi Mimi. What's going on?

MIMI

Hi Stephanie, not much. Just hoping you can fit me in for a little touch-up today.

STEPHANIE

Sure, have a seat.

Mimi walks to the waiting area and sits next to JULIE BULLA, 28, with brown hair, green eyes, and in a tan dress suit, who's looking through a fashion hairstyle book. She looks up as Mimi starts to sit down.

MIMI

Hi, been waiting long?

JULIE

Oh, not long. I'm just waiting for Bleu. He should be here soon.

MIMI

Oh yeah, he's great. (beat) I think I've seen you here before, right?

JULIE

Yeah, I'm Julie.

MIMI

Nice to meet you. I'm Mimi.

JULIE

Hum, I like your hair.

MIMI

Oh, thanks, but it's a bit of a mess. I just need Stephanie to tighten up some of my ends.

JULIE

And I really need Bleu to do something with my hair. I'm way over due because of my tight schedule lately.

MIMI

Oh, what do you do?

JULIE

I'm a lawyer and just started working with Lifton and Associates. How about you? What kind of work are you in?

MIMI

I'm a RN Supervisor in ICU at UCLA Medical Center.

JULIE

You look so young--I can see the doctors falling for you.

MIMI

Not that young. I've been a nurse for a while. Sorry, but I'm having a weird morning, and I'm trying to get over a terrible date that I had last night.

Stephanie steps in and gives somewhat of a cheery update.

STEPHANIE

Hey Julie, Bleu should be here any minute. And Mimi, I'm just finishing up, OK?

Mimi and Julie smile and NOD at Stephanie as she leaves. Then BLEU, 30, a six-foot-three gentle giant with asymmetrically cut dark hair, walks through the door.

BLEU

Hi Julie, I hope you haven't been waiting long.

JULIE

Hi Bleu, I got here a little early to look at some hair styles.

BLEU

Well, come on back whenever you're ready.

JULIE

OK, sounds good.

Julie turns toward Mimi while getting up to leave.

JULIE (CONT'D)

It was nice meeting you, and I hope that when I see you next time, it'll be under better circumstances.

MIMI

Yeah, me too.

Stephanie waves to Mimi from her salon chair station.

STEPHANIE

OK, Mimi, c'mom over now.

After Mimi sits in her salon chair, Stephanie puts a drape over her and looks over her hair.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, I see some of your ends have loosened up a bit. We can fix that; it shouldn't take long.

MIMI

I'm so glad you could fit me in. I sure could use some of your magic touch, especially now.

STEPHANIE

Oh, Mimi, I know it's kinda of early, but could I get you a glass of chardonnay first?

MIMI

That might not be a bad idea. Sure, bring me a glass.

STEPHANIE

OK, I'll be right back.

While Stephanie goes to the mini-fridge in the back, Mimi looks forlornly at herself in the mirror in front of her, then she wipes a tear away just as Stephanie returns with a glass of wine and hands it to her.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Here you go, Mimi.

MIMI

Thanks, Steph. Think I'll take a few sips before you get started.

Stephanie looks surprised while Mimi takes two big gulps, and then comes up for air before handing the glass back.

STEPHANIE

Sweetie, I think I've known you long enough now. Are you going to tell me what happened lately?

MIMI

You don't even want to know.

STEPHANIE

Awright, then let's get down to it and spruce up some of these loose ends of yours.

MIMI

Excellent choice, Stephanie. If anyone can make me look beautiful again, it's you.

INT. DTLA YMCA - CAREGIVERS' SUPPORT GROUP MEETING - DAY

Later that week toward the end of the group session, Mimi is sharing with the members who are seated in the usual circular chair formation, with Tom as today's group leader.

MIMI

I know I should know better, but why do I keep hearing my dad's voice in my head saying, 'he's not enough,' whenever I meet someone who appears to be my type?

TOM

Excuse me, but what we share in these meetings should be about how we can manage and cope with family members that need our care during their illness. (beat) I know, at the last meeting, I shared about similar interpersonal issues dealing with my mother, so I can empathize with you--anybody else want to give some feedback to Mimi?

No one responds as Tom and Mimi look around.

TOM (CONT'D)

OK, thanks everyone for sharing and hope to see you at our next meeting. Have a great week.

The members stand up, and then Joen comes behind Mimi to gently pat her on the back.

JOEN

Hi Mimi. That was very brave of you to share. Wanna share any other burning burning desires with me.

MIMI

Oh, Joen, you're such a good friend. My love life is just not what I've been hoping for.

JOEN

Hey, we've all been there before. Listen, only if you feel like it, tell me what happened when you went out last week.

MIMI

I still can't believe it--I got stuck with a three hundred dollar bill. I was extremely disappointing.

Joen's jaw drops as Mimi begins to pour her heart out.

JOEN

What on earth cost that much in one night's time?

MIMI

His car got towed to an impound lot, and he couldn't cough up the cash to pay for it.

JOEN

Just curious, what kind of car does he drive?

MIMI

A vintage BMW, why?

Joen shakes her head and SMIRKS.

JOEN

Bummer! Didn't you know that BMW stands for 'break my wallet'? However, in this case, it was your wallet.

MIMI

Jesus, don't make me laugh, Joen.

JOEN

C'mon, Mimi, give him the benefit of the doubt. Did he at least offer to pay you back?

MIMI

Yeah, we agreed it was a loan and-

Joen raises her eyebrows while Mimi takes a deep breath.

MIMI (CONT'D)

-I haven't heard back from him yet.

JOEN

Ever heard of the song by the R&B group, Chairman of the Board?

MIMI

Who?

JOEN

OK, it's a little before your time. I bet your dad has it on one of his
(MORE)

JOEN (cont'd)
audio files. The song title is
'Gimme Just A Little More Time.'

MIMI
Joen, are you trying to convince me
to give him another chance?

JOEN
Yep, wait a week or so and see what
happens before you decide to
eighty-six him.

As they walk out the exit door together, Mimi pauses then
NODS her head.

MIMI
Maybe, you're right; I'll give him
another week.

Joen lightly pats Mimi on her back.

JOEN
Atta girl!

INT. LAW OFFICE OF LIFTON AND ASSOCIATES - EVENING

It's after hours and ANDREA LIFTON, 35, five-foot-six, with
a fair complexion and reddish-brown hair, who's notorious as
one of the most out-spoken and best dressed attorneys, is
sitting on a leather couch sipping wine with Julie Bulla.
They are natives of Los Angeles, who both received their Law
degrees from Stanford University.

Julie was hired as a junior associate by Andrea six months
ago after Julie won a murder case in East LA when she was a
public defender. Since then Andrea has taken Julie under her
wing and provided Julie with some of her legal expertise.

ANDREA
Listen, Julie, I think you're doing
a good job as our new associate,
but I think you can do better.

JULIE
I'm all ears. Tell me what it is
that will help me toward becoming
an effective lawyer.

ANDREA
Alright, but first let's be candid
with each other--tell me when was
the last time you got laid?

JULIE
What? Well, to be honest, it's been
a while. Does it show?

After spilling a few drops of wine on her blouse, Julie stays attentive as Andrea looks into her widened brown eyes.

ANDREA

If it's been over a year or two, I recommend you get back on that horse and ride it high.

JULIE

OK, well, just so happens that I'm going to my high school reunion next weekend, and I probably will be connecting with an old boyfriend while I'm there.

Andrea reaches for the bottle of chardonnay and pours more wine into Julie's glass.

ANDREA

Sounds like a good start. I would just like to see you let go of yourself, and hopefully, you'll be able to loosen up more during your next big court performance. You catch my drift?

JULIE

Sure, I mean, whatever it takes. You can count on me.

Andrea goes to another part of the room while Julie stares at the sunset through the window and wonders to herself-

JULIE (CONT'D/ V.O.)

What the hell I'm I getting myself into next?

INT. STARBUCK'S COFFEEHOUSE IN WESTWOOD VILLAGE - DAY

The early morning crowd is shuffling into the popular place located on a busy corner; Mimi's at the counter with ERIC, 26, barista, tan and tall, for a quick to-go fix before clocking in at the ICU at the UCLA Medical Center.

ERIC

Hi Mimi, what would you like this morning?

MIMI

Hi Eric, I'd like a venti decaf latte please.

ERIC

Coming up and shouldn't be too long of a wait.

She gives him a NOD and smiles after paying, then she takes a seat at a table near the pickup counter. A couple of minutes later, in walks RICK, 29, a close friend of James;

he's in a t-shirt with dark hair, and is five-foot-ten.

After getting in line, he looks around and notices Mimi. He slowly walks over to greet her.

RICK

Hi Mimi, haven't seen you here in a while. How you doing?

MIMI

I'm okay, thanks.

RICK

Listen, Mimi, you know James and I are good friends, and I think you should know that he's so sorry about what happened on your date.

MIMI

Well, he has my number, and he can call me anytime to tell me that.

ERIC

Mimi, venti decaf latte.

MIMI

Excuse me, Rick. I need to go.

RICK

Oh, sure, and have a nice day.

Looking dazed and confused, Rick watches Mimi pick up her latte and walk out the door.

EXT. CENTRAL ART GALLERY NEAR THE SANTEE ALLEY - DAY

It's fairly warm in the early morning, and Joen, dressed in a tailored blazer and jeans, is getting out of her parked Range Rover.

She walks around slowly in awe while looking up at a series of murals painted across the entire length of the brick walls of the industrial buildings, on both sides of the wide city block alley in the outskirts of the Fashion district.

While passing by a couple of dumpsters overflowing with trash, Joen stops to gaze up at a pair of tied together tennis shoes hanging over a power line, and then an automatic electric gate opens beside her.

Patrice, dressed in shorts and a tied head bandana, emerges past the gate appearing like a rebel artist out to change the world. She climbs up a rolling scaffold leaned against the wall, then takes one of the cans of paint and shakes it, while unaware of Joen's presence on the ground. Joen YELL OUT to Patrice, who turns around and looks at Joen.

JOEN

Patrice, come on down.

PATRICE

My God, Joen, I see you found the place.

She hops down from the scaffold to meet Joen on the ground.

JOEN

Yes, and I'm amazed. Is all of this your art work?

After Patrice hugs Joen, she points at the two-story high and over fifty-foot-long area of wall with her abstract designed mural in front of them

PATRICE

Yes, this is what I've been working on for the last two months. (beat) Let me show you around.

JOEN

Where do we start? It's so massive.

PATRICE

C'mon let's take a walk, and I'll give you a little tour.

While viewing some of the murals by other artists, Patricia and Joen end up at the entry of the Central Art Gallery where they bump into DUSTIN, 29, the art curator and Hispanic native of LA--his casual dress of levis and a white button-down shirt gives him a relaxed look, yet his six-foot-two height and lean built alludes him with a commanding appearance.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Hey Dustin, I want to introduce you to my good friend, Joen Gameda--we both graduated from the Fashion Institute some time back.

DUSTIN

Hi Joen, it's nice to meet you. So, how do you feel about our Central outdoor gallery?

JOEN

Hi Dustin, I think it's phenomenal. Patrice tells me that besides you being curator, both of you are spearheading this project.

DUSTIN

Yes, it's a passion of mine that I've been nuturing with the help of Patrice and several other artists over the last year. (beat) How about yourself? Do you work in the art world?

JOEN

I run an interior design company and recently started a modest furniture product line with Crate & Barrel.

DUSTIN

I'm impressed. Maybe you'd like to take a look inside our art gallery workshop a little later. If you have time, I can show you some of my woodwork designs.

JOEN

Oh, I'd love to.

PATRICE

OK, Joen, we'll go in after we finish our little tour.

DUSTIN

Yes, Joen, come on in whenever you like. I'll be here most of the day.

They wave bye to each other, then Patrice escorts Joen back to her painted mural still in progress. Both of them take turns shooting iphone photos of each other.

Then Patrice points out the scattered trash and used up cans of spray paint left behind by of the homeless and territorial taggers. Joen shakes her head, then she rushes back to her car to retrieve a box of several cans of spray paint. She opens her trunk, and then hands it to Patrice.

JOEN

I almost forgot; I brought some leftover paint that I've had in storage. I thought you could use these now.

PATRICE

How nice! All of us mural artists welcome donations. I think Dustin forgot to mention that this is all part of his non-profit.

JOEN

Listen, Patrice, I've got to go now, but I'd love to come back someday to see how your project is coming along.

PATRICE

Sure, sure. I'll be working toward completion by sometime next month. It sounds like a plan, and thank you for the paints.

JOEN

No problem. By the way, Dustin seems like a really nice person.

PATRICE

Oh yeah, he's very dedicated. You'll see him again next time you come out.

JOEN

That would be super. Well, bye for now and hope to see again, Patrice

They give each other kisses on each other's cheeks.

PATRICE

See ya, Joen, and be careful driving out.

After Joen gets in her car, she gives Patrice a thumbs up before driving away.

INT. STARBUCK'S COFFEEHOUSE IN WESTWOOD VILLAGE - DAY

It's an easy going morning at Starbucks, and Mimi is seated at a table drinking a latte as James enters. He approaches the counter, looks over at Mimi, and then walks to her.

JAMES

Hi Mimi, I was hoping I'd see you here.

MIMI

Hi James. Oh, I'm sure Rick told you he bumped into me here, right?

JAMES

Well, yeah, he mentioned it, but this is where we also first me, remember?

MIMI

Of course, I remember.

JAMES

I know our last date was sort of a bummer toward the end of the night, and I just wanted to pay you back.

He places an envelope in front of her on the table, then she opens the flap and peeks inside to see the cash. She then looks at a couple at another table before glaring at James.

MIMI

James, please sit down.

After he sits down, she puts her hand on his arm.

MIMI

Is there anything else that you want to share with me? I mean, a burning desire or something?

JAMES

Mimi, I think I told you that I had a problem and stopped drinking, remember?

MIMI

Yes, I remember.

JAMES

Well, even though, I like you as a person and enjoy your company, I've been talking over things with my AA sponsor lately; And we both came to the conclusion that I should concentrate on my sobriety before establishing a new relationship with someone.

MIMI

James, I get it, and I think whoever your sponsor is, you should follow his advice, OK?

JAMES

I knew that you'd understand. Listen, can we at least remain friends?

MIMI

Of course, not a problem, and thank you for paying back the loan to me.

JAMES

And thank you for coming through that night. I just didn't want you to think I'm a bum.

MIMI

James, don't ever think of yourself in that way. I'm sure, over time, your green light will come--just keep the faith.

JAMES

Thank you, Mimi, and I guess this is bye for now.

He stands up and looks down at her.

MIMI

Bye, James.

She slowly SIGHS while watching him walk out the door, then she SPEAKS SOFTLY TO HERSELF.

MIMI (CONT'D)

C'est la vive.

EXT. DTLA YMCA - ON THE STREET - DAY

Toward the end of the week, it's time for another group session. Joen and Mimi had just parked their cars on the street near the YMCA, and Mimi is running toward Joen.

MIMI

Hi Joen, wait up.

JOEN

Oh, hi! What's up, Mimi?

MIMI

I'm so glad to see you again. Do I have a lot to tell you.

JOEN

Let me guess; you and James got back together again?

Mimi starts to catch her breath, and then gives Joen the lowdown as they walk forward toward the entry.

MIMI

Well, not exactly, but you were right about giving him another chance. I mean, to at least let him tell me his side of the story.

JOEN

Uh hum, which is?

MIMI

It might seem complicated, but it's really rather simple. He broke it off with me because he wanted to prioritize his sobriety over diving into a new relationship.

JOEN

Jesus, Mimi! Are you some sort of saint?

MIMI

No, really! He paid me back and asked me if we could still be friends. So, I accepted the cash and his offer to stay friends.

JOEN

OK, so you didn't have to eighty-six him after all. Sounds a little like a win-win, don't you think?

MIMI

Yeah, how about that. Oh, hey, I feel like I'm over monopolizing. (beat) So, how was your week?

JOEN

I felt a little electricity with someone new, but maybe it's too soon to tell. Let's go in to join the other, and then we can talk about it later.

MIMI

Oh, by the way, I've got an extra concert ticket for the Dave Matthews Band at Cyrpto.com Arena. Would you like to go?

JOEN

Hell yeah! When?

MIMI

This weekend.

JOEN

I'm there, and I know of a great hotel nearby to stay at afterwards.

INT. DTLA YMCA - CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETING - DAY

Joen walks ahead to open the door for her. There's more of a spring in Mimi's step while she waves to a few other members at the meeting before she finds a seat.

INT. JOEN'S RANGE ROVER - MOVING - DUSK

After the meeting, Joen is driving on the 10 Freeway on her way home, and while on the overpass with a bird's eye view of the Central Art Gallery, she notices a visible bellowing of smoke. She takes the off-ramp exit to get a closer look, then calls Patrice on her cell phone.

JOEN

Hi Patrice, it's Joen. (beat) There's a small fire close to your mural site. Better call the fire department to come check it out.

PATRICE (O.S.)

Oh my God, are you over there now?

JOEN

Well, I was driving by on the 10 and saw smoke, so I just pulled off the exit and,

PATRICE (O.S.)

Listen, Joen, please get out of there now. It's not safe around there at night. I'll call 911, then I'll call Dustin to tell him to check it out.

JOEN

OK, I know what you mean; it's pretty edgy. I'll get on the freeway and go home.

PATRICE (O.S.)

Yeah, and drive safely. I'll give you a call a little later, alright?

JOEN

OK.

After hanging up, she drives toward the closest on-ramp, and her eyes dart back and forth as a couple of young men in dark hoodies cross the dimly lit street in front of her.

INT. JOEN'S HIGH-RISE CONDO - HALLWAY ON HER FLOOR - NIGHT

Joen is shaking a little like a leaf, since driving away from the fire scene that she spotted. As she gets off the elevator and walks toward her unit, the cell phone in the pocket of her blazer RINGS, and she answers it.

PATRICE (O.S.)

Joen! Are you OK? Did you make it home, alright?

JOEN

Yes, I was just getting home, and I'm fine. Were you able to get hold of Dustin to tell him about the fire next to your mural?

PATRICE (O.S.)

Oh, Joen! I can't believe how you put yourself in danger by driving over there on your own tonight, and neither can Dustin. I got hold of him right away, and he called 911.

JOEN

Oh, thank goodness. Make sure you tell him that I'm just fine.

PATRICE (O.S.)

I'm just glad you made it out of there without being harmed. Hey, I love you Joen, and I never want to see you get hurt. You got that?

JOEN

I hear you loud and clear, and the feeling's mutual. I'm so glad we got together again, and I think we should keep looking out for one another from now on.

PATRICE (O.S.)

Thank you, Joen. It's obvious that we have each other's backs. You can rest easy now, and have a good night.

JOEN

No problem. Good-night, Patrice.

After Joen hangs up, she unlocks and opens her door, then she blows a long strand of her hair off her forehead before she walks into her exquisitely furnished condo.

INT. JOEN'S CONDO - LIVING-DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Upon entering, she kicks off her heels and drops her heavy hand bag on the dining room table, then she heads straight for the bathroom.

INT. JOEN'S CONDO - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

While getting undressed, she looks at the glorious view of the city lights from the window and reflects on how much her close friends mean to her as she SPEAKS ALOUD.

JOEN

How far should I go when it comes to my friends? (beat) Who knows? I just hope this weekend with Mimi won't be full of crazy drama, like tonight.

She hops in the shower and as the steady stream of warm water flows over her body, her tightened muscles begin to relax, and she smiles while closing her eyes.

INT. JOEN'S CONDO - LIVING-DINING ROOM - MORNING

While sitting at the counter and having a cup of coffee, Joen looks at her file organizer next to her opened laptop, She answers her phone after it RINGS.

JOEN

Hello?

MIMI (O.S.)

Hi Joen, how are you doing? I just called to remind you about the concert this weekend.

JOEN

Hi Mimi, I was just having my coffee and can't wait. By the way, I made a reservation for a room at Hotel Figueroa for this Saturday. We can check in anytime after two, OK?

MIMI (O.S.)

Heard that place is phenomenal. Listen, I'm just leaving for work, but I know we'll have an amazing girls' right out. Thanks Joen and see you later.

JOEN

No problem. Bye, Mimi.

After hanging up, Joen opens her email to the reservation confirmation from Hotel Figueroa that display a graphic of FIVE STARS and the bold font caption, "One of the Top Three Hotels in Downtown LA."

FLASHBACK INT. A ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT - DAY

After Joan closes her eyes, she thinks back to when she was nine-years-old. She and JOEN'S MOTHER, 33, and her younger sister had just moved into a run-down area of Boyle Heights after her father had died.

JOEN'S MOTHER

I know Daddy can't be here with us right now, but don't worry girls; we'll be all right as long as we stick together and watch out for one another--and your Daddy will still be looking over us, too.

END OF FLASHBACK BACK TO PRESENT DAY:

INT. JOEN'S CONDO - LIVING-DINING ROOM - MORNING

Joen opens her eyes then calls her mother. After TWO RINGS a RECORDED MESSAGE comes on, followed by a BEEP.

RECORDED MESSAGE (V.O.)

No one is available to take your call right now. Please leave a message after the beep-

JOEN

Hi Mom, just called to see how you're coming along since your last chemo treatment and that I'll be by soon to check in on you. Love you.

INT. HOTEL FIGUEROA - LOBBY - NIGHT

It's a big night for Julie, dressed in a slinky red dress who rushed in the hotel lobby that could pass for a movie set straight out of Casablanca after leaving her high school ten-year reunion. She VERBALLY COAXS herself as she heads for the elevator.

JULIE

OK, Julie, calm down. He said he'd be up as soon as he could. (beat)
So move your ass.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

After opening the door, Julie jolts in and quickly switches on electronic candles, and then slides her red, white, and blue high school yearbook onto a circular table next to a wing-chair.

When there's a KNOCK on the door, she pushes her rolodex labeled, "Legal Beagle Contacts," behind the bedside table phone. Julie opens the door to MIKE FAIRCLOTH, 28, her old flame from Garfield High. He's bluff as ever, standing six-feet-tall with brown hair in a tailored suit and tie.

JULIE

Hi Mike, I'm so glad you made it.
Please come in.

With a boyish smile, he bows his head as he enters.

MIKE

Hi Julie. Wow! Nice room.

She puts her hands in his as he lightly kisses her cheek.

JULIE

Oh, and thanks for coming up to sign my yearbook.

After closing the door, she guides him by the arm to the circular table, and then he opens the yearbook to the Class of Seniors section with the page showing her portrait photo.

MIKE

I feel so weird about not writing something in your yearbook back when we graduated.

JULIE

No foul on your part, Mike.
Remember how I graduated early and went to Northern California.

MIKE

That's right. It was around New Year's Eve, and you broke my heart back then.

She pulls him by his arm away from table, and then they both land side by side sitting on the side of the bed.

JULIE

Whoa! Don't you think we should play a little catch-up now?

MIKE

OK, why not? First, please excuse me while I use the restroom.

JULIE

Of course, be my guest.

After standing up, Mike looks into her brown eyes.

MIKE

Be right back, I promise.

After he enters the bathroom, Julie turns on PANDORA MUSIC and lowers the lights with the wall dimmer switch. She tilts her head to one side when hearing A FEW MOANS coming from the bathroom.

After she pours two glasses of wine on the table, Mike opens the door and heads back to sit on the side of the bed. She gives him a glass of wine, and then she gestures a toast with her glass before they click glasses and take a drink.

JULIE

Here's to love, life, and success.

MIKE

Very well said. (beat) Now, I know you became a lawyer, correct?

JULIE

Yes, see the rolodex over there; that's been my significant other for some time. And I hear you've been very successful running your family's contracting business.

After he places her glass on the table, he stars down at his dad's Masonic Tie Clip that he was wearing. She puts her glass down next to his, moves closer to him, and then starts touching his chest.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Oh, Mike, you must know how much you turn me on.

While kissing him, she moves her hand down to his crotch. When she begins to rub his erecting penis, he lets out a LOUD YELP, clenches up, and then pulls away.

MIKE

Hey, I'm sorry, but I can't.
Believe me, Julie, you're amazing.
It's just, I had a circumcision two
weeks ago.

JULIE

What? Oh, wow! Why now?

Mike rolls his eyes while he continues to speak.

MIKE

Hey, if I were born a Fairstein
instead of a Faircloth, none of
this would be happening.

Julie's mouth is gapping half-open as she listens.

MIKE (CONT'D)

My dad died a month ago. He had
penile cancer that spread to his
liver. His doctor told us that
because Dad was older,
uncircumcised, and a smoker, he was
predisposed to that cancer. (beat)
My mom begged me to get
circumcised.

JULIE

Jesus, Mike! She's right--you're
her only sone, and she adores you.

MIKE

I had to do it for her and Dad.
Julie, you're irresistible, but my
doctor told me, no sex for six
weeks. I'm truly sorry, and you
must know I've always loved you.

Julie straightens up on the side of the bed and attempts to
lighten up the situation and to change the mood.

JULIE

Say, I'm starving. Want a taco?

MIKE

Sure, the rubber chicken from our
class reunion didn't really go down
too well.

She gets up, stumbles toward the phone, then dials room
service and speaks to the clerk at the desk.

JULIE

Hi, can you please bring up two of
your tacos to my room?

Julie pauses before she finishes her order.

JULIE

Oh, and make that one soft and one hard, thank you.

INT. HOTEL FIGUEROA - DESK LOBBY - DAY

Julie is standing next to the PRETTY CLERK, 25, dressed in a navy blue blazer behind to desk.

PRETTY CLERK

I hope your stay was pleasant.

Julie smiles and NODS as she thinks to herself.

JULIE (V.O.)

Yeah, it was a frickin' disaster.

After checking out, she rolls a carry-on luggage through the red-tiled lobby filled with Persian rugs and large potted palms, then she wanders into the hotel's poolside patio.

EXT. HOTEL FIGUEROA - POOLSIDE PATIO & BAR - DAY

After plopping down in a soft leather patio chair in the shade, Julie calls Andrea on her cell phone.

ANDREA (O.S.)

Hello?

JULIE

Hi Andrea.

ANDREA (O.S.)

Well, Julie, I'm guessing you got lucky this weekend.

JULIE

Oh, that! All I can say is that it was an interesting evening with no foul and no harm.

ANDREA (O.S.)

So, that means you still need to get laid, right?

JULIE

Oh, yeah, eventually.

Julie exchanges chuckles with Andrea before getting serious.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Listen, are you anywhere near Hotel Figueroa, right now?

ANDREA (O.S.)

Well, just so happens, I'm not too far from there. What's up?

JULIE

How about joining me for a drink?
If you have the time, I could use
some sound advice about one of my
legal cases that's becoming a
handful.

ANDREA (O.S.)

Hey, do the bartenders over there
still serve up a mean Bloody Mary?

JULIE

Is the Pope Italian?

ANDREA (O.S.)

I'll be right over.

JULIE

OK, see you soon.

After Julie hangs up, she puts on her sunglasses and waves
to a SERVER, 22, wearing a white blouse and black skirt.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Hi there, can you bring over two
bloody marys. My guest is on her
way so there's no hurry.

SERVER

Sure, no problem. I'll be back a
little later with your drinks.

The server then walks past the coffin-shaped pool.

EXT. HOTEL FIGUEROA - POOLSIDE JACUZZI - DAY

While Mimi and Joen are drinking mimosas and soaking in the
Jacuzzi, the server approaches them.

SERVER

Excuse me, would you ladies like
another round?

Joen looks at Mimi, who SHAKES her head, NO.

JOEN

Oh, no thank you. I think you can
close us out.

After the server leaves, Mimi LAUGHS as she shows Joen her
water-soaked fingers.

MIMI

Hey Joen. Take a look at my
fingers; they look like prunes.

JOEN

Yeah, I remmber that look when I was a kid that never wanted to get out of the public pool.

MIMI

Boy, wasn't that a fantastic encore performance the Dave Matthews Band gave as a tribute to their saxophone player that died ten years ago?

JOEN

My God, it was so moving, but then again, their members are all so sensitive.

MIMI

Joen, I'm so glad we did this together. I can't tell you how much your friendship means to me.

Joen pats Mimi's shoulder. Then as she stood up in the Jacuzzi, her bronze complexion in a white bikini gave her the appearance of Venus de Milo in a crimson shell.

JOEN

It's about time to check out, so let's get going, Mimi.

They wrap themselves in plush hotel towels that are lying on lounge chairs before walking toward the garden patio bar where Julie is sitting.

JULIE

Mimi?

MIMI

Julie, hi! What are you doing here?

JULIE

Well, I should ask you the same question.

MIMI

I believe I asked you first.

Everyone starts to GIGGLE just as the server dropped off two Bloody Marys on Julie's table. And Julie squirms somewhat in her chair.

JULIE

I met someone here from my high school reunion.

MIMI

Oh, I'd like to introduce you to my friend, Joen Gameda. (beat) Joen,
(MORE)

MIMI (cont'd)
this is Julie Bulla. We go to the
same hair salon.

Joen extends out her hand to Julie before shaking hands.

JOEN
It's nice to meet you.

JULIE
Nice to meet you too. (beat) Julie,
it's rather nice to see you again
but under different circumstances.

MIMI
Yes, isn't it? So, how did it go
with this guy from your high school
reunion?

At that moment, Andrea, dressed in an off-white Chanel
dresssuit, arrives, and then sits next to Julie.

ANDREA
Hi Julie, traffic was awful. So,
what's going on?

Andrea looks parched for a drink during introductions.

JULIE
Hi Andrea. This is Mimi and her
friend, Joen. They were just
leaving.

ANDREA
Any friends of Julie's are friends
of mine. So nice to meet you both.

MIMI / JOEN
Nice to meet you.

MIMI
Well, enjoy and I hope to see you
next time at Stephanie's studio,
Julie.

Andrea checks them out as Mimi and Joen are walking away
toward the lobby.

ANDREA
I had no idea you had so many cute
girl friends.

JULIE
More like acquaintances. It just so
happens, I bump into the most
attractive people at the place
where I get my hair cut. You might
want to check it out sometime.

ANDREA

I just may take you up on that.

JULIE

Hey, glad you made it. Before we take a sip, let's make a toast.

ANDREA

Sure, what shall we toast to?

JULIE

How about to Lifton and Associates Law Office. (beat) Oh, and here's to life and the pursuit of happiness.

ANDREA

Here, here!

They raise and CLICK their glasses of Bloody Marys together before taking a savory sip.

INT. MIMI AND JOEN'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Mimi was dressed and sitting on the bed fixing her hair while Joen had been out of the shower and was nearly dressed.

JOEN

Are you all packed?

MIMI

Just about. How about you?

JOEN

Need to pack my hair dryer and a few other things from the bathroom, and that should do it.

MIMI

Know something? I'm considering going to Envy Studio to have my dreadlocks taken out.

JOEN

Wow, that would be something. Why?

MIMI

Oh, I don't know? I just think it's time for a change.

With a puzzled look, Joen picks up her bag, opens the door, and then Mimi follows behind Joen.

JOEN

Tell you what; why don't you let me know when you go, and I'll join you. I'm overdue for a trim.

MIMI
Yeah, sure thing.

INT. HALLWAY OF HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Joen and Mimi are walking toward the elevator.

MIMI (CONT'D)
Joen, I gotta say, you really came up with an amazing place for us to spend the night.

JOEN
After last night's great concert at the Cyrpto.com Arena, I figured this hotel would be a fitting place for us.

INT. HOTEL FIGUEROA LOBBY - DAY

They proceed to walk through the high-ceiling lobby after getting off the elevator.

EXT. HOTEL FIGUEROA STREET LEVEL PARKING LOT - DAY

JOEN
How about some breakfast?

MIMI
Sure, why not? (beat) Oh, look--there's the Pantry on the corner.

JOEN
Great, let me open the back of my Rover and throw in our bags first. It's been ages since I've been at the Pantry. Let's go-

EXT. THE PANTRY RESTAURANT - DAY

It was a short walk from Joen's car to the Pantry across the street, and the line was moving along as Joen and Mimi joins in behind the other customers.

MIMI
This is so much more enjoyable than my date with James in Hollywood, when we stood in line at the Laugh Factory, and then spent what felt like an eternity trying to find his towed BMW.

Joen LAUGHS, and then openly BLURTS OUT.

JOEN
Thank God, you survived and that he reimbursed you for the money you gave him.

MIMI

Don't know if I'll ever hook up with someone that doesn't end up in a fiasco after a couple of dates. (beat) Joen, you seem to have it all together. So, how's your love life been lately?

JOEN

Oh, c'mon, nobody gets past first or second base after one or two dates without a few speed bumps. Let me tell you something, it's a crap shoot most of the time.

MIMI

Tell me about it.

As they get closer to the entrance, Joen WHISPERS to Mimi.

JOEN

You just can't always judge a book by its cover when it comes to finding the person of your dreams.

MIMI

Yeah, I'm beginning to see what you mean. I wish dating could be more like two girlfriends going out to have a good time together.

The HOSTESS, 35, opens the door and speaks to Joen.

HOSTESS

How many in your party?

JOEN

Only two.

HOSTESS

Right this way, please.

The hostess leads them through the packed restaurant and to a booth next to a window overlooking the street and sidewalk, full of people passing by.

JOEN

Hey, forget about it. We can pick up where we left off later.

MIMI

Yeah, I'm starving. Can't wait to eat.

JOEN

Me too.

EXT. HOTEL FIGUEROA STREET LEVEL PARKING LOT - DAY

Julie is loading her luggage into the trunk of her silver VW BUG while Andrea stands by and wraps up their legal talk.

ANDREA

Listen, Julie, I know you asked me to give you some of my assistance, but I must tell you what you really need is an over-all makeover in order to win back your client's freedom.

As Andrea carries on, Julie's buzz was wearing off.

JULIE

Oh, yeah, then go ahead and enlighten me. Pray, tell.

ANDREA

This is no joke. When you're in court presenting you evidence, you need to stop getting behind the eight ball and put more spin on your serve.

JULIE

What evidence?

ANDREA

That's what I mean. You better get the hell out there, and shake it up in order to gather whatever evidence you can.

Andrea starts to RAISE HER VOICE.

ANDREA

-And present it before that hard ass prosecutor slams you down.

JULIE

God damn it! I know you're right.

ANDREA

You should be sticking like glue to the detective in charge of the case. I'm sure he's all over murder gangland and finding more leads than you can shake a stick at.

Julie opens her door as a light bulb turns on in her head.

JULIE

Yeah, I've gotta get Detective Rodriguez to give me more inside information of what's going on out there.

After Julie gets into her car, Andrea leaves her with another dangling detail.

ANDREA

Also, we have to get you into a more dress for success wardrobe, and since you didn't score at you ten-year reunion last night, you still need to get laid.

JULIE

Don't worry, no more reconnecting with old flames from the past. I'm going to start out fresh with someone new next time. Thanks, Andrea and see you in court next week.

ANDREA

See you, Julie.

Andrea walks to her black Lincoln Continental as Julie pulls out and drives away.

INT. ENVY BEAUTY STUDIO - DAY

Stephanie, the owner of Envy, and her two hair stylists, Bleu and LOREN, 22, petite, with short pink-tinted hair, are up to their ear lobes with appointments today. It's mid-week, and the trendy Going-green salon offers half-off specials to their clients.

NANCY CUDDEBACK, 50, is sitting in Stephanie's salon chair with a black nylon drape over her and several curling rods in her wet hair.

STEPHANIE

Nancy, how about another glass of wine before I get you seated under the chair hair dryer?

NANCY

Sounds marvelous, and how about a Vogue magazine to top it off?

Stephanie goes to the back and fills the glass with white wine, and then passes by Bleu and Loren, who are cutting and blow-drying their client's hair, before she drops off the magazine and wine next to a chair hair dryer against a wall. Stephanie returns to Nancy and starts putting cotton in Nancy's ears and around her hair line.

STEPHANIE

So tell me, how's your beautiful daughter Gail doing lately.

NANCY

Oh, I'm sorry to say that things haven't been working out in her marriage. She and David are separated. Apparently, he turned out to be a player. He's been cheating on her.

STEPHANIE

Oh, wow. How can that happen to such a lovely girl like Gail? I can't believe it.

At that moment, one of Nancy's old friends, PATTY, 50, slender build, in a conservative dress, comes up from behind and taps Nancy on the shoulder.

NANCY

Oh my God, Patty, it's been a while. We've got to talk later.

Patty smiles and NODS as she walks over to find a chair in the waiting area.

After Stephanie finishes putting cotton in Nancy's ears, she SHOUTS OUT to Nancy.

STEPHANIE

Now, let's get you under that hair dryer.

Nancy settles in under the hooded hair dryer with her magazine and glass of wine off to the side.

As Stephanie walks toward the front, Mimi and Joen walk in the front door.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

Hi Mimi, good timing. I think I can get you seated in a minute or so, OK?

MIMI

Fantastic, believe me when I say this is a big day for me. I finally decided to take out my dreadlocks.

Mimi turns to face Joen, and then Stephanie, who's grinning from ear to ear.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Stephanie, this is my good friend, Joen Gameda. She'll be here while you work on my hair.

STEPHANIE

Hi Joen and welcome. You're so sweet to give Mimi your support.

JOEN

Hi and it's nice to meet you.
Listen, I'll just be sitting
somewhere nearby and promise not to
be in your way.

STEPHANIE

Oh, no problem. Just so you're
aware, this can take quite a few
hours, but we'll break it up into a
few sections at a time.

Stephanie walks to her salon station and pulls out a drape.

Joen pulls out her iphone from her Versace handbag and taps
on the videotape mode.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

OK, Mimi, c'mon over.

Mimi faces Joen before walking to Stephanie's salon chair.

MIMI

Here goes nothing. Hey Joen, if you
videotape any of this, please don't
upload it on YouTube.

JOEN

Cross my heart. Relax Mimi.
Everything will be all right.
Obviously, you're in good hands.

As soon as Mimi sits down in the salon chair, she looks over
at Nancy, who's reading a magazine and sipping wine.

MIMI

Steph, isn't that Nancy Cuddeback
over there?

STEPHANIE

Oh yeah, I just gave her a perm,
and she'll be under that hood dryer
for sometime before I remove all
the curling rods.

Mimi gives a quick wave to Nancy, and then she waves back.

MIMI

Gee, I haven't seen her since she
took an early retirement from the
medical center.

STEPHANIE

Oh yeah, I forgot you worked
together.

As Stephanie puts a drape over Mimi, Nancy's daughter, GAIL
CURRY, 21, with long light brown hair, wearing a Roxy
t-shirt, charges through the front door and walks directly

up to Stephanie.

GAIL

Hi Steph, is my mom here?

STEPHANIE

Oh, hi Gail. Yeah, she's sort of occupied under that hair dryer.

In a New York minute, she dashes over to her mother's side, then nudges her.

GAIL

Hey Mom, I really have to talk to you.

After Nancy finishes a sip of wine, she pulls her eyes from the fashion ads, grimaces, and points to one of her ears.

Then, Patty comes from behind and taps Gail's shoulder.

PATTY

Oh my, is that you Gail? You sure have grown into a real beauty.

While Patty gives Nancy a thumbs-up, Nancy continues grimacing and awkwardly shaking her head under the hair dryer.

Gail tightly presses her lips together, then SOUNDS-OFF to Patty.

GAIL

Please, no offense, but all I want right now is to talk to my mom.

Stephanie steps over and faces Gail in front of Nancy.

STEPHANIE

Oh, sweetie, I'm sorry, but she can't hear you under that hood hair dryer, with all the cotton I put in her ears.

Gail gazes down at Nancy then YELLS OUT to her.

GAIL

God damn it, Mother! I'm pregnant.

After a brief silence, everyone in the salon started swaying around and LAUGHING with excitement. Then Stephanie pops open the hair dryer hood and SHOUTS to Nancy.

STEPHANIE

Nancy, You're going to be a grandma.

Patty gets up to Nancy and pulls the cotton from her ears.

PATTY

Gail's going to have a baby. I'm overjoyed for both of you.

GAIL

I just came from the doctor's office, and Mom, I'm really going to need your help because I can't have this baby by myself.

Both mother and daughter had tears rolling down their cheeks as Nancy stands up and embraces Gail. Then she places Gail's face in her hands.

NANCY

Don't worry, sweetheart. I'll be right there with you and the baby every step of the way.

The other stylists hug each other as Bleu SPEAKS INTO LOREN'S EAR.

BLEU

Oh, Mama Mia. Isn't life a beautiful thing!

Mimi gets up, walks over to Nancy, and lightly rubs Nancy's back.

MIMI

Oh, Nancy, please let me know if there's anything I can do. I'm here anytime you need my help.

Then Mimi turns around to see that Joen is videotaping the whole scene.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Oh my God! This is unbelievable.

JOEN

It sure as hell is!

Joen NODS as she stops videotapping.

EXT. ENVY BEAUTY STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

Andrea pulls into a diagonal parking space right in front of Envy in her Lincoln Continental next to a late-model RED JETTA with license plates GAIL LA. Then SPEAKS ALOUD.

ANDREA

Hum, this must be the place. Might as well go in and check it out.

INT. ENVY BEAUTY STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

After stepping inside, Andrea jerks her head back and forth while observing the chaos of everyone CRYING, SHOUTING, and

dancing around. Then she CALLS Julie on her cell phone.

JULIE (O.S.)

Hello?

ANDREA

Hey Julie, what did you say the name of that hair studio was?

JULIE (O.S.)

Envy Beauty Studio, why?

ANDREA

Oh, nothing. I just wanted to make sure, that's all.

EXT. ENVY BEAUTY STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

As Andrea hangs up and walks back outside onto the sidewalk, she thinks to herself.

ANDREA (V.O.)

What a trip.

When Gail runs outside, Andrea notices her looking at her license plate 'LIFTON LAW' as she goes to her Red Jetta.

GAIL

Are you a lawyer?

ANDREA

Yes, and are you Gailla? Do you need a lawyer?

GAIL

My name's Gail Curry. I need a divorce, and I'm going to have a baby.

ANDREA

Here's my card. (beat) I'm Andrea Lifton. Call me when you're ready to sit down to discuss it.

Gail takes the card after Andrea hands it to her.

GAIL

Thank you, it won't be long.

Andrea watches Gail get in her car, back up, and peel rubber down the street as she thinks to herself-

ANDREA (V.O.)

Looks like my law practice will be in high demand if I start taking on divorce cases along with criminal cases.

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

INT. ENVY BEAUTY STUDIO - DAY

Stephanie's standing above Andrea, who's sitting in a salon chair while her hairstyle and weave touch-up is nearly done.

ANDREA

I'm glad Julie referred me to you. You do good hair, and as you must know, it's hard to find someone that pays attention to detail when it comes to hair.

STEPHANIE

Julie is a great person, and yeah, hair just happens to be my passion.

ANDREA

I can't believe when I first stopped in here, I met a girl that was going through a break-up with her spouse. I'm just glad I was there before she decided to file for divorce.

STEPHANIE

I'm sure you're referring to Gail. Well, I've known her mother Nancy for years. And I know that Nancy will stand behind Gail and support her while she's becoming a new mom.

ANDREA

Yes, since I've taken on her divorce case, I've come to believe that Gail is a very strong woman and that she is a survivor.

STEPHANIE

By the way, Nancy, the grandma-to-be, and I will be planning a baby shower for Gail. Hope to put you on the guest list. It's going to be here at Envy.

ANDREA

Of course, I'd love to attend along with Julie. I'm sure she won't want to miss it either.

STEPHANIE

Save the date. It'll be about 6 months from now.

Andrea gives her a thumbs-up as she gets up from the chair before walking to the register. As she pays with a credit card, her cell phone DINGS with a text message from Julie: 'Hi Andrea, how's your schedule? I'm going out for a late

morning breakfast before wrapping up a busy week. Care to join me?'

EXT. BREAKFAST BAR RESTAURANT - PATIO AREA - DAY

Julie signs her name on the clip board with a waiting list at the hostess stand, then she sits down next to Andrea.

JULIE

So glad you could make it for breakfast. There shouldn't be too long of a wait.

ANDREA

Oh good, it's been one hell of a week, and I plan on getting away this weekend.

JULIE

I'll be working through the weekend. Andrea, how do career lawyers do it? How can we find the time to have a long-term relationship and start a family?

ANDREA

Listen, I've been there, done that, then I decided at one point it was high time to move on. Especially when things in my life didn't fall into place as they should have.

JULIE

What do you mean?

ANDREA

Well, I'm sure you've heard that I was married to a well-known judge that's been serving in Superior Court for several years. Our marriage survived for a few years, but I realized he was not the one for me, and our relationship ended in an amicable divorce. Basically, I was initially attracted to him as a father figure, but later I fell in love with someone closer to my age and of the same sex.

JULIE

Wow, I heard a little about you and the judge, but I didn't know about the other person that came between you and him.

ANDREA

Yes, well, we've been discreet about it, but now that we have been
(MORE)

ANDREA (cont'd)
 serious about planning a family
 together, we've been gradually
 coming out to our closest family
 members and friends.

JULIE
 That sounds wonderful. When do both
 of you plan on having a child?

ANDREA
 Hopefully, very soon. Almost a year
 ago, Suzanne and I underwent a few
 procedures to procure and freeze
 our eggs and had them stored for
 future in vitro fertilization. We
 may start the process anytime.

A HOSTESS, 25, wearing a black t-shirt with the breakfast
 bar logo holding two menus steps forward to announce loudly.

HOSTESS
 Julie, party of two.

INT. BREAKFAST BAR RESTAURANT - DAY

After Julie and Andrea follow the hostess into the cafe,
 they sit down at a booth.

HOSTESS (CONT'D)
 Oh, here comes your server.

Their WAITER, 30, with bushy hair, wearing the same
 logoed-black t-shirt, arrived with an order-pad and pen in
 his pocket.

WAITER
 Hi ladies. Do you need a minute or
 do you know what you'd like to
 order?

ANDREA
 I'd like the Greek omlette with
 extra crispy hashbrowns.

JULIE
 And I'll have your breakfast
 hangover special.

WAITER
 How do you take your eggs?

Julie looks up at the waiter with furrowed brows and a
 slightly open mouth while thinking to herself before giving
 him a delayed response.

JULIE (V.O.)
 What the hell do you mean? How do I
 take what eggs?

JULIE (CONT'D)

Oh, just over-easy, please.

After their waiter leaves, Julie jumps right in to pick up where their talk left off.

JULIE (CONT'D)

So Andrea, how did you ever survive your divorce?

ANDREA

Believe me, it was a living hell before I met Suzanne. You don't even want to know what's out there once you go back to being single again.

JULIE

Really? Well, try me.

ANDREA

Well, I suppose I should start from the beginning. My lawyer highly recommended I join a support group led by a specialized counselor. So, I started attending divorce support group weekly meetings close to where I lived at the time, in Orange County.

JULIE

That sounds like a wise thing to do.

ANDREA

Yes, well, I was just following one of my lawyers protocols. He also informed me that it would look good to the judge who was overseeing our case. At any rate, the name of the therapist was Dr. Jim Head, and many of the members were greiving over their spousal separations.

Their waiter quickly drop off their ordered plates.

WAITER

Enjoy.

JULIE / ANDREA

Thank you.

When the waiter walks away, they dig in while Andrea leans over the table and LOWERS HER VOICE as she continues.

ANDREA

I really didn't agree with many of Dr. Head's treatment suggestions as to how we should carry on with our lives.

JULIE

What were some of his treatment ideas?

ANDREA

No sex or starting any kind of romantic relationship for a full year, for starters. But I did take him up on one of his suggestions, which was to find some type of diversion by getting out a couple times a month in order to ease up on the grief of going through a divorce.

JULIE

What type of diversion did he mention?

ANDREA

To go out to comedy clubs, so I went to a couple of places. It helped a little. I saw Richard Lewis as the headliner at the Irvine Improv and laughed at one or two of his jokes. I had no idea that before he got clean, he'd get so stoned, and then wake up with women he had picked up the night before whose boob jobs reminded him of being at a Macy's Thanksgiving balloon parade.

JULIE

Now, that's pretty funny.

ANDREA

One night I ventured away from a comedy lineup of unknowns in the lounge of a place called Golden Sails Hotel Resort in Seal Beach. I got bored, left, and then walked into a bar club a block away called Live Bait on Loynes Road.

JULIE

I can feel a bad situation coming on just by the sound of the name of the place. Was it a dive?

ANDREA

It sure was, and it just so happened to be ladies night, with drinks practically at no charge. But to top it off, I did one of the most humiliating things that was really beneath me at the time.

JULIE

You mean you had a one-night stand?

ANDREA

Worse! I entered their booty shaking contest.

JULIE

I hope you weren't dressed in Coco Chanel that night.

ANDREA

No, I was wearing a summer dress from Banana Republic back then. Even so, I was still overdressed for that rowdy crowd.

JULIE

Please, I'm dying to know; did you win?

ANDREA

Hell no, with over half of those shanks in cut-off Levi shorts and low-cut midriff tops thrushing their hips all over the place. They were completely bending all the rules in their quest to become the next crowned queen of booty shaking.

Julie shakes her head, looks down at the rest of the runny eggs, then moves her plate forward on the table.

JULIE

Jesus, Andrea, you really have been through a lot. That's one of my fears: if or when I decide to marry, I pray that I don't go through a divorce later.

ANDREA

It's just the risk one takes when one investing in someone special in one's life.

Their waiter stops by, Andrea and Julie look up at him. After his quick inquiry, Andrea looks at Julie before she responds.

WAITER

How you ladies doing? Can I get you anything else?

ANDREA

I really have to get back to the office.

JULIE

No thanks. Please close us out.

WAITER

Do you need take-out boxes?

Andrea shakes her head, no. Julie looks down at the remaining runny egg yolk from the breakfast special on her plate, and then looks up at the waiter hovering over her.

JULIE

No, I don't believe so.

EXT. BREAKFAST BAR - PARKING AREA - DAY

After walking out of the restaurant then into the parking lot, they stop in front of Andrea's car, and Julie looks over Andrea's hair.

JULIE

Wow, I see Stephanie did a great weave on your hair.

ANDREA

Thank you. I'm glad you referred me. Looks like I'll be going back to her whenever I need a touch up.

JULIE

No problem, Andrea. Listen, I'm so glad that we were able to get together and have a little woman-to-woman discussion time.

ANDREA

Me too. Soon, we must do it again.

As Andrea gets into her car, she waves, and then Julie waves back before getting into her silver VW Bug.

INT. JULIE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Julie sits in her car, rolls down her window, puts her keys in the ignition, and then closes her eyes.

DREAM SEQUENCE: INT. A DARKENED COURT ROOM

Julie and A TALL MYSTERIOUS MAN are nearly undressed in a vacant courtroom. He is on top of Julie, who is lying on a defense table. They are in the middle of having hot sex while the OVERTURN OF RAVELO'S BOLERO PLAYS ON.

END OF DREAM SEQUENCE BACK TO SCENE:

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

An ATTRACTIVE WOMAN, 30, driving a yellow Volvo, pulls up beside Julie's car and SHOUTS to Julie from her open window.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

Excuse me, but are you going to be leaving?

THE SOUND OF A STYLUS NEEDLE RIPPING ACROSS A VINYL RECORD STOPS THE MUSIC. Julie's eyes bulge open before she turns her head to face the woman.

JULIE

Oh, sure. I was just leaving.

INT. JULIE'S CAR - ON THE MOVE - CONTINUOUS

While starting her car and pulling out of the parking space, Julie SPEAKS ALOUD to herself.

JULIE (CONT'D)

What a fricking buzz kill. Oh dear Lord, I know the man of my dreams has got to be out there somewhere.

As she drives out into the street she continues to SPEAK ALOUD to herself.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Am I getting too old? Jesus, there's no way I could I go through artificial insemination.

FLASHBACK TO JULIE'S CATHOLIC 8TH GRADE CLASSROOM

SISTER EUGENE MARIE, 45, a Franciscan nun with a string of rosary beads hanging from a large rope tied around her waist, stands in front of Julie and her classmates, sitting at their desks dressed in uniforms-- followed by lightning bolts striking downward and flames rising up around them.

SISTER EUGENE MARIE

Do you want to burn in hell for eternity?

BACK TO PRESENT DAY - INT. JULIE'S CAR - DAY

Julie screeches to a stop at a red light, then SPEAKS ALOUD.

JULIE

Okay Julie, pull yourself together.

Her cell phone RINGS then she answers it with irritation.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. DETECTIVE RODRIGUEZ'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE GEORGE RODRIGUEZ, 38, 6-foot-tall, in a brown suit and tie, handsome but rough around the edges, SPEAKS in a LOW-TONED VOICE on his desk phone.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Yeah, hello, who is this?

DETECTIVE RODRIGUEZ

Hi Ms. Bulla, this is Detective George Rodriguez. Just returning your call. If this isn't a good time, I can call you later.

JULIE

Oh no, no. And thanks for calling back, Detective. Anyway, can I meet with you at your office sometime next week? I would appreciate finding out more information about the murder case in Westlake Village that's under your investigation.

DETECTIVE RODRIGUEZ

You mean involving the murder victim, Manny Gonzalez?

JULIE

Yes, that's the one.

DETECTIVE RODRIGUEZ

I'll be here in my office in the morning on Tuesday, if you want to drop by.

HONKS from several cars behind her sound-off, and then she drives ahead.

JULIE

Great, I'll be there. Thank you, Detective Rodriguez.

INT. LAW OFFICE OF LIFTON AND ASSOCIATES - DAY

Sitting at her desk loaded with a stack of files, Andrea is talking to SUZANNE, her significant other, on the phone.

ANDREA

Hi darling. I just want you to know that I'm tying up some loose ends right now so we can get away together early this weekend.

SUZANNE (O.S.)

My Lexus is already packed, so I'll let you get back to it before we finally take off together.

ANDREA

Give me three more hours, and then it's bon voyage to the resort for our two-year anniversary, my love.

SUZANNE (O.S.)

I love you, and can't wait until you get here, baby.

CLICK

EXT. CENTRAL ART GALLERY - PLATFORM / MURALS - DAY

Several attendees fill in three rows of folding chairs lined up in front of a podium on a small raised platform with the backdrop of art murals, which also occupy several of the exterior walls of the two-story buildings in the Santee Alley of LA's Fashion District.

Joen is sitting in the front row while Dustin is standing behind the podium SPEAKING OVER A MICROPHONE, and Patrice is also sitting nearby.

DUSTIN

I want to welcome all of you once again, and I now have the pleasure of introducing a dedicated abstract artist who has painted the largest mural here at the outdoor Central Art Gallery. As you can see on the two-story building wall right behind me, and it is nearly one-hundred-feet-long. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Patrice Bueno.

After Patrice walks to the podium, Dustin gives her a hug, then he walks away. As the applause subsides, she SPEAKS INTO THE MICROPHONE.

PATRICE

Thank you, Dustin. And I want to thank all of you for coming. Seeing all of you here today to share in the celebration of our art murals means so much to us. Honestly, it's been an honor to have been an artist participant in this astounding nonprofit community mural project here in part of the Santee Alley of LA's Fashion District.

When Patrice looks at Joen sitting in the front row, she becomes choked-up, then she looks at Dustin as she finishes at the microphone with a quivering voice.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

Thank you again, and I'm sure the other artists will want to speak--right, Dustin?

Dustin steps forward while clapping along with the audience. Then as the applause subsides, he's in front of the microphone again, and Patrice steps down.

DUSTIN

Thank you, Patrice. Yes, we are happy to introduce five more artists, and to invite you to enjoy some of the refreshments spread out for you to enjoy while viewing the murals.

EXT. OUTDOOR CENTRAL GALLERY - REFRESHMENT TABLE - DAY

FESTIVE MUSIC IS PLAYING, and a Hispanic journalist from a LA publication is in the background interviewing artists in front of a cameraman holding a video camera.

Patrice hugs Joen while they are gathering next to Dustin in front of a long table covered with a colorful table cloth and adorned with Hispanic specialty dishes such as various empanadas, bottles of corona beer, water and punch.

PATRICE

I'm so happy you're here. Well, Joen, what do you think of our art opening so far?

JOEN

Oh, wow! I wouldn't have missed it for the world. It's phenomenal.

Dustin places his hand on Joen's shoulder as he comes up from behind her.

DUSTIN

Well, well, Joen. I'm glad you came back, too. We appear to have attracted a sizable crowd for the event.

JOEN

Hi Dustin. There's no doubt about it; there must be well over a hundred people here today. You both must be elated.

DUSTIN

It's fantastic how much support we've been given, and Joen, you've been outstanding! The evening you prevented a fire from spreading around our gallery last month, is still being talked about.

JOEN

I merely alerted Patrice about the flames that night as I was driving by. Anyone would have done the same thing for a close friend.

PATRICE

Don't be silly, Joen. You are still regarded as a hero by everyone in this place.

The Hispanic journalist covering the event rushed next to Patrice and began to yank her away from the refreshment table.

PATRICE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Joen, but I believe duty has called. Catch you later.

JOEN

No problem. I'll be here when you get back and good luck.

With a cold bottle of Corona in her hand, Joen turned to face Dustin, who also was holding a cold one.

JOEN (CONT'D)

Wow, once again this is a wonderful event, and Patrice has come a long way in the arts over the last few years.

DUSTIN

You know something, Joen? In the world of art, success of any kind takes time.

Dustin clicks his bottle of beer next to hers before they take another sip.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

It takes a lot of dedication and years of working long hours to produce creative art worthy of attention.

JOEN

I hear you, Dustin. Sometimes I find it hard to take time out for personal relationships while having to put in so much time and devotion into my work.

As Joen gazes downward to reflect in silence, Dustin smiles while staring at her long, silky black hair.

DUSTIN

Hey Joen, please don't forget that I would still like to take you inside our gallery to give you a tour of the art and some of my woodwork-designed sculptures.

JOEN

I haven't forgotten your invitation since my first visit here. Um, but I'm not sure this is a good time, especially since you have your hands full today.

Two of the mural artists were approaching him as Dustin looked over the heads of the crowd, and then he gazed back into Joen's eyes.

DUSTIN

You certainly called it correctly. It's going to be a long day, but let's at least set a date to meet here one day next week. How does that sound?

JOEN

Sure, Dustin, I think I can set aside one day from work next week.

DUSTIN

Thank you, and you won't regret it. Can I call you at your office on Monday?

JOEN

OK. Do you still have my card?

TWO MALE ARTISTS, 20s, YELL OUT as they come closer to Dustin through the crowd, then he NODS to Joen.

DUSTIN

Yes!

TWO MALE ARTISTS

Hey Dustin!

Dustin gives Joen a boyish wave as he walks away through the crowd.

INT. GOMEDA INTERIOR DESIGN COMPANY OFFICE - DAY

It's hump day and Dustin, who's dressed in a navy blazer with a white shirt and Hugo Boss leather loafer, walks into Joen's office while she is behind a sleek-looking desk. He flashes her a wave as she's speaking on the phone.

JOEN

Listen, just take your time looking over the remodeling designs, and we'll connect next week if that works for you... OK, bye for now.

As she was hanging up, Dustin winks at her.

DUSTIN

Hi Joen, I hope I didn't come at a super busy time.

Joen stands up, smiles, and briefly LAUGHS.

JOEN

Hi Dustin. I was just tying up loose ends and following up with clients; it's just the usual.

He leans toward her, puts her hand to his lips for a kiss.

DUSTIN

Well, then let's take you away from your work while the going's good.

They both share in a good LAUGH.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

My car's parked right out front. So, what do you say?

She takes a step forward, then two steps back, and grabs her purse before she walks with him to the door.

JOEN

Sure, let's go.

EXT. CENTRAL ART GALLERY - DAY

After Dustin parks his RED MAZADA SPORT CAR in front of the gallery, he walks to Joen's door, opens it, she gets out, and then they walk to the front door together.

DUSTIN

Well, here we are, back where we first met. I hope the tour I planned for you doesn't disappoint.

JOEN

Just lead the way, Dustin.

He opens the door for her.

JOEN (CONT'D)

Thank you. I must say that I've been looking forward to it.

DUSTIN

After you. Step right in. I aim to please.

INT. CENTRAL ART GALLERY - DAY

While stepping inside, Joen remains silent as she looks around the four-thousand square-foot open space with high ceilings. Plenty of north light was streaming in through the windows facing the street and from the roof's sky lights.

DUSTIN

How about I show you some of my recent woodwork designs before we venture farther?

JOEN

Oh, yes, that sounds great.

He holds her hand as they walk through the first half of the gallery and as they stand in front of several of his large art pieces that are hanging on the wall in front of them.

DUSTIN

These are my most recent pieces made of ash wood.

He pauses then points to one of the sculpture pieces.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

What do you think of this one? I've entitled it The Other Side of Life.

She moves closer to the sculpture and looks at it's subtle smoothness and grain along with the deeply carved angles of random placement.

JOEN

It's very intricate and must have taken a long time to create. Your title conveys a kind of cryptic meaning. Are you expressing something that comes deep within another part of yourself?

He leans in closer to her, and then shakes his head.

DUSTIN

To tell you the truth, I really haven't figured out where my energy to create comes from, but I guess another aspect of me tends to rise to the surface as I finish a new design--I'm not sure if that makes any sense.

She moves her fingers over the carved wood design.

JOEN

Listen, you don't have to make any sense of what you're constructing as long as a steady flow of energy keeps coming forth--And that your viewers can sense the emotions you have laid down for them to experience.

He places both of her hands in his as they move away from the wall.

DUSTIN

Joen, you excite me with your insightful interpretation of my work. I can't wait to show you around the rest of the art gallery workshop.

INT. CENTRAL ART GALLERY - WOODMAKING WORKSHOP - CONTINUOUS

Dustin and Joen are standing in front of a large table saw surrounded by several wood working tools hanging on a wall above on a long work table.

JOEN

Wow! You have enough equipment here to house a small factory. I had no idea of how much time and effort you must put into your creations.

DUSTIN

It's my passion. Sometime in the near future, I hope to hire a couple of qualified assistants as my workload increases.

Joen averts her gaze while Dustin looks deeply in her eyes.

JOEN

It's good to set goals as you get closer to approaching your dream, and that sounds amazing.

DUSTIN

Joen, I think it's high time I take you to lunch. How about some authentic Mexican cuisine?

JOEN

Oh yes, now that's an offer I can't refuse.

EXT. CENTRAL ART GALLERY - STREET CURB/UBER CAR - CONTINUOUS

AN UBER CAR DRIVER has arrived in a mid-sized car. Dustin hops in the back seat with Joen, and then he shuts the door before the driver pulls out.

INT. 4-DOOR UBER CAR - ON THE MOVE - CONTINUOUS

UBER CAR DRIVER
Hi, where to, today?

DUSTIN
El Coyote Restaurant on Beverly
Boulevard.

UBER CAR DRIVER
You mean the place where they pour
the best margaritas in town?

DUSTIN
All right, I guess you know the
place.

Dustin holds Joen's hand as he WHISPERS to her.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)
And we just might be seated at the
infamous table that was shot for
the last dinner scene of Sharon
Tate and her friends for the film,
Once Upon A Time In Hollywood.

Joen LAUGHS nervously without saying a word.

EXT. UCLA MEDICAL CENTER - FRONT ENTRANCE - MORNING

Mimi is dressed in scrubs and a lab coat while walking out
of the entrance. It's Friday morning, and she's leaving
after working overtime on the night shift due to a shortage
of nurses.

Even though she's tired, thoughts of Eric, her favorite
barista, comes to her mind. Then she picks up her pace as
she walks ahead.

MIMI (V.O.)
Man, am I beat! Damn, I forgot that
it's Eric's last day working at
Starbucks.

INT. STARBUCKS COFFEHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

When Mimi enters through the door, she sees two employees
hanging up a banner behind the counter that reads, "Good
Luck Eric.. We'll Miss You."

As Mimi waits in a line with three customers, a round of
applause sounds off from CO-WORKER #1 and #2. Then they
point at Eric after he walks in.

CO-WORKER #1
Hey everybody, look what the cat
just dragged in.

CO-WORKER #2

So Eric, you thought you could
sleep in on your last day working
at Starbucks.

Mimi and the other customers LAUGH and CLAP along. Eric
LAUGHS it off as he covers his face with his hands, and then
walks behind the counter.

ERIC

All right, you caught me
red-handed. Don't worry, it won't
happen again.

A BEAT

ERIC (CONT'D)

Listen, your morning fix is on me
today. It's my going-away treat for
everyone waiting in line right now.

When Mimi's gets to the front of the counter, Eric's smile
widens.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hi Mimi, venti decaf latte, your
morning fix, coming right up.

MIMI

Thanks, Eric. You got my morning
fix right, but I just left work
this morning.

ERIC

Oh, really. So you worked a double
shift last night; you must be
exhausted.

MIMI

You called that one right. I heard
that this was your last day, and I
just had to come over to wish my
favorite barista good luck.

ERIC

Oh, Mimi, you're so sweet. I sure
will miss you, and I can't believe
that it's been about three years
since you walked in and order your
usual from me.

MIMI

Listen, I'd love to speak with you
before I leave.

ERIC

Sure, have a seat, and I'll bring
your latte over to you.

She NODS as she walks away. As she finds a table and sits next to a window, Eric gets to work at making her latte. When Eric arrives to her table with the latte, she looks up.

ERIC
Here's your latte.

MIMI
Thank you, so tell me, Eric, where are you going from here?

He sits at her table, and then slowly responds.

ERIC
Yeah, well, I can't believe I never told you; I've been in the nursing program at USC for the last few years, and I'll be graduating with a BSN next week.

MIMI
Oh my God! Eric, that's fantastic. And yeah, I can't believe you never mentioned it.

ERIC
Well, I know it's going to be a challenging job, but I believe I'm ready for it. Seeing other RNs, such as yourself, working with such dedication gives me inspiration.

MIMI
Have you already applied somewhere?

ERIC
I've decided to hire on at USC Medical Center while I continue to work on my Master's degree.

A BEAT

ERIC (CONT'D)
Mimi, may I send you an invitation to my graduation?

MIMI
Wow, I would be honored to attend. Do you need my address.

ERIC
No problem, I can just mail it to UCLA's surgical ICU addressed to you, if that's okay?

MIMI
Yeah, sure. That would be fine. Hey, I don't want to keep you. I
(MORE)

MIMI (cont'd)
 better go and congratulations. I'm
 so happy for you, Eric.

He stared into her eyes, which were starting to moisten.

ERIC
 Thank you, Mimi. Well, I guess this
 is bye until until we meet up
 again.

MIMI
 Bye for now.

They both get up, and then she waves while leaving.

INTERCUT - INT. MIMI'S LIVING ROOM / JOEN'S KITCHEN - DAY

While lying on the couch dressed in pajamas, Mimi is on her cell phone talking to Joen, who's standing at a counter with a cup of coffee.

MIMI
 Hi Joen, I was just calling to see
 what you're up to this weekend.

JOEN
 Oh, hi Mimi, not much. What's up?

MIMI
 I don't know about you, Joen, but I
 had a rough week. So I was going to
 treat myself to a foot massage and
 pedicure today at Phancy's Nails
 and Spa. How about you? Need to
 give yourself a little R & R? Care
 to join me?

JOEN
 Actually, that's the best proposal
 I've received in quite a while.
 Yeah, why not. I'm in.

MIMI
 Super, I'll set an appointment for
 us. It's on First Street. Believe I
 can get us in around noon, okay?

JOEN
 I know the place and sounds good.

MIMI
 Listen, I'll give you a call back
 after I confirm the time.

JOEN
 Okay, talk to you later.

After hanging up, Mimi speed dials Phancy's, and then PHANCY, answers the call IN A POLITE ASIAN ACCENT.

PHANCY (O.S.)

Nails and Spa, this is Phancy. May I help you?

MIMI

Hi, this is Mimi. My friend and I would like pedicures with foot massages. Do you have any openings around noon, today?

PHANCY (O.S.)

We a little busy, but sure, sure, we can fit you in. Come at little after 12 noon.

MIMI

Thank you so much, and we'll see you soon, bye.

INT. PHANCY'S NAILS AND SPA - DAY

Soft melodic MUSIC IS PLAYING as Mimi and Joen sit side by side in tan vinyl reclining chairs with their feet soaking in warm water whirlpooling basins placed on the floor in front of them.

A SPA ATTENTANT, 20s, a petite Asian woman, passes by to briefly inform Joen and Mimi.

SPA ATTENTANT

I'll be back after your feet soak a little longer.

MIMI

No problem, this feels heavenly. Thank you.

JOEN

Ah, this is just what the doctor ordered. It's been ages since I treated myself to this. So glad you called me this morning.

MIMI

I can't think of any two individuals more deserving of this spa treatment. My work week was tedious to say the least.

Mimi turns her head in Joen's direction and Joen faces her.

MIMI (CONT'D)

So how has life been treating you lately?

JOEN

Oh boy, that's such a loaded question.

Joen rolls her eyes as she readjusts herself in her chair.

JOEN (CONT'D)

As you know my design company is a constant handful that I've grown accustomed to, but what I can't stand is all the random speed bumps that I've been encountering with men.

MIMI

Oh yeah, what do you mean?

JOEN

Do you remember a while back when I told you that I felt a spark with someone I met recently? It was around the time that you were going through your break-up with James.

MIMI

Oh yeah, you mean the art curator in downtown LA? Did you go out with him recently?

The spa attentive stops by to check on them.

SPA ATTENDANT

Everything all right?

MIMI

Oh yes, we're just fine.

She smiles at Mimi and Joen, and then walks away as Mimi sits up higher in her chair.

JOEN

Yes, Dustin took me to his gallery and gave me a tour of his workshop and artwork. Everything was fine until he had an Uber driver drop us off at El Coyote Restaurant for lunch. His demeanor took a complete 180 degree turn from charming to creepy.

After Joen took a deep breath, Mimi's jaw drops.

MIMI

Jesus, Joen. How the hell did he begin to act?

JOEN

I sort of got freaked out when he reserved the table that Sharon Tate
(MORE)

JOEN (cont'd)

and her friends sat at before they all were murdered by the Manson clan. I tried to laugh it off until I went to the restroom. When I headed back to our table, I briefly eyed him feeling out our waitress.

MIMI

Holy shit, and then what?

JOEN

When I sat down, he kept repeating that I had beautiful eyes, and then I realized that he replaced my half finished margarita with a newly ordered margarita. As our lunch arrived, I kept catching him eyeballing the asses of women that passed by our table. Needless to say, I felt like there was something fishy in Denmark, and I decided not to take a sip of my drink for fear of it being spiked with a date rape drug.

MIMI

He sounds like the perfect definition of a womanizer.

Mimi's complexion began to change a few shades paler as she CLEARED HER THROAT before speaking.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Joen, I know you have more experience than I do, when it comes to relationships, but I must tell you that I've witnessed some terrible affairs of other co-workers while I was a new grad working at another medical center.

JOEN

Go on, you really caught my attention.

MIMI

I became rather disillusioned when I saw quite a few highly respected doctors who were cutting-edge cardiologists, heart and brain surgeons having affairs with some of the young, sexy nurses without their wives' knowledge. It was all so hush-hush among the staff that it made me sick.

JOEN

Wow, did you date any of the doctors?

MIMI

Hell no, I resigned after a year, and then I hired on at UCLA. To this day, I never got sucked into dating a doctor or another co-worker.

PHANCY, 35, drops by and approaches Mimi and Joen.

PHANCY

Hope you ladies have been enjoying yourselves. It's time for your foot massages. Are you ready now?

Joen and Mimi smile at each other, then they reach out to hold one another's hand.

JOEN

Bring it on. We've never been more ready in our lives.

INT. UCLA MEDICAL CENTER - I.C.U. - DAY

Mimi looks at a letter addressed to her and stamped with Eric Marino's name and return address. After she opens the letter with the invitation to Eric's graduation at USC, she GIGGLES.

Then Mimi walks to a charge nurse, BABS 32, in scrubs, holding a patient's clip board, and standing in front of a row of cardiac monitors.

MIMI

Hey, I know this is kind of short notice but can you do me the biggest favor and trade this Friday with me?

Mimi hands the invitation to Babs. After she looks it over, then she hands it back to Mimi.

BABS

Hum, Eric Marino. He must be someone special, and a new nursing grad to top it off. Sure, I'll gladly trade that day with you, but you have to promise to tell me about this guy later, okay?

MIMI

Oh, thank you so much, and no problem. I'll definitely let you know how it turns out later.

INT. LOS ANGELES CITY HALL - MARRIAGE LICENSING OFC. - DAY

Dressed all-in-white, Andrea and SUZANNE, 35, medium-built with long blond hair, are standing side by side in front of a male OFFICIANT, 40s, dressed in black. Julie and Detective George Rodriguez, who are both in business dress, stand directly behind Andrea and Suzanne.

OFFICIANT

True marriage is more than a ceremony or a piece of paper. It is a lasting bond that joins two lives and two hearts. Marriage is love. Companionship. Trust. And Respect. May you always find strenght in each other, laugh with each other, find safety and comfort in each other when days are difficult and, continue to learn and grow closer with each passing year.

He closes the ceremony with robust while tears form in the eyes of all present.

OFFICIANT (CONT'D)

By the authority vested in me by the State of California and the American Marriage Ministries, I now pronounce you married, and you may now kiss. Congratulations!

As Andrea and Susanne kiss, Julie tries to hold back her tears with no success, and then Detective Rodriguez takes a handkerchief from his pocket and hands it to her.

ANDREA

Our lives are truly beginning together from this moment on. I love you, Suzanne.

SUZANNE

Oh, Andrea, I love you.

As they embrace each other, Detective Rodriguez leans closer to Julie and WHISPERS to her.

DETECTIVE RODRIGUEZ

Listen, Julie, I was happy to fill-in as a witness for your boss's wedding, but I really have to get back to my office.

JULIE

Oh, of course, and thanks, George. You were so nice to help out when Andrea and Suzanne asked me to find someone at such short notice.

Julie and Detective Rodriguez approach the newlyweds.

DETECTIVE RODRIGUEZ
 Congratulations.

JULIE
 I'm so happy for both of you.

ANDREA
 And Suzanne and I are eternally grateful to both of you for being here with us during this extremely spontaneously planned day.

EXT. USC MEMORIAL ALUMNI PARK - DAY

GRADUATION SEQUENCE MONTAG:

The traditional MARCH MUSIC is being played by an ORCHESTRA. A LARGE CROWD OF ATTENDEES are seated in rows of chairs. The Procession of Graduates steadily walk down the grassy aisle. As Eric walks by to his seat, Mimi, seated nearby, SHOUTS his name.

When Eric walks on the platform to receive his diploma, his family members SHOUT OUT while they jump up holding signs with Eric's name. And then the SPEAKER at the podium gives the final announcement over the microphone.

SPEAKER
 I now present this year's graduating class of the University of Southern California.

Pandemonium breaks out with LOUD NOISE MAKERS AND CHEERS as a massive numbers of graduates throw their caps in the air.

Eric pushes his way through the crowd, and then meets with his parents, who are still holding up signs with his name. After he embraces both parents, MR. and MRS. MARINO, in their 50s, Mimi rushes up from behind as she tracks down Eric next to the signs and his parents. Then Eric turns to face Mimi.

ERIC
 Oh my God. Mimi, you made it. I'm so elated that you came to my graduation.

MIMI
 Oh, Eric, I wouldn't have missed it for the world. Congratulations.

The NOISE LEVEL was extreme as he YELLED back to Mimi.

ERIC
 Sorry, Mimi, what did you say?

He turns to face his parents then back to Mimi.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Hey Mom, Dad, I want you to meet Mimi Limerick. She's an incredible person I've known for about three years, and she's an RN at UCLA Medical Center.

MR. AND MRS. MARINO

So nice to meet you.

MIMI

Nice to meet you too, Mr. and Mrs. Marino. You must be very proud of Eric.

MR. MARINO

Thank you, Mimi. Yes, we are so very proud of him. And we hope that we'll be seeing more of you in the near future.

Mimi NODS, then steps back as several others in the crowd began to move forward. She gives Eric and his parents a gentle wave good-bye while walking through the rowdy crowd.

THREE DAYS LATER:

INT. ERIC'S APARTMENT - FRONT DOOR ENTRY - DAY

A UPS delivered box is wedged in the front door as Eric opens the door after the DOOR BELL RINGS. He lifts up the box, and then opens it. A Littman cardiology stethoscope is inside along with a gift card that reads: 'Congratulations Eric! With Warm Regards, Mimi'. After reading the card, he SPEAKS ALOUD to himself.

ERIC

She didn't have to do that. Wow, how sweet. (BEAT) Why don't I have her number?

He stomps around in a panic searching under all kinds of stuff scattered on his desk.

ERIC (CONT'D)

Damn it, where the hell did I put those thank you cards?

INT. UCLA'S SURGICAL ICU - EVENING

Charge nurse, Babs, is walking toward Mimi with a letter, and then she hands the letter to Mimi, who was writing notes in a chart on the front counter.

BABS

Mimi, looks like you got a hand-carried letter from an admiring fan. I picked it up for you from the reception desk.

She opens it, and then smiles.

MIMI

Oh, wow! It's from Eric.

BABS

You mean the Eric, the new nursing grad?

MIMI

Yeah, what do you know.

BABS

OK Mimi, you promised to fill me in on this guy, remember?

After Mimi hands her the note, Babs READS IT ALOUD.

BABS (CONT'D)

Mimi, Thank you for your extremely heartfelt gift. I can hardly wait to put the cardiologist stethoscope to good use. And I'm hoping we can get together someday soon.
Sincerely, Eric.

A Beat. After reading the note, Babs looks up at Mimi.

BABS (CONT'D)

You go, girl!

Mimi takes the note from her and smiles sheepishly as she puts it in a side pocket of her lab coat.

SUPER: BEGINNING OF AUTUMN

EXT. ENVY BEAUTY STUDIO - EVENING

It's windy and autumn leaves are falling on the sidewalk from the trees in front of the studio. The front windows are decorated with earth-tone paper leaves with a banner pronouncing: "Fall is Here! Treat your Hair to Amazing Color!"

INT. ENVY BEAUTY STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

Nancy rushes through the front door as Stephanie is closing up the studio for the day and as the last customer was leaving.

NANCY

Hi Stephanie, how's it going lately since we mailed out the baby shower invites to everybody?

STEPHANIE

Oh, you can't believe how our phone's been ringing off the hook. I think we'll have a great turn out next weekend.

NANCY

That's great, because Gail is just about ready to burst, by the way she's waddling around.

STEPHANIE

Don't worry, Nancy. Everyone can't wait to be apart of greeting the little one when he or she arrives.

INT. MIMI'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. JOEN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mimi's on her phone and after TWO RINGS Joen picks up.

JOEN

Hello.

MIMI

Hey Joen, I haven't seen you for a while. How are you?

JOEN

Well, hum, I've been a littled tied up lately.

MIMI

Oh yeah, how so? You're still going to the baby shower at Stephanie's this Saturday.

JOEN

Oh, sure, I'll be there. It's just that I went through a medical procedure the other day.

Mimi sits up on the edge of the couch and SPEAKS OUT IN A PANICKED TONE.

MIMI

What! A procedure? Joen, what's going on?

JOEN

Whoa, slow down, Mimi. It's nothing to get overly concerned about.

Joen pauses then takes a deep breath.

JOEN (CONT'D)

I had my eggs extracted and procured at a fertility facility.

MIMI

Oh, where they freeze your eggs?

JOEN

Yes, it's something I've given a lot of thought to lately, and I finally went through with it.

MIMI

Listen, Joen, anytime you just want to talk about anything going on in your life you know that I'm here for you.

JOEN

Mimi, you don't have to worry about me. I'm fine, and I know I made the right choice for me.

Joen looks at the clock on the wall before finishing.

JOEN (CONT'D)

I've gotta go, and I'll see you at the baby shower.

MIMI

OK, see you there.

After Mimi hangs up, she picks up a framed photo of Eric and her lying on the beach together, then she clutches it to her chest as she SPEAKS ALOUD.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Oh, Eric, I'm so lucky that you came into my life.

EXT. ENVY BEAUTY STUDIO - DAY

It's a good turn-out at the baby shower. Besides Stephanie, Gail, the mother-to-be, and her mother, Nancy, there are seven others present.

Glasses filled with champagne flow around while appetizers and a bakery decorated cake are placed on a long, fold-out table; and SOFT MUSIC plays in the background.

A video of the ultrasound of the fetus is being shown on a laptop as everyone gathers closely together. After everyone looks at the screen, Nancy reveals the breaking news.

NANCY

It's a boy! I can't believe I'll be having a grandson.

GAIL

That makes two of us, Mom. I can just see you taking him to his little league practice, someday.

6'-3" Bleu, everyone's lovable stylist, starts to point at the fussy image of the penis, then he looks at Nancy.

BLEU

Damn, Nancy, it looks like your grandson will be very well-endowed.

Loren, the other hair stylist, was standing next to Bleu and gives a sharp jab into his jabs as she LOUDLY ANNOUNCES.

LOREN

I suppose you would know all about that.

Everyone lets out BIG HOOTS, as Bleu bows down his head. To break the ice, Julie and Andrea present their gift to Gail.

ANDREA

Gail, Julie and I want you to have a little something from both of us.

Gail opens the present in a gift bag from Tiffany's. When she SHAKES the silver rattle in the shape of a gavel with a blue ribbon tie around it, everyone makes COOING SOUNDS while eating their servings of cake.

GAIL

Thank you both. This will truly be held as a keepsake for years to come.

ANDREA

You're welcome. And Gail, we have complete faith in you as you become a new mom.

Next, Mimi comes forward from a storage room with an industrial breast pump on rollers with a huge red bow.

GAIL

Oh my God. I can't believe it. How on earth did you find this amazing piece of equipment.

MIMI

I've got my ways. Actually, I have a few connections with a supplier at the medical center. Nancy mentioned that you plan to breast

(MORE)

MIMI (cont'd)
feeding and that you are very
serious about it.

GAIL
Oh boy, you really did the
research. Thank you, Mimi. And I
know who to come to if I need more
instructions, right?

MIMI
No problem. Well, I certainly can
keep in touch, but don't worry
because I know you'll do just fine.

Stephanie and Joen become next in line with another surprise
gift, as they present Gail with a card. Everyone's just
finishing their cake as she opens the card.

STEPHANIE
Now, Gail, we know that there's
something else on your wish list.
With that being said, Joen and I
want to give you a little something
extra for the baby's nursery.

GAIL
Wow, this is way too much. It's a
gift certificate for a designer
baby bassinet from Bloomingdale's
in South Coast Plaza.

JOEN
We want you to pick out the style
you like, and they'll fully
assemble it before they deliver it
to you.

GAIL
How generous. Thank you so much.

Tears start to stream down Gail's cheek, and then her mother
rushes next to her and holds her hand.

GAIL (CONT'D)
I really can't believe how blessed
I've been throughout my pregnancy.
All of you have given me so much of
your love and support. I don't
think I could have gotten through
it without you.

Nancy's old friend, Patty, stands up right away.

PATTY
Just wait until your baby's born.
Don't you worry. We plan on
sticking around.

STEPHANIE

Hey and whenever you need a
babysitter, you can count on
everyone of us.

Nancy CALLS OUT to everyone as they CLAP AND YELP.

NANCY

You guys are the best.

Then Nancy WHISPERS in Gail's ear

NANCY (CONT'D)

My darling girl, you know we'll all
be there for you and the baby every
step of the way.

SUPER: ABOUT SIX MONTHS LATER

START OF SEQUENTIAL MONTAG SCENES WITH MUSIC BED PLAYING:

EXT. PARK PLAYGROUND - DAY

Nancy, Gail, and her infant son are closely together
engaging in a mommy and me play group session.

INT. HOSPITAL ULTRASOUND ROOM - DIMLY LIT

While lying on a gurney in front of a video-monitor, Suzanne
is facing a monitor while a TECHNICIAN is scanning over her
pregnancy belly with a doppler. Andrea is by her side as
they look in amazement at the image of the fetus on the
screen.

EXT. BULLA AND ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICE - DAY

Julie and Detective Rodriguez HOLD HANDS for a brief moment,
and smile while standing in front of the small building.
Then together they cut a large red ribbon in front of a
cheering small crowd of people that includes a few LAPD
police officers.

INT. OFFICE OF A FERTILITY FACILITY - DAY

Joen is in conference with a fertility specialist doctor as
he hands her the surgical certification papers related to
the successful procurement of her frozen eggs, followed by a
hand shake and hug.

INT. CHURCH - THE ALTAR - DAY

Mimi and Eric exchange wedding rings in front of a Catholic
priest and a Luthern minister. Then Mimi and Eric KISS.

END OF SEQUENTIAL MONTAG

THE END

