

INT. SALON - DAY

A busy salon, small with everything crammed in but filled with customers. People getting their haircut, their eyebrows shaped, manicures and even a couple pedicures.

KELLY, 40, tall and pretty gestures around with two open hands.

GRANT, 50, short cut grey hair and glasses standing behind her watches her intently.

KELLY

Just look, this is the truth of this place every day the same I'm always here I see it all. You can just watch I don't even need to say anything, I knew this would work from the very beginning.

She lets out a deep breath, takes a moment to look at each of her employees and smiles proud.

LOUISE, 24, is done quickly followed by MATT, 28. The haircut is complete by STAN, 25, and the feet professionally finished off by BECKY, 17, and HANNAH, 19. Now there are no more customers waiting.

As those people who were in here go, we're suddenly left with five people with nothing to do

They all look awkwardly across to Grant.

GRANT

Now this is what's normal and that's my point.

KELLY

More people will come.

GRANT

But for now we are just a group of people standing around doing nothing.

KELLY

We won't have to wait long, word is spreading about this place.

GRANT

Really?

Kelly has to turn away from him

KELLY

I'm sure it is.

NICK, 18, comes in through the door and hands out freshly made cups of coffee from a tray on his shoulder to each of the workers.

He comes over to Kelly.

NICK

Hey are you sure you don't want to order anything for yourself?

Kelly turns to Grant.

He waits a moment faking a grin.

GRANT

Oh yeah I almost forgot this is where I come in isn't it?

He reaches into his pocket pulls out his wallet and pays Nick.

Kelly points at Louise and MATT.

KELLY

Okay we can all see that there's no one else here, you to go home.

Louise and Matt share a glance before returning to Kelly.

LOUISE

Wait what, why do we have to go? Why not send any of the others, why me? I know you complained about my hair the other day but I'll get it fixed soon as I can if that's the problem whatever I have to do but I don't see why I have to be the one to get sent home?

MATT

There's no one else who can do what I can do. If someone comes in asking for me I'm not going be able to do anything am I? No one else can do eyebrows so why send me home?

KELLY

No of you have got any more appointments, if we have any walk-ins they'll just have to come back another day wont they.

Grant make a swift exit.

As the door closes shut behind him Kelly can't hold back the tears anymore and starts to cry.

The others watch on unsure on what to do.

Stan steps forwards.

STAN

It's okay both of you can stay.  
There's little jobs you can do,  
cleaning, sweeping. Just get on  
with it.

He grabs onto Kelly's arms.

KELLY

I've got to send at least a few  
of you home if its what he wants.

STAN

Is that what you want?

KELLY

No.

STAN

Well you can get whatever you  
want if you're willing.

Kelly pulls herself together, she wipes away the tears.

KELLY

Okay the rest of you just do what  
ever you think you could be  
getting on with, if someone comes  
through the door greet them and  
do what you can for them.

She grabs a hold of Stan, pulls him to one side both going  
inside a walk in cupboard.

INT. SALON - CUPBOARD - DAY

Filled with beauty products Kelly reaches up above her head  
turns on the light and instantly she starts making out with  
Stan, passionate kissing.

They pull away from each other both catching their breath.

KELLY

You need to know the truth and so  
does everybody else.

STAN

What is it?

KELLY

He wants to sell, he doesn't think it's working and is looking for a buyer right now.

Stan is clearly taking a back but keeps his composure.

STAN

Well if he hasn't sold it already it's not over. I'll convince him.

Kelly smiles, they kiss again.

KELLY

Thank you.

He holds onto a tight, hugging her.

STAN

The biggest problem with this place is it's leaderless. Nobody knows what they're doing or what is expected of them. All of these people you've got working for you are lazy.

KELLY

You work for me, I don't like you saying stuff like that I'm here all the time and I don't see it.

STAN

Well I do, you're too weak with them you need to be hard on them everyone needs to pull their weight and you need to be the one who wants to make that happen

She laughs at him, dismissive.

KELLY

I can do that I've got a grip on this place already but if you can't see that that's your problem. The truth is the issue isn't with the staff were just not getting enough customers.

STAN

No your wrong this place needs someone stronger than you it's nothing to be ashamed of you're a great owner you just not a leader.

She pushes him away.

KELLY

No I'm not stupid you can't talk to me like this. Nobody is lazy here and if you think they are you need to prove it just saying it isn't enough. Listen you're the one person I need to believe in me, if not you then who else. I'm not stupid so don't talk to me like I am.

INT. SALON - DAY

Still no fresh customers. Grant puts a large for sale sign up in the window as all the others watch on bemused.

Turns around to face them, no sign of Kelly or Stan.

Grant clears his throat, shuffles back and forth on the spot and uncomfortably plays with his wedding ring.

GRANT

I don't know how much she's told you but this has been coming for a while. You're all great people and maybe someone else can make it work but I'm not in this to start a business just to watch it die. It's nothing personal it's just life.

Shock and disbelief on the face of those listening to him.

With a shrug of the shoulders Grant turns leaves once again.

Kelly appears back with Stan, she hurries over to the window and rips down the sign.

She waves is that the others before throwing it down to the floor.

KELLY

It isn't over we've all just got a work harder.

BECKY

So what now, do we quit?

HANNAH

Do we even still have jobs?

MATT

If you're selling this place what's even the point of carrying on?

KELLY

I know this can work, I've studied every detail every decision has taken me a long time to make. I love this salon and I will fight to keep it open. You're jobs are safe, if you like working here that's going to continue. We've just got to pull together to make sure that it can happen.

The others relax a little

CUT TO:

INT. SALON - DAY

Another tray on his shoulder Nick makes another coffee delivery, handing them out he smiles at Becky she blushes and smiles back before then looking at the floor.

Kelly takes her drink, flicks her head at Louise.

KELLY

In my office the black one with red straps.

Louise gives her the thumbs up.

She heads over towards the staircase at the back of the room. She passes Stan, gives him an unseen gesture by any of the others for him to come and follow, he does.

He slips away silently.

Kelly takes a big sip of her coffee relaxing down into her chair.

INT. SALON - OFFICE - DAY

A desk and a computer, Louise picks up a black handbag with red straps. She goes through it and takes out small amount of cash.

Stan follows in behind her, letting the door close shut they kiss.

She pushes him back, grinning stupidly.

LOUISE

As much as I'd love to I don't really have the time.

He goes to kiss her again but she manages to dodge out of the way, a quick sidestep.

STAN

Just one more quick kiss to get me through the rest of the day you're too beautiful to look at not for me to want to kiss you.

LOUISE

You're not for real are you, you're never around when I need to talk to you.

STAN

Of course I am.

LOUISE

Not 100% you're not, I can't let myself be tricked.

She goes to exit but he blocks her.

STAN

What else is there to be convinced by?

She tires to get past him, again once more he blocks her.

She gently slap the money across his face.

LOUISE

This is why I was sent up here, she's waiting.

STAN

I'm only here because you wanted me.

LOUISE

I just don't wanna be your plaything, we have sex then you avoid me for a few days we have sex then you avoid me that's not a cycle I wanna get myself trapped in. And we still need to talk. I asked you weeks ago.

STAN

Listen one day soon this salon will all be mine. I want it and I'm going a make it happen, but I've got to work hard for it.

LOUISE

Do you even hear yourself it's not that simple.

STAN

But it is, it really is.

She ducks under his arm and gets to the door.

LOUISE

You need to wake up.

INT. SALON - DAY

Still they're all waiting for fresh people sitting, leaning and not doing anything.

Kelly suddenly slap so hands loudly above her head.

KELLY

Okay so waiting isn't working so  
let's go out and get customers  
find out what people want and  
give it to them, we need more so  
lets go get more.

Stan rolls his eyes she sees it she frowns give them a dirty look he sees it.

STAN

What?

KELLY

Have you got something to say?

STAN

Never done anything like that  
before.

KELLY

And?

STAN

Isn't it a little you know  
beneath us. Shouldn't we have a  
higher standard isn't that the  
way to go? Isn't that obvious to  
you?

KELLY

I want to find out why people  
aren't coming here, how can that  
be a bad idea?

STAN

I just think it is.

She turns away from him.

KELLY

Who wants to come with me,  
volunteers?

STAN

It's a bad idea.

She ignores him.

Matt and Hannah each put up a hand, they glance across at each other smiling and blushing.

INT. SALON - OFFICE - DAY

Closes the door shut behind her it's just Stan and Kelly.  
She points a finger in his face.

KELLY

Now you listen to me.

He takes her by the wrist and steps in close.

She thinks he's going to try and kiss her again so pulls back.

STAN

No, I want you to listen to me  
just give me what I want. In the  
end it will be good for you, I  
want to help you.

She gives him a sideways glance and can't help but laugh.

He reaches up and takes hold of her neck.

KELLY

We can't keep having sex here,  
where and whenever you want it's  
not fair.

He stares deeply into her eyes.

She edges forwards and goes to kiss him.

But he squeezes his grip around her throat stopping her.

STAN

You're going to make me manager  
of this place or I'm going to  
tell him everything. That all of  
those vowels you made to him  
amount to shit. Give me what I  
want, I can turn this place into  
something amazing. Don't try and  
stop me I won't let you.

She's stunned, can barely breathe.

KELLY

Please.

He let's go.

She gasps for air, four red finger marks around her neck.

STAN

Go home.

INT. SALON - DAY

Gathers Becky, Hannah, Louise and Matt around him, Kelly is missing. Stan locks the entrance to the salon and holds the key up. He shows it to the others, even points at it with his other hand.

STAN

From here on out this salon will be for a private guest list, only the people I say are allowed in.

BECKY

What?

HANNAH

Where's Kelly?

MATT

Is this your first attempt at telling a joke because is not going very well.

Stan puts the key into his top pocket.

STAN

If you won't do what I want you can all find new jobs, I've just been made manager of this place it's my responsibility so what I say goes. I'm going to drag this place into being a success so you lot are either with me or against me. It's black-and-white with me there is no middle ground.

CUT TO:

INT. SALON - DAY

Covered from head to toe in designer clothes a MOTHER, 60 and DAUGHTER, 30, are getting their nails and feet done.

The daughter kicks out catching Becky in the chest clearly hurts. Hannah quickly switches places with her.

The mother laughs, she looks down at her nails.

MOTHER

Are you always this slow or just making a special effort to put me in a bad mood?

Louise scowls.

Stan comes over, he grabs onto and squeezes both shoulders of Louise.

STAN

You'll be impressed with the end result I guarantee it.

Stan steps away, Matt grabs onto him and pulls him to the side hissing in his ear.

MATT

I'll be happy to take on those ghastly eyebrows of hers, but if she speaks to me like that I'm telling you now I'll scar bitch into her forehead, believe me I'm good enough to do it.

CUT TO:

INT. SALON - DAY

The mother and daughter leave together, both admiring the work on their nails.

The others gather around Stan.

BECKY

I don't come to work to get kicked.

HANNAH

I can't bite my tongue like that all day long, this is ridiculous.

Stan picks up a tip jar stuffed full of money.

STAN

She just gave two more than either of you would've made two weeks straight keeping with the clientele we used to have, be grateful. I'm going to save this salon just like I said I would.

INT. SALON - OFFICE - DAY

Stan rests against the desk, arms crossed in front of his chest. Louise closes the door shut behind her.

Louise gets emotional, welling up.

LOUISE

I want things to go back to the way they were, go back to like before. It couldn't have been so bad that we had to change so much

STAN

Grow up.

LOUISE

What is this, is this you now or is this just some kind of act. Whatever it is it's dumb.

STAN

Go back to what, no way. I told you one day this place will be mine. First step manager next step you just watch.

She holds both hands onto her stomach lifting up her shirt a little.

LOUISE

You really haven't noticed?

He stands up.

STAN

Don't.

LOUISE

You're always busy, how many times have I asked you to come round so I can talk to you?

STAN

You think it's mine?

Tears roll down her face.

LOUISE

I'm not a slut so yeah I'm sure it is.

STAN

Get rid of it.

She collapses to the floor.

LOUISE

What?

STAN

You really want a mistake ruining the rest of your life. You could have taken care of this all on your own. I'm going to build an empire and this will be my first conquest. What did you think, telling me that would make me drop down on one knee and ask you to marry me, well forget about it.

INT. SALON - DAY

With mops and brooms the whole place is being tidied up everyone getting stuck in, Louise is missing.

Grant and Kelly enter together.

GRANT

You can all go home. In fact forget that you can all take the rest the week off, you'll be paid a wage the same as normal.

Smiles flash onto their faces.

Stan drops his broom to the floor and hurries over to him he grabs the appointment book shows it to Grant.

GRANT (CONT'D)

I need everyone here.

Kelly takes the appointment book out of his hands and gives him a knowing smile.

KELLY

Myself and my husband the actual owners of this place would like a special word with you.

GRANT

Yes quick one on one.

Kelly whispers into his ear.

KELLY

Fucking you was the worst thing I have ever done, but now it's me who's going to fuck you.

He whispers right back into her ear.

STAN

I don't go down without a fight.

INT. SALON - OFFICE - DAY

Grant sits down behind the desk, Stan and Kelly stand on the other side of it.

Grant takes out a signed check and waves it at Stan.

GRANT

I didn't expect to get something like this so quickly. But there it is, life is funny isn't it?

Stan hits a fist down against the edge of the desk.

STAN

You can't just throw it away, you can't just get rid of it.

GRANT

Of course I can, I can do whatever the hell I like.

STAN

I've got plans, I can turn this place into something amazing let me run it and you'll see.

GRANT

I do kind of like the idea of selling it though.

KELLY

He asked me to make him the manager and now he's having a fit.

STAN

Let me show you what I can do.

GRANT

You made him a manager?

KELLY

He practically begged me to.

STAN

And I'm begging you now.

Kelly throws her head back laughing over the top.

Grant watches her curiously, cocks an eyebrow.

GRANT

You don't have to beg.

STAN

Let me make you a counter offer.

GRANT

You want to Buy it?

STAN

If I could I would you're sitting  
on a potential gold mine here.

GRANT

So what is it?

STAN

You don't have to pay me a penny.  
No wages and I'll work here  
twelve hours a day seven days a  
week, but you have to let me be  
in charge and I will turn this  
salon around for you.

GRANT

My own personal slave?

Stan forces a smile.

STAN

If I have to be.

Grant cant help but laugh.

GRANT

So you're crazy?

STAN

That's my offer.

GRANT

Interesting.

Kelly quickly moves around to the other side of the desk,  
she reaches down and grabs onto Grant.

KELLY

There's nothing interesting about  
it, if you're not going to sell  
then I want him fired.

Grant ignores her keep his eyes on Stan.

GRANT

You've got yourself a deal.

The two men reach out to each other and shake.

Kelly physically shakes with rage, she storms out of the room.

STAN

I'm in charge?

Rich husband stands up out of the chair and nods

He folds the check and puts it into his pocket.

GRANT

But you don't have forever to  
make this work.

STAN

You'll see, I'll show you.

INT. SALON - DAY

Back to sweeping and mopping the floor Becky, Hannah and Matt gather together.

MATT

So who actually likes the new guy  
in charge?

They all laugh.

HANNAH

I think it's funny and it can  
only be entertaining.

BECKY

I prefer things to go back to the  
way they were, I actually like my  
job here most of the time.

MATT

That's going to change, from here  
on out things are only going to  
get worse.

**FADE TO BLACK**

**THE END**

**END OF EPISODE ONE**