MYSTERY GIRLS

"Pilot"

Story by

Shepard Boucher and Tori Spelling

Written by

Shepard Boucher

COLD OPEN

SCENE A

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A THUG SITS AT A TABLE, SURROUNDED BY JEWELRY AND STACKS OF MONEY.

SUDDENLY, THE FRONT DOOR BURSTS OPEN AND TWO OF THE HOTTEST FEMALE BADASSES YOU'VE EVER SEEN STORM INTO THE ROOM.

THE THUG BOLTS FOR THE WINDOW, BUT IT'S TOO LATE. BEFORE HE KNOWS IT, THEY'RE ON TOP OF HIM. THE BRUNETTE JAMS HER KNEE INTO HIS NECK AS THE BLONDE SLAPS CUFFS ON HIM.

THUG

Who the hell are you guys?

THE BLONDE

Denise Parks!

THE BRUNETTE

Veronica Grant!

THE BLONDE

And we're the Mystery Girls!

THE BRUNETTE

And we're the Mystery Girls!

THEY HI-FIVE EACH OTHER.

THE BLONDE

Mystery solved!

THE BRUNETTE

Mystery solved!

VOICE (O.C.)

Hey, you're on TV again.

CUT TO:

SCENE B

INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

WE WERE JUST WATCHING A SCENE FROM MYSTERY GIRLS, ONE OF THE HIGHEST-RATED SHOWS OF THE 90'S.

THE VOICE WE HEARD BELONGS TO MICHAEL BROOKS (40'S), WHO'S SITTING IN FRONT OF A SMALL TV IN A KITCHEN.

AT THE STOVE IS HIS WIFE, MARIA BROOKS. A.K.A. VERONICA GRANT, THE BRUNETTE FROM MYSTERY GIRLS.

MICHAEL

Man, you looked hot in the 90's.

ONE LOOK AT MARIA AND YOU CAN TELL IT'S NOT THE 90'S ANYMORE.

SHE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE WHAT SHE IS: A HOUSEWIFE LIVING IN THE SUBURBS. STILL PRETTY, BUT SPORTING A TRACKSUIT, A FEW EXTRA POUNDS, AND HAIR THAT HASN'T BEEN FLAT-IRONED IN A DECADE.

AT THE KITCHEN TABLE ARE MARIA'S TWO DAUGHTERS, DEMI (14) AND JENNY (15), BOTH TEXTING AWAY ON THEIR PHONES.

JENNY

I can't believe you used to be cool.

MARIA

Hey, your mom is still cool.

HER DAUGHTERS EXCHANGE GLANCES LIKE, "YEAH RIGHT."

DEMI

What's that blonde lady up to these

days?

MARIA

I told you, I don't like to talk about

her because she's a horrible human

being. (THEN) But I wish her well and

I'm sure she's doing great.

SMASH CUT TO:

SCENE C

INT. HOLLY'S HOUSE - COUNTINUOUS

SITTING IN FRONT OF A GIANT FLAT-SCREEN IS HOLLY HAMILTON. A.K.A. DENISE PARKS, THE BLONDE FROM MYSTERY GIRLS.

SHE'S WATCHING THE SAME SCENE FROM MYSTERY GIRLS. AND SHE'S NOT EXACTLY "DOING GREAT."

BETWEEN SOBS AND SPOONFULS OF ICE CREAM, WE HEAR OUR FIRST WORDS FROM ONE OF THE BIGGEST STARS OF THE 90'S:

HOLLY

I used to be famous!

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

SCENE D

INT. PLUSH - DAY

HOLLY SITS ALONE IN A BOOTH AT PLUSH, AN ULTRA-TRENDY ULTRA-POSH BEVERLY HILLS BISTRO. SHE'S READING A COPY OF PEOPLE MAGAZINE, OF WHICH SHE'S ON THE COVER.

ANYTIME SOMEONE PASSES, SHE SITS UP STRAIGHT AND DOES WHATEVER SHE CAN TO GET THEIR ATTENTION: MUSSES HER HAIR, STICKS HER BOOBS OUT. NO ONE BITES.

PLAN B: MUTTER SOME ATTENTION-GRABBING STUFF WHILE KEEPING THE MAGAZINE IN FRONT OF HER FACE. A WOMAN WALKS BY.

HOLLY

Omigod, is that Holly Hamilton? Star

of Mystery Girls, the biggest show of

the 90's?

NO REACTION. MAYBE THE MAN IN A SUIT THAT'S ABOUT TO WALK BY.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Oops, I forgot to put on underwear.

NOPE. MAYBE THE TWEEN GIRL THAT'S ABOUT TO WALK BY.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Ohmigod, I think I slept with Justin

Bieber last night.

FORGET A SECOND GLANCE... PEOPLE ARE WALKING BY WITHOUT EVEN TAKING A FIRST.

SHE GOES BACK TO READING HER MAGAZINE BUT IT'S IMMEDIATELY SNATCHED OUT OF HER HANDS BY NEESA JAMIL, THE OWNER OF PLUSH (50'S, PERSIAN, THINK LISA VANDERPUMP WITH A LITTLE "SHAHS OF SUNSET" MIXED IN).

NEESA LOOKS AT THE MAGAZINE.

NEESA

March 1995. Holly, you've been reading the same magazine in my restaurant for the last ten years. Let it go.

HOLLY

You let it go. And gently, because the pages are brittle and yellowing.

HOLLY GINGERLY REMOVES THE MAGAZINE FROM NEESA'S HANDS.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Which reminds me, do you think I need a teeth whitening? My episode of Hot Diggity Dive aired last night and I looked like Austin Powers.

NEESA

What's Hot Diggity Dive?

HOLLY

Celebrities compete in a hot dog eating contest and then high-dive. I threw up mid-dive.

VOICE (O.S.)

They really have a loose definition of what a celebrity is nowadays.

THIS IS <u>JAZMINE</u> (20'S, NEESA'S DAUGHTER AND A WAITRESS AT PLUSH). SHE'S GORGEOUS. FULL LIPS, LONG LEGS, GRAVITY-DEFYING BUTT AND *OMG HOLLY HATES HER BECAUSE SHE'S YOUNG AND PERFECT AND UGH UGH UGH*.

JAZMINE

Mom, we can't keep giving the best booth in the house to someone who was on Celebrity Beekeeper.

HOLLY

Excuse me, someone who won Celebrity Beekeeper.

HOLLY'S PHONE RINGS. SHE LOOKS AT IT.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Private number. This could be my perfume guy in Van Nuys. I'm developing a new fragrance.

JAZMINE

Does it reek of desperation?

HOLLY NUDGES HER GLASS OFF THE SIDE OF THE TABLE AND IT SHATTERS ON THE FLOOR.

HOLLY

Omigod, I'm so sorry, Jazmine. Be a doll and clean that up?

AS JAZMINE STORMS OFF TO GET A BROOM, HOLLY PICKS UP THE PHONE.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Holly Hamilton speaking.

SHE LISTENS FOR A BEAT, THEN PUTS HER HAND OVER THE MOUTHPIECE AND WHISPERS TO NEESA.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

It's the Beverly Hills Police Department.

(MORE)

HOLLY (CONT'D)

(THEN) I bet this is because I poured an Ice Blended over Jennifer Lawrence's head at Coffee Bean last week.

NEESA LOOKS AT HOLLY LIKE SHE'S CRAZY. HOLLY GOES BACK TO THE PHONE.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Look, tell Katniss Everdeen that the odds are not in her favor, because she cut in line and-- (BEAT, LISTENING) Oh. Okay. See you then.

HOLLY HANGS UP. JAZMINE'S BACK TO SWEEP UP THE GLASS.

NEESA

Are you in trouble?

HOLLY

Unclear. They want me to come down to the station and meet with a detective about a case.

HOLLY LOOKS OFF INTO THE DISTANCE.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

(WISTFULLY) Ah, heading down to the station. Just like the good old days.

JAZMINE

You realize you weren't a real detective, right?

HOLLY CASUALLY KNOCKS ANOTHER GLASS OFF HER TABLE IN FRONT OF JAZMINE, WHO BENDS DOWN AND SWEEPS IT UP.

HOLLY

Over one hundred episodes of solving mysteries, I might as well have been. Go ahead, give me a mystery to solve.

JAZMINE

Sorry, I don’t carry around a filing cabinet of mysteries I need solving.

NEESA

What about Sergio?

JAZMINE

Mom. No.

HOLLY

Who?

NEESA

Sergio is her boyfriend. She thinks he may be cheating on her but doesn’t know how to find out.

HOLLY’S FACE LIGHTS UP.

HOLLY

What’s his number?

JAZMINE

Why?

HOLLY READIES ANOTHER GLASS TO FALL.

JAZMINE (CONT’D)

555-4303.

HOLLY DIALS AND CALLS SERGIO.

HOLLY

(TO JAZMINE) I mean, his name is Sergio, so he's probably cheating, but I'll find out for sure-- (THEN, INTO THE PHONE) Hello? Sergio? Hey, sexy. Remember me from the other night? (BEAT) Yeah baby, that's me. (BEAT) Mmm, I can't stop thinking about it either.

HOLLY HANGS UP AND TURNS TO JAZMINE.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Is your name Destiny and did he lick chocolate syrup off your stomach at Sky Bar last Monday?

JAZMINE

No.

HOLLY

He's cheating on you. Bam. Mystery solved.

AS HOLLY GETS UP AND STRUTS OUT THE DOOR WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE E

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

A BUSY POLICE STATION. COPS MILLING ABOUT. HOLLY SAUNTERS IN, CLAD IN A SKIN-TIGHT, RED LEATHER DRESS. SHE DOESN'T TAKE TWO STEPS BEFORE A COP THROWS HER UP AGAINST A WALL.

COP

Where do you think you're going?

HOLLY

Hey!

COP

Go sit back down with the other

hookers.

THE COP POINTS TO A BENCH WHERE FIVE HANDCUFFED HOOKERS DRESSED ALMOST IDENTICALLY TO HOLLY ARE SITTING.

COP (CONT'D)

How did you get out of your cuffs?

HOLLY

Because I was never in them. I'm a

famous person who's here to see a

Detective Duane Freeman.

COP

Oh. Sorry. (THEN) He's right over

there.

THE COP POINTS TO A HANDSOME 30-SOMETHING GUY.

HOLLY WALKS OVER AND LEANS AGAINST DUANE'S DESK. HIS FACE IS BURIED IN PAPERWORK. HE LOOKS UP AND SEES HOLLY, THEN:

DUANE

Jimmy, one of your hookers got loose.

HOLLY

I'm not a hooker!

DUANE LOOKS AT HOLLY'S DRESS.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

(OFF DUANE'S LOOK) God, this is Balenciaga, not Wet Seal. (THEN) You guys called me. Holly Hamilton.

DUANE

Oh, yes. Please sit.

HOLLY SITS.

HOLLY

Look, if this is because I keyed Reese Witherspoon's car at the Bev Center last week, she deserved it. I was waiting for that spot for ten minutes and then she swooped in and--

DUANE

No, no. It's not that. (BEAT) Although we should probably talk about that later. (THEN) We need your help with a big case.

HOLLY

I knew it!

DUANE

Knew what?

HOLLY

I’m a Mystery Girl. You need my help. (CRACKS HER KNUCKLES) Okay, I’m going to need all your files on the case. And any evidence you got. Blood, fibers, semen, lay it on me. Not, like, on me, but next to me. Here, on the desk. Away from my face and hair if you can.

DUANE

I think you’re confused.

HOLLY

Impossible. But go on.

DUANE

A big time mafia boss was killed yesterday in Brentwood.

HOLLY

I’m confused.

DUANE

We have one witness, but he refuses to talk to us. He’ll only talk to a Mystery Girl.

HOLLY

And where is this human with impeccable taste?

DUANE

His name is Nick Doyle. (TO A COP

NEARBY) Can you bring out Mr. Doyle?

THE COP OPENS A DOOR AND OUT BURSTS NICK DOYLE (20'S, GAY, IF JACK FROM WILL & GRACE AND KENNETH FROM 30 ROCK HAD A KID).

HE TAKES ONE LOOK AT HOLLY AND LETS OUT A BEATLEMANIA-LEVEL SCREAM, PROMPTING ALL THE COPS TO DUCK BEHIND THEIR DESKS AND DRAW THEIR WEAPONS.

NICK

Omigod, omigod, omigod! Mystery Girl

Denise Parks! I. Love. You.

HOLLY STICKS HER HAND OUT LIKE ROYALTY. NICK OBLIGES BY KISSING IT. DUANE'S SPEECHLESS.

HOLLY

I didn't realize I had such young

fans. Were you even alive when Mystery

Girls was on?

NICK

No, I found the DVD's in a dumpster

behind a gay bar in Cincinnati when I

was 14 and I've been obsessed ever

since.

DUANE

Great. Can we start, please?

HOLLY

Hold on. (TO NICK) Favorite episode?

NICK

Oh, definitely the one where you dressed up like a lumberjack and caught the mountain man that was exposing himself to hikers.

HOLLY

I love that one! I wish I still had the fake mustache I wore, but I sold it on eBay a couple years ago.

NICK REACHES INTO HIS POCKET AND PULLS OUT A FAKE MUSTACHE.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Aaaah! No way!

NICK

Yes way! Best three dollars I ever spent.

DUANE TRIES TO GET THINGS BACK ON TRACK.

DUANE

Okay, enough. (TO NICK) Start talking.

HOLLY

(TRYING TO PLAY COP) Yeah, start talking. (THEN, TO DUANE) Can I have a gun for this?

DUANE

No.

HOLLY TURNS TO NICK AND WAITS FOR HIM TO START, BUT HE DOESN'T SAY A WORD.

NICK

The deal was for <u>both</u> Mystery Girls.

HOLLY SNORTS.

HOLLY

Yeah, right. I hate to burst your rainbow bubble, but good luck getting Maria's fat ass out here. She's probably driving her mini-van to a yarn store and--

HOLLY'S INTERRUPTED BY ANOTHER SCREAM FROM NICK (WHICH AGAIN PROMPTS ALL THE COPS TO DRAW THEIR WEAPONS AND DUCK).

NICK POINTS TO THE ENTRANCE, WHERE HOLLY SEES HER FORMER CO-STAR, CLAD IN MOM JEANS AND A SENSIBLE TOP, GLARING AT HER.

MARIA

The fat ass is here.

MARIA MARCHES OVER TO HOLLY AND THE FIREWORKS BEGIN.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I see you're still using more makeup than a geisha.

HOLLY LOOKS MARIA UP AND DOWN.

HOLLY

I see maternity jeans aren't just for pregnant women anymore.

MARIA

Nice dress. Did your pimp pick it out?

HOLLY

Ha! Real original. Already kinda heard that one today.

DUANE LOOKS ON, UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO OR SAY. MEANWHILE, NICK HAS A BIG SMILE ON HIS FACE.

NICK

The Mystery Girls, together again.

What a team!

MARIA STARES AT NICK FOR A BEAT.

MARIA

Who is this and how do I turn down his volume?

NICK

Nick Doyle. I'm your biggest fan.

HOLLY

(TO MARIA) Stick your hand out. He'll totally kiss it.

DUANE

Mrs. Brooks, Mr. Doyle witnessed a crime the other day and said he'd only give his statement to the Mystery Girls.

MARIA

Oh, good. Glad we're all living in reality. (BEAT) Well? Let's hear it.

NICK

(EXCITEDLY) Okay, so I just moved to Los Angeles last week and I was like, I obviously need to go on a Star Tour. Because I'm from Ohio and don't get me started but it's not like I'm going to see Cher at a Denny's in Ohio.

MARIA

Or any Denny’s.

NICK

So I’m on the bus and they stop so we can get off and take pictures of Katy Perry’s mailbox when I decide to go pee in some prickly bushes. Ever pee in prickly bushes? Am I rambling? I feel like I’m rambling.

HOLLY

No, sweetie. Keep going.

MARIA CLAMPS DOWN HARD ON NICK’S HAND.

NICK

Ow!

MARIA

I have two kids, a husband, and a three-hour commute back home. Get to the point.

HOLLY

(WHISPERING, TO DUANE) Bad cop.

NICK

Where was I?

MARIA

Peeing in prickly bushes.

NICK

Oh, right! (MATTER OF FACTLY) So I start peeing and then I see one guy shoot another guy in the head.

MARIA

What?!

NICK

I know, right? I've always thought, wouldn't it be great to witness a murder? Then I could give my statement to the Mystery Girls! How lucky am I?!

HOLLY

Soooo lucky.

MARIA LOOKS AT NICK AND HOLLY LIKE THEY'RE INSANE.

MARIA

What'd he look like?

NICK

Who?

MARIA

The murderer!

NICK

Oh. I didn't see his face. He had on a trench coat and a fedora though.

MARIA

Okay, so exactly like the guy McGruff the Crime Dog is pointing to on a Neighborhood Watch sign. Great.

HOLLY

(SWEETLY) Nick, honey, did you notice anything about the trench coat?

NICK

It was black.

MARIA

Details!

NICK JUMPS IN HIS SEAT.

HOLLY

Cotton or nylon?

NICK

Nylon.

HOLLY TAKES OUT HER PHONE AND STARTS TYPING AS NICK TALKS.

HOLLY

Convertible collar?

NICK

Notched collar.

HOLLY

Zipper front?

NICK

Full button and zipper front. With angled pockets at the waist.

HOLLY

Prada sport black nylon macintosh trench.

HOLLY HOLDS UP HER PHONE FOR NICK TO SEE.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Like this?

NICK

Yes! That's it!

MARIA LOOKS AT HOLLY'S PHONE.

MARIA

Retails for $1700. Probably not a lot of people buying those. (TO DUANE) Call around to some high-end stores and you may find your man.

DUANE LOOKS AT MARIA'S PHONE AND WRITES DOWN THE DETAILS.

HOLLY

Anything else?

NICK

I don't think so.

MARIA SLAPS THE BACK OF NICK'S HEAD.

NICK (CONT'D)

Ow! (THEN) Oh wait, yeah. He was wearing a wristband.

DUANE

What color?

NICK

(TO DUANE) Mystery Girls only.

MARIA PUNCHES NICK IN THE ARM.

NICK (CONT'D)

Ow! Isn't there a law against police brutality?

MARIA

I’m not the police. I’m a tired housewife. What color?

NICK

Yellow, with black stripes I think?

HOLLY

That’s the color wristband they give out at Club Cobra on Wednesday nights.

MARIA

(TO DUANE) Check the security cameras there. Talk to the staff. You know what to do.

DUANE’S IMPRESSED. THE GIRLS MAKE A GOOD TEAM.

HOLLY

Bam! Mystery Girls, mystery solved!

HOLLY PUTS HER HAND UP FOR A HI-FIVE, BUT MARIA LEAVES HER HANGING. NICK HI-FIVES HER INSTEAD, HUGE SMILE ON HIS FACE.

MARIA

We done here?

DUANE

I think so. Thank you for doing this.

AS MARIA STARTS TO GATHER HER THINGS, HOLLY’S FACE DROPS. SHE WAS HAVING A BLAST AND JUST GETTING STARTED.

HOLLY

Wait, that’s it?

MARIA

What else is there?

MARIA STARTS TO WALK OFF BUT HOLLY CALLS OUT TO HER.

HOLLY

Come have a drink with me at Plush.

MARIA STOPS TO CONSIDER THIS. THEN:

MARIA

No. The last time we were there it was 1997 and you threw a Cobb salad at Renée Zellweger.

HOLLY

I thought she was making a face at me! I hadn't seen Jerry Maguire yet. I didn't know that was just how she looked.

MARIA

I have to get home to make dinner.

HOLLY

Come on, Neesa would love to see you. Plus it's almost rush hour and you'll be in your car forever anyway.

MARIA CONSIDERS THIS, THEN STARTS TO WALK OFF AGAIN.

MARIA

No.

HOLLY

And I promise you won't have to see me for another 14 years.

MARIA STOPS IN HER TRACKS.

MARIA

Deal.

NICK SQUEALS WITH DELIGHT.

NICK

Yay! Reunion reunion reunion!

NICK STARTS TO RUN TOWARDS HOLLY AND MARIA WHEN DUANE GRABS NICK'S SHIRT AND YANKS HIM BACK DOWN INTO HIS SEAT.

DUANE

You're hanging out with me a little longer. (THEN, TO THE GIRLS) Thanks for your help, ladies.

HOLLY

Not ladies. Girls. (DRAMATICALLY) Mystery Girls.

MARIA ROLLS HER EYES.

HOLLY AND MARIA WALK THROUGH THE STATION. THEY REACH THE EXIT AND HOLLY TURNS TO ONE OF THE HOOKERS ON THE BENCH.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Excuse me, where'd you get that dress?

HOOKER

Balenciaga.

HOLLY

Dammit.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE H

INT. PLUSH - DAY

HOLLY AND MARIA SIT QUIETLY IN A BOOTH, STARING AT THEIR DRINKS. IT’S AWKWARD. HOLLY TAKES A SIP OF HER WATER.

HOLLY

Mmm. Good water.

MARIA

You already said that.

HOLLY

Oh.

MARIA PICKS UP A PIECE OF BREAD AND TAKES A BITE.

MARIA

Good--

HOLLY

Good bread. You already said that.

THEY SIT FOR A COUPLE AWKWARD BEATS. THEN, HOLLY BRIGHTENS.

HOLLY (CONT’D)

Hey, look over here for a second.

BEFORE MARIA KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING, HOLLY WHIPS OUT HER CELL AND TAKES A PICTURE OF THE TWO OF THEM.

HOLLY (CONT’D)

Selfie!

HOLLY'S BEAMING, MARIA’S FROWNING. THEY LOOK LIKE THOSE COMEDY AND TRAGEDY MASKS.

HOLLY (CONT’D)

This is going to get so much action on

Twitter. Hashtag Mystery Girls

reunion!

MARIA

My daughters can’t stop tweeting.

HOLLY

Oh right, you spawned. How are they?

MARIA

Fine. Busy with their lives. My husband’s busy, too. He sells water filtration systems. And I keep busy. I do a lot of cleaning. And cooking. Not as much now, since we just got an Olive Garden in town. Pretty excited about that.

MARIA LOOKS UP AND SEES HOLLY CLICKING AROUND ON HER PHONE.

HOLLY

Sorry, I zoned out.

MARIA

Oh, excuuuse me. How’s your exciting life? I saw you dive into your own throw up last night.

HOLLY

You wanna know what my problem is?

MARIA

There’s just one?

HOLLY

I’m an entrepreneur at heart, not an entertainer. I never got to endorse a big product.

(MORE)

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Suzanne Somers had the Thigh Master. George Foreman had his grills. Paris Hilton had her sex tape.

MARIA

What happened to your bra line on QVC?

HOLLY SHOOTS HER A LOOK.

HOLLY

You know what happened. They were defective and I had to pay for 400 nipple reconstructions. (BEAT) Including my own.

MARIA

Well, don’t give up. You’ll find your true calling one day.

HOLLY

I found it. Today. At the police station.

MARIA

Hooker?

HOLLY

Didn’t you notice how amazing we were at questioning Nick? We should be Mystery Girls again.

MARIA

Holly, we’re way too old for them to bring the show back.

HOLLY

No. Real ones.

MARIA GETS UP.

MARIA

See you in another 14 years.

SHE STARTS TO LEAVE BUT HOLLY GRABS HER ARM AND PULLS HER BACK INTO THE BOOTH.

HOLLY

This is our destiny.

MARIA

Oh please.

HOLLY

All roads have led to this.

MARIA

Stop talking like we’re in Lord of the

Rings.

HOLLY ANGRILY PUTS HER HANDS ON HER HIPS.

HOLLY

You owe me.

MARIA

I owe <u>you</u>?

HOLLY

You left the show to go have like

eighty kids--

MARIA

Two.

HOLLY

--and ruined everything.

MARIA'S EYES GO WIDE.

MARIA

I ruined everything? You said you were leaving to do a movie.

HOLLY

Well I didn't know Shannen Doherty was going to steal the role from me!

MARIA

Calm down.

HOLLY

I am calm. We're opening a detective agency. We're calling it Mystery Girls. Done.

MARIA

Do it by yourself.

HOLLY

No. I need you. We have certain skills that compliment each other. (BEAT, THEN) And I suppose if I'm being completely honest, maybe I miss the good old days. We were famous, we were friends.

MARIA

(TOUCHED) Aw, Holly. That's so--

HOLLY

I don't know why I have to convince you. This is obviously better than your boring life in suburbia.

MARIA BRISTLES AT THIS.

MARIA

It's not boring!

HOLLY

(IGNORING MARIA) All we need are our brains and an office.

MARIA

Stop talking to me like I'm a part of this.

HOLLY

We can rent one of the offices upstairs.

HOLLY SEES NEESA WALKING BY.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Hey Neesa, how much are the offices upstairs?

NEESA

Ten thousand a month.

HOLLY

Like I said, all we need are our brains.

HOLLY STANDS UP AND PUTS HER HAND OUT.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

What do you say, partner?

MARIA

I say no.

SUDDENLY, HOLLY LEAPS OVER THE BACK OF THE BOOTH AND ONTO THE FLOOR.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Um, that's a slight overreaction.

AFTER A BEAT, HOLLY'S HEAD PEEKS UP FROM BEHIND THE BOOTH.

HOLLY

No, look over there. It's the guy.

HOLLY POINTS TO THE ENTRANCE WHERE A SKETCHY LOOKING MAN WEARING A BLACK TRENCH COAT AND FEDORA HAS ENTERED. HE'S CARRYING A SHOPPING BAG.

THE SKETCHY GUY GETS SEATED A COUPLE BOOTHS DOWN FROM HOLLY AND MARIA.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Omigod omigod omigod.

MARIA LOOKS BACK AT HOLLY, WHO'S STILL CROUCHING BEHIND THE BOOTH.

MARIA

Relax. I'm sure that's not him.

HOLLY

No, not that. (HOLDS HER PHONE UP) Our

selfie already has 4,000 retweets.

MARIA IGNORES HOLLY AND STARES AT THE SKETCHY GUY.

MARIA

I'm positive that's not him. (BEAT)

But let's make sure.

SMASH CUT TO:

SCENE J

INT. PLUSH - MOMENTS LATER

HOLLY'S HIDING BEHIND A PLANT IN THE CORNER OF THE RESTAURANT. NEESA STANDS NEXT TO MARIA, WHO'S DRESSED AS A PLUSH WAITRESS.

NEESA

You look just like one of the girls.

HOLLY

Give or take a few decades.

MARIA AND NEESA BOTH SHOOT HOLLY A LOOK.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

(INNOCENTLY) What? I always had zippy one-liners on Mystery Girls.

MARIA

This is not Mystery Girls. (THEN) I'm going to go over and pretend to be his waiter. Ask some leading questions. Investigate a little.

HOLLY

This actually sounds exactly like Mystery Girls.

MARIA

Are you finished?

HOLLY

Yes. Sorry. I'll stay behind this plant and jump out and cuff him if I think it's him.

MARIA

You have handcuffs on you?

HOLLY ROOTS AROUND HER PURSE AND PULLS OUT A PAIR OF FUZZY PINK HANDCUFFS.

HOLLY

Always be prepared.

MARIA

For what, soft core sex scenes?

HOLLY SHRUGS.

MARIA STARTS TO HEAD OVER AS HOLLY CIRCLES AROUND BEHIND THE BOOTH, CARRYING THE PLANT IN FRONT OF HER, SCOOBY DOO-STYLE. MARIA GIVES HOLLY A “WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?” LOOK.

MARIA (CONT’D)

I thought you said you were going to

stay behind the plant?

HOLLY

I am. (BEAT) Technically.

MARIA FINALLY MAKES IT OVER TO THE SKETCHY LOOKING GUY.

MARIA

Hi there, can I start you off with a

drink?

SKETCHY LOOKING GUY

I’ll have a red wine. Anything

Italian.

HOLLY

(MUFFLED, FROM BEHIND THE PLANT)

Italian, like the mafia.

SKETCHY LOOKING GUY

What?

MARIA

I didn’t hear anything.

MARIA PICKS UP A FORK AND THROWS IT AT THE PLANT.

HOLLY

(MUFFLED) Ow!

MARIA

Nice jacket. You’d be the best dressed

guy at Club Cobra in that.

SKETCHY LOOKING GUY

Oh, I love that place.

THE PLANT RUSTLES BEHIND THE BOOTH.

MARIA

(TOWARDS THE PLANT) No!

THE SKETCHY GUY LOOKS AT MARIA LIKE SHE’S NUTS. SHE THEN REACHES OUT TO FEEL THE JACKET.

MARIA (CONT’D)

Gucci?

SKETCHY LOOKING GUY

Prada.

NOT ONE SECOND AFTER THE GUY SAYS “PRADA,” HOLLY JUMPS OUT FROM BEHIND THE PLANT AND CHARGES AT HIM. SHE SLAPS ONE CUFF ONTO HIS WRIST AND ONE ONTO HERS.

SKETCHY LOOKING GUY (CONT’D)

What the hell?!

MARIA

Holly, what are you doing?

HOLLY

This is him!

MARIA

We don’t know that!

AS THE GIRLS ARGUE, THE SKETCHY GUY GRABS HIS SHOPPING BAG AND LEAPS OUT OF THE BOOTH, DRAGGING HOLLY WITH HIM SINCE THEY'RE STILL HANDCUFFED.

HOLLY

He’s running because he’s guilty!

MARIA STICKS HER LEG OUT AND TRIPS HIM. HE FALLS TO THE GROUND WHERE HOLLY AND MARIA JUMP ON TOP OF HIM AND HOLD HIM DOWN.

SKETCHY LOOKING GUY

Who are you guys?

HOLLY

We’re the Mystery Girls!

MARIA

No we’re not.

HOLLY PATS THE GUY DOWN, THEN OPENS HIS SHOPPING BAG AND RIFLES THROUGH IT, PULLING A BUNCH OF CLOTHING AND JEWELRY OUT. MARIA INSPECTS THE ITEMS.

MARIA (CONT’D)

All the alarms and tags are still on this stuff.

HOLLY

Dammit, he’s just a shoplifter. (THEN, TO THE SKETCHY GUY) We were hoping you were a murderer.

SHE TAKES HER KNEE OFF THE GUY'S BACK AND UNCUFFS HIM.

HOLLY (CONT’D)

Go on now. Git.

HE GETS UP AND STARTS TO CASUALLY WALK AWAY WHEN MARIA TRIPS AND TACKLES HIM AGAIN.

MARIA

(TO HOLLY) What are you doing? There's thousands of dollars worth of stuff in here. We still caught a bad guy!

HOLLY

Oh snap, you're right!

AMIDST ALL THE CHAOS, A PAPARAZZO RUNS INTO THE RESTAURANT. HE AIMS HIS DV CAM TOWARDS THE GIRLS.

PAPARAZZO

I'm from TMZ. What's going on here?

MARIA PUTS HER HAND IN FRONT OF HER FACE, ANNOYED AT THE ATTENTION. MEANWHILE, HOLLY LIGHTS UP. SHE POSES NEXT TO THE SKETCHY GUY LIKE A BIG GAME HUNTER WITH HER TROPHY.

HOLLY

Mystery Girls! Mystery solved!

SHE LOOKS FOR A HI-FIVE FROM MARIA, WHO ONCE AGAIN LEAVES HER HANGING.

MARIA

How did TMZ get here so quickly?

MARIA LOOKS UP AT NEESA, WHO'S STANDING BEHIND THE GIRLS, PHONE IN HAND.

NEESA

I called them as soon as you told me your plan. (OFF MARIA'S DISAPPROVING LOOK) What? I get fifty bucks per tip.

HOLLY LEANS IN AND PUTS HER ARM AROUND MARIA.

HOLLY

Smile!

CUT TO:

SCENE K

INT. PLUSH - LATER

HOLLY AND MARIA SIT IN A BOOTH. DUANE SITS NEXT TO THEM, WRITING IN A NOTEBOOK.

HOLLY

Do we get a reward?

DUANE

Well, we're not in the Old West, so no.

HE FINISHES WRITING AND CLOSES THE NOTEBOOK.

DUANE (CONT'D)

Thanks for your statements. I think I have it all.

MARIA

Is there anything else you need from us?

DUANE

Yes. Leave this kind of stuff to the professionals.

HOLLY

How about medals? Do we get medals?

DUANE

You caught a shoplifter. You didn't win a decathlon.

HOLLY

A certificate of participation?

DUANE

I have to go.

DUANE GATHERS HIS THINGS AND STANDS.

DUANE (CONT'D)

Ladies, it was a pleasure.

HOLLY

Can I have my handcuffs back?

DUANE REACHES INTO HIS JACKET POCKET AND REMOVES A PLASTIC BAG CONTAINING HOLLY'S FUZZY PINK CUFFS.

DUANE

Sorry. These are evidence now.

AS DUANE WALKS OFF, AN IRRITATED HOLLY TURNS TO MARIA.

HOLLY

Jeez, who's the thief now?

DUANE

(OVER HIS SHOULDER) I heard that.

HOLLY

Good!

HOLLY AND MARIA WATCH AS DUANE EXITS.

MARIA

You guys would make a cute couple.

HOLLY

Oh please, like I'd ever date a cop.

(THEN) So, back to our original

conversation...

MARIA

The answer's definitely "no" now. We

just assaulted a guy and accused him

of being a murderer.

HOLLY SHRUGS.

HOLLY

We’re just rusty. Like you said, we still figured out he was a bad guy.

MARIA SHAKES HER HEAD.

MARIA

No. This is crazy. You’re a loose cannon. Plus, you’re doing it for the wrong reasons. It’s nothing but a desperate bid for attention. Like how you would always go braless during our chase scenes.

HOLLY

You know I can’t run in a bra. I chafe.

MARIA GATHERS HER THINGS AND STANDS UP.

MARIA

I’m leaving.

HOLLY

Fine, go back to Boringtown!

MARIA

It’s BoringTON!

HOLLY

Wait, your town name actually has “boring” in it? I was kidding.

MARIA STORMS OFF, LEAVING HOLLY ALONE IN HER BOOTH. AS MARIA HEADS FOR THE EXIT, SHE BUMPS INTO JAZMINE.

JAZMINE

Oh my god, are you Veronica Grant from

Mystery Girls?

MARIA

Yes.

JAZMINE

Wow, you look so old and haggard.

MARIA GRABS A GLASS OF WINE FROM A NEARBY TABLE AND POURS IT OVER JAZMINE'S HEAD, THEN EXITS.

HOLLY

I want to hate her, but then she does

stuff like that.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SCENE L

INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

BACK AT HOME, IN HER KITCHEN, MARIA STIRS A POT AT THE STOVE AS HER TWO DAUGHTERS ENTER.

MARIA

How was your day?

DEMI

Crazy. Everyone at school is talking about what a badass you are.

MARIA

Really?

JENNY

Yeah, it's pretty awesome.

TOUCHED, MARIA SMILES.

MARIA

How about you guys set the table for dinner.

DEMI

Dad actually just gave us money to go out and get pizza with some friends.

MARIA

Oh. Well, have fun.

MARIA'S HUSBAND MICHAEL WALKS IN AS THE GIRLS EXIT. MARIA OPENS THE FRIDGE AND PEEKS IN.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Honey, do you want ranch or Thousand

Island?

MICHAEL STRIDES UP BEHIND HER AND PUTS HIS ARMS AROUND HER. MARIA YELPS IN SURPRISE.

MICHAEL

I want you. Dinner can wait. Why don't

we go upstairs and pretend I'm a bad

guy?

MARIA

Oh, you're definitely bad.

OFF MARIA'S PLEASANTLY SURPRISED EXPRESSION WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE M

INT. MYSTERY GIRLS OFFICE - DAY

A BEAUTIFUL OFFICE SPACE. GORGEOUS FURNITURE, ART ON THE WALLS, TOPS OF PALM TREES CAN BE SEEN THROUGH THE HUGE WINDOWS. IT LOOKS LIKE SOHO HOUSE.

HOLLY SITS ALONE AT A DESK. BEHIND HER, A MAINTENANCE GUY INSTALLS THE LETTERS FOR A SIGN THAT READS “MYSTERY GIRL DETECTIVE AGENCY.”

HE STARTS TO PUT AN “S” AT THE END OF “GIRL” BUT HOLLY TURNS AND SLAPS IT OUT OF HIS HAND.

MAINTENANCE GUY

Ow!

HOLLY

No “S.”

THE GUY PICKS UP HIS DRILL AND BEGINS TIGHTENING THE SCREWS ON THE OTHER LETTERS.

HOLLY STARES AT THE PHONE AND IS ALMOST KNOCKED OUT OF HER CHAIR WITH SURPRISE WHEN IT RINGS.

SHE SLAPS THE DRILL OUT OF THE MAINTENANCE GUY'S HAND.

MAINTENANCE GUY

Ow!

HOLLY

Shush, stop drilling.

MAINTENANCE GUY

Stop slapping my hand!

HOLLY PICKS UP THE PHONE.

HOLLY

Mystery Girl. (BUMMED) Oh, hi Neesa.

(BEAT) No, I thought it was a client.

It’s been two weeks and no one calls

except people looking for phone sex.

(MORE)

HOLLY (CONT'D)

(BEAT) I don’t know, the flyers I hung up around town say “Mystery Girl: Give Me Anything Hard And I’ll Handle It.” I feel like they couldn’t be more clear. (THEN) A visitor? Okay, be right down.

HOLLY HANGS UP. AS SHE STARTS TO LEAVE, THE PHONE RINGS AGAIN. SHE PICKS UP.

HOLLY (CONT’D)

Mystery Girl. (BEAT) No, I don’t need a spanking!

SHE HANGS UP AND EXITS.

CUT TO:

SCENE P

INT. PLUSH - MOMENTS LATER

HOLLY ENTERS AND WALKS TOWARDS HER USUAL BOOTH. NEESA'S SITTING THERE... WITH MARIA. MARIA LOOKS LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON. NICE CLOTHES, HAIR DONE, TOTALLY REJUVENATED.

HOLLY

Nope.

HOLLY SPINS AROUND AND WALKS BACK TOWARDS THE EXIT.

NEESA

Holly Hamilton, you come back here

right now.

HOLLY WALKS BACK LIKE A KID THAT'S JUST BEEN YELLED AT BY A PARENT.

NEESA (CONT'D)

Sit.

HOLLY OBEYS AND TAKES A SEAT. WE CAN TELL NEESA'S THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN GET HOLLY TO BEHAVE.

NEESA (CONT'D)

Speak.

HOLLY

Stop giving me dog commands!

NEESA STANDS UP.

NEESA

You two had something special once.

Work it out.

NEESA EXITS, LEAVING HOLLY AND MARIA ALONE.

MARIA

So. How's Mystery Girls?

HOLLY

Girl.

MARIA

What?

HOLLY

It's Mystery Girl because there's only one girl. (BEAT) Why are you here?

MARIA

I was just in the neighborhood. Thought I'd say hello.

HOLLY

You live three hours away. Why are you "in the neighborhood"?

MARIA

I was craving frozen yogurt from that place on Robertson.

HOLLY BRIGHTENS.

HOLLY

Omigod, did you get the pecan praline?

MARIA

Pumpkin spice.

HOLLY

So good! By the way, they totally lie about how many calories are in it, but who cares.

MARIA

Obviously not me.

THEY SHARE A LAUGH, THEN HOLLY REMEMBERS SHE'S MAD AT MARIA. HER YOGURT-INDUCED CHEERY DISPOSITION FADES.

HOLLY

Well. Good yogurt talk. Guess you should get going.

MARIA

Yes. See you around.

MARIA SLOWLY GATHERS HER THINGS AND HEADS FOR THE DOOR.

HOLLY

You're a terrible liar.

MARIA

What?

HOLLY

I know why you're in the neighborhood, and it's not for frozen yogurt. (BEAT) Even though the mint chip is better than 82% of the sex I've had in my life. (THEN) Why don't you just admit why you're here.

MARIA SIGHS. SHE TURNS AND SITS BACK DOWN IN THE BOOTH.

MARIA

Look, I have two teenage daughters who used to think their mom was lame, because that's what teenage daughters do. But since the photo of us taking down that guy went viral, they've thought of me as the coolest mom in the world. Like I'm a superstar.

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

So has my husband. And it feels amazing. They told me I should go for it. So I'm going for it.

HOLLY CONSIDERS WHAT MARIA JUST SAID.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Plus, you're right. We're all bored in the suburbs and want to move to Los Angeles.

HOLLY

Ha! I knew it! I'm a genius.

MARIA GLARES AT HOLLY AND SLAPS HER ARM.

MARIA

Don't gloat, jerk.

HOLLY

I can't help it. Gloating is literally my favorite thing to do.

MARIA

What's been your plan so far?

HOLLY SHRUGS.

HOLLY

I don't know, be hot and solve mysteries?

MARIA

Well, I was thinking we'd need an assistant.

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

No one’s going to take us seriously if we’re the ones picking up the phone. I took the liberty of placing an ad on Craigslist.

HOLLY

For what, a sex predator?

MARIA

For an assistant! Jeez, it’ll be fine. We have a bunch of interviews scheduled in a couple hours.

HOLLY

Excellent.

HOLLY STANDS UP.

MARIA

Where are you going?

HOLLY

Duane wanted me to stop by the station today. Maybe he changed his mind about giving us medals for catching that guy. You might as well come.

MARIA

Gee, thanks.

CUT TO:

SCENE R

INT. POLICE STATION - LATER

HOLLY AND MARIA ENTER THE STATION. ONCE AGAIN, HOLLY TAKES TWO STEPS AND IS THROWN AGAINST THE WALL AND MISTAKEN FOR A PROSTITUTE.

COP

Oh, you again. Sorry.

HOLLY

Okay, my dresses are not that slutty!

THE COP RELEASES HOLLY AND THE GIRLS WALK TOWARDS DUANE. THEY'RE ALL SMILES, BUT DUANE'S ALL BUSINESS.

DUANE

Where are the diamond necklaces?

HOLLY

What?

DUANE

Among the items the guy stole were two diamond necklaces worth thousands of dollars. There were no necklaces in the bag.

MARIA

Are you accusing us of stealing? We tackled him and were flying around on the floor. They probably fell out and someone picked them up.

DUANE

Sorry, I just had to ask. I didn't mean to offend you guys.

HOLLY PLAYFULLY JABS HER FINGER INTO DUANE'S CHEST.

HOLLY

Well offense taken, tough guy.

DUANE HAS NO IDEA WHAT TO MAKE OF HOLLY.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Oh, by the way, we opened up our own detective agency.

HOLLY HANDS HIM A CARD.

DUANE

(READING CARD) Mystery Girl: Give Me Anything Hard And I'll Handle It.

DUANE AND MARIA LOOK AT HOLLY LIKE "ARE YOU KIDDING?"

HOLLY

What?

DUANE

I think you have to work on your tagline.

MARIA

I agree.

HOLLY

Oh shut up, brownnoser.

MARIA

Don't tell me to shut up or I'll smack you.

HOLLY

Smack me and see what happens.

MARIA

Your facelift will drop?

HOLLY

It’s not a facelift! Just some light injectables. I can still frown. Watch.

HOLLY STARES AT MARIA AND DUANE. HER FACE HASN’T CHANGED.

MARIA

Are you trying to frown?

HOLLY

Yes.

DUANE

I have a lot of work to get back to.

MARIA

We’ll get going.

MARIA GRABS HOLLY. THEY TURN TO LEAVE, BUT HOLLY STOPS.

HOLLY

What happened with the original murder case we came in for?

DUANE

Still unsolved. Maybe I’ll get you and Nick Doyle together again.

MARIA

Don’t. Unless you want to wind up with another murder on your hands.

DUANE LAUGHS FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND OFF THAT WE...

CUT TO:

SCENE S

INT. MYSTERY GIRLS OFFICE - HALLYWAY - LATER

HOLLY AND MARIA WALK TOWARDS THEIR OFFICE.

HOLLY

I can't believe you made him laugh.

MARIA

Jealous?

HOLLY

No. (THEN) Yes. I'm supposed to be the funny one.

MARIA

Aw, I think someone has a crush.

HOLLY

You can't tell, but I'm frowning at you right now.

MARIA

Whoa!

THEY TURN THE CORNER AND MARIA CAN'T BELIEVE HER EYES. THERE ARE OVER 50 PEOPLE LINING THE HALLWAY, HOLDING THEIR RESUMES.

HOLLY

Omigod, people love us!

MARIA TURNS TO EVERYONE IN LINE.

MARIA

Thank you all for coming. We just have to get settled and we'll be with you in a minute.

HOLLY

If you have something you want autographed, please have it out when you walk in.

MARIA GRABS HOLLY’S ARM AND DRAGS HER INTO THE OFFICE.

CUT TO:

SCENE T

INT. MYSTERY GIRLS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

ONE LOOK AT THE OFFICE AND MARIA'S MOUTH DROPS TO THE GROUND. SHE'S BLOWN AWAY BY HOW AMAZING IT LOOKS.

MARIA

How can you afford all this?

HOLLY

I was smart with my Mystery Girls money.

MARIA

Yeah, right. That’s why you were on Celebrity Amish last year.

HOLLY

Well, if you must know, I recently inherited some jewelry.

MARIA

What?

HOLLY

What?

MARIA

Holly. Did you steal those diamond necklaces Duane mentioned?

HOLLY

Yes. No. Just kidding. My uncle died and left me some jewelry. Or did he? I don’t know. Do I even have an uncle? Unclear. Let’s drop it.

MARIA LOOKS AT HOLLY LIKE SHE'S INSANE.

HOLLY (CONT'D)

Let's start some of these interviews.

MARIA POKES HER HEAD OUT INTO THE HALLWAY AND SEES THAT IT'S NOW COMPLETELY EMPTY.

MARIA

What the heck?

HOLLY

What?

MARIA

Everyone's gone.

HOLLY

Why would all those people just go

away?

VOICE (O.S.)

Because I told them the job was

already filled!

MARIA

Oh god no.

JUST THEN, NICK THE SUPER FAN STORMS INTO THE ROOM WITH A BOX OF HIS BELONGINGS IN HIS ARMS.

NICK

Where's my desk?

MARIA

In your home.

HOLLY

Oh come on, I'm fine with it. He knows

every one of our episodes by heart.

(MORE)

HOLLY (CONT'D)

He’s basically a third Mystery Girl.

(BEAT) And he thinks we’re fabulous.

MARIA STEWS FOR A COUPLE BEATS, THEN...

MARIA

We need to conduct a proper interview.

CUT TO:

SCENE U

INT. MYSTERY GIRLS OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

HOLLY AND MARIA SIT ACROSS FROM NICK. HOLLY AND NICK LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BEEN HAVING A BLAST, AND MARIA LOOKS LIKE SHE JUST RAN A MARATHON.

HOLLY

Okay, but which of my season 3 outfits was your second favorite--

MARIA

Okay, enough! I want to ask some real questions.

NICK

Hit me.

MARIA

Do you have experience manning phones?

NICK TAKES OUT HIS CELL.

NICK

(MIMES ANSWERING HIS PHONE) Hello? Nick speaking.

MARIA

That's not what I--

HOLLY

My turn. What's your favorite kind of sushi?

MARIA

No, no, no! I'm not done yet. (BEAT) Have you ever been fired from any jobs?

NICK

Yeah, tons. (THEN, TO HOLLY) Spicy salmon.

MARIA

I will not approve this hire.

NICK

Oh come on! Please? I was going to go back to Ohio after the murder. But then I met you guys, and it was so exciting and thrilling and electrifying and titillating and--

MARIA

We get it.

NICK

--and I realized: why run back home when I can help the Mystery Girls clean up this city?

HOLLY

Approved.

NICK

Thanks!

NICK GRABS HIS BOX OF STUFF AND RUNS OVER TO AN EMPTY DESK. THEN, THE PHONE RINGS.

NICK (CONT'D)

Oooh, my first call!

HOLLY

Be careful. People think this is a phone sex line.

NICK PICKS UP.

NICK

Hello? (BEAT) Yes, I'd love a

spanking!

AS NICK KEEPS TALKING TO WHOEVER'S ON THE OTHER END, MARIA WALKS TO HER DESK AND COLLAPSES INTO HER CHAIR.

MARIA

I reserve the right to fire him.

HOLLY

You can't. We like the same sushi

rolls. It's meant to be.

MARIA

I just don't understand how he'll

become a valued member of this team.

NICK HANGS UP AND HOLDS A PIECE OF PAPER IN THE AIR.

NICK

Got our first case!

HE WALKS OVER TO THE GIRLS.

MARIA

I thought that was just someone

looking for phone sex?

NICK

Yeah, it was, but then I asked him if

he was calling because he was lonely.

Turns out someone stole his dog. A

prized show pug. I told him we'd find

it for $3,000.

HOLLY CROSSES HER ARMS AND STARES AT MARIA. VALIDATED.

HOLLY

Thank you, Nick. You truly are a

valued member of this team.

MARIA SIGHS. IT'S ONLY DAY 1 AND SHE'S ALREADY OUTNUMBERED.

AS NICK GLEEFULLY UNPACKS, MARIA POINTS TO THE “MYSTERY GIRL” SIGN ON THE WALL.

MARIA

Now that I’m here, I think we should

add an “S” to that sign, don’t you?

HOLLY

Well, I mean, I’m kind of the face of

the brand. And people are probably

already used to it just being GIRL, so

we should probably leave it. I don’t

want to confuse the public.

MARIA

Add an “S.” Now.

HOLLY

Fine.

HOLLY MELODRAMATICALLY OPENS HER DRAWER, TAKES OUT THE “S” AND TAPES IT ONTO THE WALL. MARIA SMILES, BUT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THE “S” LOOSENS AND <u>CRASHES TO THE GROUND</u>, SPLITTING IN TWO.

HOLLY LOOKS TO MARIA.

HOLLY (CONT’D)

We’ll get that fixed.

<u>THE END</u>