YOUNG & HUNGRY

"Pilot"

Written

by

David Holden

2nd REVISED NETWORK DRAFT
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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

ESTABLISHING SHOT - DAY

A COOL, MODERN HOUSE OVERLOOKS THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE.

INT. NICK'S HOUSE - FOYER

THE DOORBELL RINGS AND ESMERELDA, A FIFTY-SOMETHING HISPANIC MAID, OPENS THE DOOR TO GABI, 25, PRETTY AND DELIGHTFULLY OUTRAGEOUS, DRESSED IN A MINI-SKIRT, VINTAGE WONDER WOMAN T-SHIRT, LEATHER JACKET AND HEELS. IT'S THROWN TOGETHER BUT LOOKS PERFECT ON HER.

GABI

Hi, I'm Gabi Diamond. I'm here to

interview for the chef position.

ESMERELDA

You have to use the service entrance.

I'm sorry.

SHE CLOSES THE DOOR ON GABI.

INT. NICK'S HOUSE - ANOTHER DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

THERE'S A KNOCK AND ESMERELDA OPENS THE DOOR TO FIND GABI.

ESMERELDA

This is not the service entrance.

GABI

Have a heart. I got on five inch heels.

ESMERELDA

I'm sorry.

SHE CLOSES THE DOOR ON GABI.

INT. NICK'S HOUSE - SERVICE ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

THERE'S A KNOCK AND ESMERELDA OPENS THE DOOR TO FIND GABI.

GABI

Is this it? Or is there a shuttle bus

I need to take.

ESMERELDA GESTURES HER IN.

GABI (CONT'D)

Finally. Thank you! (SEES A BATHROOM)

Can I use the bathroom real quick?

ESMERELDA

It's for employees only. I'm sorry.

GABI ROLLS HER EYES AND FOLLOWS ESMERELDA.

INT. NICK'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

THIS IS A MODERN, SLEEK, BACHELOR PAD WITH AN OPEN CONCEPT LIVING SPACE. VERY DWELL MAGAZINE. THE LIVING ROOM LOOKS OUT ONTO THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE. ESMERELDA LEADS GABI IN.

GABI

Yabba-dabba! This view is amazing.

Look at the Golden Gate bridge. You're

so close you can see the jumpers.

ELLIOT (O.S.)

Hey, there.

GABI TURNS TO SEE ELLIOT, A HIGH STRUNG, SHORT, METRO-SEXUAL GUY IN HIS 40'S WALKING A HOITY-TOIDY CHEF TO THE FRONT DOOR.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

I'm just finishing up with another

applicant. I'll be right with you.

GABI STANDS OFF TO THE SIDE, LISTENING TO ELLIOT AND THE CHEF FINISH THEIR CONVERSATION.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

(TO CHEF) So you know Gordon Ramsey.

CHEF

I opened his Manhattan restaurant. Oh, and here's a copy of my certificate in molecular gastronomy from Cordon Bleu.

GABI MIMICS THE CHEF UNDER HER BREATH AND ROLLS HER EYES.

ELLIOT

Impressive. You'll be hearing from us soon. Possibly on the way to your car.

THE CHEF EXITS AND ELLIOT CHUCKLES AS HE TURNS TO GABI.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

Well, meeting someone else seems unnecessary, but you're already here. You must be Gabi.

GABI

Yes, I am! (TRIPS ON OTTOMAN) Whoops! (BOUNCES BACK UP) And I'm up. (AS IF IT DIDN'T HAPPEN) Hey, Nick.

ELLIOT

I'm not Nick. I'm Elliot, Nick's publicist-slash-right-hand-man.

ESMERELDA

Slash personal butt kisser.

ELLIOT

Don't you have a toilet to plunge? (TO GABI) So, as you may know, Nick is a self-made millionaire known for creating cutting-edge financial websites.

(MORE)

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

And thanks to me, one of San Francisco's most talked about entrepreneurs.

GABI

I know. I read about him in People magazine while I was standing in line at Seven-Eleven.

ELLIOT

I was responsible for that article.

GABI

Wow-za.

ELLIOT

(SMUGLY) It's what I do. (THEN) Nick is constantly entertaining. He hosts business lunches, dinner parties, pool soirees. You name it, he does it.

GABI

Celebrity hide'n seek... Spin the Courvoisier bottle. I get it.

GABI SNORTS, SEES ELLIOT ISN'T LAUGHING AND STOPS.

ELLIOT

Yes, well... here's the kitchen.

ELLIOT CLICKS A REMOTE CONTROL, AND LIGHTS TURN ON REVEALING AN AMAZING KITCHEN. GABI'S BLOWN AWAY.

GABI

Oh, my god! It's gorge!

SHE CROSSES INTO THE KITCHEN, MESMERIZED. ELLIOT FOLLOWS HER.

GABI (CONT'D)

Last time I saw this much stainless steal I was getting a pap smear.

ELLIOT

(GRIMACES) Pantry's to the left of the Warhol.

GABI WALKS PAST AN ENORMOUS WARHOL AND SEES A BIG SPICE RACK.

GABI

Is that the spice rack? (IT LIGHTS UP AND SPINS) Or the barber pole in flavor town?

ELLIOT

Please don't touch anything.

GABI

(OFF SPICES) Eight ounces of Indian Kashmiri saffron! That's more expensive than cocaine... (OFF ELLIOT'S LOOK) I read.

ELLIOT

Let's move on to your resumé. (READS) Cooking school in England. Not known for its food. (SUSPICIOUS) And all the restaurants you list start with "Chez des" something. Makes me think your resumé's a little "shay-day." Are you currently employed?

GABI

Yes. I actually have three jobs. I work at an organic fruit stand, have my own food blog with almost a thousand followers, and I'm a chef at a little underground place in The Mission.

ELLIOT

Let me guess, you cook out of your apartment?

GABI

To rave reviews. You should come, I'll get you the best seat in my living room.

ESMERELDA

(CROSSES THROUGH) I hope it's an ottoman so his feet can touch the floor.

ELLIOT

Quiet, El Pollo Loco. Gabi, we're not looking for amateurs. We need someone with experience working in, how do I put this, <u>real</u> places. Outcha go.

ELLIOT STARTS TO LEAD GABI OUT WHEN <u>NICK</u>, A CUTE, LATE 20'S DOT COM WIZ WITH A CHILD-LIKE CHARM (THINK SKYLAR ASTIN) WALKS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR, WEARING HIS TRADEMARK T-SHIRT AND HOODIE WITH TOP OF THE LINE NIKES AND JEANS. HE'S CARRYING A GARMENT BAG, COMPUTER BAG AND COPY OF WIRED.

NICK

What's up, guys? I'm home.

ESMERELDA RUNS OVER TO TAKE HIS BAG.

ESMERELDA ELLIOT

Welcome back, Mr. Nick. How was your trip?

NICK (CONT'D)

China was awe-some! Only problem is you open a business there and an hour later you want to open up another one.

ELLIOT

(LAUGHS) I'm glad it was a success.

NICK

Even my karaoke was a hit. I sang that song "Daylight" so well they thought I was Adam Levine.

ELLIOT

Converting the fifth bedroom into a karaoke lounge really paid off.

NICK

I'm exhausted, happy to be home and starving!

NICK'S CELL PHONE RINGS. HE ANSWERS IT.

NICK (CONT'D)

(INTO PHONE) Yeah... sounds like the source code's corrupt. You gotta zero out the primary variable and run a function test. Great, thanks. (HANGS UP, ROLLS EYES) Work. (LOOKS OUT WINDOW) Whose hideous grey clunker is parked in my driveway?

GABI STEPS OUT FROM THE KITCHEN.

GABI

That's mine. My Mercedes is in the shop. Literally. I haven't bought it yet.

NICK

Elliot... who's this?

ELLIOT

(WALKING HER TO DOOR) Someone who's--

GABI

(BREAKS AWAY) Hopefully your new chef!

ELLIOT

Emphasis on hopefully. She doesn't hold a candle to the chef we're going to hire. Whom I'll tell you all about when she leaves. Which is now, if her car will start.

ELLIOT HOLDS THE DOOR OPEN, BUT GABI WALKS TOWARDS NICK.

GABI

I'm sorry, I cannot leave a man who has declared himself hungry. I took an oath. Let me make you something.

NICK

I don't even know what I want.

GABI

I do! It's one of my superpowers. I can tell what people want to eat.

INTERNAL TIME CUT TO:

GABI PLACES A GRILLED CHEESE AND A CUP OF TOMATO SOUP IN FRONT OF NICK. ELLIOT LOOKS ON, HORRIFIED.

ELLIOT

Grilled cheese and tomato soup?!

NICK

This looks fantastic! (THEN) Can you--

GABI

--cut the crusts off. Absolutely.

GABI CUTS OFF THE CRUSTS.

NICK

(TAKES A BITE) Mmmm, soooo ooey-gooey.

Hashtag BestSuperPowerEver.

GABI

The trick is a hot cast iron pan, lots of butter and flip three times. Don't tell anyone or I'll have to kill you.

NICK

You're hired!

ELLIOT

But you haven't looked at her resumé!

She's a total amateur.

NICK

I'm goin' with my gut on this. And my gut is loving it!

ELLIOT

Fine. I won't say another word. (BEAT)

At least have her make a trial dinner!

GABI

Go ahead! I'm not afraid of a trial.

Cause I'm innocent and my food's delish!

GABI SNORT LAUGHS AGAIN AND HER GUM FLIES OUT OF HER MOUTH.

GABI (CONT'D)

Five second rule.

SHE GRABS HER GUM AND POPS IT BACK IN HER MOUTH.

GABI (CONT'D)

So what do you want me to make?

NICK

Have you ever been proposed to?

GABI

No. Always the-bridesmaid-getting-drunk-hitting-on-waitstaff-and-waking-up-in-coatcheck, never the bride.

NICK

Well, I'm proposing to my girlfriend Friday. We've only been going out for four months... But I already know she's perfect for me. She's cultured, drop dead gorgeous and I'm <u>never</u> going to do better. I want a dinner that'll put her in the mood to say yes.

GABI

Done! I know exactly what girls like her love to eat.

ELLIOT

Really? You've never even met her.

GABI

She's an elegant, green-eyed brunette who's used to the finer things in life.

ELLIOT

How did you--

GABI

All part of my superpowers.

NICK

Orrr you're looking at the picture behind me.

GABI

Or that! Regardless, I'm gonna knock this meal out of the park for you. Now I'm gonna get back into my horrible gray clunker and start prepping for the big night. (PASSING ESMERELDA ON WAY TO DOOR) And since I now work here I'm gonna use the service entrance.

NICK

We don't have a service entrance.

GABI GIVES ESMERELDA THE STANK EYE.

ESMERELDA

(DEVIOUS SMILE) I'm sorry.

FADE OUT:

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

CLOSE-UP ON GABI LOOKING DIRECTLY INTO THE CAMERA.

GABI

Welcome back to “Young and Hungry,” I’m Gabi Diamond. These are the ingredients for pear chutney, which we’re going to start by caramelizing. First, turn on the broiler, the G-spot of the kitchen. It's hard to find, but once you do, things get a lot more fun.

SOMEONE CLEARS THEIR THROAT AND WE PULL BACK TO REVEAL WE’RE IN...

INT. GABI AND TESSA’S APARTMENT - KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - LATER

...A SMALL, CRAPPY KITCHEN. GABI TURNS TO SEE TESSA, 25, A CUTE, BOSSY, CHUBBY BLACK WOMAN, STARING AT HER.

TESSA

Are you pretending you have your own cooking show again?

GABI

Not pretending. Practicing for when it really happens. One day I’m going to have my own show, cookbooks, a big house and a husband to curl up and watch Julia Child with! And I’m closer than ever, because guess what?

TESSA

You got the job?!

GABI

Yes, in an almosty kind of way. I got a trial dinner and if that goes well... I get the job!

TESSA

And I get a boyfriend!

THEY HUG AND JUMP UP AND DOWN.

GABI

(PULLS AWAY FROM HUG) Wait, what?

TESSA

You know a rich eligible bachelor like Nick Kaminski has party after party where there's tons of cuties.

GABI

He has a big pool party on the books for next week.

TESSA

And we will be there. Locked, loaded and looking good.

GABI

Speaking of loaded, look what he gave me.

SHE PULLS OUT A CREDIT CARD.

TESSA

A Platinum Amex. Damn, we could buy the whole Mad Men box set. I love me some Jon Hamm.

GABI

That reminds me, I need prosciutto. He's going to propose to his high society girlfriend during the meal and my food has to make her say yes.

TESSA

You're damn right it does! It's going to be covered in all the magazines. "The Meal That Sealed The Deal."

GABI

(HOLDS UP PEARS) These better be the best tasting pears in the world.

TESSA GRABS A PEAR AND TALKS TO IT.

TESSA

Listen here, pear. I'm not afraid to admit it. I've been going through a bit of a dry spell. But if you taste good our lives will change. Our foot will be in San Francisco's social door where I will find myself a rich man.

GABI

Or <u>any</u> man.

TESSA

Hallelujah! (THEN) I need to buy me some hair.

GABI

You have hair.

TESSA

Yes. Everyday-go-to-work-maybe-a-movie-hair. But not high-class party hair. That shit's expensive.

GABI

You're starting to give me a panic attack. The pressure's already overwhelming. What if I screw this up?

TESSA

You got nothing to worry about. Remember when we were kids at camp and I was so hungry I nearly ate a pine cone. And you raided the mess tent and using a Bunsen burner, Top Ramen and ketchup packets, whipped us up a five star meal. I mean, sure your bunk bed caught fire and we were banned from coming back. But you can cook, girl. You. Can. Cook.

GABI

You're right. My life might be a hot mess... but in the kitchen (SNAPS) I (SNAPS) have it (SNAPS) together.

TESSA

You have a gift. And I'm going to ride on your gift's apron strings as far as they go.

INT. NICK'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - FRIDAY EVENING

GABI LOOKS SOPHISTICATED WEARING A COOL, TIGHT, VINTAGE DRESS, WITH HER HAIR PULLED BACK. SHE'S FINISHING WASHING UP WHEN ELLIOT ENTERS WITH TWO GIANT BAGS OF TO-GO FOOD.

GABI

What's that?

ELLIOT

The back up meal for tonight when you fall flat on your ass.

GABI

Elliot, with all due respect, check out my ass. Does it look like it's been fallen on? No. It's high and tight.

ELLIOT

Good, then we have something to focus on as you're leaving in shame.

GABI

Why do you have such a problem with me?

ELLIOT

Because I see right through you. You lack taste and style. You're in way over your head.

GABI, USING THE REMOTE CONTROL, TURNS ON THE LIGHTS IN THE DINING ROOM TO REVEAL THE TABLE'S BEEN FLAWLESSLY SET WITH A COOL FLEA-MARKET FLARE: MIS-MATCHED CHINA, CANDLES IN TERRARIUMS FILLED WITH SUCCULENTS, FRENCH STRIPED LINEN TEA TOWELS AND EXQUISITE FLOWERS. CHAMPAGNE SITS IN A VINTAGE HOTEL SILVER ICE BUCKET NEXT TO SEVERAL DISHES COVERED BY PEWTER CLOCHES.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

I can't believe it. You actually, kind of... pulled it together.

GABI

Yes, I did. I made Cornish game hen with caramelized pears, truffle potatoes and a big side dish of bite me. (SMUGLY) It's what I do.

ELLIOT

Well, I'll just put this in the oven to keep it warm then. Cause when you screw up - which is inevitable - Nick's going to realize he made a huge mistake.

ELLIOT STORMS OFF JUST AS NICK ENTERS THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR WEARING A SUIT.

GABI

(RUNS OUT) Oh, my god. You look so handsome!

NICK

This is my lucky suit. I've closed seven huge deals in this. And hopefully tonight's the eighth. (THEN) But just to make sure things go my way I also designed a rabbit's foot app.

HE TAKES OUT HIS PHONE TO SHOW HER.

GABI

You don't need that app when you have this. (MOTIONS TO DINING ROOM) Ta-da!

NICK

Wow, it's so intimate and romantic. Even I want to marry me. And I'm really picky.

GABI

And I found the perfect song.

SHE TURNS ON THE STEREO AND MARIACHI MUSIC PLAYS.

GABI (CONT'D)

Whoops. (SOTTO) Esmerelda! (THEN) I meant this.

SHE HITS ANOTHER BUTTON AND TEGAN AND SARA'S "CLOSER" PLAYS. GABI SINGS ALONG AND DANCES.

GABI (CONT'D)

(SINGS) All I want to get is, a little bit closer. All I want to know is, can you come a little closer?

NICK

Tegan and Sara! I karaoke this all the time.

GABI / NICK

(SING TOGETHER) *I want you close, I want you. I won't treat you like you're typical.*

THEY BOTH START LAUGHING.

NICK

You cook, you sing, you dance. You're a triple threat.

GABI

I'm also pretty damn good at darts.

NICK

(CHARMED, THEN SHAKES IT OFF) Caroline's going to be so surprised. I told her we were just having a quiet movie night so this is going to knock her socks off. If she wore socks. Which she usually doesn't. She has awesome legs.

NICK'S PHONE RINGS. HE SEES IT'S CAROLINE.

NICK (CONT'D)

There she is now. (INTO PHONE) Hey babe, you on your way? I can't hear you? You're breaking up... hold on.

HE EXITS OUT ON THE PATIO AND GABI CALLS TESSA.

GABI

(INTO PHONE) Hey, Tessa. So far, it's going good. He likes the way it looks, the music I picked... my dancing.

INT. GABI AND TESSA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS - INTERCUT

TESSA'S GOING THROUGH A CLOSET AND TOSSING GARMENTS IN A BOX.

TESSA

Great! Cause I'm picking out clothes to sell to Designer Exchange so I can get an outfit for next week's pool par-tay.

GABI

Good idea! But you're not going through my clothes, right?

TESSA

Nooo.

TESSA CLOSES GABI'S CLOSET AND TIP TOES AWAY.

TESSA (CONT'D)

Now I gotta hustle cause they close at nine. Good luck!

GABI HANGS UP AS NICK ENTERS FROM THE PATIO.

NICK

(SHELL-SHOCKED) Doesn't look like she's going to be here when I thought.

GABI

I can keep stuff warm for an hour.

NICK

You're going to have to keep it warm longer than that. (SITS DOWN) Caroline wants to take a break. Something about moving too fast or not feeling in control...

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

It’s hard to remember her exact words when your life’s crumbling in front of you.

GABI

Wow, when you said you were breaking up, you were really breaking up.

NICK

I’m glad you find humor in this.

GABI

It’s just you hear people say I’m breaking up all the time but they never really are and when I’m nervous I talk a lot, please stop me.

NICK

She’s the perfect girl and now she’s gone. My life is ruined.

GABI

I’m so sorry. (SOTTO) For you and me.

NICK

I have nothing to live for.

GABI

Sure you do. There are plenty of fish in the sea... And on this platter. (OFFERING) Smoked salmon croquette?

GABI SMILES, TRYING TO ENTICE NICK... BUT HE LAYS HIS HEAD ON THE TABLE AND GROANS. ON GABI REALIZING HER DINNER IS RUINED,

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. NICK'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

GABI, ELLIOT AND ESMERELDA LOOK OUT AT NICK, WHO'S SLUMPED OVER THE DINING ROOM TABLE, DESPONDENT.

ELLIOT

I haven't seen him this upset since he lost his first edition Star Wars poster in a poker match. But on the bright side, your dinner's a bust. Which means, so are your chances of working here.

GABI

Not if I cheer him up and get him to eat my food. I can turn this around. Who's with me?

ELLIOT EXITS.

GABI (CONT'D)

Esmerelda, help me out here.

ESMERELDA

No problem-o. When my son was heart broken, I made him feel better by-- (OFF CLOCK) It's eight o'clock. Adios.

GABI

You're leaving?!

SHE EXITS.

ESMERELDA (O.S.)

I'm sorry.

GABI TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND ENTERS THE DINING ROOM.

GABI

Nick?

NICK

This rabbit foot app obviously sucks.

GABI

You don't know that. Maybe it is lucky and you dodged a bullet. Caroline obviously has issues. Emotionally, mentally.

NICK

Don't say that. She's perfect.

GABI

That's what I meant. (THEN, TRYING ANOTHER TAC) Nick, come on. You're smart, rich, charming--

NICK

And totally alone.

GABI

No, you're not. I bet you have tons of friends. Maybe you want to invite one over. Or two, I made a lot of food.

NICK

It's eight o'clock on a Friday night. All my friends are busy... playing Dungeons and Dragons or Call of Duty.

GABI

Then why don't I pour you some wine.

GABI POURS WINE FROM THE DECANTER. A RING FALLS OUT.

GABI (CONT'D)

What the--

NICK

(CHOKING UP) That's the engagement ring I snuck in that was going to fall out when she poured it.

GABI

Okay, hold it together. (PULLS IT OUT) It's huge!! (LICKS IT) And full-bodied. (OFF NICK'S LOOK) And hopefully returnable!

NICK

I don't understand it. How could she dump me?

GABI

I'm just going to fix you a plate. You'll feel better when you eat something.

SHE TAKES THE CLOCHE OFF A PLATTER TO REVEAL "I HEART CAROLINE" WRITTEN IN MASHED POTATOES. NICK GROANS.

GABI (CONT'D)

Whoops. (SOTTO) Dang it.

SHE OPENS ANOTHER TO REVEAL A PERFECT CORNISH GAME HEN.

NICK

It's stunning. Not exactly my kind of food, but Caroline would have loved it.

GABI

Which is why I made yours... into a sandwich.

SHE OPENS ANOTHER CLOCHE REVEALING A HOAGIE SANDWICH.

NICK

(TEARING UP) Wow. You really get me. (TAKES SANDWICH) You're not going to make me eat alone are you?

GABI

Have you met me? I never turn down a meal. This is the second dinner I've had tonight!

SHE TAKES THE GUM OUT OF HER MOUTH, STICKS IT ON THE EDGE OF HER PLATE AND GRABS A HOAGIE. ON HER CHOWING DOWN...

INT. DESIGNER EXCHANGE - LATER

TESSA WALKS IN AND PLOPS DOWN HER BOX OF CLOTHES IN FRONT OF LEO, A GOOD-LOOKING, SKINNY, HIPSTER GUY SITTING BEHIND THE REGISTER. A SIGN ABOVE HIM READS,"WE BUY YOUR CLOTHES".

LEO

Can I help you?

TESSA

Honey, I'm about to help you. I have some lightly-used-top-of-the-line-garments for your purchasing pleasure.

LEO

Great. Let's take a look.

HE PULLS OUT A DRESS, HOLDS IT UP AND INSPECTS IT.

TESSA

Isn't she a beauty? Had some fun times in that dress... and out of it. You get my drift?

INTERNAL TIME CUT TO:

HE HOLDS UP A COLORFUL BLOUSE.

TESSA (CONT'D)

That's my lucky blouse I wore to my interview at Enterprise. Five minutes later, I had gainful employment. Hate to see it go, but I gotta pay it forward!

INTERNAL TIME CUT TO:

LEO INSPECTS THE LAST ITEM: A SPARKLY VEST WITH PANTS OUTFIT.

TESSA (CONT'D)

That's my line-dancing outfit. Isn't she fun? Whoever buys her is going to be the talk of the town. (THEN) So, how much we talking for all this?

LEO

Unfortunately, I can't offer you anything. These clothes are... too big.

HE POINTS TO A SIGN THAT READS "ONLY 2 THRU 8".

TESSA

I thought that was the store's hours.

LEO

Sorry about that.

TESSA

Don't be! I'm a big girl and proud of it. Yeah, I got some of this (MOTIONS TO HIPS) and a lot of this (MOTIONS TO BOOBS) But you know what I don't have? Patience for skinny-ass white boys who judge people by their size!

AND WITH THAT SHE GRABS HER BOX AND STORMS OUT.

INT. NICK'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER

REMNANTS OF DINNER ARE STREWN ABOUT THE TABLE. NICK OPENS ANOTHER BOTTLE OF WINE AND POURS IT. THEY'RE PRETTY BUZZED.

NICK

That was really good. I'm stuffed.

GABI

I know. I mean, I'm a little biased, but I'd hire me for at least a year.

NICK LAUGHS A LITTLE, DESPITE HIMSELF.

GABI (CONT'D)

I made you laugh.

NICK

You and your food are cheering me up. I mean I still feel like killing myself, but I can laugh about it.

GABI

I'm glad. When my mom died, I made special meals for my dad that always cheered him up. It's kinda my thang.

NICK

Aww, I bet you miss your Mom. That must be nice. I see mine every day.

GABI

Yeah, she was great. She taught me to cook. We'd watch Julia Child together--

NICK

I love Julia Child.

GABI

Really?!

NICK

Yeah, I studied her in a business class. What an entrepreneur. She took her passion and turned it into an industry.

GABI

She's my inspiration. Whenever I'm in a fix I say, "What would Julia do?" It became my mantra. (BRIGHTLY) That's why I dropped out of college.

NICK

You're kidding.

GABI

Nope, I was miserable. I was studying economics and hated it, so I asked myself, what would Julia do? And I packed up and left to follow my passion. And here I am!

NICK

You're a risk-taker. Impressive.

GABI

You say impressive my grandpa says slacker.

NICK

Hey, I dropped out to start my company. And things turned out pretty well.

GABI

You're a college drop out?

NICK

Caroline doesn't like me to talk about it, but yeah. I had to. It was my Junior year and I asked myself, what would Julia do?

GABI

You did?

NICK

(LAUGHS) No. But when you have a dream you've got to follow it... especially when you can't afford your tuition. Which, oddly, was the impetus for my first financial website - "Can I Borrow A Hundred Bucks" dot com. Which is now the largest online small loan business in 32 countries.

GABI

Wow, we're kind of alike. We both dropped out of college to follow our dreams. Except you're in Fortune 500 and to me, 500 is a fortune.

THEY BOTH CRACK UP, A LITTLE DRUNK.

NICK

(HEARTFELT) I'm the fortunate one. You've really made me feel better. You're a great dinner companion.

GABI

Thanks, but it's not over yet. Cause guess what's for dessert?!

INT. NICK'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

GABI OPENS HER EYES, UNSURE OF WHERE SHE IS. SHE LOOKS AROUND THE ROOM AND SEES SEVERAL EMPTY WINE BOTTLES. SHE TURNS OVER IN BED TO SEE A NICK SLEEPING NEXT TO HER. ON HER "WHAT HAVE I DONE?" LOOK, WE,

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. NICK'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A MORTIFIED GABI SITS UP IN BED AND LOOKS AT NICK, WHO'S SLEEPING PEACEFULLY.

GABI

(WHISPERS) Oh, god. I had sex with my boss. (PROUD) I had sex with my boss! (MORTIFIED) I had sex with my boss!!!

SHE GETS OUT OF BED AND STARTS TO THROW ON HER CLOTHES. SHE FINDS ONE SHOE, BUT CAN'T FIND THE OTHER.

GABI (CONT'D)

Where's my other shoe? (KEEPS LOOKING, THEN) I don't deserve it anyway. I just screwed up the best job I ever had.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Yoo-hoo! Caroline, your future mother-in-law is here.

SUDDENLY NICK OPENS HIS EYES AND SEES GABI.

NICK

Gabi? What are you... (STARTING TO REMEMBER) Oh, my god.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Wake up little love birds.

GABI

Who's that?

NICK

My mom! You have to hide!

HE FLINGS OFF THE SHEETS AND STARTS TO FRANTICALLY STRAIGHTEN UP. GABI IS GRABBING HER CLOTHES WHEN NICK OPENS THE CLOSET.

NICK (CONT'D)

Quick, get in!

GABI

I'm not good with small spaces.

NICK SHOVES HER IN, CLOSES THE DOOR AND JUMPS BACK IN BED, AS HIS MOM, KAMILA, A NOUVEAU-RICHE, SOCIAL-CLIMBER IN A TRACK SUIT WHO KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES, BARGES IN.

NICK

Mom I've asked you a million times to knock! How did you even get in here?

KAMILA

Like a caveman, I walked up the stairs. You have more money than god, put in an elevator for christsakes.

NICK

(SARCASTIC) Why don't I just hire someone to carry you?

KAMILA

That would be fantastic! (WHISPERS) Now, where's Caroline? In the bathroom?

NICK

No, Mom, she--

KAMILA

--Went home to pee? Took me years to go in front of your father. Now I keep the door wide open.

(MORE)

KAMILA (CONT'D)

The important thing is she said “yes.” (WORRIED) She did say “yes” didn’t she?

NICK GETS UP AND GRABS HIS ROBE.

NICK

I didn’t ask her because--

KAMILA

You lost your nerve? Oh my god.

NICK

Mom, why do you care so much?

KAMILA

You might find this shocking, but these rich people won’t give me the time of day. You marrying Caroline is my ticket to hobnobbing with the elite class. This is devastating.

NICK

Yes, this must be so hard for you.

KAMILA

Not just me. (SITS DOWN AND TAKES HIS HAND) Elliot, too. He was ready with a press release and everything.

NICK

Well, don’t panic. I’m going to make this work. I have to call her.

KAMILA

Good! Remind her you’re rich! Like a rap star, you can make it rain!

SHE PULLS MONEY FROM HER POCKETS AND THROWS IT IN THE AIR.

KAMILA (CONT'D)

That never gets old.

NICK

Yeah... I can't imagine why anyone

wouldn't want to talk to you. (THEN)

But I'm gonna talk to Caroline.

NICK GRABS HIS MOM AND EXITS. WE SEE THE CLOSET DOOR WIGGLING, TRYING TO OPEN.

TESSA (OVERLAP)

You were locked in there?

INT. GABI AND TESSA'S APARTMENT - LATER THAT MORNING

GABI'S A MESS--WEARING CUT OFF SWEAT PANTS AND A ROCKER T-SHIRT. SHE EATS HOMEMADE ICE-CREAM SANDWICHES AND TALKS WITH TESSA.

GABI

Until Esmerelda found me and let me

out. I had to pee in one of his shoes.

TESSA

You what?

GABI

I tried to find the cheapest one.

TESSA

You peed in Nick Kaminski's shoe? Oh

lord, Gabi. You have screwed this up.

GABI

I know and I hate myself. That's why I

made these "I-hate-myself-ice-cream

sandwiches."

TESSA

I hate myself too. I tried to sell my clothes last night and they wouldn't take 'em. They said I was too fat. Give me one of those.

SHE GRABS AN ICE CREAM SANDWICH AND STUFFS IT IN HER MOUTH.

TESSA (CONT'D)

(WITH MOUTH FULL) I guess you getting this job and me getting a fancy schmancy boyfriend wasn't meant to be.

GABI

I'm sorry, Tessa. I should've never slept with him. I mean, it was amazing but it's never going to go anywhere. He's out of my league. I'm like an expired Twinkie and the girl he loves is a fancy chocolate eclair.

TESSA

A - Twinkies never expire. And B - of course he's out of your league. That's what makes him good. Who wants someone in their own league?

GABI

At least I ended my trial dinner with a bang.

TESSA

Two bangs. You said you did it twice. (THEN) So did he officially fire you? Cause you could get unemployment.

GABI

No, he didn't have to. I was his rebound sex, Tessa! I peed in his shoe! I'm pretty sure he doesn't want me around. Elliot already knew my resumé was B.S. And Esmerelda most likely told everyone I was in the closet. Things couldn't be worse.

TESSA

Sure they could. Your car coulda broke down on the way home, that lady coulda Tweeted about finding you in the closet... Or your ass could be knocked up.

GABI GASPS.

TESSA (CONT'D)

Don't tell me you got knocked up.

GABI

No! I left my chef's knives.

TESSA

The one's that cost more than your car?

GABI

I gotta go get them.

TESSA

Yes you do. (BEAT) Cause you might

have to pawn ‘em for rent.

INT. ENTERPRISE CAR RENTAL - LATER

TESSA IS BEHIND THE COUNTER IN HER GREEN ENTERPRISE JACKET. SHE FINISHES UP WITH A CUSTOMER.

TESSA

Next!

LEO, THE HIPSTER FROM THE CLOTHING STORE THE NIGHT BEFORE, WALKS UP TO TESSA’S DESK WITH HIS TAIL BETWEEN HIS LEGS.

TESSA (CONT’D)

Well look who we have here. Mr. Skinny

Jeans. You better step back because

you’re on my turf now and I’ve eaten

breakfast burritos bigger than you.

LEO

Look, I want to apologize about

yesterday.

TESSA

And I want to apologize about all our

cars being rented. You want me to

check if we have a bike in the back?

LEO

I couldn’t say it last night but our

store policy is stupid. I like girls

with a lotta this (MINES BIG HIPS) and a

lotta this (MIMES BIG BOOBS) I think

you’re freakin’ gorgeous.

TESSA

Say what?

LEO

I can't get you out of my head. Will you have dinner with me?

TESSA

Are you being for realz right now or are you just trying to get a discount?

LEO

I've been to five different locations trying to find you. What do you say?

TESSA

This is Enterprise, we're supposed to pick you up. Not the other way around. But I'm gonna let it slide this time.

INT. NICK'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN

GABI SNEAKS INTO THE KITCHEN QUIETLY AND BUMPS INTO ESMERELDA.

ESMERELDA

Miss Gabi. You scared me so bad today in the closet.

GABI

Look, about that--

ESMERELDA

You don't have to explain. I was your age once, too. (SMILES) Sooo naughty.

GABI SMILES, EMBARRASSED.

ESMERELDA (CONT'D)

I have something for you.

GABI

(WORRIED) Is it my pink slip?

ESMERELDA

(HOLDS UP BAG) No it's your shoe.

GABI

Awww, thanks Esmerelda. But seriously call me if you find my pink slip... because it's somewhere in his room.

ESMERELDA

Call you? You're not leaving are you? Who will help me pick on Elliot?

ELLIOT CROSSES IN.

ELLIOT

Oh, look who's here. The personal chef who got a little <u>too</u> personal. Tolja you'd screw up big time.

GABI

(EMBARRASSED) I just came to get my knives.

ELLIOT

They're on the counter, next to what's left of your dignity.

GABI

Thank you. And since I didn't get the job, I just wanna say, you are a petty, cowardly--

ESMERELDA

--Evil garden gnome!

GABI

Who I'm glad I won't be working with.

GABI AND ESMERELDA HIGH-FIVE.

ESMERELDA

(TO GABI) Seriously, I'm going to miss the hell out of you.

ELLIOT

(CLAPS) Great "I f'd up" speech, Gabi. But then again, you've probably had lots of chances to use it.

AS ELLIOT AND ESMERELDA CROSS OFF AND GABI STARTS WRAPPING UP HER CHEF KNIVES, THE DOORBELL RINGS AND NICK RACES DOWN THE STAIRS TO THE DOOR. HE DOESN'T SEE GABI AND OPENS THE DOOR TO CAROLINE (THINK CAROLYN BESSETTE KENNEDY. STUNNING AND CONFIDENT IN A WAY THAT 12 GENERATIONS OF GOOD BREEDING AFFORDS). GABI HIDES BEHIND THE KITCHEN CABINETS. WE CAN SEE HER IN THE FOREGROUND, BUT NICK AND CAROLINE CAN'T.

NICK

Caroline.

CAROLINE

Nick. I'm so glad you called. I'm so sorry about all this.

NICK

You have nothing to be sorry about.

CAROLINE

Yes, I do. My shrink says I create drama. (EXPLAINS) He says I'm just so used to getting everything I want that sometimes I sabotage things to create a challenge. You understand, right?

NICK

Not at all. But that's what I love about you. You're elusive, mysterious, complicated... and beautiful.

CAROLINE

Exactly. So you see my problem.

THEY KISS. AFTER A BEAT SHE PULLS BACK.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

There's just one thing I have to get off my chest.

NICK

I hope it's your bra.

CAROLINE

I slept with someone else.

NICK

(SHOCKED) Oh, my god!

WE SEE GABI BEHIND THE COUNTERS MOUTHING "OH MY GOD" TOO.

CAROLINE

I <u>said</u> I sabotage. (THEN) It was a terrible mistake. If I could take it back I would. Do you hate me?

NICK

Not as much as I hate myself. (THEN)

Because... I slept with someone, too.

GABI GASPS.

CAROLINE

Really?!

NICK

It was stupid, it meant nothing! Can you forgive me?

CAROLINE

Yes... I can. In fact, in an odd way, it kind of turns me on.

NICK

Really? Does that mean we can move on? Because I love you, Caroline. (PULLS RING FROM HIS POCKET) And I want to marry you.

CAROLINE

Oh, Nick.

NICK

Is that a yes?

CAROLINE

Yes! It’s beautiful.

THEY START KISSING AGAIN.

CAROLINE (CONT’D)

Though I’ll have to watch you like a hawk.

NICK

I’m not going to let you out of my

sight.

THEY START MAKING OUT AGAIN. GABI SHAKES HER HEAD. CAROLINE PUTS THE RING ON AND LOOKS AT IT.

CAROLINE

I’m going to be Caroline Rukeyser

Huntington Kaminski... If I go through

with this. (THEN) I’m calling mother.

And my shrink.

SHE RUNS OFF AND GABI QUICKLY TRIES TO CRAWL OUT THE BACK OF THE KITCHEN WITH HER KNIVES WHEN NICK ENTERS.

NICK

Gabi?

GABI

I was just getting my knives. (GETS UP)

Congratulations, Nick. I overheard.

NICK

I feel horrible about all of this.

GABI

Me too. I was so excited to have this

job and then felt awful when Caroline

broke up with you and then got super

drunk trying to make you feel better.

I didn’t mean for us...

NICK

Neither did I! (THEN) But you helped me get through the worst moment of my life. (THEN) I didn't mean to make things so difficult.

GABI

Well, you did. Because this was my dream job. I was going be your chef for a really long time and eventually write a series of books, with your approval, called "Cooking For Mr. Kaminski". And then buy a big house and... well... It doesn't matter. I have to start all over again.

NICK

But I'm not firing you. (JOKING) My lawyers told me I couldn't.

GABI

I can't stay here! It'd be a terrible situation. You're engaged to your fiancée while I'm in the kitchen. I wanted to make tarts not be one.

NICK

Can't we just go back to how it was? We don't have to tell anyone what happened.

GABI

You want me to lie?

NICK

I read your resumé. You're obviously very good at it.

GABI

(SIGHS) I don't know what to do...

NICK / GABI

(IN UNISON) What would Julia do?

THEY CAN'T HELP BUT SMILE AT EACH OTHER. GABI THINKS A BEAT.

GABI

Julia'd take the job. She's no fool. She'd never pass up a huge opportunity like this.

NICK

Your damn right she wouldn't.

THEY GO TO HUG, THEN THINK BETTER OF IT AND SHAKE HANDS.

NICK (CONT'D)

Great talk.

GABI

Yabba-dabba.

THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER SMILING, WHEN ELLIOT ENTERS WITH CAROLINE FROM THE BACK.

ELLIOT

Caroline just told me the good news!

THE FRONT DOOR OPENS TO REVEAL NICK'S MOM, KAMILA.

KAMILA

Congratulations, I just got Caroline's text.

ELLIOT AND KAMILA, ARMS OUTSTRETCHED, WALK TOWARDS NICK.

NICK

(SMILES) Thanks. I'm really happy.

ELLIOT AND KAMILA PASS NICK AND START TO HUG EACH OTHER.

KAMILA / ELLIOT

We did it!

NICK SHAKES HIS HEAD IN DISBELIEF AS ESMERELDA CROSSES IN DUSTING. GABI TAKES IN THIS CRAZY FAMILY. SHE KNOWS THIS IS GOING TO BE A BUMPY RIDE, BUT SHE'S UP FOR THE CHALLENGE.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW *