DAMAGED GOODS

"Pilot"

By

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TEASER

INT. STOPPED ELEVATOR - MORNING (1)

We meet NICOLE, 32, eyes closed. She's a sexy, every woman getting her ear sucked. As the ear sucker comes to frame we meet TIM (37, handsome, smart). The sound of an email being sent WHOOSHES. Tim looks down to a cell in Nicole's hand.

TIM
Did you just send an email?

NICOLE
I forgot to reconfirm a call.
(she opens her eyes)
I'm still in the moment, babe. You know I can do two things at once.

TIM
Actually, I know you can do three.

He winks, triggering her to pull him back into a kiss until:

NICOLE
We're gonna be late and if we don't stop, I won't stop. Raincheck?
(she starts the elevator)
How's three in your office? Oops, nevermind. You have that meeting with Kevin. One thirty in mine? Shoot. Lisa has a conference call and she's moved her desk up against our shared wall so things might...

TIM
...get weird?

NICOLE
Yes.

TIM
Knowing everyone's schedule is weird.

NICOLE
Knowledge is power. But what I don't know is how you're gonna handle being made a partner today.

DING. They arrive and walk/talk out of the elevator.

INT. LAW OFFICES - LOBBY/HALL - SAME (1)

Off the elevator, Tim signals a nearby ASSISTANT for coffee.

NICOLE
And the entitlement begins.

TIM
Nothing's gonna change. I'm still going to be me when this happens.

NICOLE
You with a little more of me.

TIM
Does that mean you'll move in?!

NICOLE
Might be the only way I'll get to see you.

TIM
Until you're made a partner and then we'll both be living here.

NICOLE
I look forward to the day that each of our names are on the door.

TIM
Or maybe it will be just one name.

NICOLE
Getting a little presumptuous dontcha think?
(off his look)
I'm not changing my name.

They pass a row of OIL PORTRAITS of all the firm's partners.

NICOLE
I love how they use our associate photos for partner portraits. It's either an attempt to keep us young or humble. Yours will definitely be humbling.

He goes to slap her ass as they enter the conference room only to find an embarrassing portrait of Nicole. As they both register shock, the room applauds. BOB, a partner, beams:

BOB
Congratulations, Nicole.

Nicole turns to Tim who recovers by awkwardly shaking her hand. As the room breaks into chit chat we DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT (1)

The chatter of a busy room buzzes as Nicole and Tim walk in. It's awkwardly tense as Nicole spots FRIENDS in the distance.

TIM
I'm gonna hit the bathroom.

Nicole smiles, nods and then, urgency hits. Nicole hustles toward her friends and shimmies through a COUPLE with drinks, then around a LARGE GROUP OF BUSINESSMEN only to barely miss a WAITRESS carrying empty glasses. A parting of the crowd allows Nicole to pick up speed as she narrows in on the small group until a WAITER crosses with a tray of drinks. With precision-like reflexes, Nicole slides under the tray and pops up to her friends: BETSY (32, sexy dilettante), JASON (33, street smart guys guy) and KYLE (32, dapper, sexually ambiguous). Out of breath, Nicole rambles at breakneck speed.

NICOLE
Tim's gonna be here any minute...
(to a MEATY WAITER)
...Scotch neat and Greyhound...and things are fajacked. Tim didn't get the partnership, it went to me instead. I was surprised, he was surprised, then he shook my hand and didn't talk to me for the rest of the day. I'm very excited for me but really bummed for him so keep the enthusiasm to a minimum so we can keep the empathy to the max. Tread lightly because I don't want him to feel like I said anything. In essence, don't be weird.

TIM
Hey.

NICOLE/BETSY/KYLE/JASON
(weird)
Heeeeyyy.

TIM
I'm gonna get a drink.

NICOLE
(Tim walks away)
One's already on the...

BETSY
Oy. He does not look happy. He might even spank you again.

JASON/KYLE
Again?

TIM
Line’s too long.
(he pulls Nic aside)
I can’t be here right now. I gotta head home. We should talk later.

NICOLE
Okay. Of course. No problem. But real quick, just to clarify--when you say we should talk later do you mean “talk” talk or just talk?

TIM
Can we not do this here?

NICOLE
Are you dumping me?

BETSY
Our table’s ready.

BETSY
Didn’t mean to intrude. Ignore me.
(awkward moment; to Tim)
I’m sorry about the partnership.

NICOLE
Bets, I’ll meet you at the table.

BETSY
You can still be the boss at home.
(Kyle and Jason join)
Home boss has more benefits cuz if she’s bad, you can spank her!

TIM
You told them about that?

JASON
To be fair, she just told Betsy.

KYLE
Betsy told us.

BETSY
Did I cross a line? Cuz I’m just trying to keep things light. I mean, it's not like you fisted her.

NICOLE
There goes the line.

TIM
Jesus Nicole, why didn’t you let me go home? Isn’t the fact that you’ve humiliated me at work enough?

NICOLE
I humiliated you? How?

KYLE
Why does this feel muy serioso?

BETSY
He’s dumping her.

KYLE
Don’t be rash, man. The grass isn’t greener on the single side. Trust me, women say they want a sensitive man until that sensitive man acknowledges that a guy in his spin class has really firm glutes. What's wrong with that? I don't see what's wrong with that.

NICOLE
Nothing’s wrong with being sensitive. We’re all sensitive. Which is why Tim’s going home.

TIM
What does that mean?

NICOLE
Nothing. You just need your space.

TIM
Don’t patronize me because I don’t share everything with everyone.

BETSY
Reminder: she just shares with me.

JASON/KYLE
Betsy shares with us.

NICOLE
I don’t share everything.

TIM
Good. Fine. I just need to privately process that the firm had to meet a female quota.

WHHHHHATTT? All the friends eyes go wide.

NICOLE
You don't mean that. He didn't mean that. Emotions are heated and...
(friends get behind Nic)
...you guys don't need to get behind me. No one's taking sides.

JASON
Not every dude is man enough to be with a strong woman.

NICOLE
That doesn't apply to Tim.

BETSY
It kinda does.

TIM
I might not be "man enough" but at least I'm not a lazy slut who lives off her best friend's insecurity.

BETSY
Actually, I live off alimony.

TIM
And I'm not an unemployed loafer who's gonna end up alone because he dumps women before they discover he's a loser and dump him first.
(Jason nods in agreement)
And you, Kyle, thank god I'm not ashamed to admit who I really am.

KYLE
Oh my god. You bitch! I'm not ashamed that I'm half Armenian.

NICOLE
What are you doing?

TIM
Leaving. Because I'm upset that the only reason my girlfriend got a promotion is because she pees sitting down.

Tim leaves. The friends are shocked.

NICOLE
Was that a sexist dig?

KYLE
No. I sit peeing down.

ACT ONE

INT. NICOLE & BETSY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (1)

Nicole enters her apartment trailed by Betsy, Kyle and Jason.

NICOLE
I'm so sorry Tim reacted that way.

JASON
Stop apologizing. You did nothing wrong. His reaction was not cool.

KYLE
He was a meanie!

JASON
You didn't steal the promotion, you earned it.

NICOLE
Do you think he meant what he said? He can't have meant what he said. Does he really think my success is about affirmative action?

KYLE
"When people show you who they are, believe them."

BETSY
That's so true.

KYLE
Oprah.

BETSY
I'd just like to clarify that we live in a post 'Sex and the City' era. It's not a big deal for me to like sex. Or, is it? Am I a slut?

NICOLE
What should I do about Tim?

KYLE
Fire him!

BETSY
Put him on the 'Wanker Wall'.

JASON
'Wanker Wall'?

KYLE
It means 'Wall of Jerks'.
(off Jason's look)
I speak a little British.

NICOLE
The wall is actually a collage I started making for Betsy when we were twelve. It's got pics of all the guys who have wronged us.

KYLE
How many guys stank like wank?

BETSY/NICOLE
Three hundred and forty-two.

Kyle and Jason exchange looks. That's a lot.

NICOLE
Should I call Tim? Or is that too pushy? I've gotta stop spiraling.
(spiraling)
Why did I prod him to talk?

JASON
Because you're you and you need to know what you need to know when you need to know it.

NICOLE
I know. Do you think he just revealed his true colors or was that just an impulsive reaction to being emasculated? Reaction, right?

JASON
I'm gonna bite my tongue just in case things shake out and you forget that he's not so great. But you're great and the reason why I'm finally ready to commit to having a girlfriend. So, let's change the subject and talk about how you're all about to meet...

NICOLE/BETSY/KYLE
Carrie.

JASON
Rachel.

JASON
Why Carrie?

NICOLE/BETSY/KYLE
You said she's hot.

JASON
She is but I chose Rachel.

NICOLE
Yay! How did I inspire that?

JASON
Well...

NICOLE
(she raises her hand)
Oh, I know.
(Jason calls on her)
Because in knowing me, you wanted to be with a woman of substance.

JASON
Actually the inspiration stemmed more from Tim's observation that I'm gonna wind up alone. I'm not good alone. But what you said about your rad self also applies because Rachel's warm, fun and a scientist.

BETSY
You have a lot in common.

JASON
Right?

BETSY
I was joking. You rent your second bedroom as an air B&B for a living.

NICOLE
When are you making it legit?

JASON
After I dump Carrie.

NICOLE
What are you waiting for? One of the good girls has to win tonight. And if it's not gonna be me, then it should be someone like me. Go.

JASON
But I still haven't figured out...

NICOLE
Go!

INT. BAR- LATER (1)

JASON
Carrie, I'm just gonna cut to it.

CARRIE, the hottie, suggestively sucks on a cherry.

CARRIE
Ya know what I've always wondered? What it would be like to sleep with another girl. Is that crazy?

JASON
Actually...no. That's *exactly* what I wanted to talk about. Cuz it just so happens that I have a fantasy of being in the middle of scissor sandwich. So it's not just you...

INT. APARTMENT- LATER (1)

JASON
...it's me.

Somber, Jason sits across from RACHEL, the sexy scientist.

JASON
Rach, I'm confronting my own insecurities and realizing that I'm not ready to be with someone who is as together as you.

REVEAL Nicole, drinking coffee, not impressed. We are:

INT. NICOLE AND BETSY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN- MORNING (2)

NICOLE
Did she really buy that?

JASON
It's the truth and coupled with a few emotional pauses where I welled up, I think I hit it home from a performance perspective.

NICOLE
You dumped the rad girl to be with the girl who wants a threesome?

JASON
No. I want the threesome. She just wants to be with a woman.
(Nicole shakes her head)
(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)
But a threesome is on my “fuck it” list. Which is like a “bucket list” isolated only to the different ways I want to have sex before I die.

Nicole rolls her eyes as Betsy enters with a MEATY DUDE. He hands Betsy her robe, kisses her and heads out.

NICOLE/JASON
Is that our waiter from last night?

BETSY
Yes.

Not phased, they shrug it off as Nicole looks at the time.

NICOLE
Shoot. I’ve gotta prep for a trial.

BETSY
Wait. What's going on here?
(gesturing to Nic’s face)
Why is there no swollen cry face?

NICOLE
Because I’m not giving one bad day more credence than two years of awesome. Things are gonna sort themselves out because I’m not going down without a fight.
(she gets a TEXT)
Shit. Who told my sister?!

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING- MOMENTS LATER (2)

Kyle waves from the front seat of a mini van as the side door automatically slides open. Annoyed, Nicole gets in.

INT. MINI-VAN - SAME (3)

ALEXIS (38, petite immature blonde and protective sister) is upset as Nicole sits in between the boosters and toys.

ALEXIS
When Kyle called me and told me what happened last night I knew it was time for a Tim-tervention.

KYLE
He’s a racist!

NICOLE
He’s not. Lex, who has the kids?

ALEXIS
Someone. My gardener’s wife or pool guy’s wife. Not sure. But don’t change the subject. You okay?

NICOLE
Yes. I don’t need a joyride.

ALEXIS
This ain’t a joyride, Sis. This is the “Heartbreak Honda” bound to turn your frown upside down on the way to mental health and your office. I always knew that Tim was a cad and now he’s proved it. Dig into the cooler at your feet. Sippy cup at the bottom has booze in it.

INT. NICOLE AND BETSY'S APARTMENT- SAME (2)

JASON
(finishing coffee)
Gotta jet. Got two renters coming in from Chicago.

BETSY
Real quick, I need a favor.

JASON
Okay.

BETSY
It’s a really big favor.

JASON
How big?

BETSY
I’d say its as big as asking you to retrieve a condom from my vagina.

JASON
Jesus. What do you need me to do?

BETSY
Retrieve a condom from my vagina.

Off Jason's face we hear...

NICOLE (PRE-LAP)
No, thank you.

INT. MINI-VAN - MOVING- SAME (2)

ALEXIS
You don't have to self-medicate. I do cuz I'm stuck with 2.5 kids.

KYLE
I thought you had three kids?

ALEXIS
One is really small.

KYLE
Ya self-medicated while pregnant.

Alexis nods.

NICOLE
Will you guys let me out now?

ALEXIS
Not until you admit Tim's a fraud.
(she dials on speaker)
I'm calling Ed.

NICOLE
Don't call Ed.

KYLE
Who's Ed?

ALEXIS
Her dad.

NICOLE
My dad.

KYLE
Today is full of revelation. I didn't know you had different dads.

ALEXIS
That's why there's a disparity in our life achievements. Ed encouraged Nic's success and my dad advised me to stay off the pole.

ED (O.S.)
Hello?

ALEXIS
Tim dumped Nic over her promotion and then shoved her to the ground.

ED (O.S.)
What?!

NICOLE
That didn't happen!

ALEXIS
It happened metaphorically.

ED (O.S.)
Honey, I trust you know that you deserve a man who supports you.

NICOLE
Tim's just nursing a bruised ego, Dad. We're fine.

ED (O.S.)
I hope so. Remember: you keep being the best version of you and...

ED/NICOLE/ALEXIS
...you will have it all.

NICOLE
I'm being the best me by not giving up on my relationship.

ED (O.S.)
That's good, sweetheart.
(she smiles; victorious)
But it also might be time to put him on the 'Wanker Wall'.

INT. NICOLE AND BETSY'S APARTMENT (2)

JASON
No way! Go to a doctor.

BETSY
I don't have health insurance and--

JASON
Ask the guy who lodged it up there!

BETSY
I can't. We connected last night and might be soul mates so I don't want him to think I'm easy. Asking him to reach into my who-ha sends the wrong signal. Like I'm cool with anyone up there. Plus, his fingers are too thick. But yours...

JASON
Stop. Please. Spare me the details of my fingers in your...I can't... Goodbye. You're on your own.

BETSY
Then give me the 200 bucks you owe me and I'll go to the doctor.

JASON
What if...

BETSY
Yes?

JASON
...you forgive that debt and I do it myself?

EXT. ALEXIS' MINIVAN/OFFICE BUILDING- LATER (2)

As the minivan idles, Nicole gets out.

ALEXIS
Mark my words, Tim's only gonna take you back if you quit your job. And if you choose him over the job, you're gonna become me. A miserable sell out. Don't put off your dream for a guy who's threatened by you.

NICOLE
He's not threatened by me.

INT. OFFICE - LOBBY ELEVATOR BANK- MOMENTS LATER (2)

Nicole sees Tim laughing with CO-WORKERS. She approaches.

NICOLE
Babe, I'm sorry about last night.

TIM
No, *I'm* sorry.
(she sighs relief)
But maybe it was for the best. I don't know how we'd make this work.

Tim leaves Nicole. Rocked, she makes eye contact with the SECURITY GUARD. He nods to an empty elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR- MOMENTS LATER(2)

Alone, Nicole stops the moving elevator and admits:

NICOLE
It's over. There's nothing to fight for.

On cue, the tears, like a landslide, rocket down her face.

ACT TWO

INT. NICOLE AND BETSY'S APARTMENT- OPEN KITCHEN - NIGHT (3)

Nicole's in state of controlled anger with Betsy and Kyle.

NICOLE
(vulnerable; teary)
I feel so bamboozled. Could it be that I don't even know who he is? How could he just want me to walk away from my dream? I've been working for that partnership too.

KYLE
You need a guy who loves you as is.

NICOLE
(suddenly getting heated)
It's crazy that he expects my unconditional support and yet his support has conditions. Screw him. I'm reactivating my online profile.

Nicole opens her laptop. Then, Betsy shuts it.

BETSY
I like the idea behind this idea, but it might be a little impulsive.

KYLE
Maybe you should take some baby steps first. Like a weekend jaunt to San Fran or Palm Springs or...

NICOLE
I don't need any baby steps - I just need to move on. I'm prime relationship real estate right now and last time I was online, I slayed. And this time around I have even more to offer so I'm gonna double slay. Or slay and slam.

BETSY
When was the time you were online?

NICOLE
Law school.

Kyle and Betsy trade looks.

KYLE
Well...

NICOLE
Well what?

KYLE
You were broke and struggling then.

NICOLE
So?

BETSY
It made you more attractive.

KYLE
Yeah. You’re gonna have to lie on your profile this time.

NICOLE
And why would I do that?

BETSY
Cuz you’re not gonna reel in any dudes if you’re baiting your pole with a shark. You gotta go softer, more vulnerable. Like a minnow. You gotta sell yourself in a new light.

NICOLE
As what?

KYLE/BETSY
A waitress.

BETSY
Being a “partner” in a law firm let alone just a regular “lawyer” exudes qualities like controlling, bitchy, bossy and successful. In essence: emasculating.

KYLE
But a waitress suggests: affable, toned, submissive and service oriented...in the bedroom.

BETSY
And a waitress will always be satisfied as long as she just gets the 'tip'.

NICOLE
Okay, first you tell me that I need a guy who loves me as is and now you’re telling me no one’s gonna love me as is. Which is it?

KYLE
No idea.

BETSY
We don't have the answers. If we did, we wouldn't be single.

NICOLE
You guys go to your party. I'm gonna take my chances on my own merits and prove you wrong.

BETSY
Fine.

KYLE
You guys need a new maid around here. The counters are tre stickay.

As Kyle hits the sink WE RAMP TO HIGH SPEED and watch as Betsy's POV turns to SLO MO as Kyle washes his long, slender and nubile fingers. As he dries them off, she inquires.

BETSY
Are you double jointed?
(he nods)
I have a favor to ask. It's something that requires manual dexterity and mental strength.

As they head to the door, she grabs her purse and explains:

BETSY
Jason tried to help me earlier but he almost passed out. Are you up for a challenge?

Kyle's intrigued. As the door closes behind them, Nicole takes to her computer again and starts her profile.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT- SAME (3)

Jason sits with Carrie who is totally rapt by the TV.

JASON
Get this: the super duper cute ladies renting from me happen to be of the Ellen variety and are IN for a good group time tonight. Don't ask how I got into it, it's a crazy story, but I did and it's done. So not only is your fantasy going to come to fruition, so is mine!
(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)
It’s win-win-win-win. No one’s gonna be left out!

CARRIE
Oh. That was just a fantasy. Not something I really want to do.

As Carrie snuggles into Jason. His face falls.

INT. NICOLE'S LIVING ROOM- LATER (3)

Now done with her profile, Nicole smiles with satisfaction.

NICOLE
Hello profile page. I hope you can handle some action cuz there’s about to be a traffic jam! Hollah!

She then gets up to fix a snack as we roll into quick hits:

--Snack in hand, Nicole hits refresh. Nada.

--Nicole takes a bath.

--Outta the bath, Nicole hits refresh. Still nada.

--Nicole blow dries her hair.

Now in sweats she hits refresh. Nothing. Suddenly she hears a DING but it’s not the computer, it’s her phone. She’s got text from Jason reading: “911. Meet me in the hall.”

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY- MOMENTS LATER (4)

Jason rounds the corner to meet Nicole.

JASON
(hushed and panicked)
I made a mistake. Carrie’s a fraud.

NICOLE
I knew it. I knew you weren’t vapid. This just validates what I was saying to Betsy and Kyle. Men actually want women...

JASON
...who follow their dreams.

NICOLE
Exactly!

JASON
Yeah. You can't go dream-baiting someone and then pull the rug out.

NICOLE
You just lost me.

JASON
Carrie. She's totally not into the girl on girl thing at all.

NICOLE
Good night.

JASON
But I have two babes primed and ready to taco tango in the next hour. I need you to help me get rid of Carrie.

NICOLE
Just dump her.

JASON
I've already had one uncomfortable break up this week. I can't handle another. She needs to dump me. Please help her dump me.
(she yawns)
I'll throw in a gift card to H&M.

NICOLE
I bought that for you!

JASON
I thought it was from Betsy.

NICOLE
Yeah and I paid for it. Ok, who am I gonna pretend to be? Your neurotic sister or your psycho ex-girlfriend.

JASON
I'm leaning toward the psycho but hold back on the tears this time, I need you to be more of a threat than a victim to make her leave.

Nicole nods then throws her hair down and starts to tease it.

JASON
What're you doing?

NICOLE
Getting into character.
(he motions to proceed)
You know you're sabotaging yourself again. And by doing so, you're not moving on, or out of that apartment that now only represents your broken heart. It's been two years. Natalie's not coming back.

JASON
I know. I know. I have to move on.

NICOLE
So move on.

JASON
After the three-way. Morning after. Promise.

INT. NICOLE AND BETSY'S APARTMENT - LATER (3)

Post the ho down showdown, Nicole enters her apartment looking like a crazy person(red-faced and hair teased to the trees). Utterly annoyed, she hits 'edit' on her profile. In a super fast series of strokes: she deletes her long-winded 'About Me' section to a basic "I'm fun!". She changes 'occupation' from *lawyer* to *waitress* and for good measure, under 'location' puts a notation that she lives with her parents. Finally she clicks it done. Once again she refreshes her computer and nothing. She smiles. They were wrong. Then, DING DING DING, she's bombarded with interest.

NICOLE
What is it about waitresses?!

INT. DINER- LATER (3)

TIGHT ON an old and haggard WAITRESS.

WAITRESS
Spit it out, I don't got all night.

ANGLE ON Nicole sitting at the counter across from her.

NICOLE
Actually you probably do. You're working the late shift.

The waitress doesn't even respond she just walks away.

MAN (O.S.)
Be careful. Doris is not all bark, she also has a bite.

Nicole turns to find a HANDSOME MAN (37) sitting nearby. He points to his sandwich with a bite taken out.

NICOLE
That's disgusting.

HANDSOME MAN
Eh, I'll eat around it.

NICOLE
Do you happen to know about the lore surrounding waitresses having some sort of sexual mystique?

HANDSOME MAN
Ask Harry.

Nicole follows the Handsome Man's gaze to see an OLD MAN putting a five dollar bill into Doris's bosom.

NICOLE
(she sighs)
I am gonna die alone.

HANDSOME MAN
Why?

NICOLE
Because my dad lied to me. He said someday a man would love me for being ambitious and successful. And now I'm trapped between my personal and professional life because my boyfriend can't handle being subordinate to me at work and my best guy friend, who I thought was similarly evolved and enlightened, still only thinks with his dick. Give it to me straight. Are all men still Neanderthals?

CUT TO:

JASON STOKING THE FIRE IN HIS FIREPLACE AS IF HE'S DISCOVERING IT-- clad only in tightey whiteys. We are:

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT- SAME (3)

Within moments the CHICAGO GALS arrive back, totally not phased by his outfit.

JASON
Ladies! Come, relax by the fire.

Immediately the girls shed their coats and do just that.

CHICAGO GIRL #2
(flirtatious)
Ooooh, yes. Let’s warm up.

Jason sits down next to the fire with the girls as the girls look to each other, then Jason, then massage one another.

JASON
What should I be doing? You guys wanna just get naked, intertwine and I'll like plank in there?

CHICAGO GIRL #1
No. Start with a wrap around.

JASON
Oh, I love wraparounds.
(then)
What’s a wraparound?

They each take a leg and start massaging it. He’s in heaven as they pry his legs behind his neck. Despite Jason's lack of flexibility he's game until we hear the crack of his hips.

JASON
Um, this doesn’t feel right. And my back isn’t so...oh my god. My back. It’s out. Oh god. I can’t move. Um, can you guys get me my phone. I’ll call my chiropractor and see if he can make a real fast house call.

But suddenly the girls are up. Ignoring Jason.

CHICAGO GIRL #1
Where should we start?

JASON
My phone?

CHICAGO GIRL #2
Back bedroom. Grab his wallet.

INT. DINER- SAME (3)

The Handsome Man and Nicole now sit side by side. Doris drops off a grilled cheese. A bite taken out.

NICOLE
Think she’s warming up to me?

They look at her then back to each other.

NICOLE/HANDSOME MAN
No.

NICOLE
Rejected. Again.
(she tears up; exposed)
I still love him. Why do I still love him?

HANDSOME MAN
You love him because there is no ‘refresh’ button for the heart.

NICOLE
No. There’s not. So, how do I fix this? How do I fix myself?

HANDSOME MAN
You don’t. There’s nothing to fix. Because from where I’m sitting--which is close enough to see your flawlessly small pores...I’m a dermatologist...I see a woman who needs to stop looking to be something other than who she is. To me, it would be a crime if she wasn’t a person who shares emotional vulnerability in the middle of the night with a stranger over half eaten sandwiches. Ya see, it just takes one, one right person to get who she is. And who she is, in my humble opinion, is awesome.

They’re in a mutual trance when Doris interrupts.

DORIS
Cash or charge?

He hands her a twenty.

NICOLE
You can’t.

DORIS
He just did.

Doris pockets the bill in her bosom as he looks at his watch.

HANDSOME MAN
I gotta go. Was lovely meeting you.

NICOLE
You too.

He gets up then suddenly turns around.

HANDSOME MAN
Almost forgot.

He leans in like he's gonna kiss her then puts out his hand.

HANDSOME MAN
Michael.

NICOLE
Nicole.

MICHAEL
Good night.

As he leaves, Nicole watches him go.

NICOLE
I just saw a unicorn. A rare mythical creature that only exists in our hearts, minds and...diners. Ya know, I don't need to fix myself, Doris. I just need to be me.

DORIS
Don't care.

NICOLE
(depressed)
And me has to choose between a man and a dream.

She grabs her cell phone and texts "Dad": What should I do about Tim? She waits then he responds Go with your gut.

NICOLE
That's not what I needed, Dad.
(she sighs, then)
Or is it? Because my gut says there's a third option!

INT. LAW OFFICES- MANAGING PARTNER'S OFFICE- AFTERNOON (4)

NICOLE
You need to give out a second partnership. What's an extra picture on the wall? Like how much does that cost? I'll pay for it.

Nicole stands over Bob, the managing partner, at his desk.

BOB
You know it doesn't work that way. The firm has bylaws to follow.

NICOLE
Look Bob, I'm willing to work with you here. So work with me. There has to be some sort of compromise we can come to like...

BOB
Like?

NICOLE
I mean it's not really an option but what if...
(its really not an option)
What if...I resign? Could Tim be promoted in my place? Okay nevermind, bad idea. I know that couldn't happen.

BOB
It could happen.
(off her face)
But I wouldn't want it to happen. You got the job for a reason. Take a few days. Think this over.

INT. LAW FIRM- AFTERNOON (4)

Nicole leaves the conversation upset but has to pull it together when her PERSONAL ASSISTANT approaches. She goes all business as she responds rapid fire in their walk and talk.

NICOLE
Call Judge Smith's clerk. I need to speak with the Judge at his earliest convenience. Then, get the discovery on the Currier case. If the AG's office suggests I have all the discovery, remind them of the criminal ramifications of withholding evidence. And move tomorrow's dinner from Gulfstream to Craft- the AG's paying.

They arrive outside Nicole's big, bangin' new office as a GOLD "PARTNER" NAME PLATE is affixed to the door. Suddenly, Tim passes her. She smiles, hopeful, but he gives her nothing. Nicole looks at the "partner" nameplate, then him. Why does she have to choose? Tears well in her eyes and she hightails it to the elevator, followed by Tim.

INT. ELEVATOR- SAME (4)

Nicole desperately hits the close button but Tim forces himself along for the ride.

NICOLE
Get off. Please.

The tears are welling in her eyes. But he won't get off.

TIM
Don’t cry. I hate to see you upset.

NICOLE
Then don’t look.

TIM
This isn’t easy for me either. Put yourself in my shoes. This is not a black and white situation. I’m human. And I hate that my ego has gotten the best of me.

Nicole stops the elevator. Turns to him; exposed.

NICOLE
Why can’t you love me and root for me like I do for you? I didn’t ask for this but I deserve it- just as much as you. And yet, you mean more to me than the job...which is why I offered to give it back. For you.

She starts the elevator again as he stares at her. But as soon as it starts moving, he jolts it still again and pulls her into a kiss just as her phone starts to ring. CUT TO:

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT- SAME (4)

Jason, still stiff but not stuck, hangs with the crew (Betsy, Kyle and Alexis) as he gets Nicole's voicemail.

JASON
She’s not picking up for me either.

ALEXIS
That’s cuz she’s keeping busy.

BETSY
Moving on like a champ.

INT. TIM'S CAR- MOVING- SAME (4)

Tim and Nicole making out as he drives.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT- SAME (4)

KYLE
She’s so strong.

EXT. TIM'S HOUSE- SAME (4)

Nicole takes off Tim's shirt, still in the light of day, as they continue making out on the way into his house.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT- SAME (4)

JASON
We need to do something for Nicole. Something she would never do for herself but would do for any of us.

BETSY
Like the 'Wanker Wall'!

ALEXIS
There's only one way to avenge her.

INT. TIM'S BEDROOM- NIGHT (4)

Nicole and Tim are intertwined under the covers.

TIM
I've missed you.
(she smiles)
I can't believe you offered to give up the partnership.

NICOLE
It was crazy. But that's love.

Tim goes in for a kiss. All Nicole's problems are gone.

TIM
So, when are you gonna resign?

Before she can process, Tim notices something at his window.

TIM
Did you just see that?

She looks over to it as something appears and then disappears in the glass. Tim moves to the window and looks outside.

TIM
What the...I'm getting TP-ed!

EXT. TIM'S HOUSE-MOMENTS LATER (4)

Tim and Nicole come outside and catch the friends TPing and in turn, the friends catch Nicole with Tim. Shit.

ACT THREE

EXT. TIM'S HOUSE- SAME (4)

They're deer in headlights. Then, Tim notices Kyle's eggs.

TIM
Were you gonna egg my house?

Scared, Kyle drops the eggs like a sissy.

ALEXIS
Run!!

Kyle, Alexis and Betsy run as Jason pulls Nicole aside.

JASON
You’re better than this.

NICOLE
Why? Why am I better than this?

JASON
Because you’re who I look up to.

Insert knife into Nicole’s heart. She goes back to Tim.

NICOLE
Sorry. See you tomorrow.

INT. MINI-VAN - NIGHT - LATER (4)

Nicole rides in solitude next to Jason as he lobs a call.

INT. RACHEL’S HOME- SAME - INTERCUT

RACHEL
Hello? Jason?

JASON
I made a mistake.

RACHEL
I really appreciate the call but truth be told, after trying my hand with you and being disappointed, I’ve gone back to women.

REVEAL Rachel’s sitting next to A SEXY LADY, drinking wine. Off Jason’s look we RACK TO Betsy in the back. She sizes up some tiny kid's toys.

BETSY
Lex, how tiny are your kids' hands?

Jason and Kyle throw back harsh looks.

BETSY
It was a question. Just a question.

INT. NICOLE'S ROOM - LATER (4)

Nicole crawls into bed as Betsy sits at her side in a robe.

NICOLE
Don't say it. I know. I'm not as strong as I thought I was.

BETSY
You're the strongest person I know.

NICOLE
Really? Because from my purview I just boned a dude who doesn't want me to succeed. And if getting shamed wasn't enough I'm now admitting that I still don't know what I'm going to do about my job. What the hell am I gonna do?

Nicole tears up as Betsy wraps her arms around her friend.

BETSY
When I was deliberating my divorce and worrying that if I left, no one would love me again, a wise person told me not to worry, just to jump and a net would catch me.

NICOLE
Wise person? That was me.

BETSY
Like I said, a wise person. So I say to you...jump-- in whatever direction you think is best. To the job or the man. And there will be a net, alongside me.

Nicole wipes her tears and squeezes her bestie as Betsy puts her hand into her pocket and feels something. She opens the big pocket and is baffled.

BETSY
How the hell did that get in there?! Oh my god--all those hands.
(she cringes, then)
Whatever.

NICOLE
What'd you find?

BETSY
Ya don't wanna know.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING- LOBBY- MORNING (5)

Nicole waits for an elevator when Tim comes up behind her. He kisses her neck, spinning her around. He's in a great mood.

TIM
This morning's meeting is perfect to make your announcement. And I already took the liberty to give Bob the heads up that you wanted to say something and simultaneously pretended not to know what it was so I can act surprised. Cool?

NICOLE
(conflicted)
Cool.

TIM
Oh and babe, could you grab me a coffee at the cafe? Gotta make a call before the meeting. Thanks.

Suddenly, an elevator opens. Tim gets on and Nicole, still conflicted, heads out when the SECURITY GUARD waves her over. He stands with a LITTLE GIRL.

SECURITY GUARD
(to his daughter)
This is the lady I was telling you that I hope you'll someday be.

NICOLE
Me, why me?

SECURITY GUARD
Because you have it all: the looks the brains and...
(he earmuffs his kid)
...the balls.
(to his daughter)
This is a woman who's not afraid to be the best. Which sometimes involves a few private tears.

He winks at Nicole as she looks behind his desk and sees the security cameras in the elevator. He sees all. The little girl is in awe and Nicole is in hell. Full of shame. Then,

NICOLE
Listen to your dad. When in doubt just be the best version of you.

She looks at the elevators; sees a crowd. Earmuffing the kid:

NICOLE
Fuck it. I'm taking the stairs.

INT. STAIR WELL - SERIES OF SHOTS (5)

--Nicole runs up the stairs full of steam.

--Nicole's a little slower. She takes off her heels and goes.

--Nicole's out of breath and walking. She stops and takes off her panty hose then, continues on.

INT. LAW OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM - MINUTES LATER (6)

Busting through the doors, Nicole is sweaty and winded.

NICOLE
I need to make a lil' announcement. Ya see, I've had this crazy come to Jesus about life and love and what is and isn't important and no, Marty, I'm not endorsing your church, it was an impulsive idiom.
(MARTY shrugs)
I just needed to share that I had a revelation because I'm not choosing a man, and I'm not choosing a job, I'm choosing me...which means I'm actually choosing the job because I'm the best candidate for the partnership. And it should be mine.

BOB
Uhh...it still is.

NICOLE
Good. Just had to make that clear.
(pointed; to Tim)
To both of you. Now, I'm gonna go get my own cup of coffee. Carry on.

INT. LAW OFFICE - KITCHEN- MOMENTS LATER (5)

Nicole looks at the empty coffee pot then, to a PARALEGAL:

NICOLE
Do you know how to use this?

TAG

INT. NICOLE AND BETSY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (6)

The crew sits around the couch as Nicole sizes up something.

JASON
Maybe to the left?

ALEXIS
Put it in the middle.

BETSY
Definitely in the middle.

KYLE
Do it.

NICOLE
(empowered)
I'm doing it.

Nicole beams brightly as we ANGLE ON a picture of Tim being affixed to the "Wanker Wall"- a beat up old poster board collage now comprised of three hundred and forty-three wankers.

ANGLE BACK on the friends, proud. Then, Kyle cocks his head.

KYLE
(pointing to the collage)
Is that me?

ANGLE ON the Wanker Wall, a pic of Kyle peeks out of the crowd. Nicole and Betsy exchange looks.

NICOLE
No.

BETSY
Yes.

BETSY/NICOLE
Maybe.