BAD JUDGE

Pilot

Written by

Chad Kultgen

Current revisions by

Adam McKay & Chris Henchy

11/4/13

FADE IN:

CU OF A TATTOO

We see a tattoo in ornate Gothic letters “Mike and Rebecca forever”

JENNY (O.C.)
It’s beautiful...

REBECCA (O.C.)
I’ve always loved that gothy script font...

JENNY (O.C.)
Me too.

INT. CONDO LIVING ROOM - MORNING

REBECCA WRIGHT, late 30’s, hot but not vain and her friend JENNY, late 30’s cute but tough, are staring at a freshly made tatoo on Rebecca’s leg. They are drinking morning coffee.

JENNY
Just one question: who’s Mike?

REBECCA
I have no idea.

JENNY
Oh no. You drank tequila last night didn’t you?

REBECCA
Just a few shots. And by a few I mean seven. I hate myself right now so let’s not dwell on it.
(back to the real question)
Maybe Mike’s the tattoo artist. He was cute, I think.

JENNY
Who did you start the night with?

REBECCA
Roger. Is “Mike” a nickname for Roger?

JENNY
Only if you’re insane or you’ve had “a few tequilas.”

Rebecca’s cell vibrates.

REBECCA
Oh no. It’s blocked. Will you answer?

JENNY
Okay but I’m not lying for you.

She answers.

JENNY (CONT’D)
(immediately into a Mexican accent)
Hello, this is Maria. I find cell phone in cab.

Covers phone and in a panic.

JENNY (CONT’D)
It’s Mike!

REBECCA
Okay, I can handle this.
(takes phone)
Hello Mike, it’s Rebecca... Yes... It was a magical night.... What’s that? We’ve already got pet names? Cute... Okay, sure. I wove you too Mr. Munchy... Look Mike, I don’t want what I’m about to say to affect the very special night we had and how we feel about each other but..... who are you?

There’s a knock at the door. Jenny peeks out the window.

JENNY
It’s Roger. He looks mad.

ROGER (O.C.)
Rebecca! I know you’re in there!

REBECCA
Please don’t yell...
(looks at tattoo)
Mike!

She puts the phone on speaker as she brushes her hair, swishes mouthwash around in her mouth and spits it into a coffee mug.

MIKE/ROGER (O.C.)
Rebecca! / You can’t treat me like this!! / I have feelings! / You can’t live like you’re 19 years old for your whole life!!!

REBECCA
(whispers)
Cover for me. I'm late for court!

JENNY
Cover for you? How?

Rebecca dashes out the back door. Jenny opens the front door.

ROGER
Where is she? She ditched me on our date to make out with some guy who had high score on the pop a shot machine!

MIKE (O.C.)
(on speaker phone)
I had 640 on pop a shot! Who the hell are you?

ROGER
Jenny, who is that on the phone? Where's Rebecca?

MIKE (O.C.)
RebsMcCraCra! Are you with another man?

JENNY
(the hell with it)
You look so hot when you're confused Roger.

She kisses him. After a confused beat Roger goes with it and they make out.

MIKE (O.C.)
Are you having sex? Should I cancel our flight to Hawaii?! It boards in 20 minutes!

MUSIC: "Second Chance" by Peter Bjorn and John kicks in.

INT. CVS FAMILY PLANNING AISLE - LATER

Hungover, Rebecca wears big sunglasses and hustles through the aisle until she gets to the pregnancy tests. She picks one up and then a bottle of Advil. She quick-walks to the front counter.

A WOMAN with her child recognizes her.

WOMAN
Rebecca is that you?

REBECCA
NO!

INT. UNMARKED ROOM - SAME

The room is clearly an office. There's a desk, some books on a book shelf, a computer, etc.

Rebecca puts down her bag and takes off her t-shirt so she's wearing only a bra as she shakes her pee stick.

BAILIFF'S VOICE (O.S.)
All rise.

Rebecca moves a little more frantically.

INT. COURTROOM - SAME

The usual cast of courtroom personnel are present.

A COURT REPORTER, and lady in her mid-50's.

A LAWYER with her DEFENDANT.

A DA sits at the prosecution's table. This is TOM BARLOW. He's about Rebecca's age, every bit the dapper DA and every bit the political ladder climber.

And our BAILIFF, African American, late 20's named TEDWARD.

TEDWARD
Department 134 of the superior court is now in session. The honorable Rebecca Wright, judge presiding!

The door to the judge's chambers flies open and there's Rebecca in a judge's robe hair pulled back, serious face on, authoritative and judicial - no trace of the shit show we just witnessed.

REBECCA
Please be seated. But do it quietly. I have a headache. And someone get me a Gatorade.

MUSIC: OUT

TITLE: **BAD JUDGE** starring Kate Walsh.

ACT I

INT. COURTROOM - LATER

Rebecca looks down at her pregnancy test and sees that it's negative. She's beyond relieved. So much so that she actually does a silent "Yes!"

REBECCA
Boom! Mama ain't gonna be a Mama!

She high fives Tedward and hands him the stick that she peed on. He's disgusted but puts it in his pocket.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Sorry, I just received an important bit of uh, legal news. Now the charges brought before this court are-

A cell phone RINGS with an annoying ring tone somewhere in the courtroom. Rebecca looks up and stares out at Tom.

TOM
Sorry about that your Honor. It's me.

Rebecca stands up and points to a sign behind her head that reads "Turn all cell phones off while in the courtroom."

REBECCA
Tedward can you bring me that cell phone please.

Ted hands the phone to Rebecca.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
I have one rule in this courtroom: turn your cell phone off. And that rule is unbending.

As Rebecca talks, she quickly taps in several pass codes on Tom's phone. Each one is wrong. After ten attempts, the screen reads "PHONE LOCKED". She hands it back to Tedward.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
(re phone)
Anti Theft. Phone's shutdown. You'll have to call your carrier to get it restored. Maybe next time, you'll enter this court with respect and-

Her cell phone rings. She clicks it off.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Sorry.
(then reads first case)
(MORE)

REBECCA (CONT'D)
So we are looking at 3 charges of polygamy and 2 counts of falsifying identity. It appears as though Hot shot here had three families at once.

We see our accused polygamist: DOUGLAS RILLER. He's plain and unassuming.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
So you're the player who likes to play Mr. Riller? How do you answer to these charges?

DOUGLAS RILLER
Not guilty your honor. I loved them all equally. How can love be a crime?

REBECCA
You've clearly never been to Thailand. Trial date will be set and bail is set for-

TOM
Your honor, we have expert testimony that Mr. Riller is a flight risk and request that bail be denied. May I call Gary Boyd to the witness stand.

REBECCA
Sure, if you want to extend this hearing...

A handsome academic looking guy, roughly the same age as Rebecca, is on the stand. This is GARY BOYD.

Tom struts around in front of Gary in a tight suit. Nice but tight. He's being extremely overdramatic as though in a movie.

TOM
So, Dr. Gary Boyd, in your expert opinion as one of the most prominent psychiatrists in the state of California, does the accused pose an undue risk for flight from the law enforcement officials that keep the great state of California safe?!

REBECCA
Prosecutor, a word.

Tom walks up to the bench.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
You know this is just to determine if Romeo here is a flight risk, right, not an audition for A Few Good Men?

TOM
I was trying to get the information in the record as clearly as possible. It's protocol.

REBECCA
Are tight pants part of your protocol too?

TOM
These pants are fitted. And that's not an appropriate comment for a court of law.

REBECCA
Just lay off the grandstanding Tom. And let your junk breath. You may want to have kids someday.

Tom returns to his seat.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Now, Dr. Boyd, please continue.

Rebecca looks at Gary, something in her is interested in more than just his decision.

GARY
It's in my belief that the delusional nature of the defendant's crimes, his narcissistic personality disorder and psychopathic behavior, a time share in Mexico, he indeed represents a flight risk. He was married to three women with three families for six years. In short, he believes he should be in Paris right now.

REBECCA
Mr. Riller, what do you have to say for yourself?

MR. DENNISON
Your honor I've got too much love in my heart for just one person. Some people say I'm not a family man, But I say I'm three times the family man that a one family man is.... Are you married?

Rebecca looks at her phone under her desk. We see several names of missed calls. “Roger”, “Mike”, “Roger”, “Mike”, “Mike”, “Mike’s Mom”, “Air Hawaii”

REBECCA
I hate to break it to you Mr. Riller, you can’t live your life like you're 19 years old. You’re dealing with people. With feelings.
(to courtroom)
Bail is set at two hundred thousand, see you in two weeks, same time, same courtroom.

She bangs her gavel then looks at Gary.

REBECCA (CONT’D)
Dr. Boyd, a word with you in my chambers please.

CUT TO:

INT. REBECCA’S CHAMBERS - MINUTES LATER

Gary and Rebecca passionately fall on top of her desk. As they continue to kiss, Gary takes off her robe and accidentally knocks her entire purse over on the floor spilling all of its contents. Rebecca stops.

REBECCA
I’m sorry. I’ve got to stop. I had a crazy night last night and I just need to slow down.

GARY
Really? Okay...

In the pile of purse debris, Gary picks up the opened pregnancy test box.

GARY (CONT’D)
What’s this?

REBECCA
It’s a box that once held a pregnancy test.

GARY
Yeah. I got that. I meant why do you have a box that once held a pregnancy test? We use condoms every time.

REBECCA
Yeah. WE do.

GARY
Oh God! You had sex this morning! With someone! Gross. I had my mouth where you... Gross!

Tedward enters as Rebecca puts on her blouse.

TEDWARD
Ahh! Naked flesh! Naked judge flesh! It's cool... I'm cool. We're all cool.

REBECCA
Tedward, what do you want?

TEDWARD
Judge Connors wants you to give a speech at U.Cal San Bernadino's graduation on Saturday, he also needs you to file a motion for him by the end of the day and Lincoln Elementary School is on line one. Something about someone named Robby.

REBECCA
No on the speech. Later on the motion. And-
(then realizing)
Robby!

Rebecca answers her desk phone.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Hello. Wait, wait. This is Rebecca. Okay. Yes. I really appreciate you calling. Thank you and I'll be right there.

GARY
Can we talk about this pregnancy test?

REBECCA
Sure. It was negative. High five!

She holds up her hand but Gary doesn't return.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
You gotta lighten up Gary. Life's too long.

GARY
Rebecca, I like you. And I want to see where this can go and I'm willing to let go of stuff like whatever happened last night. That's how much I'm in to you.

Rebecca puts on her street clothes, straps on her purse and walks toward the door.

REBECCA
Gary, commitments are great in greeting cards and rom-coms but I live in the real world. So zip up, shut up and cheer up.

She kisses him on the cheek and flies out the door leaving Gary alone.

GARY
Zip up?

TEDWARD
Your fly's down.

GARY
Oh.

He zips up.

GARY (CONT'D)
She's gonna break my heart isn't she?

TEDWARD
She's gonna chop it up, chuck it in a juicer and drink your heart before her spin class. That's a bad lady.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

On a bench outside the principal's office, Rebecca sits next to a ten-year-old African American kid named ROBBY SHOEMAKER.

REBECCA
Hey Robby, sorry I'm a few late. Got hung up at the courts.

Robby turns away.

ROBBY
That Principle lied. He said he didn't call you.

REBECCA
I know you're mad at me and I get it. But I was doing my job.

ROBBY
You put both my parents in jail.

REBECCA
For selling drugs. Yes.

ROBBY
And now I'm in a group home.

REBECCA
In accordance with laws set forth long before me.

ROBBY
And you're here now, because you feel guilty.

REBECCA
No. I just thought... you may... need someone in your corner to uhh... Okay, yes, I feel really guilty.

ROBBY
And do you know what it does to me at a group home when my only friend is a judge?

REBECCA
(hopeful)
Makes you popular?

ROBBY
No...I get beat up all the time by a ten year old kid named Alfonso who can already grow a beard. He thinks I'm a narc.

The two sit in silence.

REBECCA
What'd you do anyway?

ROBBY
I drew a picture of my teacher.

REBECCA
(laughing)
With a dunce cap on his head or something?

ROBBY
A penis.

REBECCA
Really? I did that once too. I could draw high heels and trees really well. Penises I was so so.

A PRINCIPAL'S AIDE emerges from the Principal's office.

PRINCIPAL'S AIDE
Principal Johnson will see you now.

Rebecca stands up.

REBECCA
I'm Robby Shoemaker's council.
(then to Robby)
Don't say a word. They've got nothing on you.

ROBBY
They have the picture.

REBECCA
Shhh!

CUT TO:

INT. REBECCA'S CAR - MINUTES LATER

Rebecca drives with Robby in the passenger's seat. They eat ice cream cones and Robby has two pizza boxes in his lap.

ROBBY
You know you can't buy me off with ice cream and pizza.
(holds up a twenty)
And cash.

REBECCA
Buy you off? Kid, I got your principal to reduce your sentence from two weeks detention to an apology to your teacher. You should be buying me off.

ROBBY
Man, you're a mess. You got a hickey on your neck and you smell like cheap after shave.

REBECCA
Gary wears cheap after shave ironically. It’s our joke.

ROBBY
Ain’t no ironic way to be cheap. Cheap is cheap.

Rebecca stops the car in front of the group home.

REBECCA
We’re here.

ROBBY
Keep going. To the corner. I seriously don’t need Alphonso seeing you drop me off.

Robby reluctantly opens his door.

REBECCA
I get it. You’re a little embarrassed.

ROBBY
Look don't get me wrong you're hot... for your age. Everyone would think you were a movie star or something. Except for this crappy car. It makes you look like a busted Nickelodeon star.

REBECCA
That's what I look like?

ROBBY
Yea.

REBECCA
Look Robby, I wish I could tell you life gets easier. It doesn’t. Sometimes you just have to put on a brave face, till you figure it out.

ROBBY
I know you’re trying to act like you’re telling me something but you’re just commenting on your own messed up life.

Robby gets out of the car.

REBECCA
God, am I really that easy to peg?

ROBBY
Easier than a busted Nickelodean star.

Robby slams the door shut and runs to the Home.

INT. REBECCA'S GARAGE - LATER

Rebecca is on the drums. Jenny sings and plays guitar.

They do a rock version of Rhianna's "Diamonds." It's raw but fun.

JENNY
(singing)
Shine bright like a diamond. Shine bright like a diamond. We're beautiful like diamonds in the sky.

Rebecca hammers out a drum solo for a few beats, Jenny strums a final chord.

REBECCA
Except for it being out of tune, the beat all over the place and a couple of wrong chords, that sounded perfect.

JENNY
We're ready as a mofo for Saturday's show.
(then)
So what's going on with you and Gary?

REBECCA
Which Gary?

JENNY
I guess that answers my question. The court shrink?

REBECCA
He's okay. We fool around every now and then. Just not sure if he's the one.

JENNY
Who is the one? I've seen you date all kinds of guys: a Mormon, a Rastafarian, a blind philosopher, an MMA guy, a guy who you thought was cool cause he didn't drive and later you found out he was homeless. Just what is your type?

REBECCA
I've been thinking about it. I want a guy who's rock n' roll, seems like he's trouble, but at the same time he's at the top of his field. And you never know what he's going to do... always has a trick up his sleeve.

JENNY
You're aware, you just described Chris Angel, Mind Freak.

REBECCA
Already dated him.
(then)
What about you, when are you going to find a guy?

There's a knock at the door.

JENNY
I've actually been meaning to tell you.

Roger enters.

ROGER
Hey Honey.

Rebecca puts her arms out. Roger walks past her and gives Jenny a kiss.

ROGER (CONT'D)
I got here early to pick you up. I'll be in the car thinking about you. Come down when you're done.
(then)
Hello Rebecca. Sorry.

Roger walks out.

REBECCA
What the hell is going on?

JENNY
You told me to stall him. The only thing that stops a guy is tongue. Now he won't leave.

REBECCA
You need some better stall technique. Fake a leg cramp. Yell fire.

JENNY
I know. I know. I'm screwed. I think the best thing is to date him for a year, get married, have a couple of kids and then get the hell out of there.

REBECCA
That's the worst plan I've ever heard.
(then)
Let's practice something. I don't want to suck on Saturday.

They pick up their instruments.

JENNY
Before we start, Roger's actually kind of nice.

REBECCA
I know. I dated him, remember?

JENNY
I just felt bad that I acted like he's a burden. We actually have fun. Weird huh?

REBECCA
That's okay. You don't have to pretend to be unhappy just because my life's a mess.

JENNY
Oh thank God!

Rebecca's phone vibrates. She looks at it. It's a text from Judge Connors that reads, "You forgot to file the motion."

REBECCA
BALLS!

CUT TO:

ACT II

EXT. COURTHOUSE STEPS - MORNING

Rebecca walks up the stairs to the courthouse, completely professional, and she's stopped by Tedward.

TEDWARD
You might want to take the back way in. Judge Connors is pacing around the commissary like a panther waiting to strike. You should have filed that motion.

REBECCA
I deal with mentally unstable criminals every day. I can handle a slightly annoyed Judge Connors. Where are you going?

Tedward holds up a popsicle.

TEDWARD
I'm eating a bomb pop. Security says we gotta eat em outside cause they involve the word "bomb" and "pop." 2014 is a trip.

Gary walks by.

REBECCA
Hey Gary!

He keeps walking.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Are you ignoring me?

GARY
Yes, I am.

REBECCA
You answered me!

GARY
So childish... But I guess that's your thing.

INT. COMMISSARY - AFTERNOON

Rebecca enters to see Tom talking to an OLDER MAN, late 50's and authoritative, unblinking and not amused. This is her boss, JUDGE CONNERS.

REBECCA
Judge Connors, I had a kind of family emergency yesterday and I take full responsibility for not filing that motion. You have my apology.

TOM
We were having a conversation here.

JUDGE CONNORS
I didn't realize it was "kind of a family emergency." I'll just tell that to every member of a jury, 4 lawyers, the defendant, the plaintiff and myself - all of whom have to be in court for an additional day to avoid a mistrial.

REBECCA
I truly am sorry. I would be happy to fill in for traffic court next week. So long as it's not Tuesday, Thursday or Monday or Friday.

JUDGE CONNORS
You can make it up by delivering the U. Cal SB Law School commencement speech this Saturday.

REBECCA
Oh but I can't-

Tom sees his opportunity.

TOM
If you're in a pinch I'd be more than happy to fill in.

JUDGE CONNORS
That won't be necessary Tom, but the brown-nosing is noted.

TOM
Thank you, sir.

REBECCA
How is it even possible that UCSB wouldn't have someone already lined up to give that speech?

JUDGE CONNORS
They did. It was Judge Revoredo. Unfortunately she died.

REBECCA
So I'm replacing a dead person?

JUDGE CONNORS
The cycle of life continues. See you Saturday night.

REBECCA
I'm sorry Judge Connors, I really can't do Saturday night. I have... a pressing obligation.

TOM
Her and her friend are playing a show at the Echodome.

JUDGE CONNORS
Very good Tom. A brown nose and a snitch. You're working your way up the ladder fast.
(then)
Judge Wright, you're one brightest most talented legal minds in the state of California. Don't waste it on a "show" Saturday night.

OFFICER BRANDLY, 37, a police officer walks up. He is wide-eye'd and tongue tied around Rebecca.

OFFICER BRANDLY
Hey Rebecca. I mean your owner. Honor.

TOM
Can we help you?

OFFICER BRANDLY
I just wanted to say hi to her.

TOM
Well, you've said "hi".

OFFICER BRANDLY
Bye Rebecca.

REBECCA
Goodbye Officer Brandly.

OFFICER BRANDLY
Yes! You talked to me! Yes!

Officer Brandly walks away.

REBECCA
He testified in my court a month a go. I had just had my hair done and you know how that goes. So I think he's in love with me.

JUDGE CONNORS
That must have been some hair cut.

TOM
Actually I thought it was a bit much. Blow out, trim, everything.

JUDGE CONNORS
Why don't you shut up.

TOM
Yes sir.

INT. COURTROOM - LATER

Tom is at his prosecutor's table addressing the bench.

TOM
Your Honor the prosecution would like to call to the stand, Mrs. Dennison, or wife number one.

A dowdy women approaches the bench. She's 40s, right down the middle in looks.

DEFENSE ATORNEY #1
Your Honor, I object. Referring to her as wife number one is prejudicial.

REBECCA
Sustained. Mrs. Dennison, what is your first name?

MRS. DENNISON
Mary.

REBECCA
And what were the other wive's names?

MRS. DENNISON
Mary. And Mary.

REBECCA
(to defense attorney)
"Wife number one" will now be sworn in.

DISSOLVE TO:

MOMENTS LATER

MRS. DENNISON
I know Wayne hurt me with lies and financial burden, but... I have to say, he was a fantastic husband.

MR. DENNISON
See! See! It can be done!

REBECCA
Quiet, or I'll have you removed.

MRS. DENNISON
(starts to cry)
He was my rock, my island, my everything. Without him I'm lost.

Rebecca bangs her gavel.

REBECCA
Mrs. Dennison, my chambers, five minutes. No council.

TOM
Judge Wright, what is going on?

REBECCA
I remind you, this is my court room.

MR. DENNISON
Are you two going to kiss? Can I come!?

INT. REBECCA'S CHAMBERS - DAY

Rebecca and Mrs. Dennison are in the chambers.

REBECCA
Mary. You love Kevin, right?

MRS. DENNISON
I do. So much.

REBECCA
You know what men really love? When you don't care about them. When you don't give a crap.

MRS. DENNISON
Oh, I don't know.

REBECCA
And if you made a few little changes...

Rebecca starts primping Mary's hair and undoing a couple buttons.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Gave yourself a look. He'll change his tune when he sees the sexual dynamo he took for granted.

MRS. DENNISON
You don't talk like a judge.

REBECCA
I know. I have to fix that. Do I come off trashy?

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Mary, now looking hot. Bedroom hair, pouty lips, some cleavage showing.

MRS. DENNISON
It was a shame to see Kevin go. But I started dating this ice hockey player and a couple of firemen. So it's all good.

REBECCA
Well said.
(to room)
Sorry. Just got caught up.

MR. DENNISON
Honey! I love you! It's me! You were always the only one.

TOM
Your Honor, objection. I'm not even sure how to frame this. Witness tampering from the Judge? Witness make over?

REBECCA
Over ruled.

Rebecca sees her phone ringing. It's the Middle School calling again.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Let's take a two hour recess.

TOM
Two hour recess?

REBECCA
It's a family emergency.

TOM
You don't even have a family.

REBECCA
I know and this kid doesn't even like me.

MR. DENNISON
I like you!

INT. LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Rebecca and Robby sit across from MR. THORPE, an uptight elementary school teacher.

ROBBY
I don't want to talk to her.

MR. THORPE
Robby, Ms. Wright is an esteemed member of our country's judicial system. She's a judge of utmost importance.

Rebecca burps loudly.

REBECCA
I'm sorry. I had wine and cake for breakfast.

Rebecca looks at the drawing.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Okay, so he drew another picture. What do we got?

Rebecca swipes the drawing. It's Mr. Thorpe but his head looks like a giant dick.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Principal with a penis head.
(takes it in)
Hm... Did you look at this? It's quite good. But here's the story. Robby is having some issues at the group home, victim of bullying and fighting. Clearly he's just reaching out for some attention. Right Robby?

ROBBY
No, I just think Mr. Thorpe's head looks like a dick.

REBECCA
(pushing it)
Because you want attention, correct?

ROBBY
I want attention to the fact that his head looks like a penis.

REBECCA
Mr. Thorpe. Can we just look at this as artistic expression from a frustrated child?

MR. THORPE
We'll I don't like it. I have a wife... and grown kids.

REBECCA
I'm going to handle this. Do you want the art?

They both stare at it? Silence.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
I'll take it.

She grabs the paper and takes Robby by the hand and exits.

ROBBY
(to the teacher)
I'd be happy to do portraits of your family!

INT. REBECCA'S CAR - MINUTES LATER

She and Robby drive. In silence.

REBECCA
Do you want to talk about this?

ROBBY
No. Not at all. I'd rather drive in silence or listen to Jack FM.

REBECCA
You know that's not a real station. No real deejays. Just corporate...

Rebecca trails off. More silence.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Okay, I'll start. My first piece of advice is that you notify the head of the group home, document the bullying and file a police report.

ROBBY
Yeah. Cause group home kids love a snitch.

REBECCA
And my second piece of advice? When this Alphonso comes at you, hold your hands up like you don't want to fight and then punch him right in the nose. Nothing stops a bully like seeing their own blood

Robby takes this in. It's the best advice she's told him.

SFX: POLICE SIREN

A motorcycle cop pulls up. It's Officer Brandly. They are now in front of the group home.

OFFICER BRANDLY
Judge Wright. Saw your car. Wanted to say hi and make sure everything was alright.

Beat.

OFFICER BRANDLY (CONT'D)
Hi. Is everything alright?

REBECCA
Yeah. It's fine.

Brandly sees Robby.

OFFICER BRANDLY
Is this guy bothering you?

REBECCA
He's 12! It's okay Brandly. He's with me.

ROBBY
No I'm not!

REBECCA
I'm just dropping him off at the group home.

OFFICER BRANDLY
Does he need an escort in?

REBECCA
Hmmm.

EXT. GROUP HOME - DAY

MUSIC: GLORIOUS TRUMPETS with HIP HOP BEAT

SLO MO: Everyone, including ALPHONSO the Bully (who does indeed have a beard) watch as a Cop and Judge Wright escort Robby into the group home.

ROBBY
I am so going to get my ass beat.

ACT III

INT. REBECCA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Rebecca sits at her kitchen table, laptop open, trying to write the commencement speech. "Today you graduate..." and nothing else.

She lays her fingers on the keyboard and just as she's about to type her phone buzzes. She looks at it and sees it's a text message from the Group Home.

It reads - "Robby was in fight this evening. He punched a guy. We need to discuss his future here." Rebecca reads.

REBECCA
Oh boy.

Just as she's about to type, her phone buzzes again. She looks at it and this time it's Gary.

It reads, "You hurt me. I really think we could work. Give us a chance."

It buzzes again. It's from Judge Connors "I hope your commencement speech is ready for tomorrow night. This is a great honor Ms. Wright."

She turns her phone off.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Jeez...When it rains it rains fans... with crap hitting them...

Her IM on her computer dings. This time it's from Jenny "Can't wait for show tomorrow night! Hope we get a crowd! You'll definitely be there right?"

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Screw you social media!

She shuts off her IM.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Okay Rebecca... You can handle this... There's no one else that can...

She hits play on iTunes on her computer.

MUSIC: Andrew Bird's "Tenuousness"

She starts to type the commencement speech with a focus we haven't seen from her up til now.

REBECCA (V.O.)
We are led to believe that in life doing the right thing is a clear decision...

SERIES OF CUTS WHILE SHE WRITES:

1. Gary in his office looking over files. His RECEPTIONIST walks in with a little package all wrapped nice with a bow and everything.

Gary opens it and it's a flyer for Jenny and Rebecca's show. Written on it in sharpie are the words "VIP/ALL ACCESS...I'm sorry I'm weird. Please come... R"

REBECCA (V.O.)
But sometimes things have to be a real mess for us to know what the right thing is...

2. Jenny gets an IM back from Rebecca "I'll be at show. And we will have a HUGE audience. Yours in rock forever, R"

REBECCA (V.O.)
Because there's a voice inside us that knows what to do. We just have to want to hear it.

3. Judge Conners gets a text "Very excited for commencement speech. I won't let you down. R"

REBECCA (V.O.)
And what it will tell us won't be easy. And it won't be comfortable. But it will be right...

4. Robby is in his bunk drawing a beautiful picture of Rebecca. The Bully walks by with a bandage on his nose. Robby starts to get up and the Bully runs away.

REBECCA (V.O.)
And how fast we can hear that voice and how courageous we are in doing what it says. That's success. That's character...

~~CUT TO:~~

INT. GIANT BANQUET HALL (UCLA LAW SCHOOL GRADUATION) - EVENING

Tedward, Tom, TOM'S FIANCE, Judge Connors and JUDGE CONNOR'S WIFE talk to one another amongst the black tie crowd.

TOM
I told you she wouldn't show up Judge Connors.

JUDGE CONNORS
Please close your mouth Tom. Things are nicer when you do.

Judge Connors nervously checks his watch.

REBECCA (V.O.)
Will we always be able to do this? To find the voice that knows? Oh definitely not. And I have the bad tattoo to prove it...

Just then Rebecca walks in. She's elegant in a way we haven't seen yet.

JUDGE CONNORS
Hello Judge Wright. You like to cut it close don't you?

REBECCA
Hello Judge Connors. Mrs. Connors. Hello Tom. Hello Lady who for some reason agreed to marry Tom.

DEAN
And now, I'd like to introduce our keynote speaker of the night. She graduated from this very law school and now she's one of the youngest judges in San Bernardino county. Please welcome Judge Rebecca Wright.

TEDWARD
Take smoke to the fools Judge.

REBECCA
You know it Tedward.

ON STAGE - Rebecca takes the podium. She continues her voice over of the speech she wrote live on stage..

REBECCA (CONT'D)
But bad tattoos, hang overs, shirked responsibilities and the pain they cause are what drive us to want to do right. So God bless them. Because the life you walk into after graduating isn't about your salary. It isn't about what law firm you work at.
(MORE)

REBECCA (CONT'D)
It's about learning just a little each day about how to find that right and wrong voice even. So maybe, just maybe... the world can be just a bit less D-bagey.

The audience gives her a huge round of applause.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
So right now you can either have a stuffy night at a fancy restaurant celebrating like you're supposed to or I'd like to invite you all to join me down the street at the Pubhouse where my band will be killing it.

Everyone is silent.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
And the first round's on me.

Everyone cheers and tosses up their graduation caps at this information.

EXT. PUBHOUSE - 30 MINUTES LATER

Rebecca raises her drumsticks and counts it down.

REBECCA
One, two, three, four!

They kick into a rock version of Jay Z's "99 Problems", a modern legal anthem.

JENNY
(singing)
If you're havin' girl problems I feel bad for you son. I've got 99 problems and a dude ain't one!

The place is packed with LAW SCHOOL GRADS. Gary is there dancing, as is Tedward and Officer Brandley who is watching Rebecca with a big dumb smile on his face.

CUT TO:

INT. GARY'S CAR - NIGHT

Gary and Rebecca sit in the car outside Rebecca's condo. They finish a big kiss.

GARY
This was an amazing night.

REBECCA
It kind of was, wasn't it?

GARY
So are we going steady?

REBECCA
Can't we just say we're at the top of each other's list for now. Commitment scares the crap out of me but I'm working on it. I just want to take it a step at a time.

GARY
What gave you your fear of commitment? Irresponsible parents so you had to be the grown up? Or just plain fear of your own mortality?

REBECCA
All of the above. Damn, you're good.

GARY
It's what I get paid to do.

They kiss again.

REBECCA
I'll call you tomorrow.

GARY
Good job tonight. You managed to spin a lot of plates. It could have been a disaster but everyone's happy.

REBECCA
Oh crap! Robby! I forgot to call his group home. I've got to go.

She jumps out of the car and runs down the walk to find Robby with a duffle bag sitting at her door.

ROBBY
Hey Judge.

REBECCA
Robby! I'm so sorry.

ROBBY
Don't be. I took your advice and that bully stopped bothering me. Bad news is they threw me out of the group home. Think I can crash here for a few nights... Or weeks?

REBECCA
Of course you can.

GARY
So much for commitment a step at a time. See you Rebecca.

Gary drives off.

REBECCA
Gary! Come back right now!

He’s gone. Rebecca takes a breath and then opens the door.

REBECCA (CONT’D)
Do you want some soup? That’s all I can think to do right now... Soup.

ROBBY
That’s a good call. Soup is never bad.

They enter and close the door but we hear their conversation as the lights turn on.

REBECCA
That’s what I figured. No one gets mad at someone offering soup. The only thing is, I don’t think I have any soup.

ROBBY
Good rule of life is “don’t offer soup if you don’t have soup.”

REBECCA
I set the rules. Not you. That’s rule number one.

ROBBY
Who the hell is Mike?

REBECCA
Don’t worry about it. How about some baking soda and an egg. That’s all I have.

OUT.