I AM VICTOR

"Always the Victor"

Written by

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Based on the novel

I AM VICTOR

By

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 **INT. UNIVERSAL HILTON -- MORNING** 1

Tossed TOURISTY CLOTHING, a couple large suitcases and kitschy LA souvenirs dot the floor. We hear engaged, post-sex pillow talk, that's been going on for hours.

The voice is crisp, definitive and disarmingly honest.

VICTOR (O.S.)
You've got to be a meth-smoking crack addict to marry someone because you fall in love.

We track along the window overlooking Universal Studios, and reach the bed. A buoyant, optimistic young female voice responds...

LENA (O.S.)
Or, a normal person.

VICTOR PORT, late 30s, excellent physique, bad boy grin, lies nude under the sheets.

VICTOR
Come on. Marriage is a relic, a contract created so farmers could sell off their daughters for seed.

He lies next to LENA ENGLES, 30, natural, intelligent eyes, listening with fascination to Victor's musings.

LENA
So that's all marriage is to you? A contract?

VICTOR
And that idea only worked a thousand years ago when we expired young. Today, 'til death do us part' is the best argument going for assisted suicide.

LENA
That's ridiculous.

VICTOR
It's liberating. The reason everyone is so disillusioned is because we tell people to believe in fairy tales.

Victor's phone rings. He hits ignore.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
See. Another divorce.

LENA
Every time your cell rings?

VICTOR
That's what I do. Divorce law.

Of course.

LENA
I bet you're very good.

VICTOR
I'd give you my card, but if you ask around, there's only one me.

Getting out of bed, she slips on a KING KONG T-shirt.

LENA
Well, this has been... something I will try to but not easily forget.

VICTOR
I still remember my first time to Universal Studios.

LENA
I admit, I haven't done anything like this...
(bashful)
Okay, ever.

VICTOR
I'm glad to be of service.

Victor finally gets out of bed, searches for his clothes amidst her souvenirs. He finds an ET PEN.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Adorable.

LENA
It may seem a little cheesy, but I just moved to town and wanted to see the sights.

She playfully pops the pen into the breast pocket of his custom-tailored suit.

VICTOR
A memento. I'm not very sentimental.

LENA
Listen, I'm still recovering from a long term relationship. Last night was great... The rides, the shots, the mechanical bull. Really. I'm just not looking for anything more than what happened and my sense is you're not either. So...

VICTOR
So. Enjoy LA.

He's taking her in one last time before he goes. It's sexy, but she's slightly uncomfortable.

LENA
I hope one day, you find someone who changes your mind.

VICTOR
About?

LENA
Love.

She's bright and hopeful. Refreshing. She holds out her hand to shake. Victor takes it, then pulls her close for one last kiss. He lets go, leaving her with a smile as the door shuts.

SMASH CUT TO:

MONTAGE: To a jamin' version of INXS' "What You Need", Victor steps in his BLACK RANGE ROVER, drives over the canyon and Hollywood sign. Life is perfect and he is the shit. Victor pulls into the drive-thru at an In-N-OUT. The sign says CLOSED FOR BREAKFAST. Slowly a hand comes out of the window with a bag (double-double). Victor flips back a twenty. He has it wired. Victor heads down Sunset Blvd, and pulls into his space at a posh office building.

2 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES - GYM -- DAY** 2

TIGHT SUCCESSIVE SHOTS: A fancy overhead shower rains down. Victor washes up, shaves and towels off. He places his old suit jacket in the closet, changes into a fresh suit, checks himself in the mirror, emerges, music out --

3 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES -- DAY** 3

Victor heads to his office, passing CUCUMBER, 20s, Victor's tall, sharp-featured Russian secretary. Despite their professional tone, there's an implied sexual mischief.

VICTOR
Hello, Cucumber.

CUCUMBER
(Russian accent)
Hello, Victor. Your new client is waiting.

4 **INT. VICTOR'S OFFICE - DAY** 4

Victor sees SAMANTHA MORGAN, 35, attractively plus sized, with a fiery Red-headed edge. She's staring at Victor's Wall of Shame -- photos with athletes, stars and politicians.

VICTOR
Celebrities make fantastic clients. I give them volume discounts.

She turns, trying to smile. But she's anxious, sad.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
First divorce?

She's surprised by his cavalier attitude.

SAMANTHA
I never thought it would come to this.

He leans against his desk.

VICTOR
You don't look naive.

She's taken aback, but decides to continue with her story.

SAMANTHA
Ray and I... we took compatibility tests. We dated for five years, lived together for three... Then one day my husband came home and told me he's no longer in love with me. Like that, my life is over.

VICTOR
Your life is fine. Your marriage is over.

She's horrified by his insensitivity.

SAMANTHA
You have terrible bedside manner.

VICTOR
I'm not a doctor. I'm a lawyer. How was your sex life?

SAMANTHA
Excuse me?

VICTOR
You say the divorce took you by surprise. When was the last time you had sex?

It hits her.

SAMANTHA
It's been a while. We were fighting a lot.

VICTOR
It's not your fault. You had a fifty-fifty shot at winding up in my office. The good news is you're in my office and not him.

SAMANTHA
So what happens now?

VICTOR
(looking over her file)
I hate drawn out divorces. The paperwork is mind numbing... You don't have kids. Give me a week.

Samantha clears her throat.

SAMANTHA
Well. We sort of do. Have kids.
(confessing)
Before things fell apart, we tried. We tried everything. Including five rounds of in vitro fertilization.

VICTOR
I see.

SAMANTHA
We still have one frozen embryo remaining.

VICTOR
And you want it.

SAMANTHA
(nods)
It's my last chance at a child.

VICTOR
I'll work custody into the settlement.

SAMANTHA
I think it's going to be a bigger problem than that. He doesn't want custody.

VICTOR
What does he want?

SAMANTHA
Not a child.

VICTOR
He wants the embryo destroyed.

SAMANTHA
(nodding)
Since it's half his, the clinic won't let me try again until we have this resolved.

Off Victor...

5 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES -- DAY** 5

Victor walks down the hall. He immediately u-turns when he spots OLAF RENNER, 50s, best described as an aging Viking. A hearty warrior with a lingering Norwegian accent. Feels like he could wear a pelt. He's intimidating.

OLAF
Victor.

Unable to dodge him, Victor turns to face Olaf.

VICTOR
Olaf. I'm with a client.

OLAF
(doesn't care)
Look at this.

An authentic 12th century NORSE BATTLE SCENE TAPESTRY hangs, framed, on the wall. Olaf is a collector of things.

OLAF (CONT'D)
From Norse mythology -- a nine-hundred year old depiction of the God, Odin, riding into battle.
(proud)
Took me two years, three hundred grand and six trips to Oslo, but I got it.

Victor smiles and nods. Olaf has paid more for less.

VICTOR
Thor was Odin's son, right? Is he on the tapestry?

OLAF
No.

VICTOR
Oh. I always thought he was the famous one. Well, I'm sure it's still worth every penny.

Olaf won't let Victor get to him. He starts walking again. Time to talk business.

OLAF
I've gotten a dozen calls from Ray Morgan.

VICTOR
Of Morgan Tires, I know.

OLAF
Naturally, both Ray and his wife Samantha want our firm to represent them.

VICTOR
Naturally.

OLAF
But only one wins. Go with the money. Ray.

Clearly Olaf isn't aware that Victor already met with Samantha. Victor decides to toy with him.

VICTOR
I like the 'out-spouse'.

OLAF
The wife?
(yawn)
(MORE)

OLAF (CONT'D)
She runs some web marketing firm. One retainer and you're done. Ray runs a tire company that makes the shoddiest tires on the market.

VICTOR
I know. I had a set. While they were still so new they had those little rubber hairs on 'em -- Boom. One of them blew out on the 405. I was stuck on the side of the freeway two and half hours. Time for payback.

Olaf couldn't care less.

OLAF
There are people out there who were really hurt by his tires. I want to defend him. Crush his wife so we can fill our litigation practice.

VICTOR
His brother handles his litigation. He's not moving.

OLAF
This isn't a request. Sign Ray Morgan.

Victor has been walking toward his conference room (adjacent to his office and decorated by and for him).

VICTOR
I just can't stop thinking about poor Samantha Morgan. Jilted, without warning. All those years of trying to give him a child, and he drops her because she's barren.

Olaf thinks Victor is joking until he sees Samantha in the conference room, filling out paperwork. Olaf is pissed.

OLAF
Is that her?!

VICTOR
Curse my sensitive side, Olaf. I had to go in a different direction.

OLAF
If you weren't married to my daughter, I would bury you.

VICTOR
Then you wouldn't get to represent Ray or Samantha. Better to keep me around. Much more fun.

Yes, Victor is married. Yes, Olaf is his father-in-law. As Olaf and Victor part, we see a PHOTO on the wall of VICTOR, HELEN (his wife), and their two children --

SMASH TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

6 **EXT. PORT HOME -- MORNING** 6

Gardeners and landscapers are busy beautifying this large, traditional Cape Cod home.

7 **INT. PORT HOME -- MORNING** 7

Victor grills pancakes and bacon in his high-end kitchen. GEORGE, 10, plays on his iPad nearby. HELEN, 30s, Victor's wife, beautiful, down-played under a professional wardrobe enters. She smells the pancakes and fresh strawberries.

HELEN
(delighted)
Mmm. I thought we were out of strawberries.

VICTOR
Picked 'em up this morning.

She kisses him on the back of the neck, how thoughtful. Helen's getting the plates out as Victor flips the pancakes onto them -- a routine they have down. DANA, 14, awkwardly cute, enters and takes her plate.

DANA
Thanks, Dad. Okay, so there's this guy, Lyndon.

VICTOR
Former President. Ambitious bastard, until he actually got what he wanted. Then crumbled.

HELEN
Lyndon is a boy at school.

VICTOR
I didn't think that name was still in use. Bad parenting.

Helen takes her pancake, and some fresh organic fruit.

GEORGE
Dana's in looooovvveee with him --

DANA
Shut up.

HELEN
Awe, Dana. When did this happen?

DANA
This weekend.

GEORGE
It was ‘love at first sight’ --

DANA
Shut. Up.

VICTOR
Whoa there, kids. No such thing.

Everyone’s used to Victor pontificating.

DANA
Of course there is. Read Shakespeare.

VICTOR
Divorced.

DANA
No he wasn’t.

VICTOR
Right, he just lived in another city with another woman.

Victor brings over the rest of the pancakes. He grabs one and eats it as he puts on his jacket and straightens his tie.

VICTOR (CONT’D)
Your mom fell for me at first sight, and has regretted it ever since.

HELEN
That’s not true. I could leave any time I want.

Victor eyes her. Dana laughs. Whatever.

DANA
He’s having a party Saturday night.

VICTOR
Your mother’s birthday dinner is on Saturday.

Helen smiles at her husband. He doesn’t forget.

DANA
I know... I don't want to miss your birthday, Mom. But, it's Lyndon.

HELEN
We'll discuss it.

Victor flashes a smile back at her as she hands him his briefcase. He nods, a united front.

8 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES - CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY** 8

Samantha sits across from Ray and his attorney, CHRIS GORDON, 40s. Victor texts on his cell while Samantha and Ray continue hashing out their differences.

RAY
I don't want a child.

VICTOR
(correcting)
It's a little boy. Didn't you always want an heir to your tire dynasty?

CHRIS
Stop it.

RAY
You can't compel me to have a kid with my ex, just because there's an embryo on ice.

SAMANTHA
Ray, you wouldn't have to be part of his life.

RAY
Of course I would. He'd be my son -- Seriously, how would you feel having a kid out there you don't even know?

VICTOR
Ever hear of Genghis Kahn? 16 million little Genghi's run around today. Man up, Ray and spread your seed.
(pussy)
Once.

RAY
There is no amount of money, no assets, nothing you can offer me to change my mind.

This is going nowhere. Seemingly bored, Victor returns to his Smartphone and checks messages.

SAMANTHA
You want out of this marriage?

RAY
Yeah --

SAMANTHA
Then give me my son --

RAY
We're getting a divorce, not having a baby!

Samantha nearly leaps out of her seat -- Chris breaks 'em up.

CHRIS
Victor. A little help?

Victor, completely disengaged, heads to the door.

VICTOR
First aid is in the top drawer.

Victor exits, to the bafflement of Samantha, Ray and Chris.

9 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES - WES & MILLIE'S OFFICE -- DAY** 9

WES FINI, 20s, neurotic Italian-Catholic, and MILLIE GOLD, 20s, confident Jew, work across from each other at their desks. Millie takes her Smartphone, and holds it under her skirt facing her lap. FLASH. She texts the photo to Wes.

JWOOP. Wes looks up from his papers, and checks his text. His eyes widen, then he stares across the room. Playful, he turns back to his Smartphone and types.

We don't see Wes' sext back to Millie, but clearly she enjoys it. They hear Victor coming and straighten up as he enters.

WES
Did they reach an agreement?

VICTOR
No, Sunshine, but we did glean a few gems from their encounter. Any guesses?

MILLIE
That you still won't let us sit in settlement meetings.

VICTOR
And?
(off their silence)
I'll give you a hint. His firm has two decent lawyers. One trial and one negotiator. As soon as he showed up today with the trial lawyer and not the negotiator, I knew we're headed to court.

WES
That was a hint?

VICTOR
You're slow. I had to move things along. What's our best legal case?

MILLIE
Donovan v. Klein favored the father's right not to bear a child.

VICTOR
You're so unhelpful now you're playing for the other team.

WES
It's the only ruling. And the decision stands a good chance at being overturned. Five of the appellate justices past decisions --

VICTOR
My client can't wait for a higher court. Her tubes don't have that kind of time.

MILLIE
Why does she want a kid with this jerk anyway?

VICTOR
Says the girl with no children.

MILLIE
I wouldn't want one with my ex. Every time I'd look at my sweet, precious child, I'd want to strangle the half that looks like the asshole who left me.

VICTOR
(to Wes)
You agree with her?

He hesitates.

WES
Millie has a point. Samantha might feel one way now, and --

VICTOR
This is why I don't allow office sex. You're so desperate to get in her pants you'll say our client's careening toward prolicide.

Busted.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
It means killing one's children. Get your head out of her crotch.

Millie steers the conversation back to the case.

MILLIE
What if the embryo's rights are already defined?

VICTOR
How?

MILLIE
An existing contract. When Samantha went in to the fertility clinic, she must have filled out a consent form.

WES
If the agreement assigns her the rights rather than Ray --

VICTOR
(yes this works)
Given Ray never wanted a kid, I bet she went to the clinic alone... making hers the only signature on the consent -- go get that form.

Victor's up and walking. He stops and reads off his phone:

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Millie: *I told you, you make me moist.* Wes: *Insufficient proof. Send another photo.*

Millie and Wes are horrified.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
As much as I'm eager to see more proof, break it off, or I fire Wes.

Off Wes and Millie, concerned and embarrassed.

10 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES -- DAY** 10

Victor approaches Cucumber, who quietly works at her desk.

VICTOR
Hello, Cucumber.

CUCUMBER
Hello, Victor.
(then)
I tried Elliot. It went to voicemail.

VICTOR
Let me know when you find him.

CUCUMBER
Olaf wants to see you.

Victor sighs. He starts into his office when --

OLAF
Victor.

Victor turns to see Olaf's far too warm greeting. Victor knows Olaf is about to spring something on him.

VICTOR
How can I make you money today, Dad?

Olaf hates when Victor calls him Dad. They walk --

OLAF
Thought you'd want to say hello to our new criminal defense counsel.

They enter --

11 **INT. OLAF'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS** 11

Standing, admiring the Nordic Kingdom motif (antique oars, a centuries old Viking helmet, antique weaponry), is -- Lena.

OLAF
This is Lena.

She slowly turns, her smile instantly frozen as she experiences a brief holy-fucking-shit-this-can't-possibly-be-happening. Lena forces a smile. Victor holds out his hand.

VICTOR
Hi. Lena. A pleasure.

It's a mirror of their romantic goodbye, except this time Victor shakes rather than pulling her in for a kiss.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Lena. There's been a misunderstanding.

LENA
Really.

VICTOR
I'll put together a severance package --

LENA
Severance package? I don't follow.

VICTOR
The criminal defense position. I already hired someone.

OLAF
I unhired him.
(recalling Victor's line)
I had to go in a different direction.

LENA
Maybe I'll just wait outside.

Lena exits.

OLAF
Is your name *Renner* or *Associates*? I make the decisions.

VICTOR
I need a real defense attorney. This one's still green.

OLAF
How do you know?

VICTOR
Look at her.

OLAF
Nice, huh.
(then)
Would never have guessed Harvard Law Review and four years in the Boston DA's office.

VICTOR
You sleeping with her?

OLAF
Not yet.

They're interrupted by a knock. Cucumber opens the door.

CUCUMBER
Victor, I need you.

VICTOR
(to Olaf)
This isn't over.

OLAF
It better be.

Victor exits --

12 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES -- DAY** 12

Victor walks with Cucumber.

CUCUMBER
Elliot is in trouble.

VICTOR
What's new.

CUCUMBER
There are bystanders this time. And police.

Frustrated, Victor nods. He sees Lena, awkwardly standing around, waiting to be told where to go, but trying to act like she's not lost.

VICTOR
New defense counsel. Come with me.

LENA
Where?

VICTOR
To defend your first client.

He walks briskly, and she follows.

13 **INT. VICTOR'S RANGE ROVER -- DAY** 13

Lena and Victor drive. He's very comfortable, she's still getting her bearings.

VICTOR
You a Dodgers fan? We have box tickets. And VIP passes to Universal --

LENA
Okay, we should talk about last night.

VICTOR
I don't sleep with co-workers, lawyers or happily married women. Last night will never happen again.

LENA
Of course it won't. Did you just say happily married women? What does that mean?

Victor's phone rings. The dash lights up: HELEN.

VICTOR
Yeah. That's my wife.

LENA
Your wife -- Oh my God!

Victor answers, putting Helen on speaker.

VICTOR
Hi, Honey.

Lena stares at him in shock. How could he pick up the phone?!

HELEN (O.S.)
Hey, Hon.

Victor glances at her. What?

HELEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
They moved up my presentation to tomorrow.

VICTOR
I thought you had another week to prepare.

HELEN (O.S.)
The CEO flew in early from Paris. The entire company's in a panic.

VICTOR
You want me to read over the corporate liability section?

HELEN (O.S.)
Could you?

VICTOR
Of course.

HELEN (O.S.)
I'll send what I have so far.
(playful, sexual)
And tonight I will reward you --

VICTOR
I'm on my way to rescue Elliot.

HELEN (O.S.)
Again?

VICTOR
With the new defense counsel.

HELEN (O.S.)
Victor. You have to tell me when there are other people in the car. I'm so embarrassed.

This is torture for Lena.

VICTOR
So is she. Meet Lena.

LENA
Hi. Helen?

HELEN (O.S.)
Hi, welcome. I hope Victor's treating you well.

LENA
Ditto.

VICTOR
Gotta go. Bye, Honey.

HELEN (O.S.)
See you tonight.

Click.

LENA
What. The. --

VICTOR
Judging by your engagement ring, I thought you were married, too.

LENA
And that makes this okay?! No. I told you, I just got out of a long-term relationship.

VICTOR
Which is code for don't call me.

LENA
I don't know any extra-marital code.
(beat)
Does your wife know? I heard her on the phone. She's not dumb.

VICTOR
It doesn't come up.

LENA
So you meant it last night, when you said marriage is just a contract.

VICTOR
Wow, you're way less fun in the daylight.

He stares ahead at the road, driving on.

14 **INT. FERTILITY CLINIC -- DAY** 14

Wes and Millie enter and approach the RECEPTIONIST, 30s.

MILLIE
Hi. Millie Gold.

RECEPTIONIST
Sign in, please. Is this your first appointment?

MILLIE
No, no. We're not a couple. We're lawyers. We represent a patient.

WES
Samantha Morgan. We requested a copy of her in vitro paperwork.

Wes shows her a notarized letter signed by Samantha. The Receptionist gets up and heads to the back.

WES (CONT'D)
Is it that obvious we look like a couple?

MILLIE
Yeah. Wes, look. We've only been going out a few weeks.

He looks at her with puppy dog eyes. No idea what's coming.

MILLIE (CONT'D)
It's not worth it. Victor's serious. We worked too hard to get here.

WES
What are you saying?

It's pretty clear to everyone but him. As it sinks in, Dr. Rush approaches with the letter they gave the receptionist.

DR. RUSH
Hi, I'm Dr. Rush, Mrs. Morgan's doctor. I'm sorry, we can't release any of her medical records.

MILLIE
Yes, you can. This notarized form gives us legal permission.

WES
We need to see her IVF agreement.

DR. RUSH
We don't keep those records here.

MILLIE
(bullshit)
Where is it then? We'll go get it.

DR. RUSH
Our clerk is out today. Check back with us next week.

Dr. Rush walks away. Wes and Millie exchange a look. Something's very wrong.

15 **EXT. BRIDGE -- DAY** 15

Under a bridge, Victor and Lena assess the fire trucks, Black & Whites and small crowd. ELLIOT MOTE, 40s, stands precariously at the edge of the railing.

LENA
That's your investigator?

VICTOR
And your client. I get him down. You get him off.

LENA
This is... wow.

VICTOR
Tell me about it.
(yelling up)
Can't you just go quietly?!

ELLIOT
(seeing Victor)
What?

VICTOR
Suicide. If you're gonna do it, OD, or drown, or lie on the train tracks. This is ridiculous.

ELLIOT
Hey! I'm not kidding up here.

VICTOR
Elliot...

Victor leaves Lena to walk up the bridge stairs. A few feet from the rail, he cautiously approaches Elliot.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Elliot. You're drunk. I can smell it from here.

ELLIOT
It was electric. We were so perfect together. I fell hard, Victor. And now... She's moving. To Canada. Canada... Over me!

VICTOR
They do have good skiing.

ELLIOT
(meaning it)
I don't want to go on. I can't live without her.

Victor's cell phone rings. It's Wes.

VICTOR
Hang on a sec.

Elliot's annoyed, but Victor answers his cell anyway.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Yeah, Wes... Clearly they're hiding something... I don't care, don't call me again until you have it.

Victor hangs up.

ELLIOT
Who was that?

VICTOR
What do you care, you're ending it.

ELLIOT
Come on. That's not fair.

VICTOR
My client's trying to get pregnant. But Ray Morgan --

ELLIOT
Morgan Tires?

VICTOR
He's not only divorcing her, but he may have bought off the clinic to keep records from her so she can't have a child.

ELLIOT
What are you going to do?

VICTOR
I need you. But, you're dead.

ELLIOT
You're completely manipulating me.

VICTOR
Doesn't make it any less true.

Elliot looks around. A lot of FLASHING LIGHTS and lookie loo's. Dread seeping in as he ponders living another day.

ELLIOT
I'm in a lot of trouble. They're gonna think I'm suicidal.

VICTOR
(waiving it off)
I brought our in-house defense.

ELLIOT
Any good?

VICTOR
If she stinks and you die in jail, you're no worse off than if you jumped.
(beat)
Come on. Time to come in.

Elliot eyes Victor, smiles. He looses his balance and FALLS --

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Elliot!

He drops out of control, and lands on an LAFD AIRBAG. TIGHT ON ELLIOT, face up on the airbag.

ELLIOT
Wohooooooo! Made it. Yeah.

Elliot shakes his fist in the air. Victor watches as Lena and LAPD assist Elliot off the airbag.

16 **EXT. BRIDGE -- DAY** 16

Victor meets up with Lena while paramedics assist Elliot.

VICTOR
I need him out and in working condition by the morning.

LENA
Where are you going?

VICTOR
Home.

LENA
To your wife and kids?

VICTOR
This doesn't have to be a thing. Relax, okay?

LENA
Do you two still sleep together?

VICTOR
(nonchalant)
Way too personal.

She stares at him. Are you kidding me?! Victor's getting annoyed that she won't lighten up.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
This is why I don't sleep with lawyers.

LENA
Well, you did. And you also said you don't sleep with happily married women, so I get to ask. Does that include your wife?

Low blow. Not funny any more. A POLICEMAN calls out.

POLICEMAN
Victor. We gotta take him in.

VICTOR
Thanks, Mike.
(to Lena, firm)
You don't talk to me about my family.

17 **INT. PORT HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT** 17

A crackling fire lights this massive master. Helen rolls off Victor, post coital. After a moment to catch her breath --

HELEN
I don't know, Honey. I was really hoping the whole family would be together.

VICTOR
For your birthday?

Helen's up and about. No time for cuddling.

HELEN
You know how my father feels about these dinners.

VICTOR
We don't have to do everything he asks. You're not twelve anymore.

HELEN
Dana and George are that age. I want them to have the same experience. I like the get-togethers.

VICTOR
If you make Dana skip her party, she's gonna be a pain in the ass.

HELEN
It's just some boy, she'll forget about him in a week.

VICTOR
Unless you tell her she can't go. And she sneaks off.

HELEN
This one night, I want the family together.

VICTOR
Fine. For my birthday, you and I are going far away.

She notices Victor seems distracted.

HELEN
It will be fine, Victor.
(beat)
I know my dad can be difficult. He said you weren't happy he hired Lena.

VICTOR
Yeah.

HELEN
Give her a chance. She sounded like a woman of strong moral conviction.

VICTOR
That's the problem. She's supposed to be a defense attorney.

Helen laughs, then disappears into the shower. Off Victor, contemplating how big of a problem Lena will be for him...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

18 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES - VICTOR'S OFFICE -- MORNING** 18

Lena enters and finds Cucumber at her desk. Lena hands her ELLIOT's FILE.

LENA
Hi, do you mind giving these release records to Victor?

CUCUMBER
Thank you.

Cucumber turns back to her filing. Lena hangs a moment.

LENA
I'm Lena.

CUCUMBER
Cucumber. Nice to meet you.

LENA
Is all this, normal?

CUCUMBER
We have no ordinary days.

Okay. Great.

LENA
Cucumber... Is that American?

CUCUMBER
I'm a Russian mail order bride.

LENA
Oh.

CUCUMBER
Two years, seven months and three days left on my contract.

LENA
Contract?

CUCUMBER
Marriage. We have to stay together for five years to get my green card. Victor arranged it.

LENA
He’s quite magnanimous.

CUCUMBER
Yes he is very large.

Lena’s about to clarify the meaning of magnanimous when Victor approaches.

VICTOR
Need something, Lena?

LENA
No I was just leaving.

VICTOR
Morning, Cucumber.

CUCUMBER
Victor. Watch your six.

VICTOR
Already? Thank you, Cucumber.

LENA
The boss?

CUCUMBER
And his father-in-law. Olaf.

Lena nearly spit-takes her coffee. She signals to talk to Victor in his office --

19 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES - VICTOR’S OFFICE -- DAY** 19

LENA
You’re married to the boss’ daughter?

Victor looks over Elliot’s file.

VICTOR
Small world. Nice work with Elliot.

LENA
Thank you, but, really?

VICTOR
You did it. That was a rare compliment.

Lena’s still processing.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Is there anything else? Think hard before you ask.

Lena realizes she needs to tread lightly, but has trouble stopping herself. She's about to respond, when Wes and Millie knock and enter.

WES/MILLIE
Victor. We need you.

20 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES - CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY** 20

Wes, Millie and Victor enter.

VICTOR
Did you two break up yet?

MILLIE
Yes -- Victor this is important.

VICTOR
How did he take it?

WES
How do you know I didn't dump her?

Victor bursts out laughing. It goes on an uncomfortably long time, especially since it's not funny to Wes and Millie.

WES (CONT'D)
We got a lab tech to give us the info we needed.

VICTOR
He gave you Samantha's contract?

MILLIE
No, better. He told us why Dr. Rush was so evasive.

WES
Samantha's embryo is missing.

This gets Victor's attention.

VICTOR
An embryo can't just get up and walk out the door. It's 8 cells. None of them are legs.

WES
They store thousands. It may have been mislabeled.

VICTOR
Or destroyed. Ray could have paid the doctor off.

WES
Do we go to the police?

Cucumber and Samantha approach the conference room.

VICTOR
Yeah. The Law & Order: Special Fetus Unit. Please. I'm not about to let LAPD near this until I know what's going on.

Victor starts packing up as Cucumber and Samantha enter.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Samantha, thanks for coming in. My associates will catch you up.

He leaves, as Wes and Millie smile awkwardly to Samantha.

21 **INT. VENICE BEACH DIVE BAR -- DAY** 21

Unlike the near-dead Elliot of yesterday, this one is alert and sober and ready for action.

ELLIOT
I'll go in first, as a patient under the name of Elliot Green.
(reviewing)
Records room is the second door on the right. It'll take me about twenty seconds to pick.

VICTOR
I can stall up to five minutes.

ELLIOT
That should work, assuming standard medical labeling and security.

Victor nods as Elliot takes a drink of his beer.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)
That reminds me. The new girl, Lena?

VICTOR
She won't last.

ELLIOT
She should. She got me off suicide watch with nary a Public Intoxication.

VICTOR
So could've Cucumber.

ELLIOT
(studying his face)
You slept with her. Already!

VICTOR
Before she worked at the firm. Before I knew she would work at the firm.

ELLIOT
What was she like?

VICTOR
Like the women I've spent my life avoiding.

22 **INT. FERTILITY CLINIC - WAITING ROOM -- DAY** 22

Elliot approaches the RECEPTIONIST.

ELLIOT
Hi, Elliot Green. Here for my appointment to... make a deposit.

The Receptionist knows what he means. She opens the door so he can enter --

23 **INT. FERTILITY CLINIC - HALLWAY -- DAY** 23

Elliot scopes out the different rooms as the receptionist walks him through the hall.

RECEPTIONIST
Have you refrained from all sexual activity for at least two days?

ELLIOT
Sadly.

RECEPTIONIST
Any smoking, drinking or drugs?

Elliot pauses.

ELLIOT
No.

They stop, and she opens a door.

RECEPTIONIST
This is a soundproof room. There are magazines, as well as DVDs. You'll find the sample cups on the counter.

ELLIOT
You're not coming in?

She's not amused.

RECEPTIONIST
Wash your hands and penis thoroughly with soap and water. No lubricant can be used.

Elliot sighs and nods. Down the hall, he spies Victor approaching the reception. That's his cue. Elliot enters the room, and the receptionist turns to greet Victor.

24 **INT. FERTILITY CLINIC - WAITING ROOM -- DAY** 24

The Receptionist smiles to Victor, who holds a briefcase and a file folder.

VICTOR
Hi, I'm here to see Dr. Rush.

RECEPTIONIST
Do you have an appointment?

VICTOR
Not exactly. I have a delivery.

Behind her, Victor sees Elliot exit his soundproof room and head toward a file room. As Elliot is about to enter, Dr. Rush sees him. Shit. This wasn't part of the plan.

DR. RUSH
Excuse me. Where are you going?

ELLIOT
Me? Oh, well this is a little awkward. But. The porn selection is kinda thin in there.

Dr. Rush motions for Elliot to follow and leads him down the hall to a nook with a shelf of PORN.

DR. RUSH
This is all we have.

ELLIOT
Hmm. Okay.

There's an awkward beat where Elliot gives Dr. Rush an uncomfortable glance before perusing.

DR. RUSH
I'm sorry. I can't leave you back here unaccompanied.

The Receptionist approaches.

RECEPTIONIST
Excuse me, Dr. Rush? There's an attorney asking to see you.

Dr. Rush is a little nervous. He turns to Elliot.

DR. RUSH
Stay here.

ELLIOT
What if I find what I'm looking for?

DR. RUSH
Then you can go to the room.

Dr. Rush walks with the receptionist to the front, where Victor is waiting.

VICTOR
Dr. Rush, these are for you.

Victor hands Dr. Rush a packet of DIVORCE PAPERS. The first page is a very ominous SUMMONS. While Dr. Rush flips through it, Elliot starts picking the lock on the file room door.

DR. RUSH
What is this?

VICTOR
You're being served divorce papers.

DR. RUSH
Divorce?

VICTOR
You have thirty days to respond. I'd advise you to hire an attorney. Fast.

Dr. Rush is utterly flabbergasted. Victor lets this sink in, because behind him, Elliot unlocks the door and slips inside.

DR. RUSH
I don't understand. I thought... I thought we were making progress in therapy.

VICTOR
Apparently not. Let's be honest. You married your secretary.
(he did)
Such a doctor move. How long did you expect this to last?

Dr. Rush collapses into a seat in the hallway.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Look, I shouldn't say anything, but she's going for the jugular. Said she knew about some secret books you were keeping.

DR. RUSH
She wouldn't do that? It'll destroy us.

VICTOR
Only if she calls the IRS.

Elliot opens the door, showing Victor a thumb drive before slipping it in his pocket.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Lucky for you, I'm here, David. We can work this out.

DR. RUSH
David? My name's Thomas.

VICTOR
Thomas. Dr. Thomas Rush?

DR. RUSH
Yeah.

VICTOR
I'm looking for Dr. David Rush.

DR. RUSH
(outraged)
That's not me.

Victor looks at his paperwork again. Whoops.

VICTOR
Oh. My mistake. The therapy must be paying off.

Elliot passes Dr. Rush, handing him a sealed cup.

ELLIOT
All done, Doc.

25 **INT. VICTOR'S RANGE ROVER - FERTILITY CLINIC -- DAY** 25

Victor scrolls through documents on a TABLET. He stops: WTF?

VICTOR
Ray didn't take the embryo.

ELLIOT
What do you mean?

VICTOR
It's flagged here. A7150. Looks like it was misfiled.

ELLIOT
Misfiled.

VICTOR
And then misplaced. Into another woman.

ELLIOT
No... Another woman is carrying your client's baby?

Victor types in A7150. A PHOTO and MEDICAL RECORD appears for ALLISON WELLS, 20s.

VICTOR
Allison Wells. She's in her 10th week...

Victor and Elliot look at each other. This is insane.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
And she has absolutely no idea she's pregnant with someone else's child.

Off Victor, still digesting this turn of events...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

26 **INT. PORT HOME -- DAY** 26

Victor, Helen and George are all eating breakfast on the go.

VICTOR
Come on, George. School's in ten minutes. Where's Dana?

Dana passes by, bright and cheery.

DANA
Hi Mom. Hi Dad.

HELEN
What's gotten into her?

VICTOR
This must be phase one of her pain-in-the-ass plan.

Dana drapes her arm around her mom, laying it on.

DANA
I was talking to Grandpa, and your dinner starts at five. Mine starts at eight. So... I could go to both if I leave yours after cake.

Helen sighs.

HELEN
You need to be home by midnight.

DANA
Awesome, you guys are the best!

She hugs Victor.

HELEN
(to Dana)
Showing up is how you show you care.

VICTOR
Speaking of, I shelled out ten grand of your father's money to buy us a table at the benefit.

HELEN
You're so sweet.

VICTOR
See you tonight.

27 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES -- DAY** 27

Victor walks toward his office when Olaf cuts him off, ready for battle. Undeterred, Victor continues as if he didn't see him.

OLAF
I got an angry call --

Victor hangs a quick left, but Olaf's right with him.

OLAF (CONT'D)
From Oakwood Fertility.

VICTOR
Oh? Sorry, didn't realize you were talking to me. Good morning.

OLAF
A patient named Allison Wells received an anonymous letter informing her that the child in her belly wasn't hers.

VICTOR
Somewhere out there a good samaritan just got his wings.

OLAF
The clinic found it coincidental you accidentally served Dr. Rush the same day.

VICTOR
When I make an error, feelings get hurt. When he makes an error, Allison gets implanted with my client's kid.

OLAF
They're threatening to sue.

VICTOR
Rookie cover up move.

This isn't the first time they've had this conversation.

OLAF
Listen. When a case mushrooms to this scope --

VICTOR
It means it's one of mine. Who's brought in the most income five years in a row --

OLAF
Uff da! I'm not going to tell you again. You don't risk my law firm with your Encino street cons. We do our battling in court. You hear me?

Victor nods, starting toward his office.

VICTOR
I apologize. I didn't mean for you to find out.

Victor stops. The two men size each other up. Olaf holds his stare another moment, then exits.

Victor continues, passing Cucumber. He flashes a smile. Like seeing a puppy, she always brightens his day.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Hi, Cucumber.

Cucumber still blushes when he says her name. Victor shuts the door to his office.

28 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES - VICTOR'S OFFICE -- DAY** 28

Victor lies on a massage table, partially covered by a sheet. Cucumber shows Samantha in --

SAMANTHA
Oh, sorry.

VICTOR
No, it's okay. Congratulations.

Samantha's a little unsettled. Cucumber walks over to him, lotions up, and starts rubbing his shoulders.

SAMANTHA
Um, Wes and Millie filled me in. This is crazy.

VICTOR
On the bright side, you're going to have a baby. And you don't even have to carry it.

Nothing he says surprises her any more.

SAMANTHA
They said this woman hasn't agreed to turn it over.

Cucumber digs in.

VICTOR
Not yet.

SAMANTHA
But, it's my child.

VICTOR
Biologically, yes. But we're blazing new territory here. We're taking her to court.

SAMANTHA
Trial?

Lena knocks and enters.

LENA
Hi, Victor. I wanted to give you...

VICTOR
Samantha Morgan, client, meet Lena Engles, inhouse defense. And yes Cucumber could sue me for harassment, but she's classically trained in the Motherland and I pay her extra for this.

LENA
I didn't ask.

VICTOR
You're learning.

Lena backs out and shuts the door.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Samantha, we're gonna win. The court will rule in the best interest of the child. We're going to prove that's being with you.

SAMANTHA
How? This divorce has gotten so ugly.

VICTOR
Ray will sit next to you in court, hold your hand, and tell everyone that you're a wonderful person.

Samantha lowers her head with regret.

SAMANTHA
I don't think he's gonna cooperate.
(beat)
I was pretty upset when I thought Ray did something to the embryo.

VICTOR
(hoping it's this)
And you fired off an uncharacteristically stern email.

Samantha wishes she could take this back...

SAMANTHA
I slashed the tires on his Porsche.
(then)
And broke his headlights with his golf clubs.

Victor moans. This is a HUGE problem.

CUCUMBER
Sorry.

VICTOR
Not you.
(to Samantha)
You. What were you thinking?

SAMANTHA
Can we win without Ray's help?

VICTOR
I doubt it. I need to think about this.

Off Victor, settling in to the massage table to ponder.

29 **INT. MUSEUM OF FLIGHT -- NIGHT** 29

With the backdrop of the Space Shuttle and a black tie affair, Wes and Millie mingle at the buffet.

WES
I've been reviewing the employee handbook, and there is an option: we get married.

Millie is completely thrown.

MILLIE
Are you proposing to me?

WES
Marriage excuses everything that otherwise isn't allowed. And there'd also be tax benefits.

MILLIE
Pass.

WES
Cucumber did it.

MILLIE
Her name's Cucumber.

WES
I want to go out with you.
(beat)
What is it? You... don't want to date anymore?

Millie sees Victor across the room.

MILLIE
No. I don't want you to get fired. Okay?

WES
I'll take my chances.

Millie's touched. Covertly, she takes Wes' hand.

MILLIE
Then we'll have to get better at keeping secrets.

Victor shakes his head at them. No dating. He continues perusing, alone, smiling to people, but searching for someone. Helen. He straightens his bowtie, brushes lint to look his best for her.

Victor's phone buzzes. He stands at a nearby bar table and sets down his drink. The text is from Helen: HAVE TO GRAB DRINKS WITH CEO. HUGE BUMMER.

Victor stares at the screen, considering. Helen sends another text: HAVE FUN 4 ME! Victor downs the rest of his drink. Lena sees him, and approaches.

LENA
You okay?

VICTOR
Of course.

LENA
Sorry. I didn't mean to pry.

VICTOR
You're funny.

An attractive WOMAN, 30s, waves to Victor to join her nearby.

LENA
Is that your wife?

VICTOR
No. Helen's working late.

LENA
Oh.

VICTOR
What do you mean, 'oh'?

LENA
Well, if a tree falls in the forest, and nobody hears it, then it never really happened.

VICTOR
Except when the tree comes to work at your firm.

LENA
(considers, lightly)
Did your parents go through a bad divorce? Do you surround yourself with divorce to prove that love can't last?

VICTOR
Yes, and yes.

LENA
And yet, deep down, secretly, I know you're hoping to find that it can.

VICTOR
Says the woman who still wears her engagement ring, yet moved across the country to forget the man who gave it to her.

LENA
That's not what happened.

Victor waits for an explanation.

LENA (CONT'D)
I did move across the country to forget him.

The next part still hurts to say.

LENA (CONT'D)
He was in a car accident. He died.

A normal person might apologize, and give her a hug. But Victor's never one to let events make life melancholy.

VICTOR
Consider yourself lucky.

LENA
Excuse me?

VICTOR
Had he lived, you'd have married and found yourself ten years from now bitter, jaded and divorced. Now you get to live with the certainty that your love would have lasted forever. And believe me, it wouldn't have.

Even Lena's momentarily stunned. A normal person might throw their drink in Victor's face. But Lena gathers her wits.

LENA
At least I didn't start out settling.

Before Victor responds, KEIRA, 30s, attractive, approaches.

KEIRA
Victor.

Victor has the uncanny ability to leer with charm.

KEIRA (CONT'D)
(flirtatious)
It's not polite to stare.

VICTOR
You're right. I deserve to be punished.

Keira notices Lena.

KEIRA
You haven't introduced me to your friend.

VICTOR
Colleague. Lena Engles, on the defense.

That's the answer Keira had hoped for.

KEIRA
Keira Weller.

VICTOR
Where's Olaf? I thought you were at his table.

KEIRA
I'd rather be at yours. He doesn't get me like you do.

Off Victor's smile, the lights dim and the crowd cheers as the music of Paul McCartney fills the room.

VICTOR
(re McCartney)
You know I did his divorce.
(to Lena)
Excuse us.

Keira takes his arm as they walk away. She eyes him the same way as the girls on Sunset Blvd -- admiration, desire, fun.

KEIRA
Something wrong?

VICTOR
Nope. Life is perfect.

They disappear into the crowd.

30 **INT. PORT HOME - BEDROOM -- NIGHT** 30

Victor enters. No Helen. He hears the shower on in the bathroom, and notices her trail of sexy undergarments leading to the open door. He sees her, barely, through the steam.

As Victor undresses, Helen's PHONE vibrates -- he sees it on the dresser. He notices she has a new text message, just waiting to be checked. Who's texting her at 1:15 AM? PUSH IN as he contemplates checking it, something he's never done before...

The water shuts off. He hears Helen coming -- Victor quickly turns away from her phone. She enters, in a robe.

HELEN
Hi. How was it?

VICTOR
The guy's a Beatle.

HELEN
So jealous.

VICTOR
What time did you get home?

HELEN
About ten.

VICTOR
You could have made it.

HELEN
Hon I was wiped. I've been running on fumes all week. But. It paid off!

VICTOR
He liked the presentation?

HELEN
"Loved" it!

VICTOR
Congrats.

She does a little dance, sexy, celebratory. Spinning around, she embraces him. They kiss. It becomes passionate, until she stops.

HELEN
It's one thirty in the morning.

VICTOR
One fifteen.

HELEN
I have to be up at six.

Helen crawls into bed, gives him another kiss and closes her eyes. Victor watches, she seems perfectly satisfied. Is she? Has a tree fallen in the forest, as Lena said? He continues to stare at her curled up in bed, unable to tell. Finally, he leans down to kiss her again, and turns out the light.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

31 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES -- DAY** 31

Chris Gordon sits next to a fuming Ray, and across from a contrite Samantha.

VICTOR
At this point, you two are going to be parents. The question is who gets to raise him. The choice is Allison Wells, a total stranger who probably won't ever let you near him. Or, your former wife and life partner, Samantha.

CHRIS
(cuts to the chase)
My client is willing to appear in court, alongside your client --

RAY
Assuming I can drive to court, since my car's in the shop.

SAMANTHA
Okay, I deserved that.

VICTOR
We have a settlement proposal on the table, which is more than fair.

RAY
That proposal doesn't work for me. I've come up with one of my own. Now I want everything.

His attorney hands their proposal to Victor and Samantha.

VICTOR
That's ridiculous.

RAY
I also want a new Porsche.

VICTOR
She slashed your tires. You own a tire company.

RAY
That's my offer. Otherwise take your chances at the hearing.

VICTOR
Ray, the mentally impaired might come to this negotiation and think, hey, I have some leverage. Let's turn the screws on my ex. But you --

Samantha finishes looking over their settlement.

SAMANTHA
Fine. Done.

VICTOR
Samantha.

SAMANTHA
If this is what it takes to get my son... I don't want to argue any more.

Chris and Ray are gloating. Victor can't help himself.

VICTOR
Give me a moment.

Samantha exits.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Here's the deal. You're going to rescind and revise your last offer.

RAY
Why?

VICTOR
Years from now, you'll realize it wasn't the best idea to take advantage of a desperate mother, the mother of your child. She's going to raise him. Do you want to force her to move to a neighborhood with a mediocre school? Do you want him to see you traveling in your private jet while he and mom take the bus? And when you suddenly find religion and want to be a presence in his life, do you really want him to flip you the finger?

Ray tries to laugh it off, but Victor's gotten to him.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
She'll get you a new set of tires, headlights and golf clubs.
(MORE)

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Everything else is as is in that eighty-five page agreement.
(beat)
You have one minute to consent. Otherwise, since my Morgan tires also blew on the freeway, I'm gonna join the class action against you. I will bankrupt you, then I will urinate into the urn containing your ashes.

Ray nods. Victor opens the door, sees Samantha.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
He reconsidered.

32 **INT. COURTROOM -- DAY** 32

Victor, Samantha and Ray sit at the table facing the judge. The table next to them is empty.

SAMANTHA
Shouldn't they be here by now?

VICTOR
They're probably going over discovery. I waited till the last minute to hit them with it.

Samantha tries to look calm, but she's a ball of nerves. Ray, seated next to her, can't help but notice. Without looking at her, Ray takes her hand. She relaxes. Victor spies them holding hands, then Victor checks his watch.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Your Honor, Allison Wells is now fifteen minutes late. I'd like to request a ruling.

JUDGE ELAINE FRANKLIN, 50s, finishes the last bite of her sandwich. She looks over the file in front of him, then back at Victor. The doors open and JESSICA O'DELL, 40s, enters.

JESSICA
My apologies your Honor. But there's no need for a ruling.

Victor, Samantha and Ray turn around to face her.

JUDGE FRANKLIN
And why's that?

JESSICA
My client has decided to terminate the pregnancy.

SAMANTHA
What?! No!

Victor pulls Samantha back to her seat.

VICTOR
Your Honor --

JUDGE FRANKLIN
This is out of my hands.

Victor looks at Jessica.

JESSICA
I'm sorry.

Off Victor, as a horrified Samantha looks to him for help...

33 **INT. JUDGE FRANKLIN'S CHAMBERS -- DAY** 33

Victor enters to find Judge Franklin, snacking on Kale chips.

VICTOR
Elaine. You need a proper lunch. Let me take you out.

JUDGE FRANKLIN
Tough break today. What do you want, Victor?

VICTOR
One little T.R.O.
(off his look)
To stop Allison Wells from getting an abortion.

JUDGE FRANKLIN
You want an injunction to stop an adult woman from terminating her pregnancy?

VICTOR
Yes.

JUDGE FRANKLIN
In the state of California?

VICTOR
Yes.

JUDGE FRANKLIN
Are you out of your mind?

VICTOR
The baby -- excuse me, fetus, is not Allison's to terminate. It belongs to my client. You were about to say so yourself.

JUDGE FRANKLIN
You have a precedent here?

VICTOR
I need 24 hours, one day to do the research. It's my client's last chance at having a child.

Judge Franklin shakes her head, reading on her desk, and grabbing another handful of chips.

Victor isn't giving up so easily. He nods towards a framed picture on her desk of Judge Franklin with her two children, ALLAN, 11 and RACHEL, 14.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
(re photo)
Rachel, has she started dating yet?

JUDGE FRANKLIN
Yeah, it's terrifying. Last week I went to the door in my black robe to intimidate her gentlemen caller. Didn't work.

Victor laughs.

VICTOR
We've got our families. Samantha Morgan deserves a chance at hers.
(adding)
Come on, you're smarter than the appellate court judges I'll have to argue in front of next. Let the opinion you write on this case get you that Federal seat you've long deserved.

The judge considers, happy Victor noticed. She grabs a form from her desk.

JUDGE FRANKLIN
Twenty-four hours.
(slightly flirtatious)
And a rain check on lunch.

Off Victor, a huge victory here...

34 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES -- DAY** 34

Victor, Millie and Wes brainstorm legal options.

WES
There are eleven known misplaced embryos in the U.S. Seven were settled out of court --

VICTOR
This isn't Trivial Pursuit. Don't give me useless information. Have any stopped an abortion?

WES
No.

MILLIE
So we can create a precedent.

VICTOR
Which, like Roe v. Wade, will be made years after Samantha's kid is gone. No good.

WES
Since the embryo was considered property in the divorce, technically, it's still property.

MILLIE
Judge Franklin's hearing was a custody case.

WES
To determine custody *after* the baby is born. Right now, it's still property.

VICTOR
So we argue Uniform Code, misplaced delivery of invaluable property.

MILLIE
Hampton v. Banner. A shipping company accidentally delivered a container of eggs to the wrong restaurant --

WES
And the restaurant had to take 'reasonable measures' to store and return the eggs.

Cucumber appears.

CUCUMBER
Your next appointment.

Victor heads to the door, then turns to Wes and Millie.

VICTOR
Convince me it’s reasonable to inflate a football in my stomach and pop it out my ass, then we have a case. Until then, keep looking.

Victor exits.

35 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES - VICTOR’S OFFICE -- DAY** 35

Victor enters with Elliot.

ELLIOT
Allison Wells is squeaky clean.

VICTOR
No one is squeaky clean.

ELLIOT
Okay. I don’t want to find anything on her. She’s a preschool teacher. She had ovarian cancer and froze her embryos before chemo. Her husband is an Iraq war veteran with an artificial limb. He won two purple hearts...

VICTOR
She’s in full remission, young and married. Don’t worry about them. Worry about my client, alone with a clock on her kid.

ELLIOT
You don’t have a legal case, do you?

VICTOR
No.

ELLIOT
What are you going to do?

VICTOR
We still have a few hours. Let me know when she leaves her house.

As Elliot's leaving, Victor stops him.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Elliot.
(beat)
You think Helen is happy?

ELLIOT
I don't know. Is anyone happy?

VICTOR
I forgot who I was asking.

ELLIOT
Did Helen say something?

VICTOR
No.

ELLIOT
Lena?

VICTOR
It's her birthday. I want her to be happy.

Elliot laughs.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
What?

ELLIOT
This is a woman who's lived with you for fourteen years. She's great with the kids, makes more money than she spends, is sexy, AND actually lets you be you. In every way. If you start asking questions, she might start asking a few of her own.
(beat)
If I'm you? There is much to be said for what goes unsaid.

VICTOR
I've seen it a million times, though. A guy shows up at my office.
(MORE)

VICTOR (CONT'D)
He thought everything was perfect, till one morning, his wife walked out the door and never came back.

ELLIOT
Helen's not your mom, Victor.
(beat)
But what do I know. My love life is killing me. Literally.

Victor smiles, but his marriage doesn't feel as secure as it did before Lena showed up.

36 **EXT. VICTOR'S RANGE ROVER - OLAF'S ESTATE -- EVENING** 36

Victor drives through a massive wrought iron gate, along a densely tree-lined driveway to a imposing stone and wood compound, more substantial than his own. Victor takes a last bite of an apple, and casually tosses it out the car window.

37 **INT. OLAF'S ESTATE -- EVENING** 37

Victor enters -- Olaf, Helen, Dana, George and BERGIT, 20s (Olaf's tall, most-recent Scandinavian conquest) greet him. George holds a lit cake and they're singing HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

OLAF
Make a wish.

Gushing, Helen makes one, then blows out the candles. Dana is SO READY to get out of here. Victor pulls Helen to the side.

HELEN
Hi.

VICTOR
Come with me.

Intrigued, she takes his hand and follows him into --

38 **INT. OLAF'S ESTATE - OFFICE -- EVENING** 38

Victor locks the door. In the dimly lit, Mahogany-paneled, book-filled room steeped with priceless Viking lore and an 8 foot GRIZZLY in the corner, Victor pulls her close. It's risque, erotic.

HELEN
What is this?

VICTOR
Your present.

She's tickled, looks into his eyes. He savors the anticipation. Victor's phone vibrates. It's Elliot. Ignore.

HELEN
(flirtatious chiding)
Hitting ignore...

VICTOR
Quiet.

He lifts her onto Olaf's desk, slides her shoes off.

HELEN
My dad's going to kill us.

VICTOR
He'll have to catch us first.

He kisses down her neck, running a hand up her thigh -- stopping abruptly. He looks at her quizzically.

HELEN
Well...?

VICTOR
That's new.

HELEN
What's better than La Perla...?
Nothing.

She's wearing nothing under her dress. Naughty.

VICTOR
What inspired this?

She laughs, puzzled why Victor is introspective rather than turned on.

HELEN
It's my birthday. And I thought it would make you happy.

He smiles, but something's on his mind.

HELEN (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

She pulls him toward her by the lapels on his jacket. He feels something in his breast pocket -- looks down and notices Lena's ET PEN. Another smile.

VICTOR
Nothing. Happy birthday.

Victor looks back into his wife's eyes, seeing her beauty and depth. He's back.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Brace yourself.

He kisses her sensually. She leans back, gripping the frame of the desk.

39 **INT. VICTOR'S RANGE ROVER -- NIGHT** 39

Victor pulls up in front of Lyndon's house. Excited, Dana unbuckles her seat belt and opens the door.

DANA
Bye, Dad.

Victor's about to say something cynical, but she looks at him, her face overflowing with romance and hope.

DANA (CONT'D)
What?

VICTOR
Don't break his heart.

She gives her father a squeeze. Victor holds her tightly, momentarily allowing his hardened shell to melt and play dad.

DANA
You can let go now, Dad.

He smiles, releasing. He watches her skip to the door, and checks his Smartphone. A text from Elliot gives an address...

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

FADE IN:

40 **EXT. CHURCH -- NIGHT** 40

ALLISON WELLS, 20s, short hair, thin, unassuming, our cancer-surviving preschool teacher, exits the church. Victor's waiting as she turns at the bottom of the steps.

VICTOR
Allison.

Startled, she recognizes Victor immediately.

ALLISON
I know who you are. Go away.

Victor's on her heels.

VICTOR
Two minutes.

ALLISON
No.

VICTOR
You're on your way to make a decision you cannot ever change.

ALLISON
You can't ask me to carry someone else's child and then give it up --

VICTOR
Of course I can.

ALLISON
You don't know what I've been through.

VICTOR
Cancer. It sucks. Chemo must have been hell. But you made it. And you know why? I think God put Samantha's baby inside you because her body would have rejected it.

ALLISON
How dare you bring God into this --

VICTOR
(re church)
You brought us to God.
(MORE)

VICTOR (CONT'D)
And I’m gonna use him and every other weapon in my arsenal. I got a pro-choice judge today to give the first ruling in 40 years to prevent an adult woman from aborting.

ALLISON
It’s not fair.

VICTOR
No it’s not. You’re carrying my client’s child. It’s not fair. But here we are. And you, only you, can carry her last chance.

Allison is crying.

ALLISON
Don’t make me feel guilty. Screw you! Screw you all! I want my own child.

VICTOR
You’re still in your twenties. You have plenty of time.

She crying pretty hard, tortured.

ALLISON
Why are you doing this? Why is this so important to you?

This strikes Victor. It may be his shot at connecting.

VICTOR
You know why my client’s getting a divorce? She wanted a kid. He didn’t. It broke them. She was willing to give up her life for that little tyke inside you, and he’s not even born. It’s what you do for family. You stay with a spouse long after the thrill is gone, you commit to a person you no longer love, you divorce a person you still love, and you have a kid with someone you hate.

ALLISON
My attorney said the other couple can’t stand even being in the same room together.

VICTOR
Yeah. But this kid, he's the reason my clients got along today, for the first time in years.
(beat)
Allison, don't do this for Samantha. Or because I came here tonight. Do this because you are stronger than you think. You beat cancer. You can have this child. And then, you will have a child of your own, that's your own.

She's still crying, but it seems that she's coming around.

ALLISON
You mentioned the clinic could help with expenses?

VICTOR
I've got that covered.

Allison looks at him, intrigued. Off Victor, beaming.

41 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES -- NIGHT** 41

Triumphant, Victor enters as Lena is heading out.

LENA
Congratulations.

VICTOR
Thank you.

LENA
You broke the law, again. You met with Allison without her attorney present.

VICTOR
(off Lena's look)
She did have her attorney present. I signed her to a multi-million dollar malpractice suit against the clinic. Her kids are gonna have cancer wings at Cedars named after them.

He continues to amaze, but she doesn't want to show it.

LENA
Sounds like everyone got what they wanted. Well done.

Off Victor, as Lena exits. She knows how to kill his buzz.

42 **INT. PORT HOME -- NIGHT** 42

Dana enters, in tears. She beelines to her room. Helen sees her.

HELEN
Dana? Is that you?

No answer, as Dana makes her escape. Helen follows to --

43 **INT. PORT HOME - DANA'S ROOM -- NIGHT** 43

Helen enters. Dana is on her bed, crying.

HELEN
Honey, what happened?

DANA
Nothing. I'm just tired.

HELEN
Dana, Sweetie, you can tell me.

Helen takes a seat next to her daughter. She sniffling, trying to keep it together.

HELEN (CONT'D)
Lyndon?

Dana nods.

HELEN (CONT'D)
What did he do?

DANA
He didn't even see me there.
(beat)
But I saw him...

Helen starts to catch on.

HELEN
Was he with someone else?

Dana nods.

DANA
A total skank. Mom, what was he thinking?

HELEN
He wasn't. And trust me, any guy who can't wait for you, isn't worth it.

IRONIC BING. Dana receives a text. She checks it.

HELEN (CONT'D)
Is that from Lyndon?

DANA
Yeah. He wants to know if I'm coming to the party.

Dana stares at the text.

HELEN
Honey, if I've taught you anything, it's --

DANA
Don't ever compromise, I know.

Dana turns back to the text. She types a response, then erases it. She puts the phone aside.

HELEN
You're not going to respond?

DANA
Nah. He doesn't deserve one. Let him wonder.

Helen puts her arm around her little girl. She's enjoying the moment when Helen hears another text DING.

DANA (CONT'D)
Mom, I think that was *your* phone.

She looks down and pockets her phone.

HELEN
(changing gears)
Whoever it is can wait. Now tell me something. Who gave you permission to wear my jacket tonight?

Helen eyes her jacket hanging on the bedpost. Dana, smiles, caught.

44 **INT. RENNER & ASSOCIATES - VICTOR'S OFFICE -- NIGHT** 44

A HAND SIGNS A DOCUMENT. It's Samantha's. Her grin grows as she finishes signing. She looks at Victor. Is it done?

VICTOR
Normally I don't offer these to the expectant mother...

Victor goes to his humidor and gets out two cigars.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
But yours is a special case. Congratulations.

SAMANTHA
Really? Oh Victor!

She leaps to her feet and SHRIEKS with joy, giddy.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
I'm going to have a baby!

VICTOR
You're going to be a Milf.

She's the happiest woman on the planet -- excited, relieved, nervous. She wraps her arms around him. She squeezes Victor tightly. Slowly, the embrace turns sexual.

SAMANTHA
(embarrassed)
I'm sorry. You were right. I'm a bit out of practice.

Softly, he kisses her neck. It feels good. They make eye contact.

VICTOR
Welcome to your new life.

Their lips meet. The intensity is overwhelming. Soon papers are flying as Samantha and Victor knock into a bookshelf. Samantha whips him around, pinning Victor against the wall.

Freeing one of his hands, Victor feels along the wall until he finds the light switch -- CLICK.

FADE OUT:

END OF PILOT