"BAD TEACHER"

A pilot

Written by

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Network Draft
January 17, 2012

COLD OPEN

EXT. NIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

A few Safety Patrol girls help students cross the street. A Mercedes flies by buzzing the School Zone like Maverick in "Top Gun". An awkward LILY (12), spills her hot chocolate.

LILY
Dammit! Not again.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

The Mercedes pulls up. Out gets MEREDITH DAVIS (30), sexy, confident, a woman other women hate. She takes a sip of Ice Blended then just tosses it half-full on the ground.

INT. BLACKMON LAW FIRM - DAY

Meredith drops her keys on GERRY's desk.

MEREDITH
It's out front; I know the mileage.

GERRY
We've been through this. I'm not a valet. I'm a paralegal.

MEREDITH
And my husband--

GERRY
Ex-husband.

MEREDITH
Spends a lot of money at this firm.

HOWARD
(walking in)
Meredith! Hi! Gerry, take care of her car or go to law school, okay?

INT. HOWARD'S OFFICE - DAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Meredith sits across from Howard, a fatherly lawyer.

HOWARD
I'm so sorry about the divorce.

MEREDITH
Me too. Ray cheated on me with a younger, *allegedly* hotter girl.

HOWARD
She's okay. Nice body, that's it.

MEREDITH
So, cut to the chase, Howard.
What's my divorce settlement?

HOWARD
This is hard to say, but you don't
get anything.

MEREDITH
What?!

HOWARD
(hands it to her)
Before you got married you signed a
pre-nuptial agreement.

MEREDITH
A pre-nup? How did I sign a pre-
nup? I read everything.

HOWARD
I'm good at what I do. Sorry.

MEREDITH
I get nothing? But I loved Ray.

HOWARD
Or his money?

MEREDITH
I'm insulted. His money was just
one thing I loved about him.

HOWARD
You'll be fine. You didn't have
anything before Ray.

MEREDITH
I have bills. I have college
loans. I have tennis lessons. How
am I supposed to get money?

HOWARD
How everyone else does. Get a J-O--

MEREDITH HOWARD
N? Prostitute myself? --B. A job.

MEREDITH
What? No. What?

HOWARD
Just get a job. Okay? I'm sorry, doll, but I have another meeting.

MEREDITH
Can Gerry bring my car around?

HOWARD
It's not your car anymore. But he can take you home to get your stuff and then drop you somewhere if you'd like. Good luck, Meredith.

INT. MEREDITH'S MERCEDES - DAY

Gerry drives Meredith. The car is crammed with stuff.

MEREDITH
My friend's house is on the right.

GERRY
The tables sure have turned.

MEREDITH
You're still a paralegal.

EXT. GIANT FANCY HOUSE - DAY

Gerry peels out. Meredith is left with garbage bags of stuff from her old house. BRIE (32), a trophy wife, comes out.

BRIE
Mere Bear! I'm so sorry. It's everyone's worst nightmare... to accidentally sign a pre-nup. You can stay in the guest house as long as you want. But the remodel's not quite done yet so you have to use the bathroom in the main house. It's only a five minute walk.

Brie heads in. Meredith takes a deep breath and follows.

INT. BRIE'S GUEST HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

The guest house is definitely unfinished. A depressed Meredith watches TV on a pull-out couch next to a pile of bills. She kills ants with the job listings. Brie enters.

BRIE
Can you pick Lily up from school?

MEREDITH
I'm in the middle of stuff, Brie.

BRIE
I'll give you twenty bucks.

MEREDITH
C'mon, it's your daughter. Forty.

BRIE
Step-daughter. Thirty.

Meredith is not thrilled but needs the cash.

EXT. NIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Meredith eats Cheetos. Her fingers are covered in Cheeto dust. A snotty BOY walks out and gives her a look.

BOY #1
Parent pick-up is by the gym.

As the boy walks by, Meredith wipes her Cheeto fingers on his backpack. Lily comes out. She's the Safety Patrol pre-teen we saw earlier.

MEREDITH
Lily. Your mom sent me to get you.

LILY
That's what child molesters say.

MEREDITH
Don't flatter yourself. I'm Brie's friend, Meredith. I'm staying in your guest house for a while.

Lily starts walking. Meredith follows.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
It's a long walk, I hope you have something interesting to share.

LILY
(begrudgingly)
Today my social studies teacher, Ms. Guerrero, got transferred because she had a total breakdown. She liked Coach Kotsky but he didn't like her. She hung pictures of his penis up all over school.

As they walk past the exit to the school parking lot, they're almost hit by a BMW. The handsome DAD DRIVER jumps out.

DAD DRIVER
Oh my God! I'm so sorry! I'm late. My ex-wife flaked and I had to do carpool. I wasn't looking.

MEREDITH
My neck is really aching.

DAD DRIVER
I didn't even touch you.

MEREDITH
I feel dizzy and post-traumatized.

DAD DRIVER
I don't have my checkbook. Sorry.

MEREDITH
You can't blame me for trying.

INT. BRIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Meredith has white wine and brie with Brie.

MEREDITH
Unfortunately, the guy didn't hit me. He was rich. And single.

BRIE
There are quite a few rich single dads at that school.

MEREDITH
Really?

BRIE
A girl can look.

MEREDITH
Brie, that's it! I don't just need any job. I need a job where I can meet another rich husband. I should teach at Lily's school.

BRIE
Isn't teaching hard?

MEREDITH
Lily's teacher put pictures of an adult man's penis all over school and only got transferred. They pretty much can't get fired, get summers off and leave at three o'clock. It's the perfect job. And if I play my cards right, I can retire next year with a new rich husband.

BRIE
But how can you get a teaching job without any experience?

MEREDITH
Because I *will* have experience.

INT. BRIE'S HOUSE - LATER

Meredith looks at a social studies teacher's resume on the web. Meredith highlights it and drags it to her resume.

INT. NIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Meredith sits with PRINCIPAL CARL GAINES (mid-40's), who is confident but searching. He looks at her resume, impressed.

MEREDITH
When I heard about Ms. Guerrero, I realized it was a message from the universe. I have to get back to the kids. FYI my speciality is kids from broken homes.

PRINCIPAL CARL
After my divorce, I felt the same way. I threw myself into work.

MEREDITH
(knows she's got her in)
I'm divorced too! And only people who have been through it understand the pain. You really have to surround yourself with other divorced folks. It's just so hard.

PRINCIPAL CARL
It's the pits, which is my support group, P.I.T.S. People In Terrible Situations. It's kinda an umbrella group.

MEREDITH
My husband cheated on me and left me with no money but I'm still rich. Rich in knowledge and love for children.

PRINCIPAL CARL
You're an inspiration, Meredith.

MEREDITH
I've heard that a lot.

PRINCIPAL CARL
I'd love to have that kind of positive energy around here. The crystals just aren't enough.

We see he has a lot of crystals on his desk.

PRINCIPAL CARL (CONT'D)
I'm gonna push this through as an emergency hire. You're more than qualified. My secretary will give you all the paperwork. I'll let you know if there's a problem. But hopefully, we'll see you next week.
(hands her a red apple)
Welcome to the Nixon Middle family.

MEREDITH
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Oh, and is it at all possible to get an advance on my paycheck?

PRINCIPAL CARL
We don't really do that.

MEREDITH
I would never ask but it's for medication. I have--

PRINCIPAL CARL
(stops her; doesn't want to pry)
I'll make an exception.

INT. BRIE'S GUEST HOUSE - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Satisfied with herself and energized by her new plan, a happy Meredith makes a bong out of the shiny red apple Principal Carl just gave her. Looks like we found our "Bad Teacher".

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. NIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

The school is buzzing. A school bus pulls up. Kids pour off including Lily. Behind Lily is Meredith, in a sexy top, pencil skirt and Jimmy Choo high heels. She turns heads.

MEREDITH
So, where do I go?

LILY
Just walk through the main hall and the Teachers' Lounge is at the end.

A little boy then comes off the bus butt first lugging a Louis Vuitton rolling bag. He sets it next to Meredith.

MEREDITH
(handing him a dollar)
Thanks.
(then)
Can I have seventy-five cents back?

INT. HALLWAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Meredith walks down the hall, certainly out of place. She stops at a vending machine to get a muffin. She only has seventy-five cents. She looks in her wallet. There's nothing. Her funds are running low. She looks over and sees a locker with a bag lunch in it. She swipes it and continues down the hall picking through the contents. She pulls out an orange and tosses it, hitting a boy, leaning over. He looks up and thinks another boy threw it and pushes him.

INT. HALLWAY BY TEACHERS' LOUNGE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Principal Carl talks to a boy with a bulge in his pants.

PRINCIPAL CARL
But see everyone knows it's a sock.

Principal Carl notices Meredith and goes up to her.

PRINCIPAL CARL (CONT'D)
Good Morning, Meredith! I hope you got the welcome packet I sent.

MEREDITH
I did. And the flamingo socks. They didn't match my outfit today.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Those are for Crazy Sock Friday. The first Friday of every month.

MEREDITH
Looking forward to it already.

PRINCIPAL CARL
I'm so happy you're here. This weekend was so dark. I curled up with a pile of Hungry Man dinners and put feelings into words. Did I mention I'm writing a self-help book, "The Principles of Principal Carl"? I am. I'd love your input.

Meredith steels herself, eyes on the rich husband prize.

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

The teachers are all gathered when Carl and Meredith enter.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Everyone, this is our new social studies teacher, Meredith Davis.

There are a few claps.

MEREDITH
Thank you.

A JANITOR runs in.

JANITOR
Fight by the lockers!

PRINCIPAL CARL
Ginny, go ahead and get started.
(running out)
No cops. No cops!

GINNY (27), uptight busy body history teacher, steps forward.

GINNY
Great to meet you. We're about to do morning announcements if you want to take a seat. Or borrow it!

JOEL (30), a cute shorts wearing Jason Segel-esque coach, pulls a chair out for Meredith. He has a laid back vibe and it seems like he'd wear shorts no matter what he taught. Meredith sits back and pulls trail mix out of the sack lunch. She picks all raisins out of it and puts them on the table.

GINNY (CONT'D)
If you didn't see my profile in Middle School Educator magazine, I have copies. One per person, please. Okay, we need monitors for Safety Patrol. Any heroes?

Nobody raises their hand. People avert their eyes.

GINNY (CONT'D)
Irene, do I see your un-manicured hand in the air?

We ANGLE ON IRENE (mid-40's), a shy introverted drama and English teacher. A little uncomfortable in her own skin.

IRENE
I do light exercise after school.

GINNY
Great!

IRENE
It's required by my doc--

GINNY
See you in the morning.

GINNY (CONT'D)
Anyone else gonna help Irene out? I know she can talk a lot but there is a small stipend--

MEREDITH
(perking up at "stipend")
I'll do it with her.

Irene mouths "thanks". She has an instant friend crush. The bell RINGS. Teachers get up to leave.

GINNY
Okay, everyone. Remember you gotta be hard. You gotta be tough. You gotta be stronger. You gotta be cool. You gotta be calm. And you gotta work together!

MEREDITH
What's next? Is she gonna tell us not to go chasing waterfalls?

Joel turns to Meredith as she surreptitiously knocks the raisins she's collected onto the floor.

JOEL
Your mother doesn't work here.
(off no reaction)
Coach Kotsky or Joel. I teach gym. We went to high school together.

MEREDITH
I don't remember you.

JOEL
Well, I remember you.

MEREDITH
I'm sure you do. I was the hottest girl in school. I bet you jerked it to me a thousand times.

JOEL
(you can't embarrass me)
Probably. Thanks for the memories.

Meredith doesn't seem that interested in Joel, regardless of their past. She has a goal and she's focused on it. Ginny and Kim (23), a shy submissive type, come up to Meredith.

GINNY
Ginny Taylor-Clapp, Faculty President. And this is Kim, my student teacher.

KIM
Nice to meet you.

GINNY
Remember your ears are your best learning tool, Kim. Okay.
(handing book to Meredith)
Here's a copy of the Teacher's Handbook. Great 411 in there. On start times, dress codes, etc.

MEREDITH
Save the tree. It's the standard stuff, right? No running... No horseplay... No glass...

GINNY
Those are pool rules.

Just then a kid, MATTY, runs in.

MATTY
That teacher stole my lunch!

He points to Meredith, holding the bag that says "Matty".

MEREDITH
Or confiscated it. Childhood obesity. It's everyone's problem.

Ginny nods as Meredith pinches Matty's non-existent fat.

INT. HALLWAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Meredith walks out. Joel follows.

JOEL
You really don't remember me?

MEREDITH
I don't.

JOEL
We did that senior project together, "So, What is Email?" No? Fine. Look, you were pretty stuck up in high school but you were always nice or rather not a *total* bitch to me. So, I'm gonna be nice to you. Nixon Middle is like prison. And just like in prison you need friends. Friends who watch your back in the shower-- Now I'm just sounding like a creep.

Meredith can't help but smile a little. Irene comes up.

IRENE
We didn't meet. I'm Irene. Thanks so much for teaming up with me.

MEREDITH
I have bills to pay.

IRENE
I used to be Ginny's favorite, then I disagreed with her about corporal punishment. She replaced me with that spank happy student teacher and never looked back. I'm like a lone wolf expelled by the pack. But you're new. So we can form a pack together, a best friends pack.

Meredith looks a little worried. Irene is intense.

JOEL
Irene. Tuck it in.

IRENE
Anyway, Safety Patrol is gonna be fun. We get badges and slickers.

MEREDITH
I'm not wearing a badge or slicker.

IRENE
Me neither. They're so dumb.
(then)
Hey, why don't you eat lunch with us? Our treat.

MEREDITH
I nap at lunch, but you guys can give me the cash equivalent.

JOEL
(sarcastic)
What a great way to get to know each other.
(points to classroom)
This is actually you.

IRENE
Excited for your first day?

We see Meredith has already disappeared into her room.

IRENE (CONT'D)
She's pretty cool.

JOEL
And pretty terrible. But the most interesting thing that's happened around here in a long time.

INT. MEREDITH'S CLASSROOM - DAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Meredith has her iPod playing Dr. Dre, while the kids enter.

DR. DRE (ON SPEAKERS)
Bitches ain't shit but hoes and tricks. Lick on these nuts and--

MEREDITH
(turning music off)
Good morning. I'm your new social studies teacher, Ms. Davis.

Meredith picks up chalk. It looks like she's gonna write her name on the board but she writes "Class Dues $25".

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
Checks should be written to "cash".
(handing out cards)
Okay.
(MORE)

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
To get to know you better, I'm handing out student information cards. Please fill them out. Name. Address. Whether your parents are divorced or unhappily married. How many cars fit in your garage. Standard stuff.

PARKER (12), a smart kid, raises his hand.

PARKER
I don't know how many cars fit in my garage. Maybe ten?

MEREDITH
Wait. Everyone shut-up. A house with a ten car garage?

PARKER
It's an apartment.

MEREDITH
(grabbing card)
Don't worry about it.
(then; back to class)
Let's talk about summer vacation. What did you guys do? Club Med? Beach vacay? European adventure?

NOAH (12), a popular boy, raises his hand.

NOAH
We drove to the Grand Canyon--

MEREDITH
Next.

JALISSA (13), a popular girl, raises his hand.

JALISSA
We went on a boat to the Bahamas.

MEREDITH
Was your mom there?

JALISSA
Yes.

MEREDITH
Did your parents fight?

JALISSA
Yes.

MEREDITH
Is she fat?
(off look)
You don't have to tell me. I can see on your face that she is.
(taking his card)
Okay, keep filling out your cards. I'm running to the bathroom. Number one, so no funny business. When I get back, I'm gonna show you something cool called Google Maps Street View. We're gonna randomly start with kids who have pools.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Ginny and Kim enter with a fire extinguisher, to find Meredith holding a lit cigarette.

MEREDITH
I just took this away from a girl. Sad. I let her off the hook, she has bigger issues. Acne, fupa etc.

GINNY
Well, good thing you stopped her.

MEREDITH
Just doing my job, inspiring greatness. And building foundations for learning.

KIM
I've heard that somewhere.

Meredith walks out, past an inspirational poster that says, "Teaching inspires greatness and builds foundations for learning." Ginny and Kim's interest is slightly piqued.

EXT. STREET - DAY

We see the nerdy girls from the Cold Open (Bronwen, Lily and Kelsey), in neon reflective Safety Patrol gear, practicing.

LILY
See. You raise the flag on your right but lower it on the left.

BRONWEN
That's awesome, Lily.

LILY
I learned it at Safety Patrol Camp.
We can practice this weekend.

Irene leads Meredith up to the group.

IRENE
Girls, this is the other Safety Patrol advisor, Ms. Davis.

EVERYONE
Hey./Hi./Great.

MEREDITH
So, when do I get my stipend?

IRENE
It’s added to our paychecks.

MEREDITH
When do we get our paychecks?

IRENE
Friday.

MEREDITH
Morning or after--
(just noticing)
Lily, you’re in Safety Patrol?

LILY
I’m captain.

MEREDITH
(to group)
I live in Lily’s guest house.

LILY
She’s friends with my dumb stepmom.

MEREDITH
You stay late to help kids cross the street for free, that’s dumb.

BRONWEN
It’s a great way to meet people.

KELSEY
You’re really pretty, Ms. Davis.

MEREDITH
I know. And I’m also photogenic.

LILY
Okay, Patrolers. We're piling up.

Students wait to cross. Lily heads out. The other girls unfurl their flags. Meredith sits in a folding chair.

MEREDITH
I'll be here. Supervising.

IRENE
Yeah. Me too... after I help a little bit.

Irene walks off. Meredith pulls out a magazine marked "DO NOT REMOVE FROM LIBRARY". Mean girls, BELLA (14) and JAMIE (14), walk up with a few boys.

JAMIE
Oh, look, it's the Nerd Patrol.

KELSEY
Wrong. It's Safety Patrol.

BELLA
Same diff. Nice sashes, lesbos.

Everyone LAUGHS. Meredith tries to ignore them.

BRONWEN
Thanks. Because there's nothing wrong with being gay or bi--

Meredith can't sit by. She gets in the mean girls' faces.

MEREDITH
Okay, move it along, Water Bra. And take Panty Lines with you.

The mean girls huff off and their friends follow.

BRONWEN/KELSEY
Thanks, Ms. Davis./Thank you.

MEREDITH
You have to fight fire with fire. It doesn't get better right away.

BRONWEN
I hate the popular kids--

MEREDITH
This isn't therapy. Unless you pay me a hundred and fifty dollars, then it can be anything you want.

Bronwen and Kelsey look bummed. Meredith SIGHS.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
Lay low and wait for a few popular girls to get pregnant. Then you'll move up socially. I was popular but smart. I was on the pill. Those girls aren't smart and have definitely let a guy go "under the shirt". It won't be too long.

KELSEY
Middle school is the worst.

MEREDITH
Not worse than having a job. I can't believe we have to do this all again tomorrow.

EXT. SCHOOL - NEXT MORNING

We hear a bell RING. Irene and Meredith walk towards school.

IRENE
My other car really isn't a ferret.

MEREDITH
It's quite a bumper sticker.

A fancy car pulls up, out climbs JALISSA, from class. JALISSA'S DAD, a good-looking guy, gets out and hugs her.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
Hey, Rich-girl-from-my-class. What does your dad do?

JALISSA
He's an investment banker. I'm gonna be one when I grow up.

MEREDITH
Don't. That job emasculates men. You'll end up alone at forty trying to get your groove back by adopting a foreign baby or getting into wine. But you did give me an idea.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Meredith stands in front of her class, excited.

MEREDITH
Friday is Career Day!

She writes on the board, "Class Dues are still $25."

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
You guys are gonna invite guest speakers. We'll start with men. Successful men. If your parents are divorced, maybe dad doesn't see you enough. Get him involved. But don't limit it to dads. It can be a brother or uncle. Shout out who you've got. Who's got a doctor?
(a few hands go up)
No dentists.

PARKER
My uncle is a Podiatrist.

MEREDITH
Are you serious right now?

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Meredith's come around a little and eats with Joel and Irene. They watch Ginny and Kim walk through the cafeteria with CDs.

GINNY
Junk for Funk! Trade junk food for a CD from my own collection.
(taking candy from a kid)
You will take the Amy Grant CD.

MEREDITH
What's the deal with Ginny? She's everywhere. I just want to do the least amount of work possible and be left alone.
(off their looks)
...to help kids.

JOEL
Almost saved it.

IRENE
Just don't get on Ginny's bad side. I know she got Ms. Guerrero fired. Those penis pictures had Ginny written all over them.

They HEAR some kids singing (Parker, Jalissa and Noah) in another part of the cafeteria and look over.

KIDS
Bitches ain't shit but hoes and tricks. Lick on these nuts--

GINNY
That song is <u>not</u> okay for school.

NOAH
We learned it in Ms. Davis's class.

MEREDITH
Snitch.

Ginny throws her a look. Meredith heads over.

MEREDITH (CONT'D) IRENE
I got this. Be careful.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
Kids, that song isn't right.

Ginny nods approvingly. Irene and Joel <u>relax</u>.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
Because bitches can be anything they want. Bitches can be doctors. Bitches can be astronauts. Bitches can even be the President. Which you'll learn at Career Day. Knowledge. Pass it on. Now scat.

JALISSA
Thanks, Ms. Davis.

The kids leave Meredith with Ginny's disapproving glare.

GINNY
One, we try not to use "bitches" to describe our female students. Two, Career Day is my thing. I do it every year. It's the <u>official</u> one.

MEREDITH
Career Day is definitely <u>my</u> thing. I have successful people coming, who sound like great prospects for the students. I'm not cancelling.

Meredith's firm. Nobody's gonna stand in her way.

GINNY
I would reconsider reconsidering.

MEREDITH
(I'm not backing down)
I already printed the flyers.

GINNY
(sure you want to do this)
You already printed the flyers?

MEREDITH
(I'm not scared of you)
I already printed the flyers.

GINNY
(you're a c word)
There's really something different about you, Meredith.

MEREDITH
Yeah, I'm like a hundred times hotter than any other teacher here.

GINNY
That's not it.

Ginny and Kim walk off. Irene looks nervous. Joel LAUGHS.

JOEL
Brilliant diplomacy.

MEREDITH
(triumphant)
Thank you.

IRENE
Ginny might have sounded like she wasn't mad, but she was. I know. I hope there's no dirt on you, because she'll find it. She can find it anywhere. Even under your fingernails. With the magnifying glass she carries on her key chain.

MEREDITH
(calming Irene)
What could she possibly find on me?

But of course we know there's dirt. Meredith watches Ginny and Kim walk away. Ginny turns and catches Meredith looking. She smiles the smile of someone, who's gonna try and destroy Meredith. We see a little anxiety cross Meredith's face. She hopes she didn't win the battle, only to lose the war...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. PRINCIPAL CARL'S OFFICE - MORNING

Ginny and Kim enter to find Carl meditating on a yoga mat.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Excuse you. I'm in the middle of putting myself first. Okay? Because in order to last you have to put yourself first. Does that make sense? It's the title of the second chapter in my book.

KIM
I think I like it--

GINNY
Kim. Please.
(to Carl)
We have a problem. The new social studies teacher thinks she's having a Career Day this Friday.

PRINCIPAL CARL
And?

GINNY
And, I have an official Career Day every Spring. The Times wrote about it last year.

PRINCIPAL CARL
You took out an ad.

GINNY
They ran it.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Ginny, you're Faculty President. Set a good example here and resolve this without getting the administration involved.

GINNY
But something is off about her. She wears thongs.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Don't know how you know that but remember it's just her first week.

GINNY
You're right, Principal Carl.

Ginny steps out of the office and turns to Kim.

GINNY (CONT'D)
We have to show her who's boss.

INT. TEACHERS' LOUNGE - DAY

Joel, Irene and Meredith work on posters for Career Day. There are other teachers around too. Just then Ginny and Kim come in holding a large Career Day banner.

GINNY
By the power vested in me as Faculty President I took down your Career Day banner. It's confusing since it isn't the official one.

MEREDITH
Oh, thanks so much. You know what will make it not confusing.

Meredith rolls out some butcher paper.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
Irene, make a new banner that says, "The BEST Career Day".

Ginny and Kim storm out. Other teachers clap.

IRENE
Nobody's ever stood up to Ginny. This calls for a liquid celebration.

MEREDITH
Yeah, it does.

Irene exits. Meredith looks through a Lost & Found box.

JOEL
So, you're really doing this, huh?

MEREDITH
Ginny's not gonna stop me from getting rich successful men into my classroom... to teach the kids.

JOEL
Oh. That's why you care so much. You want to meet a rich single dad.

MEREDITH
If I can kill two birds, the bird of educating youth and the bird of me meeting a rich guy, with one Career Day stone, why not?

JOEL
Nice. Confessions from a High School Prom Queen.

MEREDITH
How about Confessions from a High School Nobody I Don't Even Remember?

JOEL
I didn't vote for you for Prom Queen. How's that for a confession?

Irene comes back with sodas, not what Meredith was expecting.

IRENE
Hope you like Squirt.
(off Lost & Found box)
Did you lose something?

MEREDITH
Yep. Something expensive.
(pulls out gold necklace)
Here it is.

JOEL
(ribbing)
Your famous Virgin Mary pendant?

MEREDITH
It goes with everything.

Joel smiles. An old dynamic has clearly resurfaced. Everything is about her but he doesn't let her get away with anything. And she likes it.

EXT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ginny and Kim regroup in the hall.

GINNY
It'll be okay. Life doesn't give you an obstacle you can't overcome.

Ginny turns to go down the hall and trips over a mop bucket.

EXT. STREET - DAY

We come up in the middle of a talk between Meredith, Irene and the girls. They are listening intently to Meredith.

MEREDITH
...and I ended up getting paid but it was a disaster. Moral of the story: Never text naked pictures. They'll be out there forever and you can't control the lighting on those camera phones. You could end up with weird shadows everywhere.

IRENE
Men on eHarmony can be pretty persuasive.

Lily comes over.

LILY
You guys, we need to be doing our job. Keeping kids safe.

KELSEY
We're talking to Meredith.

Lily huffs off.

MEREDITH
Next question before I get bored.

BRONWEN
I just got my period. Is my life like totally over?

MEREDITH
Congratulations.

BRONWEN
I know. I'm a woman now.

MEREDITH
Screw that. You just got a free pass to miss anything you want. Church, family dinners, all of 8th grade-- you just have the say the magic word "cramps". You'll be riding that baby to Menopause.

BRONWEN
I can get out of ballet. Cool.

MEREDITH
Manipulating the system. Now that makes you a woman.

BRONWEN
Thanks for being honest. Adults are never honest. It's cool.

Meredith is genuinely touched. We REVEAL Kim and Ginny watching from afar. Ginny is on full alert.

INT. BUS FIVE - DAY

Meredith rides next to Lily. Lily reads a book.

MEREDITH
Why are you reading? You can do that when we get home.

LILY
You mean when we get to "my" home.

MEREDITH
I'm living there too.

LILY
As a guest.

MEREDITH
Why don't you read when we get to "your" home, where I'm a guest?

LILY
Brie only lets me read on the elliptical. Why don't you want me to read? Are you bored because your little sycophants aren't here?

MEREDITH
Whoa. Someone needs a chilaxative.

LILY
Way to destroy the English language.

MEREDITH
What do you mean by sycophants?

LILY
You've created a patrol of Meredith worshippers, who wait at your feet for morsels of trite wisdom.
(MORE)

LILY (CONT'D)
The patrol used to be the place I fit in, now nobody listens to me.

MEREDITH
Somebody's jealous.

LILY
Meredith, we're outsiders. We don't fit in. We eat lunch in a supply room so we don't have to go to the cafeteria. You're just a hot popular girl giving obvious advice. It might make you feel good but it's surfacey. You're just like all of Brie's vapid friends. Why don't you just become a realtor too?

Lily moves to another seat. Meredith is hurt.

MEREDITH
Fine. I quit. I don't need your stupid Nerd Patrol. I should be focused on meeting a rich husband, not saving kids' lives!

EXT. LILY'S NEIGHBORHOOD/HOUSE - DAY

Lily rushes off the bus ahead of Meredith. We see Ginny and Kim behind them in Ginny's car. They follow Lily and Meredith to their house. Lily goes in the front door. Meredith goes around back. Ginny notices the trash bins are on the curb. She gets out and opens them then closes them as if she has gone too far. She gets in her car and backs into them, spilling their contents. She rolls down the window.

GINNY
Oh my God! I better clean that up.

Ginny gets out and digs through the trash. She unwads a piece of paper to find Meredith's resume. Ginny sees the door open. Brie comes out with a smallish dog.

BRIE
C'mon, Pepsi. Do your business.

Ginny puts the resume in her pocket. Ginny jumps in the car and floors it. But it's still in reverse. She hits the trash can again making a big ruckus. Pepsi begins to BARK.

INT. BRIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Meredith's having her usual white wine and brie with Brie.

BRIE
Lily said you're supervising Safety Patrol. I thought you were just teaching to meet a rich husband.

MEREDITH
I am. I heard Safety Patrol is a great way to meet people.
(then; changing subject)
So, what have you been up to?

BRIE
I went to this workshop today led by this Indian man, think Depak Chopra, who taught me to eat mentally. He described a five course meal in detail. I was such a mental pig. It was delicious. I still didn't "eat" the carbs though. Old habits die hard.

Brie LAUGHS. You can see Meredith is bored.

MEREDITH
I taught my kids how to use Google Street View so we could look up the rich kids' houses but then a kid suggested we look up the Taj Mahal. It was pretty amazing.

BRIE
Yeah, but their take-out is terrible. It's run by Indians.

MEREDITH
(disappointed)
I think I'm gonna hit the hay.

BRIE
Oh, the gardener wanted me to ask if you've been peeing in the rose bush outside the guest house?

MEREDITH
(clearly she did)
Of course not. That's crazy.

INT. MEREDITH'S CLASSROOM - MORNING

We see a banner, "Welcome to the Best Career Day." It's a packed house. Several classes are there including Irene's and Joel's. An attractive man, DR. GRANT, stands up front.

DR. GRANT
So, I operate on hearts. Open heart surgery mostly.

MEREDITH
(flirting)
How about closed hearts?
(then)
Okay, kids. Do you have some questions you want to ask?

PARKER
Dr. Grant. Do you love your wife?

DR. GRANT
I'm divorced.

NOAH
How many houses do you have? Don't include lake houses.

DR. GRANT
Three, I guess.

JALISSA
How best would you describe your tax bracket?

Joel leans into Meredith.

JOEL
Interesting questions.

MEREDITH
They're a smart group.

INT. GINNY'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Ginny's playing a game with her history class. Everyone has a historical figure's name on a Post-it note on their forehead. They have to guess who it is. Ginny has "Napoleon" on her forehead. Jamie, the mean girl, is at the front, she has a note stuck to her that says, "Bill Clinton".

JAMIE
Did I hook-up with a Kardashian?

GINNY
Maybe.

Ginny's phone RINGS. She picks it up.

GINNY (CONT'D)
I have to take this. Sorry.
Hello, this is Ginny Taylor-Clapp.
(beat)
Yes. I did leave the message.
About a teacher you had there for
six years. Meredith Davis.
(beat)
So, you've never heard of her. No
record? Perfect.

Ginny hangs up. She turns to Kim, whose back is to us.

GINNY (CONT'D)
Kim, we've got her.

KIM
Really?

Kim turns. We see she has a note on her forehead that says, "Get Milk". Ginny rips it off and heads out. Kim follows.

INT. MEREDITH'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Ginny bursts in with Principal Carl. The whole scene Ginny has the "Napoleon" Post-it on her forehead.

CARL
Ginny, what's going on?

MEREDITH
We're in the middle of Career Day.

GINNY
I guess we'll have to cancel it.
Luckily, the official one is in
March.
(to entire room)
Attention everyone. Ms. Davis is a
fraud. She didn't work at Windsor
Park K-12, where she claimed to
work for six years on her resume.
They've never even heard of her.

Everyone REACTS. Ginny pulls out the crumpled resume and hands it to Principal Carl. Meredith whispers to Joel.

MEREDITH
Is your brother still a cop?

JOEL
So, you do remember me from high school.

MEREDITH
Can he get me a restraining order?

JOEL
I'm sure.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Meredith, is this true?

Meredith stands up to address Carl and the <u>whole room</u>.

MEREDITH
It's true. Meredith Davis didn't work at Windsor Park.

GINNY
We know.

MEREDITH
When I was younger I had a stalker. My beauty, smarts and bikini ready body made me a target. I went out with the guy for a few weeks and when I ended it, he didn't get it.
(to eligible men)
Once I went to bed with him he couldn't imagine a life without me.
(back to whole group)
I had to change my name and move states. But after six years and a failed marriage I decided to come back home. And come back to Meredith Davis.

GINNY
This is bullshit.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Language.

MEREDITH
I can get a copy of the restraining order. I'm sorry I wasn't up-front about it. But it was a dark part of my life.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Meredith, I'm so sorry. This is embarrassing. C'mon, Ginny. You've done enough damage in front of all these parents.
(sotto; to Ginny)
This ends here. This ends today.

Meredith is swarmed by the single men. Joel is amused.

DR. GRANT
You are an amazing woman.

JOEL
So strong.

A SINGLE DAD
And brave.

MEREDITH
And free tonight! We should have Career Day every day. Seriously.

Meredith notices Irene by herself. She whisper yells to her.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
Irene! Get in on this. You can't marry your ferrets.
(then; to men)
Alright, who's taking me out first? There's a sign-up sheet on the wall.

JOEL
(to Meredith)
Okay. That's a little presumptuous.

MEREDITH
Is it?

Meredith points to the sheet. There's a line. Joel nods; giving it to her. Meredith is psyched. Her plan is working.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Meredith exits class with Dr. Grant, Parker and Irene.

PARKER
Do you think I could be a surgeon, Dr. Grant?

DR. GRANT
Maybe. Want to watch a surgery?

PARKER
Really? Awesome!

DR. GRANT
See you next weekend, Meredith.

MEREDITH
Yeah you will.

Dr. Grant and Parker walk-off, leaving Meredith and Irene.

IRENE
Parker seems really inspired. What a successful Career Day.

MEREDITH
(missing point)
I know. I got like ten numbers. And you got a referral for a skin rash. Still a win.

IRENE
I knew we'd become friends. We're friends, right?

MEREDITH
Of course we're work friends. Okay. I'm gonna slip out early. I have tennis.

IRENE
It's one o'clock.

MEREDITH
On a *Friday*. Just cover for me.

Meredith then notices Bronwen ahead, who slips into a room.

INT. STORAGE ROOM - DAY

Meredith and Irene enter to find the Safety Patrol eating lunch in the storage room. It's pretty pathetic.

MEREDITH
What are you guys doing?

LILY
Eating lunch. What's it to you? You quit Safety Patrol.

MEREDITH
It's sad.

KELSEY
Not anymore. We put up posters to make it look like we're outside.

Kelsey points to some posters of beach scenes.

MEREDITH
You can't do this.

LILY
This is what I was talking about, Meredith. You don't understand--

MEREDITH
Look, I know I was blessed with a perfect rack and the ass to match. But that doesn't mean I haven't felt like you guys. I was married to a really rich guy, who contrary to popular belief I actually fell in love with eventually and then he cheated on me with someone younger. And now I'm a woman without a country... club. I'm an outcast. And a charity case. I don't fit in with the teachers here either. I'm different. I know that. And you're different. I know that too. But you only don't fit in if you think you don't fit in. You've gotta fake it 'til you make it. Trust me.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Meredith struts into the cafeteria with Irene, Bronwen, Lily and Kelsey. They turn heads and hold theirs high.

IRENE
I thought you had tennis.

MEREDITH
(I'm as surprised as you)
Yeah. I thought I did too.

Irene gets it. They pass Joel, who smiles. He sees what Meredith's doing for the patrol. They walk by Ginny and Kim. As Meredith passes, Ginny stops her. The girls continue on.

GINNY
I may have been wrong this time, but I'm not letting my guard down.

Ginny menacingly licks a yogurt lid and hands it to Kim.

GINNY (CONT'D)
I'm saving these for breast cancer research.

MEREDITH
Good luck with that.

Meredith catches up to the group. They sit down.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)
See. It wasn't that bad.

LILY
She's right.

The girls look around, nobody's paying much attention. They're relieved. They take out their sack lunches. Joel comes over. Meredith stands up out of ear shot of the girls.

MEREDITH
About the restraining order thing--

JOEL
I don't need to know the whole story. Your secret is safe with me. In case you were worried.

MEREDITH
I thought I was gonna have to sleep with you to get you to stay quiet.
(off his reaction)
Kidding. I'd never sleep with you.

JOEL
But you do remember me from high school. So, looks like I win.

MEREDITH
Of course I remember you. That's how I know I'd never sleep with you.

Meredith sits back down. Joel smiles. A high school crush just might have been reignited.

LILY
You aren't like Brie at all. I hope you stay in Safety Patrol.

KELSEY
You're gonna come back, right?

MEREDITH
Only because I need the money.

BRONWEN
Ms. Davis, you're the coolest teacher we've ever had.

MEREDITH
Really? The "best" teacher you've ever had? Wow. Thanks.

BRONWEN
"Coolest" teacher.

MEREDITH
The "best" teacher. Aww. You're probably just on your period.
(then)
Okay, I'm gonna grab lunch before the line gets any longer.

Meredith gets up and runs into Principal Carl.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Sorry about earlier, but I want you to know I've got your back. I know you're gonna do great things here. And don't forget, next week is Crazy Sock Friday.

MEREDITH
It's on my calendar.

Meredith heads to the lunch line. It's really really long. She takes her place. She has a place... We PULL OUT to see the crowded cafeteria, Meredith's home for now.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

EXT. NIXON MIDDLE SCHOOL - A FEW MINUTES LATER

All is calm at Nixon Middle School until we HEAR an alarm go off. The fire alarm. Kids begin pouring out of the cafeteria including the Safety Patrol girls, Joel, Irene, Ginny, Kim and Principal Carl.

PRINCIPAL CARL
Everyone keep moving towards the faculty parking lot in an orderly fashion! I said single file not triple file.

The kids head in an unorderly fashion to the faculty parking lot. Talking. Yelling. Running. It's chaos.

INT. CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

In an empty peaceful cafeteria, Meredith leisurely serves herself lunch because there's no longer a line. She has her pick of tiny milks and square pizzas. The last thing she grabs is a shiny red apple. She might be getting a little bit better but she's still a "Bad Teacher"...

END OF SHOW