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Untitled Hemingson Legal Dramedy - "Pilot" - 3/14/08

DYLAN

Is this seat taken? Yes? No?

No answer. Dylan sits. ROBERT, Sterling's slick and handsome entertainment partner, stands and flashes a thousand-watt smile.

ROBERT

Commitment, courage, character: these are the core values, the guiding principles here at Sterling.

CLIFF

You keyed my car.

SUSAN

(COOLY) Why would I key your car?

CLIFF

A pathetic attempt at push-back.

Dylan shoots Cliff the stink eye: I'm trying to listen here. Addy elbows Liam in the ribs. Liam looks at Dylan, concerned.

~~ROBERT~~

~~Each of you is here because you're the only ones who've earned the principles of academic excellence.~~

SUSAN

You're the one who should be pushing back. I broke your billing record.

CLIFF

Who cares about the billing record? I still bring in the most business.

~~ROBERT~~

~~How can you have obtained this firm, you went through the looking glass, you shook the tree in Boston, all that past glory is irrelevant.~~

SUSAN

Doesn't matter. Top biller gets her choice of cases. Which means you get Cooper. I choose Chambers.

CLIFF

In front of Judge Cole? I kill in front of Cole. I am undefeated.

role of "SUSAN" Side 1

START →

HEMINGSON PILOT

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~~DIANE~~
I can't hear what he's saying.

~~ROBERT~~
What is relevant, and what some of you seem to be forgetting, is what we expect of you. So for the avoidance of doubt, I'll make it crystal clear.

CLIFF
I should sue you for putting this firm at a competitive disadvantage.

SUSAN
I should sue you for being an unfaithful cheating prick.

~~DIANE~~
(SOTTO, FURVING) Please, he's trying to make something crystal clear.

~~ROBERT~~
You owe us 2600 hours. Getting and keeping clients are the only things we value here. Friends, family, free time, Starbucks doesn't give a rosy red rat's rectum about 'em. Slack off, slow down, screw up and no matter how senior you are - you will be eaten. We will make sure of that.

CLIFF
I'm not cheating - but if I was, who could blame me? I'm married to an antiseptic robot with no vagina!

DYLAN
(TURNING ANGRILY TO CLIFF) SHHHHH! **END**

CLIFF
(DEADLY) Did you just "shush" me?

DYLAN
Yes because you're running your mouth about robots and vaginas and it's my first day and the managing partner is saying some pretty alarming things!

GASPS and STIFLED LAUGHTER ripple through the room.

CLIFF
He's not the managing partner.

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role of "SUSAN"
Side 2

ADDY

Robert, the game is sold out--

*
*

ROBERT

Blah-blah-blah! How do you like it?!

*
*

Robert hangs up. Addy sighs, frustrated. She smiles at the taciturn Security Guard, who just stares back. A beat, then she bolts past him and runs into the venue. He chases her in.

*
*
*

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Liam and Susan watch one of Pricey's videos. We hold on their faces as the sounds from the screen hint at volcanic passion.

LIAM

Do we have to do this together?

START →

SUSAN

Yes. Pricey's movies are the basis of their suit. It's called discovery. What's this one called?

LIAM

"The Porn Ultimatum".

Susan makes a note of this.

SUSAN

They all kind of bleed together.

LIAM

Susan, I've done exhaustive research and I must say, it looks like--

SUSAN

Ambrosia has a solid case. I know. But my client is being diminished by powerful men. What kind of lawyer would I be if I permitted that?

LIAM

But we lost the motion to dismiss. We'll probably lose the next one. Don't we have a professional obligation to suggest a settlement?

SUSAN

You want professional? Fine. Pay attention, 'cause this is a "sit up and take notes" kinda moment.

Hemingson Pilot

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She bears down on him. Something in her has changed.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Lesson number one: I don't do negative. Which means I don't compromise, give up, yield or submit. And I never, ever settle.

LIAM

But logic dictates that--

She whips off her glasses and gets even closer.

SUSAN

Screw logic. I'm going to stand on their chest and grind my heel into their heart until they lick my boot and beg for mercy.

Her eyes are ablaze. Liam clutches his briefcase.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Now I'm going to the mat on this one. The question is: are you coming with me?

LIAM

(BLOWN AWAY) Yes please.

SUSAN

(HUSKILY) Excellent.

~~Dylan runs in, sees the porn on the TV and the two of them standing nose to nose. Susan exits. *~~

END

DYLAN

Dude, what was that?

LIAM

I have no idea.

DYLAN

(GLANCING DOWN) Wait, are you--

LIAM

Why do you think I'm holding my briefcase like this?

DYLAN

So I guess you can't help me with--

LIAM

I can't even stand up from the table.

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role of "SUSAN"
Side 3

DYLAN
Knockin' 'em dead? I don't know if being an associate in this town is about "knockin' 'em dead." I think it's more about staying alive - with a little rescuing on the side.

MIKE
Well do me a favor: tonight, let somebody rescue you. Preferably a lovey-dovey tenderoni with one of them spray-on tans. Any prospects?

DYLAN
Hey, you know me.

MIKE
Yeah, I do. So nothing noble, okay? Do something I can be ashamed of.

DYLAN
I'll take a full swing.

MIKE
You always do.

INT. STERLING HALLWAY - LATER

Cliff is closing up his office. He literally runs into Susan.

CLIFF
Congratulations. I heard you settled the settled Ambrosia v. Chambers.

SUSAN
And I heard you nailed the Cooper case.

CLIFF
Look, I want to apologize. Maybe I've spent too much time trying to control things from up high. Maybe I should be a little more hands on and a little less quick to judge.

SUSAN
And maybe I've spent too much time working on becoming litigation superwoman and not enough time working on our relationship.

A beat... then they start to make out furiously... then break.

HEMINGSON PILOT
START →

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CLIFF

God I love that fact that we made a ton of money today.

SUSAN

Our collective power and brilliance is really quite exciting.

They resume kissing... then break again.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

Care to continue these negotiations over champagne and caviar?

CLIFF

Room 264 at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

SUSAN

I just have one quick thing to do.

END

~~EXT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER~~

~~Dylan knocks on a door. Tanya answers.~~

~~TANYA~~

~~Hey...~~

~~DYLAN~~

~~I know you just broke up with your boyfriend - so this isn't me trying to make the most of a vulnerable moment. It's just... everything is changing so fast right now, and the truth is, I'm homesick. I just need to be near someone I can feel normal with. Totally non-sexually...~~

~~She grabs him, kisses him ravenously and pulls him into the apartment, out of frame.~~

~~INT. SUSAN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER~~

~~Over Susan's shoulder, we see Liam enter. During this entire exchange, we hold on Liam and Susan's back is to camera.~~

~~LIAM~~

~~Look, I know why you called me here. I noticed the mistake in that pleading I drafted, and I'm sorry.~~

~~WHAP! She slaps a ruler against the desk.~~