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Jennifer Falls

By Matthew Carlson

ACT ONE:

SCENE A :

FADE IN:

INT. CEO'S OFFICE - BLAIR CAPITAL - MORNING
DON HIRSH, (50) AN EMPTY SUIT, ALL TAN, TEETH, AND A
HAIRPIECE, CONFERS WITH CLAY (35) HIS UNDERLING.

DON:
She's going to yell.

CLAY:
We have to let her go, Don. Half of
Jennifer's clients won't work with her.

DON :
I hate it when she yells.
JENNIFER DANTE, (40S) ENTERS. SHE HAS A LOT OF STRENGTHS.
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, SMART, SUCCESSFUL--BUT ONE WEAKNESS: SHE
HAS A LITTLE BIT OF A SICILIAN TEMPER. WHICH CAN BE CHARMING
AND AMUSING. AS LONG AS IT'S NOT DIRECTED AT YOU.

JENNIFER :
You wanted to see me, Don?

DON :
There she is! You look fantastic!

JENNIFER :
Thanks. I'm having a good day.

DON :
Well, it's early.

JENNIFER :
What?
"Epidode Title" 2. 2.

DON :
Jennifer, I respect you too much to
pussyfoot around so I'm just going to
say it straight out. Clay?

CLAY :

We're letting you go.

DON :

That was hard for me.

JENNIFER :

I don't understand. Why?

CLAY :

You have anger issues. Frankly, it's something that's followed you your whole career.

JENNIFER :

I don't have anger issues! Who says I have anger issues!

DON :

(TO CLAY) She's yelling.

JENNIFER :

(COMPOSING HERSELF) Okay, I've been told, in the past, that I sometimes speak my mind too freely. But I've been working on that and I really have a handle on it.

CLAY :

You called Ed Rasky a dick.
"Epidode Title" 3. 3.

JENNIFER :

He is a dick!

CLAY :

Ted Dawson at Litwel complained about your attitude.

JENNIFER :

Yeah, my attitude is I don't do business meetings in Ted Dawson's hotel room.

CLAY :

Carter Sims at Dynaflo won't deal with you because you treat him like an idiot.

JENNIFER :

Tell him not to act like one. Are you guys serious?

CLAY :

The point is, you intimidate-JENNIFER Men?

DON :

You're a good investment banker, Jennifer but you have a personality problem. You're aggressive, you're cocky, you take no prisoners-

JENNIFER :

All qualities that get male VP's promotions.
"Epidode Title" 4.

DON :

And you say stuff like that. I'm sorry but we have to let you go.

JENNIFER :

Unbelievable.

DON :

Hey, take the rest of the day off. Go to the zoo. They've got these new baby pandas that will melt your heart.

CLAY :

(LEANS OVER TO DON) You're doing a great job.

DON :

Thank you, Clay.

JENNIFER :

I made so much money for this company.

DON :

And I think I speak for all of us when I say how much we appreciate that.

CLAY :

You speak for me, Don.

A WOMAN AND A SECURITY GUARD ENTER.

DON :

Come on in, Guys. Jennifer, you know Connie from HR and, of course, Larry from security.

(MORE)

"Epidode Title" 5.

DON (CONT'D)

(TRYING TO BE FUNNY) They're here to make sure you don't shoot the place up. Right guys? But seriously, you should go now. CONNIE AND LARRY START TO WALK JENNIFER OUT.

CONNIE :

Sorry, Jennifer. This is hard on all of us.

JENNIFER :

Little harder on me, Connie.

CONNIE :

You're probably right.

DON :

(TO JENNIFER, AS SHE GOES) I know it hurts now but you're going to learn from this. You'll thank me someday. (NOT SOTTO ENOUGH) Gonna miss that ass. JENNIFER'S HAD ENOUGH. SHE TURNS AND WALKS BACK IN.

JENNIFER :

Okay, if you're going to fire me for my "anger issues" I might as well get my money's worth. No one give's a rat's ass about what you shot at Pebble Beach or anywhere ever! The assistants are all creeped out by your rape-y back rubs. And

that thing on your head isn't fooling anyone. It looks like road kill!

"Epidode Title" 6. 6.

DON :

What? Clay?

CLAY SHAKES HIS HEAD BUT DON'S STILL RATTLED.

JENNIFER :

Sorry. I know it hurts now, but you'll thank me someday.

CUT TO:

"Epidode Title" 7. 7.

SCENE B :

EXT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - CHATSWORTH - DAY

JENNIFER, ONE HER CELL PHONE AND HER DAUGHTER GRETCHEN (16, ENTITLED BUT REACHABLE) UNLOAD BOXES FROM A SMALL U-HAUL VAN.

JENNIFER :

(ON CELL) Mom... Mom... I don't want a party.

GRETCHEN :

I don't want to live at Grandma's. How can we be broke? You made so much money.

JENNIFER :

(TO GRETCHEN) We spent so much more. Remember all those Christmases in Aspen and summers in Tuscany? So does the bank. (ON PHONE) Mom, you're not listening.

GRETCHEN :

So we have nothing?

JENNIFER :

No, no. We still have mountains of debt.

(ON CELL) Mom, this is just temporary.

I don't want you to make a fuss.

THEY ENTER THE HOUSE, CARRYING BOXES.

RESET TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

THERE'S A "WELCOME HOME" BANNER OVER THE MANTLE AND A ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE. JENNIFER'S MOTHER, MAGGIE (60S, NARCISSIST, BOUNDARY ISSUES), GREETES THEM WITH OPEN ARMS, BEAMING.

"Epidode Title" 8. 8.

MAGGIE :

You're back!

JENNIFER :

I thought we agreed, no party.

MAGGIE :

It's just close family and friends.

Very low key.

JENNIFER :

Is that a mariachi band?

WE HEAR MARIACHI MUSIC DRIFT IN FROM OUTSIDE.

MAGGIE :

Yes! Aren't they wonderful? This close to Cinco de Mayo I was so lucky to get them.

JENNIFER LOOKS TO HER DAUGHTER.

GRETCHEN :

You're on your own.

SHE PUTS HER IPHONE EARBUDS IN AND PLOPS DOWN IN A CHAIR.

THE MARIACHI MUSIC GETS LOUDER THROUGH THE FOLLOWING.

JENNIFER :

Coward. (THEN) Mom, I so appreciate you taking us in but this is not really a party day for me. I can't find a job, I'm upside down on my house, I burned through all my savings and--Seriously, if they don't stop playing La Cucaracha they won't live to see Seis de Mayo.

"Epidode Title" 9. 9.

MAGGIE :

I understand, sweetie. I'll have them
play La Bamba.

MAGGIE CROSSES OFF.

JENNIFER :

Mom, no. That's not the--(BUT SHE'S
GONE) Aaaaand, I'm home.

JENNIFER AD LIBS "THANKS FOR COMING" AND "NICE TO SEE YOU" AS
SHE MAKES HER WAY THROUGH THE GUESTS. SHE STARTS TO EXIT
TOWARDS THE HALL BUT RUNS INTO HER SISTER-IN LAW, STEPHANIE
(23, BEAUTIFUL, SHALLOW, PASSIVE/AGGRESSIVE AND OPINIONATED).

STEPHANIE :

(WAY TOO CONCERNED) Jennifer.

(WHISPERS) How's your anger?

JENNIFER :

(WHISPERS BACK) Great, Stephanie.

How's your passive aggression?

STEPHANIE :

What? (THEN) You're so funny.

JENNIFER :

Where's Wayne?

STEPHANIE :

Who knows? You know your brother. We
were both sick about what happened to
you. You lost everything?

JENNIFER :

Yep.

STEPHANIE :

Your beautiful house in Santa Monica?

"Epidode Title" 10. 10.

JENNIFER:

Yep.

STEPHANIE :

Your gorgeous condo in Maui?

JENNIFER :

Yep.

STEPHANIE :

Your incredible-

JENNIFER :

You know "everything" pretty much covers it, Stephanie.

STEPHANIE :

I admire your courage.

JENNIFER :

It's mostly Xanax. Excuse me. I have to put this stuff in my room.

STEPHANIE :

Of course. (GRABS HER BY THE SHOULDERS) You are not a failure, Jennifer Doyle.

JENNIFER :

(BRIGHTLY) Bite my ass, Stephanie.

STEPHANIE :

You're hilarious.

CUT TO:

"Epidode Title" 11. 11.

SCENE C :

INT. JENNIFER'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

JENNIFER ENTERS. THE ROOM LOOKS JUST THE WAY IT DID THE DAY SHE LEFT. HER BROTHER WAYNE (40S, BOYISH, BASICALLY GOODNATURED BUT MALLEABLE) IS SITTING ON HER BED, DRINKING A BEER AND WATCHING A FOOTBALL GAME ON JENNIFER'S OLD TV.

WAYNE :

Hey, Sis.

JENNIFER :

Wayne!

SHE HUGS HIM, THEN LOOKS AROUND.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

God, my old room. It's like a time capsule from 1985. (OFF A POSTER)
Why was Pat Benatar so angry?

WAYNE :

(SHRUGS) Love is a battlefield.
How'd it go with Mom?

JENNIFER :

One step in the door and she was already driving me crazy.

WAYNE :

You just have to remind yourself that your relationship with Mom has nothing to do with you.

JENNIFER :

(LAUGHS) Right. I always forgot.

WAYNE :

And the job search?
"Epidode Title" 12. 12.

JENNIFER :

Horrible. I'm basically being blackballed by my industry because they say I have anger issues. Can you believe that?!

WAYNE :

(HE CAN) That's... crazy.

JENNIFER :

Guys in my business yell all the time but I can't. I have a vagina!

WAYNE :

(UNCOMFORTABLE) Are we going to talk about your vagina?

JENNIFER :

And now my stupid doctor thinks I

should change careers because my work is so stressful. Does he have any idea how stressful it is to change careers?!

WAYNE :

Whoa, did that vein in your temple always throb like that? Look at that sucker go.

JENNIFER :

Crap. I'm supposed to avoid that. Shove over.

SHE LIES DOWN ON THE BED, TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND STARTS A SORT OF MANTRA.

"Epidode Title" 13. 13.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Calm place, calm place, calm place... Where's my stupid clam place?! Oh, okay, there it is. Better. Better. (LOOKS UP AT THE CEILING) How did my life turn out like this? I was going to be the first American woman in space.

WAYNE :

'Til Sally Ride beat you to it.

JENNIFER :

Yeah. I know she was a hero and a role model who died too young but I kind of hate her.

SHE GETS UP AND STARTS PUTTING THINGS AWAY.

WAYNE :

You could always come work for me at the bar.

JENNIFER :

(TOUCHED) Aww, thanks, sweetie.

WAYNE :

I know you used to buy and sell companies a ten times bigger than ours, but-

MAGGIE (O.S.)

Jennifer! Charades! You're a team captain!

"Epidode Title" 14. 14.

JENNIFER :

(BLURTS OUT) I'll take it!

MAGGIE :

You serious?

JENNIFER :

I gotta get my own place. I'll take it. If you don't mind me working there while I look for a real job. Sorry, not a "real job." I mean...

WAYNE :

It's okay, Jen. I know you didn't get your MBA to push rum bombs on Jamaica Me Crazy Tuesdays. You can stay as long as you want. No pressure.

JENNIFER :

Thanks, bro. (HUGS HIM) That's what I need. No pressure.

WAYNE :

Stephanie's going to be thrilled to work with you.

JENNIFER :

(REALIZING) Oh, God.

WAYNE :

Hey, there goes that vein again.
FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE:

"Epidode Title" 15.

ACT TWO:

SCENE D :

FADE IN:

INT. MAGGIE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING
GRETCHEN IS ON THE COMPUTER. JENNIFER COMES IN.

JENNIFER :

I have to go into the bar early to
train so Grandma's picking you up from
school. What's that?

GRETCHEN :

My Facebook "In Memoriam" page.

JENNIFER :

Your what?

GRETCHEN :

I don't want my friends to know what my
life is like now. This is way easier.

JENNIFER :

Telling them your dead?

GRETCHEN :

Of a wasting disease, yeah. My skin
was looking horrible, they'll totally
buy it.

JENNIFER :

Take it down. Tell you what. We'll
go clothes shopping tomorrow. That
always makes you feel better.

(MORE)

"Epidode Title"

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

16.

(OFF PAGE) Since when were you an
accomplished pianist?

GRETCHEN :

I'm dead, who's going to quibble.

RESET TO:

KITCHEN :

JENNIFER ENTERS AND FINDS MAGGIE MAKING BREAKFAST.

JENNIFER :

Morning, Mom.

MAGGIE :

Morning! It's so good to have you back, honey.

JENNIFER :

Thanks. You know I'm not "back" back. It's just for a few months.

MAGGIE :

A few months. For ever. Whatever you need, honey.

JENNIFER :

Mmm, bacon waffles? Okay, I may stay forever.

THEY SHARE A SMILE. JENNIFER POURS HERSELF SOME COFFEE.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

So, any one left in the neighborhood from the old days?

"Epidode Title" 17. 17.

MAGGIE :

Let's see. Seth Dorfman is living in his Mom's garage--has it fixed up real cute. He runs his own computer repair business and he's still single.

JENNIFER :

It's like something out of a fairy tale.

MAGGIE :

Oh, and I ran into your old friend Dina Simac at the grocery store last week.

JENNIFER :

(BRIGHTENING) Dina?!

MAGGIE :

I asked her over for dinner.

JENNIFER :

Awesome! I love Dina. We have that kind of relationship where, no matter how long it's been, we can just pick it up again without missing a beat.

MAGGIE :

She doesn't want to see you.

JENNIFER :

What? Why?

MAGGIE :

I'm not sure.

JENNIFER IS CRESTFALLEN.

"Epidode Title" 18. 18.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Are you okay, honey?

SHE STARTS TO REACH FOR HER DAUGHTER'S FACE.

JENNIFER :

Mom, don't grab my face. Do not grab my face. You know I don't like it when you grab my face.

SHE GRABS HER FACE.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Mom!

MAGGIE :

You're angry.

JENNIFER :

Yes! Because you grabbed my face.

MAGGIE :

Jen-Jen, talk to Mommy. What's going on?

JENNIFER :

Let go! It drives me crazy when you infantilize me.

MAGGIE :

(LETS GO) Oh, please. You're my baby girl and you always will be. If you want to call that infantilizing...
"Epidode Title" 19. 19.

JENNIFER :

Everyone calls that infantilizing. It's what infantilizing is. (CALLING OUT) Gretchen, breakfast!
JENNIFER GOES INTO THE LIVING ROOM.

RESET TO:

LIVING ROOM:

JENNIFER RETURNS TO FIND GRETCHEN STILL ON THE COMPUTER.

JENNIFER :

You're not still on that creepy memoriam page, are you?

GRETCHEN :

No. I found this awesome e-funeral site. It's a cyber funeral your friends and family can click on and "attend." I can pick my own music and flowers and write my own eulogy. See, I even get to design my own avatar priest.

JENNIFER :

Is that Johnny Depp?

GRETCHEN :

Yes! Captain Jack Sparrow is saying my funeral mass. What do you think of the Twilight coffin? I know it's a little douchey but-
"Epidode Title" 20. 20.

JENNIFER :

You're not having an e-funeral. Come and eat or you'll be late for school.

GRETCHEN :

I hate public school. I hate my life.
It's not fair. None of my friends'
parents lost everything!

JENNIFER :

Good. My plan succeeded. I destroyed
your life.

GRETCHEN :

And now you're ruining my funeral!

JENNIFER:

Let's go.

GRETCHEN :

Fine. (OFF COMPUTER) Oh, hey, check
it out. Maroon 5 are my pallbearers.

CUT TO:

"Epidode Title" 21. 21.

SCENE E :

INT. OVERTIME SPORTS BAR - CHATSWORTH - EVENING
THE PLACE IS A LOT LIKE CHILI'S. WAYNE IS WORKING BEHIND THE
BAR. JENNIFER COMES OUT OF THE BACK ROOM WEARING A LOW CUT,
BLACK AND WHITE STRIPED REFEREE SHIRT AND BLACK SHORTS.

JENNIFER :

Wow, I'm not used to seeing this much
of my boobs at home.

WAYNE :

Sorry, Sis, franchise policy.
Besides, you totally look hot. If I
weren't your brother-JENNIFER
Not a sentence I want to hear the end of.
WAYNE GOES TO SERVE A CUSTOMER AT THE END OF THE BAR AS
STEPHANIE ENTERS FROM THE BACK.

STEPHANIE :

Hey, sexy. Here. (ADJUSTS HER
CLEAVAGE) Let the girls out a little.
It'll jack up your tips. (THEN) Oh,

they are out. You know what, just smile bigger.

STEPHANIE STARES AT JENNIFER.

JENNIFER :

What?

STEPHANIE :

Nothing. It's just, you used to babysit me and now I'm your boss.

Isn't that crazy?

"Epidode Title" 22. 22.

JENNIFER:

So crazy.

STEPHANIE:

Okay, ready to try pouring a draft?

First thing you need to do-

JENNIFER:

Stephanie, I was a senior VP for a Fortune 500 company. I can pour a beer.

SHE POURS A DRAFT, TAKES IT DOWN THE BAR AND SERVES IT TO THE CUSTOMER, ETHAN (40S, GOOD LOOKING, SMARTER THAN HE LOOKS).

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Here you go. One... (LOOKS AT GLASS)

Glass of foam. Sorry. That one's on me.

ETHAN :

So, you're Wayne's sister?

JENNIFER :

Jennifer.

ETHAN :

Ethan. When did you start working here?

JENNIFER :

Oh, no, no, no. I'm not working here.

I'm just helping out. I'm not a bar maid.

ETHAN :

O-kay.

SHE HAS TO BEND OVER TO WASH A GLASS AND HER BOOBS HANG OUT.

ETHAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hello, girls.

"Epidode Title" 23. 23.

JENNIFER STANDS UP, PISSED.

JENNIFER :

Hey, just because I have to wear this little sports-whore outfit doesn't mean I have to take crap from jerks like you.

ETHAN :

Got it. And these are my girls, Abbie and Lily. It's our weekend together and we're having dinner here.

TWO PRETEEN GIRLS WALK UP TO THE BAR.

JENNIFER:

Oh. It's very nice to meet you.

ETHAN :

(TO GIRLS) I'll be right there.

THEY GO.

JENNIFER :

I'm sorry. Your girls are adorable.

ETHAN :

Thanks. Yours are too.

ETHAN GRINS AND LEAVES.

JENNIFER :

Cute. (CALLS AFTER HIM) Real cute.

ETHAN (O.S.)

It's a little cute.

WAYNE COMES OUT OF THE BACK ROOM WITH A BLOCK OF ICE AND STARTS CHIPPING IT INTO THE BEER COOLER WITH AN ICE PICK.

"Epidode Title" 24. 24.

JENNIFER :

Hey, Bro, can you give me an advance on my check? Gretchen's kinda' bummed

and I told her I'd take her clothes shopping. Just like a hundred bucks.

WAYNE :

You know what? This feels good. I have to admit all those years you were so successful it was hard being your older brother. It feels nice to have some power. Let me just check with Stephanie.

STEPHANIE (O.S.)

About what?

STEPHANIE ENTERS.

WAYNE :

Jen wants an advance.

STEPHANIE :

Oh. Well, there's no shame in that, Jennifer.

JENNIFER :

I didn't say there was.

STEPHANIE :

We're happy to give you an advance.

JENNIFER :

Great.

"Epidode Title" 25. 25.

STEPHANIE :

And this can be a teachable moment.

JENNIFER :

I'm sorry, what?

STEPHANIE :

It's a great opportunity to talk about money management. Now, I don't know about you, but the way Wayne and I manage our money is we don't spend money we don't have.

JENNIFER :

Uh huh.

STEPHANIE :

Does that make sense?

JENNIFER :

Excuse me. Wayne, can I talk to you over by the Slim Jims.

JENNIFER TAKES WAYNE A FEW STEPS AWAY.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

I just needed to step away from your wife for a minute because if I didn't there was a very strong chance I would stick an ice pick in her skull. I don't know about you guys, but the way I manage my anger is, I stick an ice pick in someone's skull. Does that make sense?

"Epidode Title" 26. 26.

WAYNE :

Uh, you're kinda' freaking me out.

JENNIFER :

Oh, come on. You don't actually think I'm going to stick an ice pick in your wife's head on my first day of work.

(THEN) Okay, better now.

JENNIFER COMES BACK TO STEPHANIE.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

(FORCED GOOD CHEER) That makes a lot of sense, Steph.

STEPHANIE :

Great. This is going to be fun!

JENNIFER :

Super fun!

STEPHANIE GOES INTO THE BACK. JENNIFER STARTS CUTTING LIMES BUT STOPS SHORT WHEN SHE SEES A CUSTOMER WHO'S JUST SAT DOWN. SHE'S CUTE, KIND OF TOM BOYISH, FORTIES.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

(DELIGHTED) Dina!! Oh, my God, you

look exactly the same!

DINA :

That's depressing. I spent a lot of money trying to look better.

JENNIFER :

(LAUGHS) I've missed you so much.

DINA DOESN'T SEEM TO SHARE THE SENTIMENT. IT'S AWKWARD.

"Epidode Title" 27. 27.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

How's Jeremy?

DINA:

Happy. Loving life. We're divorced.

JENNIFER:

Oh. I'm sorry. And Jacob?

DINA:

Sixteen now. It's a magical age. He yells at me to leave him alone, then yells at me for ignoring him. There's a lot of yelling.

JENNIFER :

And how are you?

DINA:

Okay. Still working for UPS. Still pitching for my women's softball team, the L.A. Lesbians--the ladies like to put it out there. It's great for me, though. Keeps the a-holes away when we're having beers after a game.

JENNIFER EXPECTS DINA TO ASK ABOUT HER LIFE BUT SHE DOESN'T.

JENNIFER :

So I'm still single. I got fired at Blair for scaring the men folk. And I'm back at my mom's. Temporarily. With Gretchen, who's beautiful, and complicated, and scares me.

"Epidode Title" 28. 28.

DINA :

Your mom didn't tell me you were working here.

JENNIFER :

It's just 'til I can figure out what to do with my life. God, remember when we used to hang out in my backyard and smoke cigarettes and talk about boys and what we were going to do with our lives? I was going to be the first woman in space. Until Sally Ride-

DINA :

You gotta let that go. Okay, well, see ya'.

JENNIFER :

What? Don't you want a drink? It's on the house. I'm not sure if I can do that but what the hell I'm doing it.

DINA :

I forgot I had something I had to do.
SHE STARTS TO GO.

JENNIFER :

Dina, wait. Let's make a plan. Let's get together. I have a lot of free time and-
"Epidode Title" 29. 29.

DINA :

Yeah, I really don't.

JENNIFER :

What's going on? I thought we were friends.

DINA LOOKS A LITTLE EMOTIONAL, BUT STUFFS IT BACK DOWN.

DINA :

That was a long time ago.

DINA GOES.

JENNIFER :

Wait, Dina. Dina!

JENNIFER IS DEVASTATED. STEPHANIE AND WAYNE COME OUT OF THE BACK. STEPHANIE HAS A CHECK AND A PEN AND PAPER.

STEPHANIE :

Okay, here's your advance.

SHE HANDS IT TO JENNIFER.

STEPHANIE (CONT'D)

And, this'll be fun. We're going to make a no-no list of all the things you spend money on you don't need.

JENNIFER TURNS AND STARES AT STEPHANIE. WAYNE REACHES OVER AND MOVES THE ICE PICK OUT OF HER REACH.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO:

"Epidode Title" 30.

ACT THREE:

SCENE H :

FADE IN:

INT. MAGGIE'S HOME OFFICE RECEPTION ROOM - (THE NEXT) DAY
LORNA (30S, EFFICIENT-LOOKING), MAGGIE'S ASSISTANT, IS AT A LITTLE RECEPTION DESK. JENNIFER ENTERS.

JENNIFER :

Is my mom in?

LORNA :

No. Sorry.

MAGGIE COMES OUT OF HER OFFICE.

MAGGIE :

Hi, sweetie. Come on in.

JENNIFER GOES IN WITH HER MOTHER AS LORNA STARES AT HER.

RESET TO:

INT. MAGGIE'S HOME OFFICE - CONTINUOUS
MAGGIE AND JENNIFER ENTER.

JENNIFER :

(RE:
patients again?

MAGGIE :
Isn't Lorna great?!

JENNIFER :
She just lied to my face.

MAGGIE :
(LAUGHS) It's a coping mechanism.
She only does that when she's feeling
threatened. Her family was a mess.

(MORE)
"Epidode Title" 31.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Poor thing. Bipolar father,
domineering mother, toxic brother.
Wet her bed until she was fourteen.
Now she acts out sexually with men she
barely knows. I can't really talk
about it.

JENNIFER :
Can you take Gretchen shopping for me
after school? I promised I would take
her but I have an interview.

MAGGIE :
Sure, honey. What's the interview?
JENNIFER STARTS WRITING OUT A CHECK.

JENNIFER :
The unemployment office. None of
those headhunter places have found me
work. I thought I'd give the
government a shot at disappointing me.
SHE HANDS HER MOTHER THE CHECK.

MAGGIE :
Are you okay?

JENNIFER :

I'm fine. Why?

MAGGIE :

(RE:

"Clothes For Gretchen."

"Episode Title" 32. 32.

JENNIFER :

Oh. Sorry. Give me that.

SHE RE-WRITES THE CHECK BUT FEELS HER MOTHER'S EYES ON HER.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Please don't ask me if I'm okay again.

MAGGIE :

Are you okay?

JENNIFER :

No, I'm not okay! Do I look okay?!

MAGGIE :

You need to be in therapy. You have anger issues.

JENNIFER :

Why does everyone keep saying that?!

MAGGIE :

I know you can't afford therapy right now but I think I have a solution. I'm willing to see you for free. Or maybe a little yard work.

JENNIFER :

Are you nuts?

MAGGIE :

Just some light weeding.

JENNIFER :

No. I'm not having my own mother as my therapist. I think Freud would

back me up here.

"Epidode Title" 33. 33.

MAGGIE :

(DISMISSIVE) Freud. Who knows you better than your mother? And you know I can be objective. Have I ever judged you for the disastrous life decisions you've made or your failed relationships with men?

JENNIFER :

You're not listening, Mom. I said no.

MAGGIE :

Give me one good reason why I can't be your therapist.

JENNIFER :

You. Don't. Listen. To. Me.

MAGGIE :

See? You can't.

JENNIFER STARES AT HER MOTHER, IN AWE OF HER SELF-ABSORPTION.

CUT TO:

"Epidode Title" 34. 34.

SCENE J :

INT. UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE - AFTERNOON

THERE ARE SEVERAL EMPLOYMENT COUNSELORS TALKING TO JOB SEEKERS. JENNIFER SITS IN A CHAIR ACROSS THE DESK FROM RONNIE WILKES, A LIFER CIVIL SERVANT IN HER FORTIES.

RONNIE :

Two hundred fifty thousand dollars?

JENNIFER :

(A LITTLE EMBARRASSED) I can work for less. Way less.

RONNIE :

(TO OTHER COUNSELOR) Doreen, she made two hundred and fifty thousand dollars

at her last job.

DOREEN, ANOTHER LIFER, LOOKS OVER.

DOREEN :

Damn. I wouldn't lose that job.

RONNIE :

No, you can't lose that job.

DOREEN :

That's the job you keep.

RONNIE :

I'm afraid I'm fresh out of two hundred and fifty thousand dollar jobs.

DOREEN :

You check in the two hundred fifty thousand dollar drawer?

"Epidode Title" 35. 35.

THEY BOTH CRACK UP. JENNIFER CAN'T HOLD IT IN.

JENNIFER :

It's not funny!!

THEY BOTH STARE AT HER.

DOREEN :

Someone has an anger problem.

RONNIE :

Look at that vein on her temple.

JENNIFER :

I lost everything! I had to move back in with my mother. I'm working at my brother's bar with his bitch of a wife. My best friend hates me and my daughter is planning her own funeral.

RONNIE :

Wow. That sounds pretty rough.

JENNIFER :

Yeah, well, it is.

RONNIE :

I'm so sorry. Hey, Doreen, when you're through there, come on over. Jennifer's throwing a pity party.

JENNIFER :

What? That's not fair.
"Epidode Title" 36. 36.

RONNIE :

Nothing's fair, Jennifer. I'm supposed to feel sorry for you, 'cause you have to work for your brother? You're working. You had to move back in with your mother? She took you in!

JENNIFER :

You don't understand!

RONNIE :

No, I don't understand. You're family loves you and they're trying to help you. What's your problem?

JENNIFER :

(GETS UP) This was a waste of time.
SHE WALKS AWAY.

RONNIE :

(CALLING AFTER HER) Wait. I found the two hundred and fifty thousand dollar jobs. I was sitting on them.
RONNIE AND DOREEN CRACK UP.

CUT TO:

"Epidode Title" 37. 37.

SCENE J :

INT. OVERTIME - EVENING

STEPHANIE AND WAYNE ARE BEHIND THE BAR. THE PLACE IS PACKED.
JENNIFER RUSHES IN, TIEING ON HER LITTLE WORK APRON.

WAYNE :

Mom called. Gretchen won't do her homework because she's mad at you for making Mom take her shopping.

JENNIFER :

Of course.

STEPHANIE :

You want my advice?

JENNIFER :

Advice from a twenty-three year old about raising a teenager? By all means.

STEPHANIE :

Okay, first you have to be firm. You have to show her who's boss.

JENNIFER :

Whoa, whoa, slow down. Let me write this down. (WRITES ON A NAPKIN) "Firm."
What was that other thing? "Boss."
Brilliant. Why didn't anyone tell me this stuff.

STEPHANIE :

I know it's none of my business-
"Epidode Title" 38. 38.

JENNIFER:

Are you kidding? You know nothing about it and I didn't ask you. Of course it's your business.

WAYNE:

(JUMPING IN) Okay! Here, Jen, take these pitchers over to table seven.
SHE LOOKS ACROSS THE ROOM. IT'S DINA AND HER SOFTBALL TEAM.

JENNIFER:

You've got to be kidding me. Please don't make me do this right now.

STEPHANIE:

I'm sorry, but you have to get over your fear of lesbians.

JENNIFER STARES AT HER, THEN GRABS THE TRAY AND TAKES IT TO DINA'S TABLE. SHE SLAMS THE PITCHERS DOWN.

JENNIFER :

Here!

DINA :

(WEIRDED OUT) Thanks.

JENNIFER :

You're welcome! (SOFTENING A LITTLE)
Can't you find another bar?

DINA :

I like it here. Can't you find another job?

JENNIFER :

No!!

"Epidode Title" 39. 39.

DINA :

Whoa. Calm down, crazy.

JENNIFER :

Calm down?! Calm down?!

DINA :

Yeah. You're being ridiculous.

JENNIFER :

I'm being ridiculous. I'm being ridiculous.

DINA :

Stop that. Stop saying everything twice.

JENNIFER :

You want to make me?

DINA :

"Make" you? What are you twelve?

JENNIFER :

Shut up.

JENNIFER PUSHES DINA.

DINA :

(SHOCKED) You pushed me.

JENNIFER :

Yeah, I did. What are you going to do about it?

DINA PUSHES HER BACK.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Hey!

JENNIFER PUSHES DINA AGAIN.

"Epidode Title" 40. 40.

DINA :

Hey!

DINA PUSHES BACK. THEN THEY BOTH GO AFTER EACH OTHER AND JENNIFER ENDS UP GETTING DINA IN A HEADLOCK.

DINA (CONT'D)

Let go!

SANDY, A TOUGH LOOKING TEAMMATE OF DINA'S, STARTS TO GET UP.

SANDY :

You need some help, Dina?

DINA :

I got it. (TO JENNIFER) Let go of me!

JENNIFER :

No! I won't! I'm not going to let you go until you tell me why you're so emotionally unavailable to me!

SANDY :

(SHAKES HER HEAD) Wow, that's a chick fight.

DINA :

I can't breathe!

JENNIFER :

Oh, sorry.

SHE LOOSENS THE HOLD AND DINA YANKS HER HEAD AWAY AND QUICKLY PUTS JENNIFER IN A HEADLOCK.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Hey, no fair!

"Epidode Title" 41. 41.

DINA :

You're so easy. (THEN) You want to know why I'm mad at you?

JENNIFER :

Let go of me!

DINA :

Remember when I was going through all that stuff with Jeremy and I was flipping out?

JENNIFER :

Yeah! I gave you a two hundred dollar gift certificate for my massage therapist who's like a miracle worker at targeting stress and you never even thanked me.

DINA :

I didn't want a massage therapist, I wanted my best friend.

JENNIFER :

You never used it?

DINA :

No, I used it. Still pissed me off.

JENNIFER :

Did he do the "hands of fire?"

DINA :

Oh. Yeah. Incredible. (THEN)

That's not the point!

WAYNE COMES OVER AND SEES DINA HOLDING JENNIFER IN A HEADLOCK.

"Epidode Title" 42. 42.

WAYNE :

(CALMLY) Hey, Dina.

DINA :

Wayne.

WAYNE :

Jennifer, you have orders up.

JENNIFER :

I'll be right there.

WAYNE GOES.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

Do you mind?

DINA LETS JENNIFER OUT OF THE HOLD.

DINA :

You used to be such a good friend to me,
Jennifer. Then you turned into some
stranger who just threw money at people.

JENNIFER :

That's not true.

DINA :

When my Mom got sick you texted me
your shrink's number and said he did
great grief work.

JENNIFER :

Oh, God, I did, didn't I? I loved
your mom. I should have visited her.

DINA :

It's too late now.
"Epidode Title" 43.

JENNIFER :

No. When did you lose her?

DINA :

Lose her? She's healthy as a horse now.
Running triathlons. It's too late to

visit her in the hospital. (THEN) What happened to you, Jennifer?

JENNIFER :

I don't know. I started making all this money and I thought everything would be great but after a while I didn't know what I was doing anymore or who I was. People say I have anger issues but I don't feel angry inside, I just feel scared. And I don't think I like myself much.

DINA :

Yeah, well that I get.

JENNIFER STARTS TO REACT BUT SEES DINA GRIN A LITTLE. A RAY OF SUNSHINE?

JENNIFER :

Look, Dina, I can't change the past but I can change the future. Well, I can't change the future. Nobody can. The future hasn't happened yet. Forget the future. I really just want to go back to the way things were. We used to have fun. Remember?

(MORE)

"Epidode Title" 44.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

And I can't throw money at you. I don't have any money. Can't you give me another chance?

DINA :

I don't know.

JENNIFER :

You have to. I need you. And I will totally be there for you whenever you need me. I promise.

DINA :

It's not that easy, Jennifer.

JENNIFER :

You have to forgive me or I'll do something crazy. I'll, I'll tell your team you hate Birkenstocks.

DINA :

(LAUGHS) Shut up. Don't even kid like that. (THEN) Okay, okay. One more chance.

JENNIFER :

Yes! (HUGS HER) I love you, Dina.

OVER DINA'S SHOULDER JENNIFER SEES DINA'S TEAMMATE SANDY SMILING AT HER AND GIVING HER THE THUMBS UP. AFTER HER MOMENT WITH DINA, JENNIFER CROSSES BACK TO THE BAR TO FIND ETHAN SITTING THERE.

ETHAN :

Hey.

"Epidode Title" 45. 45.

JENNIFER :

Hey.

ETHAN :

Still just helping out?

JENNIFER :

(CONSIDERS) No. No, I work here now.

ETHAN :

Cool. Can I see a foam list?

JENNIFER :

Hey, I've got it down now. Watch.
SHE POURS A PERFECT GLASS OF BEER.

ETHAN :

Very nice.

JENNIFER :

Wait, I've always wanted to do this.
SHE SLIDES IT DOWN THE BAR TO HIM BUT HE'S REACHING FOR HIS WALLET AND IT FLIES RIGHT BY HIM AND OFF THE END OF THE BAR.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

(BEAT) Pretty good, huh?

ETHAN :

You really are a natural.

SHE POURS HIM ANOTHER ONE.

JENNIFER :

I'll just hand you this one.

ETHAN :

No. (PUTS HIS HAND OUT) Come on.

SHE TRIES AGAIN AND HE CATCHES IT. THEY SHARE A SMILE.

CUT TO:

"Epidode Title" 46. 46.

SCENE J:

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

GRETCHEN'S ON HER COMPUTER. JENNIFER COMES IN.

JENNIFER :

Okay, for a long time you've been mad at me for not paying enough attention to you and I've felt guilty about it and bought you a lot of crap you don't need. Well, that's over. If I'm going to be poor, the least I can do is spend more time with you. Now shove over, I want to show you a kitty-flushing-a-toilet video.

GRETCHEN :

Um, okay.

JENNIFER SITS WITH HER. THEY WATCH FOR A MOMENT, GIGGLING.

GRETCHEN (CONT'D)

You'll still buy me crap I don't need?

JENNIFER :

Probably.

GRETCHEN :

I love you, Mom.

JENNIFER :

I love you too, honey.
"Epidode Title" 47.

GRETCHEN :

Will you write my eulogy?

JENNIFER :

If you pick up your room.
END OF ACT THREE

CUT TO:

"Epidode Title" 48. 48.

TAG :

EXT. MAGGIE'S BACKYARD - NIGHT
JENNIFER AND DINA ARE KICKING BACK ON THE PATIO FURNITURE,
HAVING BEERS.

DINA :

It's so weird to be at your Mom's
house drinking beers that we didn't
swipe from her.

JENNIFER :

No, I swiped them. I'm totally broke.
Hey, you know what I have?
SHE LOOKS AROUND THEN PULLS OUT TWO CIGARETTES.
JENNIFER (CONT'D)
You smoke?

DINA :

No. Do you?

JENNIFER :

God, no. I just want to be bad.

DINA :

I'm in.
THEY LIGHT UP AND COUGH, LAUGH AT THEMSELVES. THEY DRINK
THEIR BEERS, LOOKING OUT INTO THE NIGHT SKY.

JENNIFER :

How did I get so angry?

DINA :

"Get?" You were born angry. You've been yelling at people since you were three years old.

"Epidode Title" 49. 49.

JENNIFER :

No, I haven't.

DINA :

You made Zoe Lee cry in pre-school.

JENNIFER :

Bitch ate my paste!

DINA :

And Seth Gorman in sixth grade.

JENNIFER :

He snapped my bra strap!

DINA :

Couch Gunderson. Tenth grade.

JENNIFER :

Do you have a life of your own?
(THEN) Gunderson made me dress for gym when I was bloated.

DINA :

Just saying. You have issues, girl.

JENNIFER :

Okay, okay. You're right. I have issues. I'm working on them. (BEAT)
I looked like a friggin' bratwurst!
Gunderson didn't care.

DINA :

Let it go. (SITS UP, ALARMED) What was that?

"Epidode Title" 50. 50.

JENNIFER :

What?

DINA :

I heard a noise. Are you sure your
mom went to bed?

JENNIFER :

Oh, my God, you're not still scared of
my mom, are you?

DINA :

No, it's just, you know, it's her
house, we're smoking...

JENNIFER :

(LAUGHS) What is she going to do,
tell your mom? Jesus, Dina, you're
forty years old.

THEY HEAR THE SLIDING GLASS DOOR OPEN.

GRETCHEN (O.S.)

Mom?

JENNIFER :

Run!

THEY RUN OFF INTO THE DARKNESS, THEIR CIGARETTES GLOWING IN
RETREAT.

GRETCHEN :

Mom, I can totally see you.

FADE OUT:

END OF SHOW *