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# Legally Blonde

By Karen McCullah

"HEAD OVER HEELS" by the Go-Go's plays as we wind through a flock of abstract, silky, golden strands -- PULLING BACK, to discover that the strands are hair on a BLONDE GIRL's head. But not just any blonde girl, a girl in Delta Gamma, the blondest, most beautiful sorority at USC.

We PULL BACK further to see that she's signing a handmade card. She holds it up ~ OVER HER SHOULDER, we see hearts and glitter surrounding and "Good Luck Tonight!" and "Elle and Warner forever!."

She carries the card out of her room and we FOLLOW HER across the hall, into the room of --

THREE BLONDE CHEERLEADERS, who stop practicing their pom-pom routine to sign the card. As they finish, we follow the Card Girl out and into the room of --

A BLONDE GIRL IN A TANK TOP and shorts, working out on a Stairmaster as "General Hospital" plays on a tiny TV. She signs the card while continuing to exercise. We move on, to the room of--

A BLONDE GIRL MAKING OUT WITH HER BOYFRIEND who stops long enough to sign the card, as her boyfriend nibbles on her neck. She hands the card back and we head into the room of --

A BLONDE PARTY GIRL who pours a pink frozen margarita into a glass from the blender, then passes it down to ANOTHER BLONDE GIRL, assembly-line style. The card goes one way, being signed, as the drinks go the other.

Once the card arrives back in the Card Girl's hands, we follow her out of the room and down the hall until she reaches the very last and biggest door --

She puts a kiss mark on the card, then kneels down and slides the card under the door.

INT. ELLE'S DELTA GAMMA ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The CARD slides into the pink room, hitting the feet of UNDERDOG, a tiny chihuahua ~ who picks it up in his mouth and trots it over to a pair of perfectly pedicured feet in strappy sandals.

An equally perfectly manicured hand with a "Sisters Forever" charm bracelet dangling from the wrist, scoops up Underdog.

(CONTINUED)

As he rises, we RISE WITH HIM, passing toned, waxed, tanned legs in pink Prada pedal pushers and a pair of perky boobs encased in a spaghetti-strap top -- until we finally reveal a

magnificent head of long blonde hair and a sweet, beautiful face. This is ELLE WOODS, 21, the Goddess Queen of Delta Gamma. She talks on a pink, fuzzy phone.

ELLE

(into the phone)

I love you, too!

Behind her, a "Go USC" banner is pinned to the pink wall. A stack of "Cosmopolitan"s and "Glamour"s teeters on the dresser. The closet overflows with trendy, designer clothes in a predominance of pink.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing; into phone)

I'll see you tonight.

She hangs up and lets out a squeal of joy, kissing Underdog's head and taking the card out of his mouth. She reads it, touched.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

"Elle and Warner forever". Aww...

Underdog yips.

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3 INT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY - SAME TIME

A Delta Gamma/Sigma Chi barbecue in full swing. Beautiful college students drink beer and mingle, trying to figure out who they're going to sleep with next.

The main wall of the living room has been designated as a "Model Wall" of Delta Gamma girls -- ELLE smiles at us from a Hawaiian Tropic ad and a Miss June USC calendar photo. A cover of an Italian Vogue shows a blonde sexpot MARGOT; a USC cheerleader poster displays a hard-bodied non-blonde SERENA in a pom-pom pose.

Serena walks up, fending off an admirer.

SERENA

Jeremy, enough! I am not going to formal with you.

Jeremy slinks off as Margot arrives, agitated.

MARGOT

Can someone please tell Rick that he is not the only Sigma Chi with a big penis?

(CONTINUED)

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ELLE (O.S.)

You guys are so sweet!

ELLE, a vision of fluffy bloneness, runs down the stairs toward Serena and Margot, holding the card.

ELLE (CONT'D)

But I ' m not positive it's gonna happen  
to n i g h t --

. SERENA

Helloo...he just had lunch with his  
grandmother. You know he got "The Rock".

MARGOT

Why else would she have flown in from  
Newport? It's not like she'd Fed Ex a  
six carat diamond.

ELLE

(excited)

You think?

SERENA

I can't believe you're getting engaged!

The three girls jump up and down, squealing and hugging.

ELLE

C'mon -- you have to help me pick out the  
perfect outfit.

As they head toward the door, Elle spots AMY, a shy girl in a  
Delta Gamma Pledge sweatshirt, standing alone.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Amy, what's wrong?

AMY

I don't really -- know anyone.

ELLE

(teasing)

That's because you spend too much time in  
the library. Come with me.

(to Serena and Margot)

I'll meet you outside.

As they go, Elle leads Amy over to a group of jovial Sigma  
Chi brothers.

(CONTINUED)

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ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Bra ndon , Jason, Grant --this is Amy.

Why don't you tell her about the time you

guys went golfing naked?

Elle winks at Amy and heads off as the guys launch into their story.

BRANDON

It was classic. Jason hit with wood all day.

GRANT

And we never ran out of balls --

Amy laughs.

INT. SUNSET PLAZA BOUTIQUE - DAY

Serena and Margot watch as Elle stands in front of a mirror, trying on a Herve Leger white mini-dress. Sexy and ultra-tight. ;

ELLE

Too demure?

MARGOT

I think you should go with red. It's the color of confidence.

ELLE

Well, I don't want to look like I know what's coming. . .

SERENA

I don't understand why you're completely disregarding your signature color.

She holds up a tiny pink slipdress.

ELLE

He's proposing! I can't look like I would on any date. This is the date. The night I'll always remember. I want to look special. Bridal . . . but not like I suspect anything.

ACROSS THE STORE

A SALESWOMAN looks at her cohort.

(CONTINUED)

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SALESWOMAN

(sot.to)

There ' s nothing I love more than a dumb blonde with daddy's plastic.

She grabs a dress off the Clearance Sale rack, ripping off the "HALF PRICE" TAG.

ON ELLE AND THE GIRLS

. SERENA

I can't wait to see you wearing The Rock!  
Elle looks at them, suddenly concerned.

ELLE

Wh at if -- you know -- it's not the  
night?

MARGOT

Why else would he be taking you to The  
Ivy? You've been dating for a year --  
it's not like he's trying to impress you.

SERENA

Elle, you've heard the man pass gas in  
  
his sleep. That practically means you're  
  
pre-engaged.

"

The Saleswoman approaches with the dress, kiss-assy smile on  
her face.

SALESWOMAN

Did you see this one? We just got it in  
yesterday.

Elle fingers the dress, then the new price tag, looking back  
at the saleswoman, excited.

ELLE

Is this a low-viscosity rayon?

SALESWOMAN

Uh, yes -- of course.

ELLE

With half-loop top-stitching on the hem?

SALESWOMAN

(smiling a lie)

Absolutely. It's one of a kind.

(CONTINUED)

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^ Elle hands the dress back to her, no longer pretending to be  
excited.

ELLE

It's impossible to use a half-loop  
topstitch on low-viscosity rayon. It  
would snag the fabric. And you didn't  
just get this in, because I remember it

from the June Vogue a year ago, so if you're trying to sell it to me at full price, you picked the wrong girl.

The saleswoman slinks off, embarrassed.

MARGOT

(to the saleswoman)

Nice try...

Elle shakes her head and turns back to the girls as she slips on her Manolo Blahnik sandals, doing one last mirror check, smoothing down her golden mane.

ELLE

(dramatically)

Girls, this is it. In a few hours, I'll be the future Mrs. Warner Huntington III.

5 EXT, DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - NIGHT

An attractive male finger presses the doorbell.

6 INT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT - SAME TIME

Amy peeks through the peephole and turns.

AMY

(whispering)

He's here!

Elle, standing nearby with Margot and Serena and several other DG's, smooths down her dress and takes a deep breath, opening the door to find --  
WARNER HUNTINGTON, III, 21, tall, chiseled and outrageously handsome. He takes her in, a smile spreading across his face.

WARNER

You're beautiful.

ELLE

So are you!

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She looks up at him, blushing and completely smitten. They kiss. After a moment, -Warner extracts himself.

WARNER

(nervous)

You ready?

Her face is awash with devotion.

ELLE

I am so ready.

7 EXT. THE IVY - NIGHT

Warner and Elle are seated at a cozy table on the patio. Elle takes a sip from her freshly poured champagne flute. Nervous and excited.

ELLE

Here' s to ~ us.

Warner is slower to sip his.

WARNER

The reason I wanted to come here tonight was to discuss our future.

Elle is on the edge of her seat.

ELLE

I ' m fully amenable to that discussion.

WARNER

I mean, we're having a lot of fun now -- but things are gonna be different when I ' m at Harvard Law school is a completely different world. I need to be serious.

ELLE

Of course.

WARNER

My family expects a lot from me. And I expect a lot from me. I .plan on running for office some day.

ELLE

And I fully support that.

(CONTINUED)

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WA R N ER

But the thing is, if I ' m gonna be a senator by the time I ' m thirty -- I can't keep dicking around.

ELLE

I completely agree.

WARNER

T hat 's why I think it's time for us to--  
Elle takes a deep breath, filled with anticipation.

WARNER (CONT'D)

( o t n i g . . . > . ' .  
c n i u n )

I think we should break up.

Elle's champagne glass drops from her hand and CRASHES onto the patio.

ELLE



What?

Elle starts to flush, completely caught off guard.

WARNER

I ' m sorry, Elle, I just --

ELLE

You're breaking up with me?!

(tearing up)

I thought you were proposing.

WARNER

Proposing?! Elle, If I ' m going to be a politician, I need to marry a Jackie, not a -- Marilyn.

ELLE

(stunned)

You're breaking up with me because I ' m too -- blonde?

WARNER

T hat' s not entirely --

ELLE

Then what? My boobs are too big?

WARNER.

Elle -- no --- your boobs are fine --

Her tears start.

(CON TINUED )

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**CONTINU ED:**

ELLE

So when you said you'd always love me,  
you were just "dicking around"?

Warner looks around the restaurant nervously.

WARNER

I do love you, Elle. I just can't marry you.  
You have no idea the pressure I ' m under. My  
family has five generations of senators. My  
brother is in the top three at Yale Law. He

just got engaged to a Vanderbilt, for crissakes.

Elle stares at him aghast, tears streaming down her face,  
then pushes her chair away from the table and walks out.

WARNER (CONT'D)

(continuing)

It's not like I have a choice, sweetheart

He follows her out.

8 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

8

Elle teeters down the sidewalk as best she can in her three inch heels, sobbing. Warner pulls up alongside her in his convertible Saab.

WARNER

C'mon. Let me take you home.

ELLE

No.

WARNER

Elle -- it's twenty miles back to campus. Elle stops, thinks a minute, then gets in, still crying. Catching her poofy little purse in the door. She re-opens it, yanking the purse back in. Warner pulls out.

9 EXT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - USC - NIGHT

9

Warner pulls up in front. It's a starry, romantic night. Everything should be perfect. It's not. Elle sits, still in shock, as tears continue to eke out.

WARNER

Elle, believe me, I never expected to be doing this, but I think it's the right thing to do.

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ELLE

How can it be the right thing if we're not together?

WARNER .

I have to think about my future. And what people expect from me.

ELLE

So you're breaking up with me because you're afraid your family won't like me?

(through her tears)

Everybody likes me!

WARNER

East coast people are different.

ELLE

Just because I ' m not a Vanderbilt, all of

a sudden I ' m white trash? I grew up in  
Bel Air, Warner! Across the street from  
Aaron Spelling! I think most people  
would agree that's way better than a  
Vanderbilt --

WARNER

I told you, Elle. I need someone --  
serious.

ELLE

I ' m seriously in love with you -- Isn't  
that enough? He looks away.

WARNER

I ' m sorry.

She gets out of the car and drags herself up the stairs to  
her sorority house. When she's at the top, she turns back to  
look at him. His perfect cheekbones highlighted by the  
streetlamp.

He meets her eyes, pained, but determined. Then pulls away,  
leaving her there.

10 INT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - USC - NIGHT 10

Elle walks down the pink and green carpeted hall, dazed and  
tear-stained.

Margot and Serena emerge from the bathroom, post-shower.  
Getting ready for a night out.

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MARGOT

Why are you back so soon?

Serena sees Elle's bare hand.

SERENA

Did he forget the ring?

Elle silently walks into her room. Serena and Margot follow,  
worried.

11 INT. ELLE'S DELTA GAMMA ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 11

Elle slumps down in an inflatable chair, hugging her knees  
and cowering in a wretched little ball. Underdog stares at  
her, concerned.

Serena and Margot stand in the door.

MARGOT

Elle?

SERENA

Where's the Rock?

ELLE

We're not engaged. It's over!

SERENA AND MARGOT

What?!

ELLE

He broke up with me!

Serena and Margot gasp in horror, rushing to her side.

SERENA

Is it a Kappa?

MARGOT

It's not a Theta --

ELLE

No -- it's just -- not me.

I ' m canceling the mixer. We'll blacklist  
Sigma Chi.

ELLE

Thank you, Serena, but I don't think  
it'll do any good.

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SERENA

What happened?

Elle starts to lose it again.

; ELLE

I don't know! Everything was normal at  
first and then he said he needed someone  
mo r e --

(sob-choked)

Serious! .

MARGOT

S e r i o u s ? ! Who the hell does he think he

i s ? Y o u ' r e the most popu l a r month on the  
U S C calendar!

S h e points to Elle's "Miss June" page, hanging on the wall.

SER EN A

O h , he is so over on this campus.

ELLE

I just don ' t underst a n d what went wrong --

MA RG OT

Maybe it's the grandmother.                   Have you  
e v e r me t he r ?

E l l e wipes her face.

ELLE

Last month on his birthday. And she  
liked me! She said I looked like Britney  
Spears. Why would you say that to  
someone you didn't like?

They shrug, mystified.

SERENA

How could this happen?

ELLE

I don't know! I don't know anything any  
more!

(wiping a tear)

I just need to be by myself.

SERENA

Are you sure?

Elle nods.    The girls rise, hugging her.

(CONTINUED)

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MARGOT

We still love you.                   Sisters forever!

ELLE

(sniffing)

Thank you. I love you, too.

As they go, Margot looks at Serena.

MARGOT

Oh, God. What if Josh doesn't think I ' m  
serious enough?                   .

SERENA

Hello... you let him have anal sex with  
you.

(TV VERSION)

Hello... you let him videotape you  
diddling yourself.

MARGOT

You're right. Phew!

As the girls go, they shut the door behind them.  
Elle gets up and grabs a FRAMED PHOTO of Warner, then lies  
down on her bed, clutching it to her heart. Underdog leaps  
up and gives her little doggy kisses.

12 EXT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - DAY

12 The sun rises on a sad day. "HOPELESSLY DEVOTED" by Olivia  
Newton-John plays.

13 INT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

13 Amy knocks on Elle's door.

AMY

Elle?

ANOTHER SISTER passes.

ANOTHER SISTER .

(whispering)

Didn't you hear?

She leads a reluctant Amy down the hall.

14 INT. ELLE'S DELTA GAMMA ROOM - DAY

14 Spread out on the bed are PICTURES of Elle and Warner: The  
Sigma Chi formal; their Homecoming Queen and King "wave";

(CONTINUED)

14.

14 a 60's party; Mardi Gras night; beach weekend at Coronado.  
Next to the pictures are thirty dried Ecuadorian long-  
stemmed pink roses, remnants of their one year anniversary.  
In the center sits Elle, wearing Warner's old oversized Sigma  
Chi t-shirt, clutching a Gund teddybear. Depressed and  
looking like hell, she speaks to an unseen confidante.

ELLE

I just love him so much! I loved him the  
first moment I saw him. He's beautiful

and smart and someone I totally respect.  
And I did everything I could to make him  
love me, but it wasn't enough. Now what  
am I supposed to do? I planned my whole  
future around him. My life was going to  
be all about Warner. Now what's it going  
to be about?

She looks up -- waiting. Staring back at her is Underdog --  
who sadly has no answers for her.

15 INT. ELLE'S DELTA GAMMA ROOM - DAY

15 Elle remains in bed, Underdog now clutched to her chest,  
soaps on the TV.

TV SOAP STUD

(on TV)

"Oh, darling. I'll love you forever."

ELLE

(teary)

Bullshit!

Serena and Margot enter, bearing Jamba Juice.

MARGOT

Honey, stop! You have to leave this room

-- it's been a week.

ELLE

So?

+

Serena sits down on the edge of the bed, trying to psyche

Elle up.

SERENA

What's the thing that always makes us

feel better, no matter what?

MARGOT

Cunnilingus?

15 Elle lets out a wail, realizing what she'll be missing.

Serena shoots Margot a stern look.

SERENA

No -- the thing after that,

16 INT. UPSCALE MANICURE SHOP - DAY

16

A row of uniformed manicurists and their classy clients.

Chattering away. Therapy in full session. Serena sits in front of her regular nail technician.

SERENA

It was awful. We all thought she'd be the first to walk down the aisle and now she's totally adrift.

The nail technician shakes her head in shared girl-power-angst -- looking over at Elle, who sits in the waiting area, shell-shocked, but showered.

Elle picks up the only magazine left on the table -- "Town & Country". She wrinkles her nose. An OLD LADY next to her reads "Seventeen". Elle looks at her, begrudging the access to teen beauty tips, and flips through "Town & Country" nonchalantly until she freezes on-- the Engagement Section. She gasps.

ELLE

Oh, my God!

She looks at a PHOTO of a horse-faced YOUNG WOMAN standing next to a THREE-YEARS-OLDER VERSION OF WARNER. She turns to the old lady next to her.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Do you know who this is?

The old lady looks.

OLD LADY

No.

ELLE

It's Warner's older brother!



OLD LADY

Who?

Elle continues, undaunted.

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16

EL LE

He just got engaged to this -- this very  
unfortunate-looking girl.

(reading)

"Third year Yale Law student Putnam Bowes  
Huntington III and his fiance Layne  
Walker Vanderbilt, first year Yale Law."

She turns to the old lady.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

This is the type-of girl Warner wants to  
marry. This is what I need to become to  
be serious.

The old lady looks at the picture.

OLD LADY

Butt ugly?

ELLE

No -- a law student.

Elle rushes out. Serena looks after her.

SERENA

Elle?

(turning back to her nail  
technician)

She'll never get him back with those  
cuticles.

17 INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY

17

Elle sits in front of her ADVISOR.

ADVISOR

(flummoxed)

Harvard Law School?

ELLE

That's right.

ADVISOR

But it's a top three school --

ELLE

(offended)

I have a 4.0.

(CONTINUED)

ADVISOR

Yes, but your major is Fashion Merchandising. Harvard won't be impressed that you aced "History of Lycra". What are your backups?

ELLE

I don't need backups. Harvard is the school I'm going to.

He decides to humor her.

ADVISOR

Well, then. You'll need excellent recommendations from your professors, a heck of an admissions essay and at least a one-seventy-five on your LSATs.

ELLE

(confident)

I once had to judge a Theta Chi Tightly-Whitey contest. Trust me-- I can handle anything.

18 INT. ELLE'S DELTA GAMMA ROOM - DAY

18

Elle sits on the floor surrounded by piles of LSAT prep books, the framed photo of Warner, and Underdog.

There's a KNOCK at the door as Serena and Margot peek inside, gasping in horror at the sight of books.

MARGOT

What are you doing?!

Elle smiles brightly at them.

ELLE

Reading about the LSATs.

Margot looks at Serena, confused.

SERENA

(in a horrified whisper)

My cousin had them. Apparently you get a really bad rash on your --

Elle interrupts her.

ELLE

The LSATs are an exam.

She takes a deep breath.

(CONTINUED)

18.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Girls-- I ' m going to Harvard!

. SERENA

What, like on va-kay?

MARGOT

Let's all go! Road trip!

. SERENA

Wait -- Cecil has a condo in Tahoe.

Let's go there!

ELLE

No -- I ' m going to law school at Harvard.

They look at her, confused.

MARGOT

Why?!

SERENA

I mean, I know you're upset and all, but  
can't you just take a sedative?

Elle rolls her eyes at their naivete.

ELLE

Once Warner sees me as a serious law  
student, he'll want me back. It's a  
completely brilliant plan!

MARGOT

But isn't it kind of hard to get into law  
school?

ELLE

I have the highest GPA in Delta Gamma!

Margot pulls something off her wrist and hands it to Elle.

MARGOT

Here. You're gonna need this.

ELLE

Your scrunchie?

MARGOT

My lucky scrunchie. It helped me pass  
Spanish.

Serena rolls her eyes and looks at Margot disapprovingly.

(CONTINUED)

19.

18

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18

S E R E N A

You passed Spanish because you gave  
Professor Montoya a hand-job after the  
final.

MARGOT

(duh)

Yeah, luckily.

A MONTAGE OF THE NEXT 3 MONTHS BEGINS WITH...

19 EXT. WOODS' BEL AIR BACKYARD - DAY 19  
ON VIDEO, Elle sits in a Jacuzzi in her bikini.

ELLE

(to the camera)

My name is Elle Woods and for my admissions essay, I ' d like to tell all of you at Harvard why I ' m going to make an amazing lawyer.

20 INT. KAPPA SIG LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 20  
The girls watch a horror movie with Kappa Sigs. Eating popcorn and drinking red wine.  
Off to the side, Elle reads an LSAT Study Guide.

21 INT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 21  
ON VIDEO, a Delta Gamma chapter meeting takes place.

ELLE (V.O.)

As president of my sorority, I ' m skilled at commanding the attention of a room and discussing important issues.

Elle bangs a gavel, as she sits in front of her sisters.

ELLE (CONT'D)

~ It has come to my attention that the maintenance staff is switching our toilet paper from Charmin to generic. All those opposed to chafing, pleas.e say "aye".  
The sisters "AYE" in unison. Underdog barks his approval.

22 INT. CLASSROOM - NIGHT 22  
"LSAT Prep Course" is written on the board. Elle and forty other law school hopefuls take notes furiously as practice questions are reviewed.

23 EXT. WOODS BACKYARD POOL - DAY 23  
ON VIDEO, FROM ABOVE, we see Elle as she floats on a raft in her pool, in a pink Versace bikini. She addresses the camera.

ELLE

(to the camera)

I ' m able to recall hundreds of important details at the drop of a hat.

We reveal Margot on a raft beside her.

MARGOT

(badly acting)

Elle, do you know what happened on "Days of Our Lives" yesterday?

ELLE

Why, yes, Margot, I do. Once again, we joined Hope in the search for her identity. As you know, she's been brainwashed by the evil Stefano --

24 INT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 24

Elle takes a practice LSAT exam as Serena, Margot and a few other Delta Gammas do their butt-crunches in the Delta Gamma living room.

Serena, while clenching her tush, hits a stop watch and Elle starts writing furiously.

DISSOLVE TO:

Margot is now on all-fours, doing donkey kicks as she grades Elle's practice exam. She writes "143" on top and holds it up to Elle.

Elle slumps with frustration.

25 EXT. BEACH - DAY 25

ON VIDEO, Elle is rollerblading in shorts and a tank top.

ELLE

(to the camera)

And the laws and bi-laws of civil obedience are crucial to my life --

Serena skates by and fake-elbows Elle.

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25 25

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing; calling after her)

No shoving on the skate path! City ordinance 22G!

26 INT. LIBRARY STUDY ROOM - NIGHT 26

Elle sits in front of Amy, as Amy quizzes her with practice LSAT questions. Books are piled high around them.

Elle gazes out the window to see ---Warner and some BARE-CHESTED FRATERNITY BOYS carrying a keg across the quad. Her eyes light up and she looks at Amy pleadingly. Amy shakes her head no. Elle slumps, then rises and goes to the window, closing the shades and getting back to work.

27 EXT. USC CAMPUS - DAY 27

ON VIDEO, Elle addresses the camera.

ELLE

I feel confident using legal jargon in daily life.

CUT TO:

ON VIDEO, Elle walks across campus with Underdog in her purse, feigning staged innocence. A RANDOM FRAT BOY pinches her butt. She slaps his hand, dramatically.

ELLE (CONT'D)

I object!

28 INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY 28

"LSAT EXAM -- Sections 1-6" is scrawled on the chalk board. Elle sits in an auditorium with about 90 other students, LSAT booklet open, filling in answers. Concentrating so hard she's practically getting a forehead wrinkle.

29 INT. ELLE'S DELTA GAMMA ROOM - DAY 29

ON VIDEO, Elle speaks to the camera.

ELLE

(to the camera)

I've seen every episode of "The Practice" and I ' m even on speaking terms with Dylan McDermott.

CUT TO:

22.

30 EXT. DYLAN MCDERMOTT'S HOUSE - DAY 30

Dylan McDermott gets into his car and pulls out of his driveway.

VIDEOTAPING MADLY, the girls follow in Elle's Boxster.

SERENA

There he is!

. MARGOT

Pull up next to him!

Elle swerves around to pull up next to Dylan McDermott. They scream at him as Serena videotapes.

ELLE

Dylan! We love you!

Dylan McDermott burns rubber as he flees.

31 EXT. USC CAMPUS - DAY 31 "

ON VIDEO, Elle jogs while she addresses the camera.

ELLE

(to camera)

I'm totally focused and goal-oriented.

Plus I ' m able to sway people with my very  
convincing arguments.

She turns to Serena, jogging next to her.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Calvin Klein's spring line is atrocious.  
Don't you agree?

SERENA

(convinced)

Absolutely!

32 INT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - FOYER - DAY 32

Amy rushes in with a stack of mail, waving an LSAT envelope  
as she calls out.

AMY

It's here!

Elle rushes down the stairs as the other Delta Gammas gather  
around. Elle takes the envelope and says a quick prayer.

(CONTINUED)

23.

32 32

ELLE

One seventy-five...one seventy- five...

She opens it and stares at it for a long moment. Then turns  
it to the crowd and raises it above her head in triumph. The  
girls immediately begin jumping up and down as group joy  
ensues. Underdog yips with pride. The MONTAGE ENDS.

33 INT. HARVARD LAW ADMISSIONS OFFICE - DAY 33

ON THE TV, Elle stands up in the Jacuzzi.

ELLE

(on TV)

And that's why you should vote for me.

Elle Woods. Future lawyer. For the Class  
of 2003.

The video is PAUSED, as three ADMISSIONS GUYS in their 4.0's  
sit at a table piled high with applications, the DEAN OF  
ADMISSIONS at the head of it. STUNNED SILENCE fills the room.  
Finally one of them speaks.

ADMISSIONS GUY #1

That was certainly a very --

(adjusting himself)

Imaginative essay.

ADMISSIONS GUY #2

(to the Dean)

She does have a 4.0 from USC and she got a one-seventy-nine on her LSATs.

DEAN OF ADMISSIONS

A fashion major?

ADMISSIONS GUY #3

Well, we've never had one before...

aren't we always looking for diversity?

ADMISSIONS GUY #1

Her list of extracurriculars is impressive.

The Dean looks at her application.

DEAN OF ADMISSIONS

(unimpressed)

She was in a Ricky Martin video --

ADMISSIONS GUY #2

Clearly, she's interested in music...

(CONTINUED)

24.

33

33

DEAN OF ADMISSIONS

(reading on; skeptical)

She also designed a line of faux fur panties for her sorority's charity project --

ADMISSIONS GUY #3

Then she's a friend to animals as well as

a philanthropist.

. ADMISSIONS GUY #1

I think it's obvious that she's a very well-rounded individual.

He points to Elle -- freeze-framed in her bikini-top on video, on the TV. The admissions guys look to the Dean. He folds.

He

DEAN OF ADMISSIONS

Elle Woods -- Welcome to Harvard.

34 EXT. WOODS' BACKYARD - DAY

34

Elle's parents -- DANIEL, in tennis clothes, and the face-lifted SAPPHIRE -- stare at Elle over juice by the pool.

DANIEL

(frowning)

Law school?

Sapphire puts a hand to her throat in distress. Elle is



confused.

ELLE

It's a perfectly respectable place...

DANIEL

Sweetheart, you don't need law school. Law school is for people who are boring and ugly and Serious. And you, button/ are none of those things.

Sapphire is in agreement.

SAPPHIRE

You were first runner-up in the Miss Hawaiian Tropic contest. Why throw all that away?

ELLE

Because this is what I want. I've worked hard for it. Don't you understand that this is important to me?

(CONTINUED)

25.

34

34

She looks at her uncomprehending parents.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Going to Harvard is the only way I can get the love of my life back!

Sapphire looks at her, still not getting it.

SAPPHIRE

Can't you just suck his wiener?

(TV VERSION)

Can't you just get your nose done?

Elle reacts to her mother's skewed logic.

35 EXT. HARVARD DORM - DAY

35

Pale, studious LAW STUDENTS clad in earth tones, move into their dorm, carrying in their spartan belongings (coffee makers, books, computers).

In the distance, a HAPPY POP SONG (perhaps "Heaven Tonight by Hole) is heard. As it gets louder, heads turn to see --

A silver, convertible Boxster driving up, Elle at the wheel, / MUSIC BLASTING. A large MOVING VAN follows the Boxster.

Peop le lean out of their windows, buzzing with interest as-- Elle's car stops in front of the dorm. She hops out,

scooping up Underdog and looking every inch the LA-Fred-Segal-

glamour-queen, as she looks around with a smile.  
Elle looks at Underdog.

ELLE

We're here!

She bends down to pour some Evian into his inflatable doggy dish, inadvertently revealing cleavage to a passing BESPECTACLED BOY (several yards away).

He trips, dropping his I-MAC. It shatters into a million pieces.

Not noticing/ Elle stands and turns to two MOVING GUYS/ who are hauling a pink, faux-fur love seat and a potted palm tree out of the truck.

(CONTINUED)

26.

35

35

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

This way, guys!

With a beauty queen smile in place, she strides into the dorm

as the other students watch in amazement.

HANGING OUT OF THE WINDOW

ARROGANT AARON, a Mensa geek with attitude, turns to his roommate.

ARROGANT AARON

Whose knob did she honk to get in here?

36 EXT. LAW SCHOOL QUAD - DAY

36

"Welcome Law Students Class of 2003" banners hang over orientation tables manned by second year law students (2L's) wearing red t-shirts. Club tables with banners that read "Harvard Law Journal" and "Environmental Law Association" are

set up nearby.

Elle takes a packet from a fuzzy MALE 2L.

F U Z Z Y 2L

Class schedule, map, book list.

ELLE

Has Warner Huntington checked in yet?

F U Z Z Y 2L

(checking)

Uh, no. Maybe you should try the Lido

dec k.

S h e frowns and starts to move on, but then looks through the p a c k e t with a frown and turns back.

ELLE

W a i t -- my social events schedule is  
mis sin g.

F U Z Z Y 2L

Y o u r what?

ELLE

You know -- mixers, formals, beach  
trips.

(CONTINUED)

27.

36

36

FUZZY 2L

(deadpan)

There's a pizza welcome lunch in twenty  
minutes. Does that count?

ELLE

(wrinkling her nose)

I guess it'll have t o . . .

The Fuzzy Guy looks at the red-shirted BALD 2L next to him,  
as Elle walks off. ,

FUZZY 2L

What the hell.was that?

BALD 2L

(watching her go)

Malibu Barbie lives.

37 EXT. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL - OUTDOOR GARDEN - DAY

37

Elle sits at the outdoor table, ignoring her slice of pizza,  
as she looks around for Warner. Not finding him, she turns  
her attention to the Group Leader, a BURNED OUT 2L in a red t-  
shirt.

BURNED OUT 2L

Okay. Welcome to law school. This is the  
part where we go around in a circle and  
everyone says a little bit about  
themselves. Let's start with you.

He gestures at a guy with glasses, DORKY DAVID.

DORKY DAVID

I have a Masters in Russian Literature, a  
Ph.D in Biochemistry, and for the last

eighteen months, I've been de- worming orphans in Somalia.

BURNED OUT 2L

Awesome. How about you, Enid?

ENID, a militant feminista, looks up.

ENID

P h.D from Berkeley in Women's Studies-- emphasis in the History of Combat. And last year, I led the march for Lesbians Against Drunk Driving.

BURNED OUT 2L

Killer.

(CONTINUED)

28.

37

37

He looks at an intense guy in his late twenties, IVAN.

INTENSE IVAN

I've got an MBA from Wharton, worked on Wall Street for four years, mused in three ididarods and I ' ve figured out how to crash the stock market in Sri Lanka if any of you want to get together later.

BURNED OUT 2L

Sweet. What about you?

He looks at Elle. She sits up straight.

ELLE

I ' m a Gemini. I have a Bachelors degree from USC, where I was Sigma Chi Sweetheart and president of Delta Gamma, and last year ' . -- I was Homecoming Queen . She smiles, as the group leader nods, waiting.

ELL E (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Oh!

(dramatically)

Two weeks ago, I saw Cameron Diaz at Fred Segal -- and talked her out of buying a truly heinous angora sweater! Whoever said that orange is the new pink is seriously disturbed.

She looks around, pleased. Enid' snickers as the rest of the group stares at Elle, dumbfounded.

38 INT. ELLE'S DORM ROOM - DAY

38

A grey, dingy, cell-block style room -- now crammed with

Elle's clothes, the pink fluffy love seat and potted palm, along with an Elliptical Cross-Trainer, pink flamingo party lights and a neon pink margarita glass sculpture. Elle tries to shove a large law textbook into her tiny Prada backpack to no avail. She gives up and tosses the book onto the bed where Underdog leaps away to miss being squished.

ELLE

Wish me luck, Underdog. It's my first class as a serious law student.

She kisses him and looks down at her completely inappropriate skimpy Gucci outfit, which she accents by putting on trendy, wire-rimmed glasses.

(CONTINUED)

29.

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38

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing; to herself)

I totally look the part!

39 INT. LAW SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

39

Elle heads for a classroom, amidst a crowd of students who eye her like she's an alien. She rounds a corner, seeing -- WARNER, in all his handsome glory, looking over his schedule. She starts toward him, as if pulled by a magnetic force. Arrogant Aaron sees her passing by.

ARROGANT AARON

(seductively)

H l o t e e . . . . .  
el hr.

Elle keeps going, not even noticing him. Eyes only for Warner. Arrogant Aaron stomps away, pissed at the perceived blow-off.

As Elle gets closer to Warner, she opts for wandering past him, seemingly oblivious to his presence.

WARNER

(stunned)

Elle?!

Elle turns, ultra-nonchalant.

ELLE

Warner?! Oh my God, I completely forgot you were going here!

He looks at her, confused. People walk by, staring.

WARNER

What're you talking about? You're not here to see me?

ELLE

No, silly. I go here.

WARNER

(still confused)

You go where?

ELLE

Harvard. Law school.

(CONTINUED)

30.

39

39

WARNER

v- y

--

Y o u g o t i n t o H a r v a r d L a w ?

E L L E .

(con fuse d at his confusion)

W h a t , l i k e i t ' s t h a t . h a r d ?

W a r n e r s t a r e s a t h e r : -- c o m p l e t e l y d i s c o m b o b u l a t e d . S h e s m i l e s s w e e t l y a n d m a k e s a s h o w o f c h e c k i n g h e r w a t c h .

. E L L E ( C O N T ' D )

(continuing)

O o p s ! T i m e f o r c l a s s . M e e t m e a f t e r ?

O n t h e b e n c h e s ?

WARNER

U h -- s u r e .

S h e s a s h a y s o f f w i t h a c o n f i d e n t s m i l e .

40

INT. CIVIL PROCEDURES CLASS - DAY

4.0.

S t u d e n t s f i l e i n a n d t a k e t h e i r s e a t s . E l l e e n t e r s , l o o k i n g a r o u n d n e r v o u s l y a t t h e i m p o s i n g a u d i t o r i u m . A r r o g a n t A a r o n , n e x t t o h e r , l e a n s o v e r .

ARROGANT AARON

I f y o u ' r e l o o k i n g f o r t h e b e s t s e a t , I

h e a r t h e f r o n t r o w i s t h e p l a c e t o b e .

E l l e s m i l e s a t h i m .

ELLE

T h a n k s .

41

INT. CIVIL PROCEDURES CLASS - DAY - LATER

41

P R O F E S S O R E L S P E T H S T R O M W E L L , a t o u g h - a s - n a i l s G r a n d e D a m e i n h e r 5 0 ' s , a d d r e s s e s t h e c l a s s . L a p t o p s a b o u n d -- e x c e p t f o r E l l e , w h o h a s a f u z z y p i n k n o t e b o o k a n d a p e n w i t h a p i n k p l a s t i c h e a r t o n t h e e n d .

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

A legal education means you will learn to speak in a new language. You will be taught to achieve insight into the world around you, and to sharply question what you know.

Everyone soaks this up. Including Elle.

(CONT IN

UED )

31.

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41

PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)

(continuing)

The seat you've picked is yours for the next nine months of your life. Enjoy it. And those of you in the front row, beware. . . .

Elle, in the front row, between two UNSHOWERED BRANIACS, looks around, panicked. One of the braniacs passes her the seating chart and she has no choice but to sign her name. In the back, Arrogant Aaron nudges his friend and smiles.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)

(continuing)

"The law is reason free from passion."  
Does anyone know who spoke those immortal words?

Dorky David raises his hand.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Yes?

DORKY DAVID

(confidently)

Aristotle.

Professor Stromwell approaches him the way Cruella de Ville approaches a puppy.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

Are you sure?

Now he's not.

DORKY DAVID

Yes?

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

~  
Would you be willing to stake your life on it?

DORKY DAVID

I think so...

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

H o w about --

She spins around, roughly POKING another student in the head.

(CONTINUED)

32.

41

41

(2)

PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)

(continuing)

-- his life?

DORKY DAVID

(scared)

I don't know.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

Well, I recommend knowing before speaking.. The law leaves much room for interpretation -- but very little for self-doubt.

As she turns away --

PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)

(continuing)

And you were right. It was Aristotle.

The class half-laughs in relief.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I assume you've all read pages 1- 48 and are now well-versed in subject matter jurisdiction.

Elle looks around, surprised, as students open their books.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Who can tell us about Gordon v. Steele?

Silence. Stromwell looks down at the seating chart.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Ivan Greenstein?

Intense Ivan straightens in his' seat.

IVAN

Gordon sued her doctors for malpractice.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

And what did the dispute entail?

(looking at her chart)

Let's call on someone in the hot zone.

Elle Woods? Elle looks up, distressed.



(3)

ELLE

Uh... I wasn't aware that we had an assignment.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

(looking at her chart)

Sarah Knottingham?

SARAH KNOTTINGHAM -- a prim and preppy blue-blood brunette, dressed in pearls and a sweater set -- looks up.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Do you think it's acceptable that Ms. Woods is unprepared?

Sarah looks over at Elle. Elle gives her a mortified smile. Sarah turns back to Professor Stromwell.

SARAH

No, I don't.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

Would you support my decision to ask her to leave and return to class only when she is prepared?

SARAH

Absolutely.

Elle can't believe that this girl would betray her. Having no choice,, she gathers her purse and goes, completely humiliated. Professor Stromwell returns to the matter at hand.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

Now, Ms. Knottingham, did diversity jurisdiction exist in this case?

42 EXT. LAW SCHOOL QUAD - BENCHES - DAY - LATER

42

EMMETT -- a shy and quirkily handsome 28-year-old who could pass for younger -- sits on a bench, going over some papers. He looks up and spots Elle -- sitting across from him -- looking traumatized.

EMMETT

Are you okay?

Elle looks up, snapping out of her stupor.

(CONTINUED)

ELLE

Do they just -- put you on the spot like that? Like, all the time?

EMMETT

The professors? Yeah, they tend- to do that. Socratic method.

ELLE

And if you don't know the answer, they just kick you out?

He smiles.

EMMETT

You have Stromwell.

ELLE

(hopeful)

Did she do that to you, too?

EMMETT

No, but she made me cry once. Not in class -- I waited until I got to my room, but yeah, she can pretty much shrivel your balls -- or you know, your whatevers .

ELLE

(stricken)

Neat . . . ' , ' .

EMMETT

Don't worry. It gets better. Who else do you have?

Elle looks at her schedule.

ELLE

Donovan, Royalton and Levinson.

EMMETT

Speak up in Donovan's class. He likes people with an opinion. Sit in the back for Royalton. He tends to spit when he talks about products liability.

Elle makes a face. He smiles. Liking her.

(CONTINUED)

35.

42

( 2 )

42

EMMETT (CONT'D)

(continuing)

And make sure you read the footnotes in Levinson's class. That's where all her exam questions come from.

ELLE

Wow. I ' m glad I met you.  
She smiles at him, grateful.

EMMETT

Oh, and getting one of Stromwell's daily quotes right is almost as important as acing the mid-term. But you didn't hear it from me.

Students trickle out of the building.

ELLE " .∴.

Are you a third-year?

Warner walks up, behind Emmett, interrupting.

WARNER

Hey.

Elle looks up, pure adoration on her face.

ELLE

Hi!

Emmett rises and walks off.

EMMETT

Good luck.

ELLE

(calling after him)

Thanks again for your help!

Warner remains standing, still somewhat uncomfortable with her presence here.

WARNER

S o -- uh -- how was your first class?

ELLE

Fine. Except for this horrible girl who made me look bad in front of my Civ Pro professor. But no biggie. You're here now.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

36.

42

(3)

42

ELLE (CONT'D)

(perky)

How was your summer?

She pats the bench beside her. He doesn't move.

• WARNER

(distracted)

Good. Good.

ELLE

Do anything exciting?

A female hand snakes around Warner's chest from behind. Warner turns and brings the owner of the hand around to his side, presenting her.

WARNER

(nervous)

Urn, hey, have you met Sarah?

Sarah, the horrible girl herself, holds out her hand to Elle, full of contempt.

SARAH

Hi. Sarah Knottingham.

ELLE

(to Warner; horrified)

You know her?

WARNER

She 's --

Sarah jumps in.

SARAH

-- I ' m his fiancee.

Elle stares at her. Sarah tucks a piece of her mousy brown hair behind her ear and there it is -- The Rock.

ELLE

(in disbelief)

I'm sorry, I just hallucinated.

WARNER

Sarah was my girlfriend at prep school.

We got back together over the summer at my grandmother's birthday party.

Elle looks stricken. Sarah gives her a smug smile.

(CONTINUED)

37.

42

(.4)

42

SARAH

Warner told me all about you. You're famous at our Club.

She says it in a way that is anything but flattering. In fact, it's completely condescending.

SARAH (CONT'D)

(continuing; pointedly)

But he didn't tell me you'd be here.

WARNER

I didn't know --

Elle looks from Warner to Sarah.

ELLE

Excuse me.

She rushes off. Sarah watches her go, a smug grin on her face, .

SARAH

(to Warner)

I thought you said she was pretty.

43 EXT. STREET/INT. ELLE'S CONVERTIBLE BOXSTER- DAY 43  
Elle drives, wiping the tears from her face. She spots something off to the side and SWERVES her car toward it, a gasp of hope escaping her lips. Her car stops in front of a strip mall salon called "Beauty Oasis".

44 INT. BEAUTY OASIS - DAY 44  
A downscale, blue-collar salon, with five hair chairs and two manicure stations. Old ladies and young waitresses get perms. PAULETTE --early 40s, lower-middle class, hard-edged, plus-sized -- looks up as a defeated Elle sinks into the manicure chair. (The manicure station is plastered with pictures of RUFUS, a big, slobbering pit-bull). .

PAULETTE

Bad day?

Elle holds out her hands. Paulette dips them into a dish of soapy water.

ELLE

You can't even imagine.

(CONTINUED)

38.

44 44

PAULETTE

.Spill.,

Elle lets it all out in a rush.

ELLE

I worked really hard to get into law school -- I blew off Spring Break and Greek Week to study for the LSATs, I completely neglected my Homecoming Queen duties, I hired a Coppola to direct my admissions video -- all so I could get my boyfriend Warner back and now he's

engaged to this awful girl Sarah so it was all for nothing! I wish I 'd never even come to Harvard.

Paulette dries Elle's hands and begins filing.

PAULETTE

After you went to all that trouble?

ELLE

Well, what am I supposed to do? He's engaged! She's got the family six-carat on her bony, unpolished finger.

PAULETTE

You're asking the wrong girl. I ' m with my guy eight years and then one day it's

"I met someone else. Move out."

ELLE

(horrified)

What'd you do?

PAULETTE

Cried a lot and gained twenty pounds.

Dewey kept the trailer and my precious

baby Rufus. I got jackcrap.

She looks at a picture of the pit-bull.

PAULETTE (CONT'D)

(continuing; re the dog)

I didn't even get to go to his birthday

party.

ELLE

No!

(CONTINUED)

39.

44

( 2 )

44

PAUL ETTE

What could I do?

(shrugging)

He's a man who followed his pecker to greener pastures. I ' m a middle-aged high-school dropout with stretch marks and a fat ass. Happens every day. At least to women like me.

ELLE

That's terrible!

PAULETTE

So, what's this Sarah got that you don't?  
Three tits?

ELLE

She's from Connecticut. She belongs to  
his stupid country club.

PAULETTE

Is she as pretty as you?

Elle looks down.

ELLE

(embarrassed)

I ' m not pretty -- I ' m genetically  
blessed.

Paulette rolls her eyes, shaking her bottle of polish and  
starting on Elle's right hand.

PA UL ETT E

Is sJie.?

ELL E

She could use some mascara and some  
serious highlights, but she's not  
completely unfortunate- looking.

UPS GUY (O.S.)

Hello, ladies.

Paulette looks up to see the UPS GUY, a strapping hunk of a  
man in his late 30' s . She blushes and smooths down her hair,  
knocking over a bottle of nail polish in the process. Trying  
to play it off as she signs for the package.

(CONTINUED)

40.

44

( 3 )

44

UPS GUY (CONT'D)

See ya later.

He goes. Paulette watches him. Elle notices.

PAULETTE

(hating herself)

Could I be anymore goddamn spastic?

(beat)

So you're sure, this Warner guy is "the  
one"?

ELLE

Definitely! I love him!

Paulette looks at her.

PAULETTE

If a girl like you can't hold on to her man -- then there sure as hell isn't any hope for the rest of us. What're you waiting for? Steal the bastard back.

45 INT. DORMITORY - WARNER'S ROOM - DAY 45  
Elle knocks on Warner's door, bottle of wine and two glasses in hand.

ELLE

Warner?

When she gets no answer, she write a message on his memo board -- CLOSE ON-- "Call me! Love, You Know Who".

She leaves the wine bottle and two glasses and goes.

46 EXT. HARVARD LAW CAMPUS - DAY 46  
Elle is in her push-up bikini, reclining in her beach chair, pink frozen margarita in one hand, Underdog in the other, law book in her lap, pretending to study.

We PULL BACK to reveal that she's sitting on the sidelines of a touch-football game that Warner is playing with a group of other 1-L's.

Warner scores easily because the other male eyes are all on Elle. He shakes his head and smiles.

41.

47 INT. CRIMINAL LAW CLASS - DAY 47  
Elle sits, glaring at Sarah, who keeps waving her "The Rock" in Elle's direction, as she plays footsie with Warner.  
PROFESSOR DONOVAN -- 40s, a big fan of himself, salt and pepper hair, no time for bullshit -- stands before the class.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

I should warn you that in addition to competing against each other for the top grade in this class, you'll also be competing for one of my firm's highly coveted four internship spots next year where you will get to assist on actual cases. Let the bloodbath begin. Now, let's commence with our usual torture --

He looks around.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Ms . Woods --



Sarah and her bitchy, clone-like friend CLAIRE exchange knowing glances.

SARAH

This should be amusing.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

Would you rather have a client who committed a crime malum in se or malum prohibitum?

ELLE

Neither.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

Why not?

ELLE

I'd rather have a client who's innocent.

Elle smiles, proud of her answer. The class snickers. Warner frowns.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

Dare to dream, Ms. Woods. Ms.

Knottingham? Which would you prefer?

(CONTINUED)

42.

47

47

SARAH

Malum prohibitum. Because the client would've committed a regulatory infraction as opposed to a dangerous crime.

Elle raises her hand.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

Yes? Ms. Woods?

ELLE

I changed my mind. I'd pick the dangerous one.

She looks pointedly at Sarah.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I'm not afraid of a challenge.

Sarah glares back at her. Warner looks between the two of

them, worried.

48 INT. STUDY LOUNGE - DAY

48

0 underway. Warner listens intently, A few seats away, Elle appears to be taking notes.

C L O S E O N--her "notes" -- "I'm free for dinner tonight. Meet me at The Cask & Flagon at 8."

She folds the note and sticks it in Underdog's mouth, then points him toward Warner. Humiliated but dutiful, Underdog bounds off.

C L O S E O N -- Underdog, as he carries forth his mission, arriving at Warner's feet. U N D E R D O G ' S P O V -- Warner discreetly takes the note from him, then looks over at Elle, who feigns interest in the meeting.

49 INT. CASK & FLAGON RESTAURANT - NIGHT

49 Elle waits for Warner, alone at a table. Checking her watch to see it's 8:45, she tries not to be sad.

50 INT. HARVARD LAW LIBRARY - DAY

50 Warner and his study group, Sarah and Claire included, sit at a table, going over their outlines. Elle walks up to the table, holding a basket of muffins, bright smile on her face.

(CONTINUED)

43.

50 50

ELLE

I ' m here to join your study group. And look! I brought sustenance!

She holds up the muffins as the others look up, frowns all around.

WARNER

(nervously looking at Sarah)

Elle, what're you doing here?

Elle pulls up a chair from another table and holds up a muffin.

ELLE

Who's first?

She sits down next to Warner.

SARAH

Our group is full.

ELLE

Oh, God, was this like an RSVP thing?

CLAIRE

No, it's like a smart people thing. And

like Sarah said, we're full.

WARNER

Come on ~ we can make room for one more.

Sarah looks at Warner with evil eyes.

SARAH

We've already assigned the outlines, and everyone has started theirs',

CLAIRE

(to Warner)

Besides, you wouldn't let the fat guy

— join.

WARNER

He tried to watch me take'a shower!

Sarah looks at Elle.

SARAH

The answer is no.

Warner looks at her, feeling guilty. He shrugs an "I'm sorry", but Elle's perkiness has gone.

(CONTINUED)

44.

50

(2)

50

She gathers up her muffins and stands, clutching the basket to her chest as she goes.

ELLE

Then I guess I'll leave you alone.

She walks away, completely deflated, passing by the RAGING FEMINIST STUDY GROUP. Enid calls out.

ENID

Maybe there's a sorority you could join instead.

Elle stops and looks at her.

ELLE

(to Enid)

You know, if you'd come to a Rush party, I would've at least been nice to you.

ENID

Before you voted against me and called me a dyke behind my back?

ELLE

I don't use that word. Only mean people use that word. You must've heard it from Sarah.

She looks back at Warner's table and walks off. As she does., she's nearly mowed down by a gaggle of NERDS led by DORKY

DAVID, who knock the muffins out of her hands. She stands there, even more depressed.

51 INT. ELLE'S DORM ROOM - DAY - LATER 51  
Elle sinks down onto her bed, deflated. She picks up the phone and dials.

52 INT. BRIDAL SHOP - DAY 52  
Serena, with a new hairdo, and Margot are surrounded by wedding dresses. Margot talks on her cell phone. We INTERCUT.

MARGOT

(to Serena)

It's Elle!

(into phone)

Guess what I ' m doing right this second?

ELLE

Power yoga?

(CONTINUED)

45.

52 52

MARGOT

Picking out my wedding dress!

ELLE

• What?!

MARGOT

Josh proposed!

ELLE

(startled)

N o way --

Serena grabs the phone.

SERENA

(into phone)

;ipo you have The Rock yet?

Elle lies.

ELLE

Almost.

SERENA

Well, hurry up so you can come home! We miss you!

ELLE

I miss you guys! The people here are so vile! Hardly anyone even talks to me unless it's to say something that's not nice. Law school sucks!

SERENA

Oh, my God! I completely forgot to tell you!

ELLE

What?

SERENA

I got bangs!

ELLE

(hurt and annoyed)

Re a l l y --

Margot grabs the phone back.

(CONTINUED)

46.

52

(2)

52

MARGOT

:

(into phone)

Keep June first open -- you're one of my bridesmaids. And give Warner our love.

ELLE

Iwl.

il. . .

Margot hangs up and Elle follows suit. Even more deflated.

53

INT. ELLE'S DORM - HALLWAY - DAY - SAME TIME

53

Sarah and Claire walk past Elle's room, the door of which is ajar.

SARAH

It's not just any Halloween party. It's a "Come as Your Favorite Defendant" party.

CLAIRE

That-'s genius.

Elle pops her head out of the room.

ELLE

(excited)

No way! Someone at this school is actually having a party?

Sarah and Claire turn around. Elle's face falls when she sees that it's them.

SARAH

No.

CLAIRE

You must've heard us wrong.

SARAH

Sorry. Looks like you'll be staying home tonight. Alone.

They continue on as Elle goes back into her room, snubbed.

54 INT. ELLE'S DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

54

Elle shuts the door behind her and looks at Underdog.

ELLE

I can't believe this. Not only do I not  
have Warner, but I ' m --unpopular!

The realization hits her hard. Underdog barks.

She looks at him.

..'. . . .

(CONTINUED)

47.

54

54

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

But I wasn't invited.

He barks again.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

You really think I should?

55 EXT. OFF-CAMPUS HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT

55

Two feet in high heels and fishnet hose stride purposefully  
up the sidewalk.

A perfect butt wearing a bunny tail wiggles up the steps.

56 INT. OFF-CAMPUS HOUSE - NIGHT

56

A party filled with people who are no fun to party with.  
NAMETAGS denote which famous defendant everyone is dressed as.  
Menendez's, Tonya Harding's, and Buttafuco's pepper the room.  
Elle, decked out in a Playboy Bunny costume -- looking sexy  
as hell -- strides in. People roll their eyes and ignore  
her. Elle continues on.

NEARBY -- Enid, dressed as Lizzie Borden, axe in hand/ is in  
the midst of a tirade against some guy dressed like William  
Kennedy Smith.

ENID

The English language is all about subliminal  
domination. Take the word "semester". It's a  
perfect example of this school's  
discriminatory preference of semen to  
ovaries. That's why I ' m petitioning to have  
next term be referred to as Winter Ovester.

The guy backs up in fright. As Elle passes, Enid looks over.

ENID (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Hey , Elle-- I've been meaning to ask you

(re her boobs)

-- are those real?

Elle snorts.

ELLE

Enid, please -- silicone is so 90's.

(CONTINUED)

48.

56

She keeps walking.

56

57 INT. INTO THE LIVING ROOM - AT THE BAR -CONTINUOUS

57

Sarah -- dressed as Hester Prynne -- and Claire --as Joan of Arc -- sip wine.

ELLE

(continuing; sarcastic)

Thanks for inviting me, girls. This party is super fun.

They roll their eyes, checking out her Bunny costume.

SARAH

You're supposed to be dressed as a famous defendant.

Elle smiles at Sarah.

ELLE

I am. Didn't you hear about the Playboy Bunny who slit her ex- boyfriend's new fiancée's throat with a broken wine glass? It was tragic.

She grabs a glass of wine and moves on.

58 EXT. OFF-CAMPUS HOUSE - BACK PORCH - NIGHT

58

Elle walks onto the back porch and finds Warner --dressed as O.J. in a USC football uniform, number 32, with a ball and chain on his foot.

ELLE

Hey, O.J.

Warner turns. He looks around for Sarah. Not seeing her, he smiles at Elle, admiring her costume.

WARNER

Wow. You're a walking felony.

ELLE

Thank you. Having fun?

WARNER

( c h e c k i n g her out)

Now I am.

ELLE

(flirty)

I feel like we've barely spent any time together since we got here.

WARNER

That's because I spend all my time with case studies and hypos.

ELLE

Tell me about it. I can't imagine doing all this and Donovan's internship next year.

WARNER

(scoffing)

Elle, c'mon, there's no way you'll get the grades to qualify for one of those spots . You're not smart enough.

She can't believe he's saying this. He realizes he's gone too far, and back-pedals.

WARNER (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I didn't mean --

ELLE

(cutting him off)

Am I on glue, or did I not get into the same law school you did, Warner?

WARNER

(covering)

We ll , yeah, but --

ELLE

But what? We took the same LSAT, we take the same classes --

WARNER

I just don't want to see you get your hopes up. You know how you get.

She stares at him. Realizing the awful truth.

ELLE

I'll never be good enough for you, will I?

When he doesn't answer, she walks back into the house.



One of them holds a salad

A group of tipsy ILs stand around.  
bowl filled with cash.

ENID

I give her two more weeks.  
She throws a twenty into the bowl.

DORKY DAVID

Two and a half?  
He throws in his twenty as well.

SARAH

If she spreads her legs, maybe --

ARROGANT AARON

(adjusting his crotch)  
Only if I ' m feeling generous.

ELLE (O.S.)

What is this?  
They turn around to find Elle standing there.

CLAIRE

We're betting on how much longer you're  
going to last.

ELLE

(stung)  
What?

SARAH

Look around, Elle. Do you actually think  
you belong here?  
They all stare at her.

ELLE

(hurt)  
Why wouldn't I?

ENID

Because the rest of us provide some  
worthwhile value to society?

ARROGANT AARON

Hold on, now -- every society needs a  
bimbo. Who are we supposed to sleep with  
after we get rich?

(CONTINUED)

51.

59

Elle looks like she's been slapped. The others laugh at  
Aaron's esteemed wit.

ELLE

You know what? All of you can just kiss

59

my ass.

She yanks off her Bunny tail and throws it at them. Hurt and anger in her eyes. Then walks out of the room.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing; to herself)

You're about to see just how valuable  
Elle Woods can be.

She stomps out of the house.

A GIRL-POWER SONG STARTS TO PLAY AS A MONTAGE BEGINS:

60 INT. HARVARD BOOKSTORE - NIGHT

60

A hot pink laptop is yanked off the shelf.

CUT TO:

Elle, still in her Bunny suit, minus the tail, stands in line, paying for the laptop. People gape at her, but she's oblivious in her resolve.

EMMETT walks up behind her in line. He clears his throat, trying not to look at her costume.

Elle turns, seeing him.

ELLE

Don't ask.

EMMETT

Wasn't gonna.

She marches off. Laptop in hand.

61 INT. ELLE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

61

A pony-tailed Elle types a brief, coffee next to her. Underdog sleeps nearby, belly-up. Legs twitching in a nightmare. Typing furiously, Elle breaks a nail, then struggles to forge on, despite her instinct to stop and repair it.

52.

62 INT. LAW LIBRARY - DAY

62

Elle -- arms full of books -- walks past the Warner/Sarah study group. Sarah and Claire scowl at her, but Elle passes with her head held high.

63 INT. STUDY LOUNGE - DAY

63

Enid is surrounded by study materials and notecards. When she gets up to use the ladies' room, Elle casually walks over and slips a notecard into the middle of Enid's stack. Then quickly walks on.

64 INT. BEAUTY OASIS - DAY

64

Paulett quizzes Elle from a law textbook as her nails dry. As she waits for Elle's answer, Paulette showers Underdog with kisses, showing him pictures of Rufus.

65 INT. CRIMINAL LAW CLASS - DAY

65

Donovan is in the midst of a lecture. He points at Elle.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

And the purpose of "diminished capacity"  
is?

She swallows nervously, then speaks.

ELLE

To negate mens rea?

Donovan nods affirmatively and continues. Elle hides a  
smile.

66 INT. LAW LIBRARY - NIGHT

66

Elle reaches for a book on a high shelf, but she's not tall  
enough. She tries a running start and leaps for it. Still  
missing it.

FROM THE LEFT, she runs and leaps again, missing again.

FROM THE RIGHT, she runs and leaps again, missing again.

Dorky David walks up and sets down a step-stool at her: feet.  
Now winded, she smiles her thanks, stepping up to retrieve  
her book.

53.

67 INT. STUDY LOUNGE - DAY

67

Enid flips through her notecards, memorizing, when she comes  
upon a picture of a NAKED MAN. Oh, the horror. She throws it  
down in disgust as if her eyes have been burned.

Looking around, Enid sees Elle smiling and waving at her from  
across the room.

68 INT. LAW LIBRARY - DAY

68

Elle walks past Arrogant Aaron, as he sleeps at his study  
cubicle, head back on the chair.

She stops, backs up, and waves her hand over his face. When  
he doesn't stir, she takes a magic marker out of her knapsack  
and leans over to write something on his forehead.

INT. ELLE'S DORM ROOM - DAY

69

69

Elle works out on her Elliptical Crosstrainer as she listens  
to a lecture tape and watches Court TV on mute.

LECTURER (V.O.)

"A failure to act can constitute the actus reus for  
accomplice liability if the defendant has the legal duty to  
intervene, but fails to do so."

70 INT. LAW LIBRARY - DAY

70>

Arrogant Aaron wakes up with a start, checks his watch, and  
rushes off to class. Oblivious to his facial graffiti, which

we can't yet read.

71 INT. CIVIL PROCEDURES CLASS - DAY 71

Professor Stromwell is in front of the class.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

So you've filed a claim. Now what?

She looks over to see Elle sitting there, typing on her laptop.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Ms. Woods?

ELLE

Don't you also need to have evidence?

(CONTINUED)

54.

71

71

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

Meaning?

Everyone now stares at Elle.

'ELLE

Meaning you need -- reasonable belief that your claim would have, like, evidentiary support?

Stromwell is somewhat impressed, but doesn't show it.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

And what kind of evidentiary support does this case require? Let's ask Mr. Harriman, who clearly believes that I might be hungry.

She looks up at Arrogant Aaron in the back row. Who unknowingly has "Eat Me" written on his forehead. He looks back at her, confused, as the students around him snicker.

72 EXT. BEAUTY OASIS - NIGHT 72

A "Closed" sign is on the door.

THROUGH THE WINDOW, we see Elle and Paulette sitting in the empty salon, laughing and clinking cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon as they toast Elle's small victory. We PULL BACK, leaving them laughing, as the MONTAGE ENDS.

73 INT. CRIMINAL LAW CLASS - DAY 73

"THE STATE V. LATIMER" is written on the board. A pony-tailed, less made-up Elle takes notes on her lap-top, as Warner makes an argument.

WARNER

. According to Swinney v. Neubert, Swinney, who was also a private sperm donor, was

allowed visitation rights as long as he came to terms with the hours set forth by the parents. So, if we're sticking to past precedent, Mr. Latimer wasn't st al ki ng -- he was clearly within his rights to ask for visitation.

PROFESSOR DONQVAN

But Swinney was a one-time sperm donor, and in our case, the defendant was a habitual sperm donor, who also happens to be harassing the parents in his quest for visitation.

(CONTINUED)

55.

"73

73

WARNER

But , without this man's sperm --the child in question would not exist.

He grins and looks around as the class murmurs their agreement.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

Now you're thinking like a lawyer.

EMMETT enters from the back, holding a file. quietly, watching. .

He stands there

Elle tentatively raises her hand.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN (CONT'D)

Ms. Woods?

Sarah looks at Claire.

SARAH

(sotto)

The idiot speaks.

ELLE

Although Mr. Huntington makes an excellent point, I have to wonder if the

defendant kept a thorough record of each

sperm emission made throughout his life?

The class titters. Elle grows annoyed.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

(bemused)

Why do you ask?

Elle's hesitancy is replaced by conviction.

ELLE

Well, unless the defendant attempted to  
contact every single one-night-stand to  
determine if a child resulted in those  
unions -- then he has no parental claim  
whatsoever over this child. Why this  
sperm? Why now?

Emmett's mouth twitches into a smile.

(CONTINUED)

56.

73

(2)

73

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

For that matter, all masturbatory  
emissions where his sperm was clearly not  
seeking an egg could be termed reckless  
abandonment.

Warner's mouth hangs open. As does Sarah's and the rest of  
the class. Donovan smiles.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

I believe you've just won your case.

Elle grins.

74 INT. DONOVAN'S CLASS - LATER

74

As the students file out, Elle passes Donovan.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

You did well today.

She stops.

ELLE

I did?

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

You're applying for my internship, aren't  
you?

ELLE

I don't know --

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

You should. Do you have a resume?

ELLE

(excited)

"...i do."

She pulls a resume out of her briefcase and hands it to him..  
He looks at it.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

It's pink.

ELLE

And engraved... Gives it that extra  
little something, doesn't it? .

(smiling)

See you tomorrow!

(CONTINUED)

57.

74

74

She walks on. Emmett walks up, handing the file to Donovan.

EMMETT

I brought you the Windham notes.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

(watching Elle go)

You think she just woke up one morning  
and said, "I think I'll go to law school  
today!"?

Emmett looks after Elle, bemused.

EMMETT

Aside from that lapse in judgement --  
she's got potential.

75 INT. ELLE'S CAR-DAY

75

Elle drives. Paulette is shotgun.

PAULETTE

You showed up Warner in class? You're  
supposed to be showing up Sarah.

ELLE

I couldn't help it! It was the most fun  
I've had since I've been in law school.  
Not only was I good enough for Warner --  
I was better than him. He has to see  
serious I am now. Even Donovan was  
impressed, and he's a total hard- ass.

Elle stops the car and turns off the ignition.

ELLE (CONT'D)

You ready?

PAULETTE

No.

ELLE

Yes, you are. Go -- you can do this.

She points ahead of them. Paulette goes.

76 EXT. DEWEY'S TRAILER - DAY 76

The door opens. DEWEY(40s) and his beer gut emerge.

Paulette is on the porch. Trying to exude confidence, but failing.

(CONTINUED)

9/172000 Revision (Blue)

58.

16 76

DEWEY

(to Paulette)

What the hell do you want? We're eating dinner.

PAULETTE

I just --

DEWEY

You just thought you'd come over and show me what I 'm definitely not missing?

77 INT. ELLE'S CAR - DAY -SAME TIME 77

She watches, frowning.

78 EXT. DEWEY 'S TRAILER - DAY -CONTINUOUS 78



Dewey's really having fun now.

;

DEWEY

What the hell happened to you? You get a  
job at a donut shop?

PAULETTE

That's not what --

DEWEY

How many times you gonna show up here,  
beggin1 me to take you back?

Paulette reddens -- flustered and humiliated. Elle appears  
next to her.

ELLE

Dewey Newcomb?

DEWEY

Who's askin'

ELLE

I ' m Elle Woods. Ms. Bonaf ante's  
attorney.

Paulette looks at Elle in surprise, Elle keeps going.

ELLE (CONT'D)

Under state law, you and Ms. Bonaf ante  
had a common law marriage which entitles  
her to the benefits of property law and  
an equitable division of assets.

(CONTINUED)

59.

78

"78

Paulette watches Elle, mouth hanging open.

DEWEY

(confused)

Come again?

ELLE

Due to the fact that you retained the  
residence, Ms. Bonafante is entitled to  
full ownership of the canine property in  
question and we will be enforcing said  
ownership immediately.

DEWEY

:

Huh?

ELLE

Tell him, Paulette.

A still-stunned Paulette looks at Elle, then turns to Dewey,

fire in her ass.

' .  
."

PAULETTE

I ' m taking the dog dumbass.

(calling into the trailer)

C'mere, baby, Mommy's here!

Rufus bounds out, licking and kissing Paulette. The love evident.

79 INT./EXT. ELLE'S CAR - A MOMENT LATER

79

Elle, Paulette and Rufus get in.

ELLE

W e did it!

Elle high-fives her.

PAULETTE

God, that felt great!

ELLE

Look at him. He's still scratching his head.

PAULETTE

Which must be a nice vacation for his

bls . . .  
al.

She turns to Rufus, hugging him.

PAULETTE (CONT'D)

And now Mommy's got somebody to eat

dinner with again. You don't care what

Mommy's butt looks like, do you?

Elle looks over at Paulette, heart going out to her.

80 INT. CIVIL PROCEDURES CLASS - DAY

80

Elle turns on her Powerbook as Professor Stromwell faces the class with her morning quote.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

"An image and a good hook can get you into a room --. but something has to keep you in that room."

She looks around as hands are raised.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Mr. Greenstein?

INTENSE IVAN

Judge Sandra Day O'Connor?

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

C ose.. . .

l

Intense Ivan's face falls. She looks around, seeing Elle raising her hand.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Ms. Woods?

ELLE

Madonna?

The class rolls their eyes and laughs, watching Stromwell.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

Damn. Thought I ' d get everyone on that one.

The class can't believe Elle is right.

81 EXT. CRIMINAL LAW CLASS - HALLWAY - DAY

81

A THRONG of buzzing students is gathered around the bulletin board. Elle walks up.

ELLE

What's going on?

DORKY DAVID

Donovan's firm is defending a major murder case and his caseload is so heavy he's taking on first year interns.

ELLE

He chose them already?

Sarah, at the front of the throng, gasps, then turns to Warner.

SARAH

We got it!

He grins and she kisses him on the cheek. Elle, shoved to the back, tries to get closer, when she hears --

ENID

The competition must not have been that stiff. .

Arrogant Aaron pushes his way to the board.

ARROGANT AARON

Why? ion .got a spot?

ENID

Hey! Watch your hands, Mr.Grabass.

ARROGANT AARON

(ignoring her)

That only leaves one for --

Elle, now next to him, gets a look at the board.

ELLE

(shocked)

Me?!

Everyone REACTS. She turns and faces the throng. They stare back at her in shock.

Dignified, she walks through them as they PART for her,

stopping in front of Warner and Sarah.

EL LE (CONT'D)  
(continuing; to Warner)

Remember the time after Winter Formal?  
When we spent four incredible hours In  
the hot tub...?

(CONTINUED)

62.

81 (2)  
Sarah looks away.

81

ELLE (CONT'D)

This is way better than that.

(pushing Sarah aside)

Excuse me. I have some shopping to do.

As she goes, surprised CHATTER overtakes the hallway.

82 INT. SAK'S - WOMENS' DEPT. - DAY

82

Elle scans the racks of conservative clothes. She holds up a cashmere twinset and wrinkles her nose, but throws it over her arm anyway.

83 INT. NORDSTROM'S - HANDBAGS - DAY - LATER

83

Elle admires a trendy handbag, but then promptly sets it down and picks up a practical leather briefcase.

84 INT. AUSTEN, PLATT, JARET & DONOVAN - LOBBY - DAY

84

The elevator door opens and Warner and Elle emerge. Elle is sporting her new, boring "lawyer" clothes. Warner is baffled and impressed by her transformation.

WARNER

You look -- nice.

ELLE

Thank you.

She gives him an aloof smile and walks off. Warner watches her go. Sarah stands in the lobby. None too happy to witness this.

85 INT. AUSTEN, PLATT, JARET & DONOVAN - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

85

Donovan strides through the office, his four interns behind him. He points as he walks.

DONOVAN

There's your office, there's the  
bathroom, there's the coffee machine.

There's Gerard, Dick and Bobby.

GERARD, smarmy and trim, DICK, short and bald, and BOBBY,  
black and bespectacled, wave as the interns pass by.

DONOVAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

They're the other associates on the case.  
Ask them all your stupid questions, save  
the smart ones for me.

63.

86 INT. AUSTEN, JARET, PLATT AND DONOVAN - CONFERENCE ROOM 86  
Professor Donovan opens his briefcase as Elle, Sarah, Enid  
and Warner hang on his every word.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

We're defending Brooke Windham, whose  
very wealthy husband was found shot to  
death in their Beacon Hill mansion.

SARAH

Gold digger?

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

You'd think so, since the stiff was  
sixty, but she was rich on her own. Some  
kind of fitness empire. You can buy her  
exercise tapes on infomercials.

Elle frowns.

ELLE

Wait a minute -- are we talking about  
Brooke Daniels?

Donovan checks his papers.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

M a i d e n name--Daniels.

(looking up)

You know her?

ELLE

She was a Delta Gamma! Not in my pledge  
class or anything -- she graduated ,five  
years ahead of me. But I used to take her  
class at the LA Sports Club. She's  
amazing!

The others looks at each other and roll their eyes.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

Amazing how?

ELLE

She could make you drop three pounds in one class. She's completely gifted!

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

Well, in all likelihood, she's completely guilty as well. She was seen standing over her husband's dead body.

(CONTINUED)

.4.

6

86

86

WA RN ER

B y who?

SA RAH

(correcting him)

Whom?

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

His twenty-seven year old daughter and the pool boy.

ELLE

Maybe she found him like that.

P R O F E S S O R DONOVAN

That's the story she'll be telling the jury. We just have to prove it.

Emmett walks in and sits.

EMMETT

Sorry I ' m late.

Elle looks at him, confused.

P R O F E S S O R DONOVAN

This is Emmett Kerrigan, another associate.

Top three in his class and former editor of H a r v a r d Law Review. You've probably seen

h i m lurking around campus doing my research.

EM ME TT

Or napping on the quad. .

Elle smiles at him. He smiles back. Almost shy.

WARNER

(to Donovan)

What about the murder weapon?

P R O F E S S O R DONOVAN



The gun is missing. The coroner said  
he'd been dead thirty minutes dead when  
the cops arrived -- giving Brooke plenty  
of time to stash it.

ELLE

There's no way Brooke could've done this -  
- exercise gives you endorphins,  
endorphins make you happy -- happy people  
don't kill their husbands!

Sarah and Enid snort.

( CONTINU ED)

65.

86

(2)

86

PROFESSOR DONOVAN

You don't really believe she's innocent?

ELLE

Of course, I do!

Emmett looks at her.

EMMETT

Then we may actually have a case.

He looks over at Donovan, who's not so sure.

..'.'.

87

EXT. BOSTON JAIL - DAY

87

Grey and imposing.

88

INT. BOSTON JAIL - DAY

88

Donovan sits at a long table, next to BROOKE, a pretty 26-  
.year-old blonde with a perfect body and a sad face. The  
interns and associates sit at the far end of the table taking  
notes. A cop stands guard at the door.

DONOVAN

What alibi?

' .. .'

BROOKE

I can't tell you.

' DONOVAN

You understand you're on trial for  
murder ?

BROOKE

I didn't do it! I walked in, saw my  
husband lying on the floor, bent down to

check his heart, screamed my head off and  
Chutney and Enrique ran inside.

DONOVAN

Where they saw you standing over the body  
covered in his blood.

She glares at him.

BROOKE

Why would I kill my husband?

DONOVAN

Insurance? A love affair? Pure  
unadulterated hatred? Believe me, the DA  
will come up with plenty of reasons.

(CONTINUED)

66.

88

8E

B R O O K E

I l o v e d h i m !

D O N O V A N

He was thirty-four years older than you.

That doesn't sound so good to a jury.

Now she's pissed.

B R O O K E

Then show them a picture of his cock.

They might put a few things together.

Everyone stiffens except for Ell.e, who laughs out loud.

D O N O V A N , .

Brooke, I believe you. But a jury is  
gonna want an alibi.

B R O O K E

I can't give you that. And if you put me  
on the stand, I'll lie.

Donovan takes a moment to look at her like she's an idiot.

D O N O V A N

Were you with another man?

B R O O K E

Go to hell.

D O N O V A N

I'll take that as a no.

B R O O K E

Are we done for today?

D O N O V A N

I believe we are.

He stands. As do his minions. As they file out, Brooke sees Elle.

BROOKE

Hey -- I know you.

Elle perks up.

ELLE

I ' m a Delta Gamma and I ' m a huge fan of yours!

(CONTINUED)

.67.

88

(2)

8£

BR O O K E

You took my class in LA. You had the best high kick I've ever seen. Are you one of my lawyers?

ELLE

Sort of.

Brooke looks at Elle as if she's her savior.

BROOKE

Well, thank God one of you has a brain.

89

INT. BEAUTY OASIS - DAY

89

Rufus sleeps happily on the floor. Elle sits in front of

Paulette, nails in the soapy water.

ELLE

I feel so bad for her. I mean, she's in jail! And she's innocent. But I ' m the only one who believes her. Donovan totally thinks she's guilty.

. PAULETTE

That's because men are big, fat retards who don't -- Oh, my God...

ON THE DOOR

The UPS GUY stands in the doorway with a package, sun

streaming in around him.

UPS GUY

Afternoon, ladies.

O N ELLE AND PAULETTE

PAULETTE

It's him!

Paulette smooths down her hair.

ELLE

It's who?

She turns to look as we go to --

BUTT-CAM -- CLOSE ON the crisp brown shorts of a regulation

UPS uniform, as they stretch across the taut, muscular

buttocks of UPS GUY, as he strides through the shop.

(CONTINUED)

68.

89

89

When the butt stops moving, we WIDEN to reveal the UPS Guy

now standing in front of Elle and Paulette.

UPS GUY

I've got a package.

Elle turns to Paulette, eyes wide.

ELLE

(agreeing)

He's got a package.

Paulette is frozen. Blushing and nervous.

UPS GUY

How ya doin' today?

PAULETTE .

Fine?

He waits for her to sign. She remains frozen. Elle takes

the pen and signs for her, trying to help.

UPS Guy smiles kindly at Paulette and heads out.

Take it easy.

Paulette watches him go, hand over her heart. Elle looks at her, concerned.

ELLE

So, this is the only interaction you two have ever had?

PAULETTE

No. Sometimes I say "Okay" instead of "Fine".

ELLE

Have you ever considered asking him if he'd like a cold beverage? Or perhaps a neck massage?

PAULETTE

What's the point?  
(matter of factly)  
Look at me.

ELLE

I am. And I'm looking at a beautiful, fabulous, sexy woman.

(CONTINUED)

. . 6 9.

89

(2)

89

Paulette snorts.

PAULETTE

Good one.

ELLE

Trust me. You've got the equipment, you just need to read the manual.

Elle stands.

ELLE (CONT'D)

I ' m going to show you a little maneuver my mother taught me when I was in junior high. In my experience, it has a 98%

success rate in getting a man's attention  
and when used appropriately--an 83%  
rate of return on a dinner invitation.

The HAIRSTYLISTS and CLIENTS listen, intrigued.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

It's called the "Bend & Snap".

(acting)

"Oh, look! There's something on the  
floor that I need to pick up!" Bend...

She slowly BENDS down, as if to pick up something, sticking  
out her tush, knee cocked. She slides her hand down her  
cocked leg until her hand touches the floor and she SNAPS  
back up, boobs a'bouncing.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

And snap! Now you try.

Paulette stands up repeating the maneuver.

PAULETTE

Bend...and snap!

It's a spastic version of what Elle just did.

ELLE

Good. Now this time, put a little arch in  
your back and maybe get your footing more  
solid.

Paulette does it again. This time, getting it right.

(CONTINUED)

70.

89

( 3 )

89

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Perfect!

A HAIR CLIENT walks over, head full of curlers.

HAIR CLIENT

Like this?

She tries.

ELLE

Good.

She adjusts her like a yoga instructor would.

ELLE (CONT'D)

But cock that knee.

ANOTHER CLIENT calls over.

ANOTHER CLIENT

Am I doing it right?

Elle walks over to her.

ELLE

More snap, less bend.

She turns to the rest of the clients.

ELLE (CONT'D)

C'mon -- everyone try!

Clients hop up out of their chairs as someone reaches over and cranks the transistor radio, blaring "BRICK HOUSE" by the Commodores.

All the clients and technicians, no matter what their age, or how many foils are in their hair, are up and doing the "Bend & Snap", repeating the mantra as they do.

Elle walks around them, continuing to adjust them.

ELLE (CONT'D)

Now everyone together.

They all bend in unison -- going down on "Brick" --

EVERYONE

Bend --

And snapping back up -- on "House" .

(CONTINUED)

.71.

89

( 4 )

89

EVERYONE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

And snap !

The frivolity continues as the roomful of ladies perfect the maneuver .

MAURICE , a male hair-dresser, comes out of the back room, mixing a bowl of bleach as he walks. He stops when he spots the activity.

MAURICE

Oh, my God! The Bend & Snap!

(to an old lady)

Works every time...

INT. AUSTEN, PLATT, JARET & DONOVAN-CONFERENCE ROOM-DAY

90

90

CHUTNEY, 27, curly-haired and bitter, sits in front of Donovan, the FEMALE DA, the associates, the interns and a court reporter, as she's interviewed.

CHUTNEY

I got out of the shower," walked downstairs, saw her standing over my father, and called the police.

DONOVAN

Did she have a weapon in her hand?

CHUTNEY

No.

DONOVAN

Was there any reason for you to believe she had discarded a weapon?

CHUTNEY

Uh, yeah, because the bitch shot him.

DONOVAN

Was there any evidence that Mrs . Windham shot him?

CHUTNEY

(duh)

His dead body with a bullet in it.

91 INT. AUSTEN, PLATT, JARET & DONOVAN-CONFERENCE ROOM-LATER 91  
ENRIQUE, 25, Latino and hunky as hell, sits in the seat that  
Chutney has vacated.

(CONTINUED)

72.

91 **aONTINUED:**

91

DONOVAN

What did you see when you entered the house?

ENRIQUE

I saw Mrs. Windham standing over the body of Mr. Windham.

DONOVAN

Was she carrying a weapon?

• ENRIQUE

No, she was crying her eyes out.

Donovan smiles.

DONOVAN

So she was distraught that her husband was dead?

ENRIQUE

Oh, yes. Mrs. Windham is the most sweet, wonderful woman I know. I have loved her since the day she hired me. She could never do something this awful. I know this because we are very close.

The others shift uncomfortably, then look at each other. Then., back at Enrique and his shiny, unbuttoned-to-show-his-pecs



shirt. The DA smiles.

92 INT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT

.9.2

Donovan, the interns, and associates sit at a large table.

GERARD

She's screwing the pool boy.

Elle gasps and makes a face.

ELLE

There is no way a Delta Gamma would sleep  
with a man in a shiny shirt. Warner,  
back me up here.

Warner shrugs, embarrassed. Sarah looks at Donovan.

SARAH

I hate to agree ~ but I don't see the  
two of them actually --

(wrinkling her nose)

-- doing it.

(CONTINUED)

73.

92

92

ENID

Women like that will screw anything.

ELLE

So, because she's beautiful and has a good  
body, she's easy? What book of feminist  
theory did you read iiiiai in, Enid?

Emmett jumps in before war breaks out.

EMMETT

Okay, if Brooke didn't kill the guy, who did?

ELLE

My money's on the angry daughter or the  
ex-wife.

DONOVAN

Chutney has a trust fund. She didn't  
need the insurance payoff or the  
inheritance.

BOBBY

What about her mother?

DONOVAN

Covered. She was in Aspen at the time.  
Ten people saw her downing cosmopolitans  
at the Caribou Club.

ELLE

Al l I know is-- it's not Brooke.

DONOVAN

That's touching, Elle, but we need an alibi.

Elle thinks about this.

93 INT. BOSTON JAIL - LOBBY - DAY ' 93  
A--nervous Elle stands in front of the burly CHECK-IN GUARD..  
She holds a basket of goodies.

ELLE

I ' m here to see Brooke Wi'ndham.

GUARD

Licensed attorney or family member?

ELLE

Uh -- family.

(CONTINUED)

74.

93 93

GUARD

Relation?

ELLE

I ' m her sister.

GUARD

Name?

ELLE

Delta. Gamma.

He makes a note and buzzes her in. '

94 INT. BOSTON JAIL - DAY  
94

Elle sits at a conference table with her basket. A door opens and a female guard brings Brooke into the room. Wearing a horribly tacky orange jumpsuit.

ELLE

Are you okay? You look so sad...and so orange.

BROOKE

I ' m glad it's you and not Donovan.

ELLE

He means well. He's really brilliant and all.

Brooke sits, not looking convinced.

BROOKE

He better be, for what I ' m paying him.

Elle pushes her basket forward.

ELLE

I brought you some necessities. Pink sheets. Aromatherapy candles. Loofah.

And The Bible.

She holds up a "Cosmopolitan".

BROOKE

You're an angel.

Elle squirms in her seat.

(CONTINUED)

75.

94

94

ELLE

But I have to tell you the real reason  
I ' m here. Professor Donovan says we  
really, really need your alibi.

Brooke tears up.

BROOKE

Elle, I can't. You don't understand.

ELLE

Who could better understand than me?

Brooke dabs her eyes with a corner of the pink Ralph Lauren  
sheets.

BROOKE

It's so shameful...

ELLE

Whatever it is -- it could save you.

BROOKE

That's just it -- it would ruin me!

ELLE

How?

Brooke composes herself. Takes a deep breath. Looks at Elle.

BROOKE

I have made my fortune on my ability to  
teach women how to perfect their bodies  
with the Brooke's Butt Buster workout.

ELLE

I know! You helped me go from a six to a  
four!

Brooke starts to cry again.

BROOKE

On the day of Heyworth's murder, I was --  
She snorts back a sob.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

-- getting liposuction.

Elle gasps.

(CONTINUED)

ELLE

No!

BROOKE

(completely shamed)

I ' m a fraud! But it's not like normal people can have this ass! If my fans knew, I ' d lose everything. I've already lost my husband. I rather be in jail then lose my reputation!

Elle hugs her to her chest, consoling her.

ELLE

Your secret is safe with me.

INT. AUSTEN, PLATT, JARET & DONOVAN - LIBRARY - DAY

The associates and interns sit at a table piled high with research, as Donovan goes over his notes.

DONOVAN

.. We've got two interviews tomorrow that Dick and Bobby are gonna handle, and the ex-wife in an hour.

He looks up.

DONOVAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Sarah, can you grab me some coffee?

Sarah rises, and fetches the coffee from the side table.

DONOVAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

And according to this communique from the prison, our client apparently had a visit fr om her sister? A Miss Delta Gamma --

He looks at Elle.

DONOVAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Anyone you know?

Elle looks up, caught. The others looks at her.

ELLE

I went to get her alibi.

Emmett looks over, surprised.

(CONTINUED)

77,

DONOVAN

Did you get it?

ELLE

But I can't tell you what it is.

Yes.

The others can't believe this.

DONOVAN

Why the hell not?

' ELLE

I promised her I ' d keep it secret. I  
can't break the bonds of sisterhood!

Now he's pissed.

DONOVAN

Fuck sisterhood. This is a murder trial,  
not some scandal at the sorority house.

I want the alibi.

Sarah sets Donovan's coffee down.        Watching to see what Elle  
will do.

ELLE

I can't give it to you. All I can tell  
you is that she's innocent.

An ASSISTANT pokes her head in the room.

ASSISTANT

Mr. Donovan? Mrs. Windham Vandermark is  
on line two.

Donovan rises, still annoyed.

DONOVAN

Someone reason with her while I take  
this.

He walks out.        The others look at Elle.

BOBBY

Are you crazy? Tell him the alibi.

ELLE

, No!

DICK

We're gonna lose the case if you don't.

(CONTINUED)

78.

95

(2)

95

ELLE

Then we're not very good lawyers.

Emmett hides a smile.        Warner leans over to Elle.        Sarah is  
nearby, listening. .

WARNER

(quietly)

If you tell him, you'll probably make

summer associate. Who cares about Brooke?  
Think about yourself.

ELLE

I gave her my word, Warner.

Sarah watches -- seeing both Warner and Elle in a different  
light.

Donovan storms back in.

DONOVAN

The ex-wife seems to be unconcerned with  
the fact that her interview is today.  
She's at a spa in the Berkshires.

GERARD

A spa?

(to Elle)

Isn't that like, your Mother-Ship?

Elle shrugs and looks at Donovan.

ELLE

I can go if you want.

ENID

Why you?

GERARD

(to Enid)

Have you ever been to a spa?

ENID

And subscribe to the doctrine of self-  
hatred imposed upon my gender by male

delusions of the way women are supposed  
to look?

(beat)

Twice.

Donovan motions toward Elle. Then looks at Emmett with a

pointed "Get the alibi" look.

(CONTINUED)

79.

95 (3)

95

DONOVAN

Go with her.

96 INT. EMMETT'S VOLVO - DAY

96

Emmett drives, Elle is shotgun.

ELLE

Explain to me why you're so anti- Brooke.

EMMETT

Uh, for starters, she won'-t give us an al i bi --

ELLE

Aside from that.

EMMETT

She's completely untrustworthy.

ELLE

Why?

EMMETT

She married an old man, she's made a living on telling women they're too fat, she hawks her crap on the Home Shopping Network...

ELLE

A) He's an old man with a really big penis. B) She never told me I was fat. And C) Victoria Principal sells on that network.

EMMETT

And D) Brooke is obviously hiding something.

ELLE

But maybe it's not what you think.

EMMETT

Bu t maybe it is-- .

They're quiet for a moment. She looks at him.

ELLE

You're kind of being a butt-head right now.

(CONTINUED)

80.

96

96

EMMETT

(amused)

How do you figure?

ELLE

Because people aren't always what they seem to be and you refuse to see that. Have a little faith. You might be

surprised.  
They're quiet again while he thinks about this. He looks  
over at her.

EMMETT

I can't believe you called me a butt-  
head. No one's called me a butt-head  
since ninth grade.

ELLE

Maybe not to your face...  
She gives him a teasing smile. He smiles back at her,  
shaking his head.

97 INT. SPA - LOBBY - DAY

97

Elle and Emmett are at the desk.

ELLE

We have two o'clock massages. Kerrigan  
and Woods.

DESK CLERK

Go on back.

Elle starts to go, then stops.

ELLE

Oh, and my friend Katherine Windham  
Vandermark is here somewhere and I ' m  
supposed to meet her. for a Pilates class.  
Do you have her schedule?

DESK CLERK

(checking)

She's in the mud room until four.

Elle smiles her thanks and walks off with Emmett.

EMMETT

Damn. We can't see her for an hour?

(CONTINUED)

81.

97

97

ELLE

No, she can't move for an hour.  
She grabs his arm and pulls him down the hall.

98 INT. SPA - MUD ROOM - DAY

98

MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK, late 40s, brunette, East Coast hoity-  
t o i t y -- lies on a table like a corpse, stiff with mud,  
cucumbers over her eyes. Elle and Emmett poke their heads in.

ELLE

Mrs. Windham Vandermark?



EMMETT

We're here from Austen, Platt, Jaret &  
Donovan --

MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK

So, you found me.

Emmett looks at Elle.

EMMETT

(sotto)

She's naked.

MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK

I ' m covered in very expensive Egyptian  
mud . . . -- hardly naked.

ELLE

(to Emmett)

I'll cover her -- parts.

Elle settles on three washcloths, strategically placed.

MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK

So, I hear the tart from California shot -

Heyworth.

EMMETT

Well, that's what we're trying to prove  
didn't happen. Do you have any reason to  
believe it did?

MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK

I never met the woman, but from what my  
daughter tells me, she's quite the cun--

ELLE

(interrupting her)

She's not!

(CONTINUED)

82.

98

98

EMMETT

Did your daughter ever say anything to  
you about Brooke and Heyworth's  
relationship?

MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK

Aside from the fact that he found her on  
  
an infomercial? She said they humped like  
  
gorillas . Chutney could hear them all

the way in the pool house.

EMMETT

I ' m sure that was very awkward for  
Chutney.

(sotto)

Much as it is for me, hearing you tell  
about it.

MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK

But I guess it wasn't enough for Brooke.

EMMETT

Why do you say that?

MRS . WINDHAM VANDERMARK

Haven't you seen the cabana boy?

ELLE

(uneasy)

Ys. . . .

e

MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK

Like I said, I've never met Brooke, but I  
have seen her from a distance. When I ' d  
come over to pick up the alimony check  
that Heyworth forgot to mail every month,  
she'd be out by the pool, with Mr. Hot  
Pants hovering over her with some pink  
drink.

EMMETT

Hovering?

MRS . WINDHAM VANDERMARK

I didn't stick around long enough to  
watch him stick his swizzle stick in her  
mouth, but I ' d bet my next check that  
that ' s where he was about to put it .

99 INT. EMMETT 'S VOLVO - DAY

99

Emmett drives, raving.

(CONTINUED)

83.

99

EMMETT

How can you still believe she's innocent?

ELLE

You're going to trust the word of a woman  
who named her child after a condiment?  
She's ly-ing.

EMMETT

And you know this for a fact?

' ELLE

Did you see the icky black color of her hair?

EMMETT

So?

ELLE

I never trust a woman who's not blonde. Except for my friend Serena, but that's only because she's a blonde at heart. That's the whole reason I ' m starting the Blonde Legal Defense Fund.

He looks at her and laughs.

EMMETT

The what?

ELLE

Blondes are discriminated against worldwide! Brooke's a blonde, and people are saying she's sleeping with the cheesy pool boy and shooting her husband. If she was a mousy brunette, it would be, "Oh, the poor widow."

EMMETT

You're serious?

She's fired up now.

ELLE

You should see the way I ' m treated in class! I'm a complete source of mockery. This is why the Blonde Legal Defense Fund is needed.

He goes along with it, won over by her enthusiasm.

EMMETT

Okay, how would it work?

(CONTINUED)

84.

99

(2)

99

E LLE

It would be a full-service law firm, by and for blondes, providing positive blonde role models and community outreach in high blonde areas. I mean, think about it -- name one blonde intellectual role model.

EMMETT

-- I can't.

ELLE

That is a direct result of anti- blonde  
discrimination!

EMMETT

Wait -- Hilary Clinton.

ELLE

If she were a true blonde, she would've  
left the cheating bastard. Blondes don't  
let their husbands get fellated by  
brunettes and live to tell about it.

Emmett frowns.

EMM E T T

. In that case, maybe Heyworth got ---  
fellated --by a brunette and Brooke  
caught him.

ELLE

Exactly how much gorilla sex do you think  
a sixty-year-old man can take? ..

EMMETT

That's not really a topic that keeps me  
up at night -- but maybe it should.

Elle digs in her purse.

ELLE

Speaking of that --- I bought you some  
seaweed cream while we were at the spa.

She hands it to him. He keeps his hands on the wheel, not  
taking it.

EMMETT

What the hell is that for?

(CONTINUED)

85.

99

99

(3)

ELLE

The bags under your eyes. You're an  
attractive man, but you need to take  
better care of yourself.

EMMETT

I don't --

(gesturing to the cream)

Do that stuff.

ELLE

Well, you should --. If you look good, you  
feel good and if you feel good, you  
project joy into the world.

EMMETT

Projecting joy is not my job.

ELLE

(sighing)

Fine. Sorry I brought it up.

She puts the cream back in her purse. They ride in silence  
for a moment. Then --

EMMETT

You really think I ' m attractive?

ELLE

For a butt-head? Yes.

She smiles at him.

100 EXT. HARVARD CAMPUS - NIGHT

100

Elle walks down the sidewalk to her dorm, approaching Dorky

David as he tries to ask out a FRESHMAN GIRL who thinks she's  
a lot cuter than she actually is. She stands with her

freshman friends.

-

DORKY DAVID

So -- I called your room last night.

FRESHMAN GIRL

(cold)

I heard.

DORKY DAVID

I was thinking maybe we could go out

sometime.

(CONTINUED)

FRESHMAN GIRL

Uh, n o . . . you're a dork.

turns back to her FRIENDS who all laugh at him. Elle  
winces as she passes.

DORKY DAVID

(hopeful)

I ' m in law school --  
The Freshman Girl turns back to him.

FRESHMAN GIRL

Look -- I ' m not going out with you. I  
can't believe you'd even ask. Girls like  
me don't go out with losers like you.  
Her friends snicker. Elle stops at this and sighs,  
acknowledging to herself that she has to help this guy. She  
turns and marches back, SLAPPING Dorky David across the face.  
Dorky David is stunned, as is the Freshman Girl.

ELLE

(upset)

Why didn't you call me?

DORKY DAVID

What?

ELLE

We spend a beautiful night together and  
then I never hear from you again?

DORKY DAVID

I -- uh --

Elle signals with her eyes for him to go along with it.

DORKY DAVID (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I'm sorry?

ELLE

F or what? Breaking my heart or ruining sex for me  
with any other man?

DORKY DAVID

U h -- both?

ELLE

Forget it. I've already spent too many

hours crying over you.

(CONTINUED)

87.

100 ( 2 ) 100

She rushes off. Dorky David and the Freshman Girl and her

friends watch Elle go. After a moment, the girl turns to David.

FRESHMAN GIRL

So, urn, when did you wanna go out?

ANOTHER GIRL

I ' m free on Friday.

W al k in g away, Elle hears this and smiles.

101 EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 101

P e o p l e ascend the wide courthouse steps.

BA ILI F F (O.S.)

Th e first district court is now in session.

Th e honorable Judge William R. Ptak presiding.

102 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

.102

T h e DA grills Mrs. Windham Vandermark.

D A JOYCE RAFFERTY

A nd what was the defendant doing?

M R S. WINDHAM VANDERMARK

S it ti n g next to the pool topless, while  
th e Latin boy handed her a drink.

C UT TO:

103 INT. COURTROOM - DAY 103

DA Rafferty continues her grilling.

DA JOYCE RAFFERTY

A n d where was she exactly?

T h i s time -- Chutney is on the stand.

C HU TN E Y

S t and in g over my father's dead body.

CUT TO:

104 INT. COURTROOM - DAY 104

CLOSE ON a tiny Speedo thong .

DA JOYCE RAFFERTY (O.S.)

Mr. Salvatore, can you tell us what this

is?

We PULL BACK to reveal that the DA is holding it up as she questions Enrique.

ENRIQUE

My uniform.

DA JOYCE RAFFERTY

This is the uniform that Mrs. Windham asked you to wear while cleaning her pool?

ENRIQUE

Yes.

DA JOYCE RAFFERTY

And are you or are you not, having an affair with Brooke Windham?

Enrique shifts in his seat.

ENRIQUE

Define affair.

DA JOYCE RAFFERTY

Have you inserted your genitalia into hers?

DONOVAN

Objection --

DA JOYCE RAFFERTY

(to Enrique)

Have you and Mrs. Windham had sexual relations?

ENRIQUE

Y es! Okay? Yes!

The courtroom gasps. Elle looks over at Brooke, who's shaking her head, outraged.

INT. COURTROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone files out. As Brooke is being led away, she turns to Elle.

BROOKE

I'm not having an affair with Enrique -- you know a Delta Gamma would never sleep with a man who wears a thong! I just liked watching him bend over to clean the f i l t e r --

(CONTINUED)



ELLE

I believe you! Don't worry.

Brooke is taken away.

106 INT. ELLE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

106

Elle, in sweats and a pony-tail, pours over a mammoth-sized deposition. A KNOCK sounds.

ELLE

Come in.

Sarah enters.

SARAH

(re the depo)

You done with that yet?

Elle hands the deposition over.

ELLE

Take it. I've read it twenty times.

She grabs another one off of the stack and begins reading.

Sarah lingers.

SARAH

I believe her, too. I don't think she's having an affair with Enrique.

ELLE

Too bad you and I are the only ones.

SARAH

I ' m still can't believe you didn't tell Donovan the alibi.

Elle looks up, defensive.

ELLE

It's not my alibi to tell --

SARAH

(interrupting)

I know. I thought that was very -- classy of you.

ELLE

(surprised)

Really? Thanks.

Sarah starts to go, then stops.

(CONTINUED)

90.

106

106

SARAH

Have you ever noticed that Donovan never asks Warner to bring him coffee? He's asked me at least a dozen times.

Elle shrugs.

ELLE

Men are helpless. You know that.

Sarah lingers, leaning on the edge of the couch.

SARAH

Warner can't even do his own laundry.

ELLE

I know. He has it sent out.

SARAH

Did you know he got wait-listed when he applied? His father had to make a call.

ELLE

(stunned)

You're kidding!

A KNOCK sounds on the open door and Margot and Serena poke their heads in.

MARGOT AND SERENA

Surprise!

ELLE

Oh, my God!

Sarah watches as Elle jumps up to hug the girls, who each have a bottle of Veuve Cliquot in their hands.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

What're you doing here?!

SERENA

We're on our way to the bridal show in

New York so we thought we'd rescue you

from law school for the night.

MARGOT

(tempting her)

We have a limo downstairs and lots more of these.

She wiggles her champagne bottle.

(CONTINUED)

91.

106

(2)

106

ELLE

You guys -- I can't. We're in the middle

of a trial.

SERENA

Where's Warner?

SARAH

(confused)

At the office ~

Margot and Serena look over at her.

MARGOT

Oh, how sweet!                    You made friends with a  
nerdy girl.

ELLE

Margot!

SERENA

Bring her, too.

(to Sarah)

C'mon. You can wear one of Elle's  
outfits.

SARAH

T h a t ' s okay --

MARGOT

(to Elle)

Speaking of which, can you please put on  
some party clothes? You look like  
someone rolled you in something sticky  
and dragged you through a K-Mart.

ELLE

(torn)

I can't believe you guys are actually  
here -- but this case is important. I'll

make it up to you after finals, okay? I  
-- promise. I really want to do a good job.  
Margot and Serena stare at her, realizing she means it.

SERENA

Okay. . . Call us if you change your mind.  
They start to head out. Margot hands Sa-rah the bottle of champagne.

MARGOT

Here.

(CONTINUED)

92.

106 (3) 106

She spots The Rock on Sarah's finger and grabs her hand.

MARGOT (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Jesus. Talk about a Rock. You must be better in bed than you look.

Elle hustles them out the door.

ELLE

I'll call you as soon as it's over, okay?

Sisters forever?

MARGOT AND SERENA

Sister forever.

She shuts the door behind them. Then looks at Sarah.

ELLE

(continuing)

Sorry about that.

Sarah sets down the Veuve.

SARAH

Save it.

She smiles at Elle.

SARAH (CONT'D)

(continuing)

We'll drink it after we win.

Elle smiles .

107 INT. BEAUTY OASIS - DAY 107

Paulette arranges a nail polish display by the door.

UPS GUY (O.S.)

I've got a big one for you.

Paulette freezes and slowly turns to find UPS Guy holding out a big package.

UPS GUY (CONT'D)

Can you sign?

He hands her the computerized tablet and as he does, the pen velcroed to the side falls off.

Paulette watches as it FALLS IN SLO-MO. Realizing that now

is the perfect time to try the Bend & Snap.

(CONTINUED)

93.

She bends slowly, tush out, knee cocked. She grabs the pen and as she prepares to Snap back up, UPS Guy leans over to help.

UPS GUY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Got it?

Not realizing he's leaning over, she SNAPS back up -- CLOCKING him in the NOSE with her head.

He reels backward, holding his nose, blood flowing as Paulette stares at him-in horror.

PAULETTE

Oh my God!

CUT TO:

108 INT. COURTHOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY 108

Elle waits in line for the water fountain, talking on her cell phone.

ELLE

(into phone)

You broke his nose?!

We INTERCUT with Paulette as she watches- UPS Guy being carried out by paramedics on a gurney. The ladies of the shop flutter around him, concerned.

UPS GUY

I 'm okay --

PAULETTE

I think he noticed me, Elle --

(sobbing)

But only because I maimed him!

ELLE

(consoling)

I'll be over right after the trial, okay?

We're about to cross-examine Enrique.

And don't worry! My friend Serena barfed on a guy during "The Blair Witch Project" and end up dating him for three months.

She hangs up. Enrique cuts in front of her in line for the water fountain. She glares at him, tapping her foot.

He finishes getting his drink and turns, looking at her.

(CONTINUED)

94.

108 108

ENRIQUE

Don't stomp your little Prada sandals at

me, Miss Thing.

He walks past, as Elle gapes at him. Realizing.

109 INT. COURTROOM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER 109

Elle grabs Emmett's arm as he whispers with Donovan.

ELLE

He's gay! Enrique is gay!

EMMETT

What?!

She grabs Warner as he's passing.

ELLE

Warner, what kind of shoes do I have on?

He looks down at her Prada sandals.

WARNER

Pink ones.

ELLE

See?

Donovan frowns, not seeing.

DONOVAN

What are you talking about?

ELLE

He's gay -- he isn't Brooke's lover!

He's making it up. Whoever killed

Heyworth is paying him off.

EMMETT

Back up. How do you know he's gay?

ELLE

Gay men know designers. Straight men  
don't.

She points at Warner, who shrugs. Brooke leans over.

BROOKE

What's going on?

ELLE

Enrique's gay. I ' m sure of it.'

(CONTINUED)

95.

109 109

BROOKE

He did leave a Cher tape in the pool  
house once --

Donovan scoffs.

DONOVAN

While I appreciate your masterful legal  
theory, I have a murder trial to attend  
to.

He grabs Emmett's arm and pulls him aside as they confer on more serious matters. Emmett looks at her as if to say "Sorry", before he looks back at Donovan. Brooke looks at Donovan, then back at Elle, rolling her eyes. Elle sits down, pissed. Warner is next to her.

ELLE

Thanks for the backup.

WARNER

How was I supposed to know what kind of shoes you had on?

She looks at him like he's a complete idiot, as the judge takes his seat.

110 INT. COURTROOM - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

110

Donovan is in front of Enrique, who is at the stand.

DONOVAN

Mr. Salvatore, do you have any proof that you and Mrs. Windham were having an affair?

ENRIQUE

Just the love in my heart.

Women in the audience openly sigh. Elle makes a puke gesture. Enid concurs.

Donovan smiles a smug smile.

DONOVAN

If that's all the proof that he has, your Honor, I think I'm done here.

Emmett stands.

EMMETT

I have a couple of questions, Your Honor?

(CONTINUED)

96.

110

110

Donovan glares at him.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

(continuing; sotto to Donovan)

Give me two minutes.

He approaches Enrique and starts firing questions at rapid speed.

EMMETT (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Did you ever take Mrs. Windham on a date?

ENRIQUE

Yes.

EMMETT

Where?

ENRIQUE

A restaurant in Oakland. Where no one would recognize us.

EMMETT

And how long have you been sleeping with Mrs. Windham?

ENRIQUE

Three months.

EMMETT

And what is your boyfriend's name?

ENRIQUE

Chuck.

The audience lets out a gasp. Elle looks up, shocked, then delighted.

Enrique begins to sweat.

ENRIQUE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

I ' m sorry, I misunderstood. Chuck is just a friend.

CHUCK, scrawny and angry, stands up in the audience.

CHUCK

If I ' m just your friend, why have we been doing the slippy-slap every night for the past six months?

(CONTINUED)

97.

110 (2) 110

The courtroom ERUPTS and the judge bangs the gavel.

Elle smiles victoriously from her seat. Emmett grins back at her.

Donovan shakes his head, smiling in amazement.

111 EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY 111

Elle and Emmett walk down the stairs together in high spirits. Donovan catches up.

DONOVAN

Good work today, Ms. Woods.

ELLE

Thank you!

He walks on. She looks at Emmett, excited. He high-fives

her.

112 INT. BEAUTY OASIS - NIGHT 112

Paulette is closing up as Elle follows her around.



PAULETTE

(in a giddy, rush)

And after they set his nose, he came back

for his truck and I offered to drive for him since he was still on pain-killers and we spent the whole afternoon together! He was unconscious for part of

it, but it was really fun!

ELLE

(hugging Paulette)

I ' m so happy for you!

PAULETTE

How'd it go at the trial?

ELLE

Great. Donovan actually said the words "Good work, Ms. Woods". He takes me seriously! Can you believe it?

PAULETTE

Of course I can believe it. You're going

to make a great lawyer.

Paulette looks at Elle. Emotional.

(CONTINUED)

98.

112

112

PAULETTE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Elle, you've changed my life. You are the kindest, most wonderful angel.

Without you, I wouldn't have Rufus or a

dinner date. Now go and share your

goodness with the world while I stay here and have my hoo-hoo waxed.

113

INT. AUSTEN, JARET, PLATT AND DONOVAN - HALLWAY - NIGHT

113

Elle passes Sarah, who carries a stack of depos into the

conference room to Dick and Bobby.

SARAH

Donovan asked to see you before you

leave.

ELLE  
(excited)

Really?

SARAH  
He's already got his coffee -- maybe he  
needs a donut.

They share a smile as Elle walks over to Donovan's glass-walled office and knocks on the door. Nervous.

DONOVAN

Come on in.

He beckons her inside, and she goes, shutting the door behind her.

114 INT. DONOVAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

114

He's behind his desk. He motions for her to sit in one of the two chairs opposite him.

DONOVAN

Sit down.

ELLE

Is everything okay?

DONOVAN

You followed your intuition today and you were right on target. I should've listened.

(CONTINUED)

99.

114

114

ELLE

(stunned)

Thank you.

DONOVAN

Abou t the alibi --

She sighs,

ELLE

I ' m sorry, but --

DONOVAN

(cutting her off)

I ' m impressed that you took the

initiative to go there and get it. That's what makes a good lawyer. And on top of that, you gained the client's trust and kept it.. That' s what makes a great lawyer. You're smart, Elle. Smarter than ..

most of the guys I have on my payroll.

Elle is overwhelmed by his praise.

ELLE

Wow. That means so much to me to hear you say that.

Donovan walks around his desk and sits in the chair opposite her.

DONOVAN

I think it's time discuss your career path. Have you thought about where you might be a summer associate?

ELLE

(still overwhelmed)

Not really. I know how competitive it a l l is --

He smiles.

DONOVAN

You know what competition is really about, don't you?

Eager for his knowledge, Elle is on the edge of her seat. He leans in.

DONOVAN (CONT'D)

(continuing)

It's about ferocity. Carnage.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

100.

114 (2)

114

DONOVAN (CONT'D)

Balancing human intelligence with animal

diligence. Knowing exactly what you want  
and how far you'll go to get it. How far  
will Elle go?

As he says the last sentence, he SLIDES his hand UP HER  
THIGH.

115 OUTSIDE DONOVAN'S OFFICE

115 Sarah walks down the hallway, glancing in Donovan's office to see --  
H E R POV --  
Donovan's hand sliding up Elle's skirt. She shakes her head  
in disgust, & heads off- NOT SEEING

116 INT. DONOVAN'S OFFICE

116 Elle stares at Donovan in horror, then grabs his hand --  
stopping its journey upward.

ELLE

(upset)

You're hitting on me?

DONOVAN

You're a beautiful girl, Elle.

ELLE

So everything you just said --?

DONOVAN

I ' m a man who knows what I want.

Elle rises, stung. She stares at him for a beat.

ELLE

And I ' m a law student who's finally  
realized her professor is a pathetic  
asshole.

She walks out.

DONOVAN

(calling out)

Too bad. I thought you were a law  
student who wanted to be a lawyer.

Elle keeps walking.

117 INT. AUSTEN, JARET, PLATT ETC. - ELEVATOR - MOMENT LATER 117  
 Elle is in the elevator. Flushed and upset. As the doors start to close, Sarah sticks her arm in, blocking them.

SARAH

You almost had me fooled.

ELLE

What?

SARAH

Maybe you should sleep with the judge too. Then we can win the case.

Sarah steps back, letting the doors shut.

118 INT. BUILDING LOBBY - NIGHT 118  
 Elle stomps out of the elevator, as Emmett gets in.

EMMETT

(smiling)

Hey --

ELLE

I'm quitting.

She marches past. He follows, catching up.

EMMETT

Whoa -- Why?

ELLE

Law school was a mistake. Getting this internship was a mistake.

EMMETT

What're you talking about? You earned it-

She snorts.

ELLE

I didn't earn anything. I got this internship because Donovan liked the way I looked. Which he made clear .tonight

when he tried to feel me up.

Emmett looks pissed as he processes this.

(CONTINUED)

. 102.

118 118

EMMETT

(mind reeling)

So now you're --?

. ELLE

Going back to LA. Maybe I can fulfill my

destiny as a useless bimbo and join the

Swedish Bikini Team. No more navy blue suits. No more panty-hose. No more trying to be something I ' m not.

EMMETT

What if you're trying to be something you are? The hell with Donovan. Stay.

She stops, giving him a sad smile.

ELLE

Thanks for not treating me the way

everyone else here does. Call me if you're ever in California.

She walks out. Emmett watches her go, hating it.

119 EXT. BEAUTY OASIS - NIGHT

119

Elle's Boxster, packed with suitcases and the potted palm,

pulls up.

120 INT. BEAUTY OASIS - NIGHT

120

Elle sits in front of Paulette, dejected. Not even bothering with a manicure.

PAULETTE

(upset)

You can't go home!

ELLE

What's the point of staying? All people see when they look at me is blonde hair and big boobs. No one's ever going to take me seriously. The people at law school don't, Warner doesn't -- I don't even think my parents take me seriously. They wanted me to grow up and become a Victoria's Secret model who marries a rock star. Now, for the first time, it seemed like someone expected me to do something better with my life than wear underwear for a living. But I was kidding myself -- Donovan didn't see me as a lawyer. He saw me as a piece of ass.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

103.

120

120

ELLE (CONT'D)

Just like everyone else. It turns out, I  
am a j oke.

She stands up.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

The hell with law school. I just came to  
say goodbye.

IN A NEARBY CHAIR

Professor Elspeth Stromwell spins around, nails drying,  
facing Elle.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

If you let one stupid prick ruin your  
life, you're not the girl I thought you  
were.

Elle looks at her, shocked, as Professor Stromwell stands and  
goes.

121

INT. JAIL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

121

CLOSE ON A TV -- Donovan is being interviewed is on the  
evening news.

DONOVAN ON TV

Enrique Salvatore has been discredited as a witness.

REPORTER #2 ON TV

Did you go in there knowing how you were  
going to discredit Mr. Salvatore?

DONOVAN ON TV

Absolutely. It's a little thing I like  
to call strategy.

He gives the reporters a smug smile.

IN THE WAITING ROOM

Brooke looks away from the TV. Emmett is next to her,  
prepping her for the following day.

BROOKE

Is he always such an ass?

EMMETT

(containing himself)

He's the top defense attorney in the  
state. Of course he's an ass.

(CONTINUED)

104.

121

121

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..J

BROOKE

But is he an ass that's gonna win my case?

EMMETT

He's an ass that's gonna try.

BROOKE

He thinks I ' m guilty, doesn't he?

EMMETT

That's not what's important.

BROOKE

To me it is. He doesn't trust me. Why should I trust him?

Emmett thinks for a moment. Then looks at Brooke.

EMMETT

You're right. Why should you?

122 EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

122

People enter. Reporters set up their cameras. Dorky David passes by in a suit and tie.

123 INT. COURTHOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

123

Donovan and Emmett head into the courtroom.

DONOVAN

Keep that bitch away from me.

EMMETT

She's our client.

DONOVAN

Not Brooke. Elle.

EMMETT

(blatantly pissed)

Funny how a woman can turn into a bitch just by saying "no".

Donovan glares at Emmett as they continue in.

Behind them -- SARAH stops in her tracks, having heard all of this.



124 INT. COURTROOM - MOMENTS LATER

124

/.'''''.', Donovan takes his seat next to Brooke. She smiles at him.  
v\_ J

(CONTINUED)

105.

124

124

DONOVAN

What're you so happy about? You're on trial for murder.

BROOKE

Get up.

DONOVAN

What?

BROOKE

You're fired. I have new representation.

DONOVAN

Who?

The door of the courtroom BANGS open and ELLE STRIDES IN, dressed in a Prada mini-dress, Underdog in her purse. She blows a bubble, lets it pop, then sets her briefcase down next to Donovan's.

ELLE

(to Donovan)

Excuse you. You're in my way.

She nudges him aside. Donovan looks at Brooke.

DONOVAN

She's a law student. She can't defend you.

Dorky David steps up, holding out a marked casebook.

DORKY DAVID

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Rule

3:03.

ELLE

(to Donovan)

See?

JUDGE

Counselors, approach the bench.

Elle starts to head up.

DONOVAN

You're not going up there.

ELLE

Yes, I am.

(CONTINUED)

106.

124

124

( 2 )

BROOKE

(to Donovan)

I don't think you heard me. You're fired.

She's my lawyer.

JUDGE

Counselors, now. All of you.

Elle, Donovan and Emmett head up, as does the DA.  
the judge the case book.

Elle hands

ELLE

Elle Woods, your honor. Rule 3:03 of the

Supreme Judicial Court states that a law

student may appear on behalf of a

defendant in criminal proceedings.

DA JOYCE RAFFERTY

(stoked)

I have no problem with this.

DONOVAN

I do. I'm not allowing it.

ELLE

(pointedly)

But you agreed last night. In the  
office? When we were discussing my  
"career"?

The implication lingers in the air, as Donovan glares at her.

JUDGE

(reading the casebook)

The ruling also states that you need a  
licensed attorney to supervise you. Mr.

Donovan?

DONOVAN

That, I won't agree to.

Emmett steps forward.

EMMETT

I ' m supervising, Your Honor.

Elle smiles at him. Donovan looks from Emmett to Elle, completely derailed.

JUDGE

Well, then, Ms. Woods. Proceed.

Elle walks back to the table with a grin. Warner looks shocked.

(CONTINUED)

107.

124 ( 3)

124

IN THE AUDIENCE

Paulette beams, the UPS Guy in the nose brace, next to her. Serena and Margot, now in attendance, STAND clapping and squealing in a completely inappropriate way.

SERENA

Go, Elle!

Donovan takes a seat in the audience. As he passes by Brooke:

DONOVAN

Enjoy prison.

The judge looks at Brooke.

JUDGE

Mrs. Windham, you do realize what you're doing?

BROOKE

Absolutely.

As Donovan sits, Margot leans over.

MARGOT

Don't fuck with a Delta Gamma.

AT THE DEFENSE TABLE

Sarah leans forward to Elle, who gathers her notes.

SARAH

Kick some butt.

Elle looks at her, surprised.

JUDGE

Ms. Woods, call your first witness.

ELLE

I'd like to recall Chutney Windham as a defense witness.

The crowd murmurs. Donovan rolls his eyes.

Chutney takes her hand off of the Bible and sits.

JUDGE

Ms. Woods, begin your questioning.

(CONTINUED)

9/18/2000 Revision (Pink)

108.

125

125

ELLE

First, your Honor, I ' d like to point out  
that not only is there no proof in this  
case, but there's a complete lack of mens  
rea, which by definition tells us that  
there is no crime without a vicious will.

The DA rolls her eyes, as do the lawyers present.

JUDGE

I am aware of the meaning of mens rea.  
What I am unaware of is why you're giving  
me a vocabulary lesson instead of  
questioning your witness.

Flustered, Elle turns to Chutney.

ELLE

Okay -- Ms. Windham, when you uh arrived  
back at the house? Was your father there?

CHUTNEY

Not that I saw. But like I said, I went  
straight upstairs to take a shower.

ELLE

And when you came downstairs, what happened?

CHUTNEY

I saw Brooke standing over his body,  
drenched in his blood.

ELLE

But Mrs. Windham didn't have a gun?

CHUTNEY

No, she'd stashed it by then.

Brooke rolls her eyes.

EMMETT

Move to strike that from the record, your

Honor. Speculation.

JUDGE

Stricken.

Elle mentally kicks herself for not doing this herself.

Eirimett gives her a reassuring nod. She takes a deep breath,

then continues on.

ELLE

Did you hear a shot fired?

(CONTINUED)

9/18/2000 Revision (Pink)

108A.

125 (2) 125

CHUTNEY

No. I was in the shower.

ELLE

So at some point in the -- twenty minutes? -- you were in the shower, your father was shot?

CHUTNEY

I guess.

Elle paces a bit. Underdog watches from her purse on the table, intrigued by her line of questioning.

(CONTINUED)

9/18/2000 Revision (Pink)

109.

125 (3) 125

ELLE

Your father was shot while you were in the shower?

Gerard looks at Emmett.

GERARD

Where's she going with this?

EMMETT

Have a little faith.

ELLE

But you didn't hear the shot, because you were in the shower.

CHUTNEY

(annoyed)

Yes. I was washing my hair.

Elle's onto something, but not sure what.

ELLE

Miss Windham, can you tell us what you'd been doing earlier in the day?

CHUTNEY

I got up, went to Starbucks, went to the gym, got a perm, and came home.

ELLE

Where you got in the shower.

CHUTNEY

(impatient)

Yes.

JUDGE

I believe the witness has made it clear

that she was in the shower.

People start to murmur. Donovan snickers. Sarah looks worried.

ELLE

Yes, Your Honor. Had you ever gotten a

perm before, Miss Windham?

CHUTNEY

(confused)

Yes.

The beginnings of a smile start to spread across Elle's face.

(CONTINUED)

9/18/2000 Revision (Pink)

109A.

125

( 4 ) .

125

ELLE

How many, would you say?

CHUTNEY

Two a year since I was twelve. You do the math.

12 5

(3)

ELLE

You know, a girl in my sorority, Tracy Marcinko, got a perm once. Even though we

all told her not to ~ curls really

weren't the right look for her --

(chummy)

She didn't have your bone structure.

Chutney almost smiles.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

But, thankfully, that same day, she entered the Pi Kap wet t-shirt contest where she was completely hosed down from head to toe.

Donovan shakes his head at her incompetence.

DA JOYCE RAFFERTY

Objection. Why is this relevant?

Emmett clears his throat, worried. Elle turns around, giving him a "trust me" look. Then turns back to the judge.

ELLE

(to the judge)

I have a point. I promise.

JUDGE

Then make it.

Elle looks at Chutney.

..

ELLE

Chutney, why is it that Tracy Marcinko's curls were ruined when she got hosed down?

CHUTNEY

Because they got wet.

ELLE

That's right. Because isn't the first cardinal rule of perm maintenance that you are forbidden to wet your hair for at least twenty-four hours after getting a perm at the risk of de-activating the ammonium thiglycolate?

Chutney pales.

(CONTINUED)

111.

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( 4 )

125

CHUTNEY

Yes --

Elle continues.

ELLE

And wouldn't someone who's had -- thirty perms ? -- throughout her lifetime, be well aware of this rule?

Chutney doesn't answer. She just glares at Brooke.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

And if you, in fact, were not washing your hair, as I suspect you were not, since your curls are still intact, wouldn't you have heard the gunshot?

Chutney continues to glare.

ELLE (CONT'D)

(continuing)

And if you in fact, heard the gunshot, then Brooke Windham wouldn't have had time to hide the gun before you got downstairs. Which would mean that you would've had to have found Mrs. Windham with a gun in her hand to make your story sound plausible. Isn't that right?

CHUTNEY

She's younger than I am. Did she tell you that? How would you feel if your father married someone younger than you?

ELLE

You, however, had time to hide the gun, didn't you, Chutney? After you shot your father?

Brooke looks at Chutney in horror, realizing.

CHUTNEY

I didn't mean to shoot him --

(to Brooke)

I meant to shoot you!

Pandemonium erupts. The gavel pounds.



BROOKE

.'...'

I knew it!

(CONTINUED)

112.

125 (5) 125

Elle looks at Emmet t., elated at what's just happened.

ELLE

(shocked)

Oh, my God!

EMMETT

(even more shocked)

Oh, my G^d.! !

126 INT. COURTHOUSE FOYER - DAY 126

Reporters mob Elle and Brooke as they make their way out of the courtroom.

REPORTER

Elle, how did you know Chutney was lying?

BROOKE

Because she is brilliant.

ELLE

(humble)

The rules of haircare are simple and finite . Any Cosmo girl would ' ve known .

The reporters laugh as they snap pictures of her and a happy Brooke.

127 INT. WOODS' BEL AIR HOME - GYM -SAME TIME 127

CLOS E ON THE TV -- the channels change: golf -- a commercial -  
- Elle in the courthouse.

DANIEL (O.S.)

What the --?

Daniel, Elle 's father, watches TV as he does his morning workout on the treadmill.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Honey, stop!

(proud)

Bile's on TV!

He looks next to him, where Sapphire is upside down on a yoga inversion machine.

SAPPHIRE'S POV -- the upside-down television with Elle on it.

SAPPHIRE

Oh, my God! What happened to her tan?

113.

128 INT. COURTHOUSE FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

128

As the reporters continue to mob Brooke, Elle steps aside to talk to Serena and Margot.

SERENA

I wish we could stay longer, but I have a game.

ELLE

I can't believe you're a Laker Girl!

MARGOT

Hello! You're like, a lawyer.

ELLE

(grinning)

Not yet.

Enid walks up to the girls.

ENID

(to Elle)

Even though you knew your shit today -- you're still a product of the patriarchy and a creation of the male-dominated media. And so are your friends.

She looks at Serena.

ENID (CONT'D)

(continuing; to Serena)

Although -- you're kinda hot. Call me.

She walks off. Serena looks alarmed.

ELLE

(hugging them)

Don't worry. She's harmless. I'll see you guys soon! Thanks for coming!

She air-kisses them as Margot leads a still shell-shocked Serena away as Emmett walks up to Elle.

129 EXT. COURTHOUSE STEPS - DAY - LATER'

129

Elle looks up at the courthouse as the sun sets behind it.

She smiles, proud of herself.

WARNER (O.S.)

You were amazing today.

She turns and finds Warner.

(CONTINUED)

114.

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129

ELLE

Thank you.

He moves closer.

WARNER

It made me realize something. I ' m an  
idiot.

ELLE .

Really?

He turns on the charm.

WARNER

I want to be with you, Elle. Forever.

He pulls her close, hand around her waist, kissing her. She  
looks up at him, a trace of the old love in her eyes. For a  
moment, she melts.

ELLE

I want to be with you, too, Warner.

After a moment, she steps back, removing his hand from her

waist and wrenching it behind his back.

ELLE (CONT'D)

In court. On opposing sides.

WARNER

(shocked)

Are you serious?

ELLE

Huh. Imagine that. Looks like I am.

She walks down the steps. Warner watches her go, then turns to see Sarah, who's witnessed the entire episode. She glares at him, then walks past.

WARNER

Sarah -- hold on.

She shoves him, knocking him on his ass, then rushes to catch up with Elle.

SARAH

(calling out)

El le , wait up --

Elle turns.

(CONTINUED)

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(2)

129

SARAH (CONT'D)

(continuing; sheepish)

I ' m a bitch.

ELLE

Yes, you are.

SARAH

And Donovan's a-scumbag for coming on to  
you.

' ELLE

Yes, he is. .

They look at each other in a silent truce.

SARAH

So -- can we drink that champagne when I  
get back from the pawnshop?

She pulls off her engagement ring.

ELLE

..

You're pawning The Rock?!

SARAH

Hell, yes. We've got finals to study  
for. In Jamaica.

She smiles and heads off. Elle smiles, processing this as

Emmett approaches Elle.

EMMETT

Up for a celebration dinner?

ELLE

Are you asking me on a date?

EMMETT

As long as you realize I'm not just some  
man-toy you can show off like a trophy.

ELLE

(joking)

Then, forget it. Besides, I have an early  
class tomorrow.

EMMETT

So Friday at eight?

She smiles at him.

(CONTINUED)

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129

ELLE

Perfect.

She heads down the stairs, stops and thinks a moment, then  
runs back up --

-- Grabbing Emmett in a hellacious KISS. He kisses her back.

We CRANE UP as they embrace on the courthouse steps.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

130 EXT. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL QUAD - DAY

130

"Welcome Law Students Class of 2004" banners hang over  
orientation tables. Nervous first year students stand in  
line.

We PAN ACROSS a row of club tables -- passing "Harvard Law

