ACT ONE

INT. LAW FIRM CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 1

A LAW PARTNER, JOSEPH KOLAR, 50’S, IS WELCOMING TWENTY NEW LAWYERS ON THEIR FIRST DAY OF WORK AT KOLAR, DIEMER, BURSON & LEAHY.

THE LITIGATION TEAM WE ARE GOING TO FOLLOW WATCHES FROM THE BACK WITH A COMBINATION OF CURIOSITY AND CONTEMPT.

THEY ARE: JOSH 32, DRIVEN WITH A CHIP ON HIS SHOULDER; AND JULIE 32, IVY LEAGUE SMART, TOMBOY COOL AND SEXY, THE TWO CO-LEADS OF THE TEAM. AS WELL AS THE OTHER ASSOCIATES, ELISE 31, BOOK SMART. STREET SMART? NOT SO MUCH; LIZ 28, A DARK CLOUD IN STILETTOS; AND ETHAN 24, HOME SCHOOLED AND IT SHOWS.

JOSEPH KOLAR

And so I welcome you on your first day of being a lawyer. But rest assured, we are not so much a law firm as one big happy family.

JOSH

And by happy he means over-worked--

JULIE

Over-stimulated.

ETHAN

Under-paid.

ELISE

Under-sexed.

LIZ

Over-tired.

ELISE

Under-sexed.

THEY ALL GLANCE AT ELISE.
ELISE (CONT’D)

I don’t want to talk about it.

JOSH

And if by family he means the
Sopranos.

JULIE

The Jacksons.

LIZ

The Mansons.

JOSH

Then yes, this firm is one big happy
family.

ETHAN

Is that a new perfume Julie?

JULIE

It’s Josh. Apparently, he thinks
you’re supposed to bathe in it, not
sprinkle.

JOSH

I told you. It’s aftershave and I
spilled it.

THERESA, THE TEAM’S PARALEGAL, WEARING HER LARGE, JEWELED
GLASSES PROUDLY, ENTERS. SHE POINTS OUT TODD CLEMMONS, A
SCRUFFY CUTE YOUNG MAN OF TWENTY-FIVE.

THERESA

We’re getting the hot shot, Todd
Clemmons, on our Law Dog team. He had
offers from every firm in the country.

(MORE)
He’s the skinny cute one between the Preppy Bulimic and Lurch with the Unibrow. His father is Ted Clemmons.

JOSH
The Ted Clemmons? The trial lawyer? Oh great. I hate these kids who are born on third base and think they hit a triple.

JULIE
Oh please not another one of your stories of how you had to walk a 1000 miles to school in the snow every day. They were half the reason I broke up with you.

JOSH
Uh, I broke up with you. And I’m just saying when you grow up poor you resent these rich kids who get things handed to them.

JULIE
You’re 32. You’re wearing Armani and you smell like a girl. Get over it.

LIZ
Oh my god. Look at him. So young, so new, so excited. I can’t wait to drain all of that out of him.
ETHAN
I’m just glad I won’t be the youngest anymore. I’m going to make him my bitch.

THERESA
Yeah, you get right on that TuPac.

ELISE
I just want to swallow him like a baby bird and carry him around in my mouth until he can fly.

LIZ
That is like so frightening on so many levels.

THE PARTNER WRAPS UP HIS SPEECH AS THE NEW LAWYERS APPLAUD.

JULIE
There’s our cue.

INT. HALLWAY – DAY 1
TODD CLEMMONS IS HUSTLING DOWN A HALLWAY WITH JOSH AND JULIE.

JULIE
So did you become a lawyer because of your father?

TODD
It was because of “A Few Good Men.” I loved that movie as a kid. It looked so cool. You got Demi Moore. You got to kick Jack Nicholson’s ass. “Did you order the code red?

(MORE)
TODD (CONT'D)

I did the job, I—Did you order the
code red? You’re damn right I did...
You can’t handle the truth...”

JULIE LAUGHS. JOSH SCOFFS.

JOSH

If we’re done with the prep school
talent show, do you know what the most
important thing is about this job?

TODD

Providing the best legal services to
our clients so as to maximize their
profits and potential.

JOSH

Were you up all night practicing that
one? Dude, you got the job. Stop
kissing ass.

TODD

Sorry. I wasn’t sure how long I
needed to keep the ass kissing going.

JOSH

The most important thing is making
partner. It takes eight years. But
if you make it, it brings money, power
and did I say money?

TODD

How do you make partner?
JULIE
You have to bring in tons of clients,
win huge cases, and kiss a lot of ass.

TODD
I thought he said not to kiss ass.

JULIE
His ass. Partner ass always needs to
be kissed. It’s like their morning
cup of coffee.

TODD
And what if you don’t make partner?

JOSH
You’re shunned worse than an Amish boy
wearing glitter.

JULIE
Put a fork in you, you’re done here.

INT. THE POUND – DAY 1

THIS IS THE LAW DOGS WORK SPACE. THERE ARE NO WINDOWS ON
THOSE WALLS. THEY SURROUND TODD AT THE TABLE AND PEPPER HIM
WITH AN OVERWHELMING RAPID FIRE VIEW OF HIS NEW LIFE.

JULIE
Josh and I are Co-leads. If you can’t
find us, ask Elise, if you can’t find
Elise, ask Liz, if you can’t find Liz--

ETHAN
Find me. Ethan.

JOSH
Actually just keep looking for Liz.
ELISE
Things move quick here, so hang on.
The partners change their minds as
fast as they change wives.

JULIE WALKS TO THE DRY ERASE BOARD AND DRAWS SMALL AND LARGE
CIRCLES.

JULIE
Which is why we only trust the people
in this room. This is us. And this
is everybody else. What happens in
here stays in here. What happens out
there, comes in here and we gossip,
dissect and rip it apart until we can
exploit it for our own gain.

LIZ
Just think of this place as high
school with paychecks.

JOSH
Failure is not an option. We work
hard, we play hard.

TODD
Got it. And I just want to say that I
will prove to you Josh-- to all of
you, that I am a true Law Dog.

JOSH
What did I tell you about the ass
kissing?
TODD
That wasn’t ass kissing. That was genuine sentiment. Did anybody else think that was ass kissing?

THE ENTIRE TEAM NODS AND MURMURS “PRETTY MUCH,” “SEEMED LIKE IT,” “BROWN NOSE.”

JOSH
Okay, good start new guy. Today we’re going to do a practice run for next week’s divorce mediation of Sarah and Trip Carlton.

JULIE
Because Sarah is our senior partner’s niece. Lot of pressure on this one, would not want to be Josh.

ELISE
All I know is if a couple that hot and successful can’t make it, what chance do I have? I’m dating a guy named Schlomo. Have you ever even met a guy named Schlomo? And I’m dating one.

LIZ
Grow up. You get married, you’re going to get divorced. It’s like jumping in a pool, you’re either going to drown or contract a flesh eating virus.
ETHAN
I made out with Pauline from accounting last week. Turns out she used to be Paul. Nobody told me, nobody stopped me.

JOSH
Okay, does anyone have a legal opinion they would like to express about the case?

JUST THEN, JOSEPH KOLAR (THE PARTNER FROM THE OPENING ENTERS)

JOSEPH KOLAR
My niece’s practice divorce mediation you had scheduled for this afternoon?

JOSH
Yeah?

JOSEPH KOLAR
She wants to get out of town, put it all behind her. I told her we could do it today. That a problem?

JOSH
No problem at all. We’re ready. Let’s do it now.

JOSEPH KOLAR
That’s what I wanted to hear. Don’t screw it up.

KOLAR EXITS. EVERYONE LOOKS AT JOSH.
JOSH

We are so not ready.

THEY ALL START DIVING INTO BOXES AND PULLING OUT DOCUMENTS.

SMASH TO OPENING CREDITS
ACT TWO

INT. THE POUND - DAY 1

THE TEAM, MINUS JOSH AND LIZ, ARE ENTERING THE POUND.

JULIE

He didn’t.

ELISE

He did.

LIZ ENTERS

LIZ

Did what?

JULIE

That thing she didn’t want to talk about? She’s talking about.

ELISE

Last night, Schlomo and I were, you know. And just when I was about to, you know, have a you know. He stopped to answer his blackberry. And then he started typing, so he lost his you know, and so you know, NO, you know.

LIZ

You’re a real dirty talker, aren’t you?

JOSH ENTERS

JULIE

And why are you still with this guy?
JOSH
Because he’s so Schlomo-lishish

ELISE
It’s complicated.

JOSH
Always is. Okay, this is not a drill, we are doing the real divorce mediation this afternoon. So let’s make sure we’ve reviewed their assets--

TODD RAISES HIS HAND.

TODD
Why do you think they didn’t put all of their assets into joint trusts? And why do you think they opted out of power of attorney? And why do you think--

JOSH
Somebody tell the eager beaver not to ask questions until I have finished.

ETHAN
(giggling to himself)
You said beaver.

TODD
I’m sorry. I didn’t know. I’m just kind of a question guy. Always want to know why.

(MORE)
LIKE why did they divorce? Why did they divide their assets?

JOSH

Why are you still talking?

JULIE

He wants to learn. Josh is a little touchy on this one. He’s been divorced for six months and still hasn’t gone out yet, so the subject makes him--

LIZ

Cranky?

ELISE

Irritable?

JULIE

I was going to say emotionally vulnerable because just saying emotionally vulnerable to Josh makes his sphincter knot up like a pine cone.

JOSH

Why am I suddenly a guest on The View?
I just want to finish my statement without being interrupted.

ELISE

But you are emotionally vulnerable.
You’re like a little boy lost in a forest trying to find his way home.
JOSH
I thought you got off the Paxil.

ELISE
Noooo, I just went generic.

JOSH
Okay, well now that you’ve robbed me of two minutes of my life that I will never get back, how about you work on your asset review assignments?

TODD RAISES HIS HAND

TODD
Uh, I don’t have an assignment.

JOSH
How about quit asking questions and just shut up and learn?

JOSH EXITS THE ROOM.

TODD
Okay. Now I have an assignment.

INT. LAW LIBRARY - DAY 1

TODD, LIZ AND ETHAN FORM AN ASSEMBLY LINE AS THEY PREPARE THE LITIGATION CASE BOOKS.

TODD
What’s the deal with Josh? Was it just me, or is he like that with all the first years?

ETHAN
No, it’s just you.
TODD
What?

ETHAN
Well, it’s not really you. It’s just people like you that he hates.

TODD
Is this supposed to make me feel better?

LIZ
Okay, I’m going to step in here because Ethan is not human. Look, Josh is a great guy, but he had to scrap to get in here and resents anyone who didn’t. So just kick his ass and prove him wrong.

TODD
Great. And to think I requested to be on Josh’s team because I wanted to learn from the best.

ETHAN
Too bad it’s not Julie’s case. She’s easier on first years and her hair smells like a weekend in New England.

TODD
She does seem nicer.
LIZ
Julie’s nice the way a cat seems nice. She’s cute and fun, but get near her food and she will scratch your heart out and show it to you before you die.

TODD
I didn’t know cats did that. So what’s with Josh and Julie’s whole Sawyer-Kate thing?

ETHAN
They used to date their first year. But it was too intense for them to date and compete for partner against each other so they broke up.

TODD
They’re competing against each other for partner? I thought they both were shoo-ins.

LIZ
No way. The firm has never chosen partners from the same class and the same team. So only one of them will make it.

TODD
That’s brutal.

LIZ
We think they got it from the Nazis.
TODD
It does explain their sexual tension.

LIZ
Believe me, it’s not just them. This entire office is filled with sexual tension. The pressure, the hours, the intensity. This place is like eHarmony on crack with a Viagra chaser.

TODD
That wasn’t mentioned in the benefits package.

ETHAN
But be careful. Don’t sleep with partners, subordinates or anyone who is married.

LIZ
Unless it’s at the Christmas party, then anything goes.

INT. THE POUND
JOSH, JULIE AND ELISE ARE REVIEWING DEPOSITION TRANSCRIPTS.

ELISE
I thought you were the most beautiful, sexy woman I ever saw when we first met.

JULIE
And I was totally into you.
ELISE
Our first kiss was amazing.

JULIE
Totally amazing.

JOSH
Man, transcripts are not boring when they’re read by two chicks.

JULIE
They are when you’re one of the chicks. No offense, Elise.

ELISE
Really? It was making me kind of curious.

JOSH
Seriously?

ELISE
God you’re easy. Why didn’t we have Todd read them to us? That’s what we usually have first years do.

JOSH
Ehhh. I don’t think he really fits in with us. Maybe we can trade him.

JULIE
For what? A Dominican shortstop?
He’s been here for one hour.
JOSH
He’s already annoying me. The fancy
daddy. The “I can’t handle the
truth.” We could trade with the tax
department for their first year.

ELISE
The Steven Hawkings guy? Smart, but
not so much a debater.

JOSH
Fine. You mentor him. I’m not into
making the rich richer.

JULIE
Yeah, you tell that to our clients.

INT. MEN’S ROOM

TODD IS AT THE URINAL IN THE EMPTY BATHROOM WHEN HE HEARS A
VOICE.

MALE VOICE (O.C.)

Todd Clemmons. Big Todd. TC. How’s
it going?

TODD LOOKS AROUND.

BOB ROPEKEE
(from a stall)

Behind ya. Don’t you recognize me?
Just kidding. Bob Ropekee. We met at
your interview.

THE TOILET FLUSHES.

TODD

Right, right. I totally remember.
BOB ROPEKEE, ANOTHER SENIOR ASSOCIATE, EMERGES FROM THE STALL.

BOB ROPEKEE

So why don’t you quit the Law Puppies and transfer over to a real litigation team?

TODD

What?

TODD STARTS TO TURN TO BOB.

BOB ROPEKEE

Whoa, watch it. Look, we fought hard to get you, but you got assigned to them. It’s still the first day, you can change. Come with us and I’ll put you in court doing pleadings with those young, hot DA’s.

TODD

Really? In court?

BOB ROPEKEE

Of course, that’s where you belong, isn’t it? Anyway, I’ll let you finish your business there. Let me know by the end of the day.

AT THE MOMENT, A VERY TALL TRANSVESTITE, PAULINE, DRESSED IN A SWEATER AND LEGGINGS, ENTERS AND GOES INTO A STALL.

PAULINE

Bob.
BOB ROPEKEE
(uncomfortable)

Pauline.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

JULIE, JOSH AND ELISE ARE STILL REVIEWING THE DEPOSITIONS.

ELISE

Doesn’t this case break your heart?
This couple was so in love at the
beginning.

JOSH

Trust me, no matter how much you’re in
love, one day you’re going to wake up
and say “get your leg off me.”

JULIE

I don’t believe you believe that.
Don’t you want to be in love again?

JOSH

Yes, I think about it when I’m
doodling unicorns and rainbows.

JULIE

You need to get out. You need to
start dating.

JOSH

I don’t need to go out. I need to
focus on work. And why do you care so
much if I go out anyway?
JULIE
Because I want my friend to have a life outside of 100 hour work weeks and fantasizing about football players.

JOSH
It’s called fantasy football.

JULIE
I’m just saying being single in your thirties is really fun and you are missing out.

ELISE
It’s not as rosy as you paint it, Jules. It’s not like your twenties, dating in your thirties is like dog years. Three months equals one year. One year equals “where is my ring?”

JOSH
Which is exactly why I don’t want to date right now. I don’t want to start anything I can’t finish.

JULIE
But why does it have to be an end game? Stuart and I both know we’re not going to marry each other, but we still have a good time dating.
JOSH
Of course he has a good time. He’s getting sex without having to commit to you. That’s like winning the lottery and not having to pay taxes.

JULIE
Having to commit to me? Like that’s a bad thing?

AN AWKWARD MOMENT.

JOSH
No, not at all. Not you as in you, you as in you being all women and--
Wow, look at the time. Don’t you have those settlement negotiations with River Oaks Labs to get to?

JULIE
Actually I settled the case before I came in here.

ELISE
Did you get the $10 million you were gunning for?

JOSH
Not if she’s been sitting here quiet about it. Five mill tops.

JULIE
Josh is right. I didn’t get ten.
(beat) I got twenty!
JOSH
What? How?

JULIE
You know that Deep Throat whistleblower that wouldn’t testify? I got her to agree to testify. I spent all night on the phone with her. Turns out both our grannies are from Iowa.

JOSH
You win the biggest case of the year because your ancestors milked cows?

JULIE
I feel your pain. Look, it was just my turn to be lead counsel. Could have as easily happened to you.

JOSH
But it didn’t.

JULIE
I know. I am so stoked!

ELISE
Wow. You clearly have moved ahead of Josh in the partner race.

JULIE
I’m not clearly ahead. It’s still two years away. And you might win this case.
JOSH
You’re taunting me now?

JULIE
Not you as in you...

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM
THE TEAM, MINUS JOSH, ARE SETTING UP THE CONFERENCE ROOM TO PRACTICE FOR THE MEDIATION LATER IN THE DAY.

TODD
Would you look at that view? Is that Wrigley?

LIZ
Nice try rookie, we ask the twenty questions, not the other way around.

JULIE
Number four. Longest relationship?

TODD
Five months.

ETHAN
Why did you break up?

TODD
I needed my space.

LIZ
The real reason.

TODD
She needed her space.
JULIE
Do you really want to leave our team
to join that loser Bob Ropekee?

UH-OH.

TODD
Uh...

LIZ
We knew about it before you flushed.

JUST THEN, JOSH ENTERS CARRYING TWO BOXES AND A VERY ANNOYED DEMEANOR

JULIE
Hey Josh, we’ve got an issue to deal
with--

JOSH
Whatever it is, forget it. We have
bigger problems. The opposing counsel
just sent over these boxes of
financial records, which she swore had
been “misplaced.”

JULIE
That’s so Wendy Franklin.

LIZ
That whore.

EVERYONE LOOKS AT LIZ.

LIZ (CONT’D)
I hear she doesn’t wear underwear.
JOSH

Hey, focus. So now we have to go through them before the mediation to make sure there are no surprises. I need everybody’s focus.

ELISE AND LIZ START OPENING THE BOXES. TODD LOOKS AT JULIE, THEN....

TODD

Give me a box. Let me show you what this law dog can do.

THE REST OF THE TEAM SHOUT OUT “ALRIGHT’S” AND “YEAH.”

JOSH

Sit down. I don’t have time to teach you what you don’t know. There’s nothing you can do to help so stay out of the way.

ELISE

Uh, Josh... this box is all in German. Swiss banking records.

JOSH

What?

ETHAN

Frank on team two speaks German.

JOSH

Well that’s just great. And now his litigation team gets to steal my thunder and-
TODD
I speak German.

ETHAN
Hello.

JOSH
You speak German?

JULIE
Nice.

TODD
Fluently. Wer braucht mich jetzt Sie großspuriger Esel wischt?

ENGLISH SUBTITLES: “WHO NEEDS ME NOW YOU COCKY ASS WIPE?”

JOSH
And that means?

TODD
Can’t wait to help.

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

INT. MEN’S ROOM - DAY 1

TODD AND ETHAN ARE STANDING AT THE URINALS.

ETHAN

This is your big chance. I would be so nervous if I were you. I mean, like super nervous. Like oh my god, what have I--

TODD

I’m not nervous at all. You know why? I’ve got a plan.

TODD FINISHES AND CHECKS ALL THE STALLS TO SEE THAT THEY ARE EMPTY.

TODD (CONT’D)

I am going to translate like a motha’ for Josh. Help him win the case, then when he realizes at the end of the day how great I was, I’m going to tell him I’m transferring to Ropekee’s team.

ETHAN

You are a stone cold killa, my brotha.

THEY BOTH MOVE OVER TO WASH THEIR HANDS AT THE SINK. TODD IS CHECKING HIS CONTACTS.

TODD

What would you do?

ETHAN

The way he treats you? Same. But we can still hang out, right?
TODD
Totally. You know, when I was a kid I was embarrassed that my grandmother only spoke German. And now it’s going to save my-- No, no, no.

ETHAN
What?

TODD
My contact just went down the sink.

REVEAL THAT TODD, WHILE DIGGING INTO THE SINK, GOT HIS PANTS AND TIE SOAKED FROM THE WET SINK COUNTER TOP. ETHAN GIGGLES.

ETHAN
That looks like you wet your pants.

TODD
Yeah, I got that part, it’s the size of Nebraska. Is there a plumber in the--

TODD REACHES FOR SOME TOWELS AND STARTS TO DRY OFF.

ETHAN
Let me help.

ETHAN TAKES A TOWEL AND STARTS TO TRY AND DRY TODD’S TIE. AS TODD IS TRYING TO PUSH HIM AWAY, ETHAN SLIPS TO HIS KNEES AS A MAN WALKS IN...

TODD
Ethan, let go of it. Stop rubbing,
I’m done. I’m done.

AND SEES ETHAN IN FRONT OF TODD AND QUICKLY WALKS OUT.
TODD (CONT'D)

And the day just keeps getting better.

INT. JULIE’S OFFICE – DAY 1

JULIE AND ELISE ARE GETTING READY TO MEET WITH THE CLIENT, SARAH CARLTON.

JULIE

So Sarah Carlton is on her way over
and they say she’s pretty shook up.

ELISE STARTS TYPING FURIOUSLY ON HER BLACKBERRY.

ELISE

Oh yeah, well I don’t think so. We had plans. You just can’t cancel on me like that.

JULIE

Elise, you realize I can hear you.

ELISE

I have to get it out because Schlomo will only fight now via e-mail because he’s uncomfortable with personal confrontation.

JULIE

You did not just say that.

ELISE

He thinks we choose our words more carefully this way.
JULIE

Again, you did not just say that. And this is the man you want to marry?

ELISE

I don’t know if I want to marry him. I just want him to want to marry me.

JULIE

I am absolutely speechless.

ELISE

Wait until you and Josh hook up again. You guys made me and Schlomo look like an episode of 7th Heaven.

JULIE

That was six years ago. We were kids. And with this job? There’s no way we’re getting together again.

ELISE

I don’t care how long it’s been, he’s seen you naked. You can’t take that back. You’re lecturing about an amicus brief and he’s thinking about the time you sucked his toes for an hour.

JULIE

I never did that.
ELISE
Really? Schlomo says everyone does that.

JULIE
I’m telling you. We’re way past it.

ELISE
Past it? You guys are like two zoo tigers separated by a moat during mating season.

JULIE
It’s just playful. It’s how we are. We’re two Type A’s, we compete in everything. Remember when I spiked him because he was blocking home plate?

ELISE
I’m sorry, but you’ve never done the toe suck thing?

SARAH CARLTON, THE CLIENT, ENTERS. JULIE AND ELISE GO TO HUG.

JULIE
Sarah. How are you?

SARAH
Not good. I’m sorry I rushed you guys to do this today. I just want it over with.
JULIE

Not a problem. We have it all under control.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

TODD IS TRYING TO TRANSLATE THE GERMAN DOCUMENTS AT THE TABLE. HE IS COVERING ONE EYE WITH HIS HAND WHILE RUBBING THE OTHER ONE AND BLINKING HEAVILY. JOSH AND THERESA ARE HARD AT WORK REVIEWING OTHER FILES. JOSH NOTICES THE BLINKING.

JOSH

What the hell is wrong with you?

TODD

I lost a contact. So my good eye is straining to over compensate, which is blurring my vision and--

JOSH

Can you translate the documents or not?

TODD

Slowly. I’ll go faster when my new lenses get here.

JOSH

How long will that take?

TODD

Well, they advertise in about an hour.

JOSH

We don’t have an hour. This is the real world, not a class. I knew you couldn’t hack it.
TODD
What does that mean?

JOSH
It means you haven’t had to earn anything so you just can’t hack it.

TODD’S HAD ENOUGH.

TODD
Yeah, well Bob Ropekee thinks I can hack it. He wants me on his team.

JOSH
Really? Fine. Then go.

TODD
I will.

THERESA
You’re not going anywhere yet. And you, Mr. Biting-Off-Nose-to-Spite-Your-Face. You need the boy to finish translating. What’s your vision, Sweetie?

TODD
20-80 for reading.

THERESA
Almost the same as me. Here, use these. Problem solved. I got another pair at my desk.

TODD PUTS ON HER LARGE, JEWELLED GLASSES. HIS EYES APPEAR AS IF THEY ARE IN A FISHBOWL. HE STANDS UP TO GET ANOTHER BOX IN HIS WET STAINED PANTS. HE LOOKS RIDICULOUS.
TODD
Thanks. Theresa. And Josh, I’ll finish this, but you need to show me some respect.

JOSH
Did you wet your pants?

INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY 1
THE TEAM, MINUS TODD IS ASSEMBLED TOGETHER.

JOSH
Okay, everybody gather up. After a review of the Swiss bank records, nothing was found out of the ordinary.

JULIE
Where’s Todd?

JOSH
Todd has transferred to Ropekee’s group.

THEY ALL ASK “WHAT?” REALLY?”

JOSH (CONT’D)
Focus, focus. Worry about who’s here. It’s game time in five minutes. So hands in.

THEY ALL HOOT.

JOSH (CONT’D)
Who are we?

ALL OF THEM
Law Dogs.
JULIE

What are we?

ALL OF THEM

Law Dogs.

THEY ALL START WOOFING AND BOUNCING LIKE BEFORE A FOOTBALL TEAM BEFORE A GAME. REVEAL TODD WATCHES FROM DOWN THE HALL.

INT. THE POUND

ETHAN SITS AT THE TABLE AS TODD PACKS UP HIS STUFF.

TODD

Not even a thank you for translating from Josh. I’m so glad I’m out of there because I was about to fight him.

ETHAN (as Yoda)

“Remember, a Jedi’s strength flows from the Force. But beware. Anger, fear, aggression. The dark side are they.”

TODD STARES BLANKLY.

ETHAN (CONT’D)

Yoda? The smallest, yet arguably the wisest and most powerful Jedi of all time?

TODD

You really were home schooled, weren’t you?

A PARALEGAL ENTERS CARRYING A LARGE FILE BOX.
PARALEGAL
This was delivered to the tax
department by mistake. Looks like more
of those Swiss bank records.

TODD

What?

INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - AFTERNOON 1

THE MEDIATION IS IN FULL TILT. EVERYBODY LOOKS TENSE. THERESA IS OPERATING THE CAMERA NEAR THE DOOR. WENDY FRANKLIN, THE ATTORNEY FOR TRIP CARLTON, IS TRYING TO BADGER SARAH.

WENDY FRANKLIN
As a working woman I’m offended that
you want anything. You have a job--

JOSH
Do you have a question there Wendy or
are you paid by the word?

WENDY FRANKLIN
I’m establishing your client is asking
for more than she deserves.

JOSH
You’re establishing you have no case.

INT. THE POUND

THE DOCUMENTS ARE SPREAD ACROSS THE TABLE. TODD IS WEARING THE BIG JEWELLED GLASSES AGAIN AS HE IS READING THEM.

ETHAN
Anything? Anything?

TODD
Son of a bitch.
ETHAN

What?

TODD GRABS A FILE, STARTS WRITING A NOTE AND TAKES OFF.

TODD

I’ll show him. Blackberry Julie I’m coming in.

INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM

NOW IT’S JOSH ON THE ATTACK. JULIE LOOKS AT HER BLACKBERRY, THEN WHISPERS TO LIZ WHO GETS UP TO GO TO THE DOOR.

JOSH

And on July 8th, wasn’t it Sarah who advised you to sell the stock and thus avoiding a huge loss?

TRIP CARLTON

We consulted together.

JOSH

Oh together, but on the bad decisions you’re saying they were all her fault?

WENDY FRANKLIN

Stop putting words in my client’s mouth.

AS LIZ OPENS THE DOOR, TODD COMES RUNNING IN WITH SO MUCH EXCITEMENT THAT HE’S A LITTLE OUT OF CONTROL.

JOSH

Stop stonewalling on --

TODD TRIPS OVER THE CAMERA CORD AND FALLS CHIN FIRST INTO THE LARGE, HARD CONFERENCE TABLE. HE IS OUT LIKE A LIGHT.

END OF ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

INT. THE POUND

A HAND IS STROKING TODD’S HEAD AS HE COMES TO. REVEAL THAT HIS HEAD IS LYING ON PAULINE, THE TRANSVESTITE’S LAP.

PAULINE

Hi Todd. I’m Pauline. That was a pretty hard shot you took.

TODD

What am I lying on?

ETHAN

I don’t want to talk about it.

INT. LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM

JOSH, JULIE, THE CARLTONS, JOSEPH KOLAR AS WELL AS THE OPPOSING COUNSEL ARE SITTING IN THE GLASS CONFERENCE ROOM.

JOSH

Dude. We got your nuts in a vise. We’ve found several million dollars in hidden Swiss accounts.

SARAH CARLTON

How could you do that to me? We used to be so close.

TRIP CARLTON

What do you want me to say? We haven’t been close in years. We were more into our careers than we were each other.

SARAH CARLTON

Then we were stupid.
TRIP CARLTON

Welcome to the world.

JULIE

So we want 80-20 of these new accounts.

WENDY FRANKLIN

50-50 or we tie this up for a hundred years.

JOSH

80-20. And we won’t investigate how he made it.

TRIP LOOKS AT WENDY.

INT. JOSH’S OFFICE – NIGHT 1

THE TEAM, MINUS TODD, IS DECOMPRESSING IN JOSH’S OFFICE.

JULIE

Well, you definitely made your partner points on this one.

ELISE

Big time. Kolar’s going to owe you.

JOSH

Actually, I think I pulled ahead of Julie.

JULIE

Keep dreaming.

JOSH

It was a pretty big case.
JULIE
Not even listening.

INT. LAW FIRM LOBBY – NIGHT

JOSEPH KOLAR IS SPEAKING WITH TODD.

JOSEPH KOLAR
Good work, son. I’m glad we have you. You reminded me of your father. He’ll do whatever it takes to win.

TODD
Yes he will.

JOSEPH KOLAR
But a little advice. Get some new glasses. Not a real partnership look.

THE PARTNER SLAPS TODD ON THE SHOULDER AND WALKS AWAY.

INT. JOSH’S OFFICE – NIGHT 1

THE TEAM IS TAKING TURNS THROWING DARTS AT THE PHOTO OF THE PARTNER, JOSEPH KOLAR.

JULIE
Those Carltons. They were so focused on their work that they forgot they had a life.

JOSH
Why are you looking at me?

JULIE
I’m looking at all of us. We could be them.

(MORE)
We work so hard on our careers that we can miss the good things that are right in front of us.

JOSH
I’m not missing anything. I’ve got a 65 inch plasma, PS3 and XBOX 360.

ETHAN
You got the 65 inch? Can I come over and play?

JOSH
What are you, twelve?

ETHAN
Is that a no?

JULIE
Well, I am missing things. In dating I make it so clear that it’s just fun and nothing else, that maybe I’ve never given anyone the chance to be the one. Maybe I’ve missed the guy I was supposed to be with and I didn’t even see it.

THERESA
I completely agree with you. May not even see it right in front of you.

LIZ
How’s Todd doing?
ETHAN
He’s fine. Just a little headache.

JULIE
Todd is a Law Dog, Josh. He saved your ass. You can’t let him go.

JOSH
What? I was just hazing him.

THEY ALL HOOT JOSH DOWN THAT IT WAS MORE THAN THAT.

JOSH (CONT’D)
Why is everyone so concerned about him? Nobody protected me when I first started.

THERESA
That’s because nobody liked you. He was all Good Will Hunting and such. Except Julie. She liked him.

JULIE
I didn’t like him.

THERESA
Oh then that wasn’t you I caught with him in the supply room going at it like a couple of monkeys?

JULIE TURNS AWAY AND BLUSHES.

ETHAN
Oh, you’re so pretty when you blush.

TODD KNOCKS ON THE DOOR. EVERYONE GETS UP TO LEAVE.
TODD
You wanted to see me?

JULIE
Okay, boy’s talk time. We’re out of here. Drinks on me at the Derby. We’ll see you guys there.

JOSH
You have a good time. I’m not going. I have to dig into this Carlton stuff.

ELISE
Come on. It’s only 9:00. We can come in early tomorrow.

JULIE
Don’t beg him. It’s his call if he doesn’t want to join in our reindeer games.

THEY EXIT. AS JULIE DOES, SHE PATS TODD ON THE SHOULDER.

INT. THE POUND - NIGHT 1

TODD SITS IN FRONT OF JOSH AT THE TABLE.

JOSH
So, let me ask you. Why did you help out after all the crap I gave you?

TODD
I wanted to rub it in your face that I’m good. I wanted to show you that you’re an idiot and made a stupid--
JOSH
Okay, down boy. I get it. Look, if you still want to go to Ropekee’s team, I won’t stop you. But if you want to become a real lawyer, you’ll stay here.

TODD
I want to become a real lawyer.

JOSH
Good. You did your job today. The way we all do it every day. That’s what’s expected.

TODD
Got it.

JOSH
That’s all. You can go.

TODD
Okay.

AS TODD HEADS TOWARDS THE DOOR.

JOSH
Unless you want to stay and start reviewing some more of these case files. I could use some help.

TODD
You want me to work with you?
JOSH
Jesus, don’t start humping my leg.
Just grab a box and get to work.

TODD
I’m on it.

JOSH
And don’t be so peppy Richie Rich.

TODD GRABS A BOX. A BEAT.

TODD
Just so you know. That story about me wanting to be a lawyer because of “A Few Good Men?”

JOSH
Yeah, I was just jotting it down in my diary.

TODD
It’s BS. The truth is, my dad left when I was eight. Haven’t seen him much since.

JOSH
Jeeze. I had no idea.

TODD
And he was such a good lawyer, that we never saw a penny of support. I became a lawyer to keep that from happening to others.
JOSH

Sounds like we both had great dads.

TODD

Oh, your dad--

JOSH

Enough bonding. Look this doesn’t mean I like you now. It just means I’m not inclined to hate you.

TODD

I will take that as progress.

INT. THE DERBY - NIGHT 1

MIDNIGHT. A HOT DANCE CLUB. A CROWDED BAR AND DANCE FLOOR. JULIE, ELISE, LIZ, AND ETHAN ARE HANGING OUT. TODD ENTERS.

LIZ

He’s alive. He’s alive.

TODD

 Barely. Josh just sent me home but he’s still there working.

JULIE HANDS TODD A DRINK.

JULIE

To the new Law Dog.

THEY ALL SHOUT “TODD.”

ETHAN

Todd. Check it out. I really like that blonde.
TODD
Okay, you know what? You sound like a serial killer.

LIZ
I’m surprised they even let him in here.

ELISE COMES UP EXCITED TO TODD.

ELISE
Todd. I dumped Schlomo.

TODD
Really?

LIZ
I can’t hear this story again.

ELISE
We were at dinner and he just kept typing away, tick tick tick on that blackberry and it hit me. We’re just like that Carltons, Schlomo’s more into work than he is into me. So I just grabbed it and smashed it.

JULIE
We are so proud of you.

LIZ
Don’t encourage her, she’ll just tell it again.
TODD
So shouldn’t we call Josh and taunt him about being a light weight?

JULIE
Actually, let’s lay off a bit. I feel bad because I think I’ve been pushing him too hard when he’s clearly not ready too--

JUST THEN, JOSH ENTERS WITH WENDY FRANKLIN, THE ATTRACTIVE ATTORNEY FROM THE MEDIATION.

JOSH
What, nobody’s dancing? I thought Law Dogs played hard.

THEY ALL CALL OUT IN SURPRISE AND JOY TO SEEING JOSH ARRIVE. JULIE IS VERY SURPRISED.

JOSH (CONT’D)
Everybody. You know Wendy Franklin, Esquire. I thought she might want to join us tonight.

EVERYONE SHOUTS OUT “HELLOS” AND “WELCOMES” TO WENDY.

JULIE
Great. Drinks are on me Wendy, so don’t let him pretend he’s a big shot.

WENDY FRANKLIN
Please. He’s already told me about his 65 inch. Come on, Josh. Let’s dance.
JOSH STARTS TO TAKE WENDY TO THE DANCE FLOOR, THEN TURNS BACK TO JULIE.

JOSH
(sotto to Julie)

Hey. You were right about missing the
good things right in front of me.
Thanks for pushing me.

JULIE

Anytime.

JOSH HEADS OUT TO THE FLOOR AND IS DANCING WITH WENDY LIKE A
REAL PRO. THERE IS JUST A SLIGHT TWINGE IN JULIE’S HEART,
WHICH COMES AS A SURPRISE TO HER. ELISE SLIDES UP TO JULIE.

ELISE

It’s nice to see Josh out.

JULIE

Yeah. And with Wendy.

ELISE

Still think you’re past it?

JULIE
(unsure)

Absolutely.

JOSH WAVES EVERYBODY OUT ONTO THE DANCE FLOOR. AS THEY HEAD OUT...

LIZ

So how did you like your first day?

TODD
(laughing)

I’ll let you know when it’s over...

AS WE PULL BACK ON THE TEAM DANCING TOGETHER IN A CIRCLE, WE...

FADE OUT.