

SWEAT SHOP  
by  
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INT. ELEANOR'S BEDROOM. DAY.

ELEANOR JONES, twenty-nine, stands in front of the mirror in the room she grew up. Below the mirror is a dresser with various high-school era detritus on it. Bottles of perfume, mix-tapes, two stuffed animals. The walls are covered with posters of bands from the mid-nineties. She is wearing underwear and a tank-top. She unpacks a suitcase on the bed. She pulls out a pair of jeans. She looks at them for a moment.

ELEANOR  
(to the jeans)  
Alright you bastards.

Eleanor steps into the jeans and starts to pull them up. They get stuck. She pulls harder and falls down.

ELEANOR (O.S.)  
Goddamnit.

She kicks the dresser. Several bottles of perfume fall on her.

ELEANOR  
Owwwwww!

INT. JONES HOUSE. DAY.

Eleanor has black eye where the perfume hit her. SUSAN, early sixties, enters, carrying a tray of mojitos.

ELEANOR  
(pointing to the wall)  
Can you take those photos down?

SUSAN  
The ones where you're overweight?

ELEANOR  
The ones with Rob. Which ones am I  
overweight in--

SUSAN  
You never should've left him.

ELEANOR  
He left me. You know that.

SUSAN  
You need to learn to hold onto a  
man. Haven't I taught you anything?

ELEANOR  
Dad's dead. And so's the other one.

SUSAN  
People die. That's not the point. I  
made mojitos.

She hands Eleanor a drink. They sit down.

SUSAN  
How's your eye?

ELEANOR  
A bottle of CK One landed on it.  
How do you think it feels.  
(takes a drink)  
Calvin Klein's a dick.

SUSAN  
Look. I need you to pay rent.

ELEANOR  
For what?

SUSAN  
Your room.

ELEANOR  
I'm your daughter.

SUSAN  
The economy is in the toilet.

ELEANOR  
My firm just imploded, remember?  
Can't you wait til I'm back on my  
feet. I don't know what I'm gonna  
do yet.

SUSAN  
Well, we could do a nightly rate.

Eleanor stares at Susan.

SUSAN  
Don't make me the bad guy here.

ELEANOR  
But you are the bad guy here.

SUSAN  
You could've stayed in New York.

ELEANOR  
I lost everything, Mom.

SUSAN  
Didn't you have a plan? You always  
have a plan--

ELEANOR  
Yeah, I had a plan. The plan was to  
hit my number and get out. Marry  
Rob, have kids and be happy. That  
part of the plan broke up with me.  
(takes a drink)  
The other part of the plan rocked a  
deuce on me.

SUSAN  
Is that Wall Street jargon?

ELEANOR  
I re-invested almost everything in  
company stock, got leveraged with  
margin, mortgages...now I'm ass  
over tits in goddamn Arizona.

SUSAN  
I have a job for you. With your  
brother.

ELEANOR  
Stepbrother. And no. No way.

SUSAN  
You need money. The gym needs help.

ELEANOR  
I don't know jack about gyms. I  
haven't been there since I tried to  
lose five pounds for my senior  
prom.

The sound of a key in the front door. Steve walks in.

STEVE  
Hot damn, I smell mojitos. Is our  
Mom the best or what?

ELEANOR  
She's my mom. How much rent does  
she charge you?

STEVE  
I don't rent. I own.

ELEANOR  
You live above the garage.

STEVE  
Yeah. I bought it outright.

ELEANOR  
For how much--

STEVE  
That's kind of a rude question.

SUSAN  
Sweetie, Eleanor lost everything  
and she needs your help.

ELEANOR  
No, I don't--

STEVE  
Lay it on me.

SUSAN  
I think she should work at the gym.

STEVE  
My gym?

ELEANOR  
It's not your gym.

STEVE  
My dad built that place with his  
bare hands.

ELEANOR  
And my mom's money.

STEVE  
He that is of the opinion money  
will do everything may well be  
suspected of doing everything for  
money.

Steve takes his jacket off. He's wearing a T-shirt with an eagle and an American flag on it. It says "Live Free Or Die Trying".

STEVE  
Ben Franklin said that. Maybe you  
heard of him.  
(beat)  
Come interview tomorrow.

ELEANOR  
Interview?

STEVE  
Yeah. Interview.

ELEANOR  
I spent three years as a managing  
director of a bulge bracket firm on  
Wall Street.

STEVE  
And I've been managing a bulge for  
thirty four years. I'm talking  
about my nutsack. And my weenus.

Steve takes a long drink. He licks it off his moustache.

INSERT. TITLE CARD: *SWEAT SHOP*

EXT. STRIP MALL. MORNING.

The parking lot of a strip mall in Scottsdale, Arizona. At  
the corner is a gym with a sign that reads: *The Sweat Shop*.

INT. GYM. MORNING.

The gym is outfitted with the latest equipment, flat screen  
televisions, all sorts of amenities. Eleanor stops at the  
reception desk, where TURQUOISE, mid-twenties, tan, dressed  
in spandex, sits. She's a space cadet.

TURQUOISE  
You have cocaine on your shirt.

ELEANOR  
Oh, no, it's powdered sugar. I had  
donuts.

TURQUOISE  
Gross.

ELEANOR  
I'm a stress eater. It's a drug.

TURQUOISE  
Yeah, but at least drugs make you  
skinny.

INT. GYM OFFICE. MOMENTS LATER.

One wall is a two-way mirror that looks out at the gym. Steve looks at *Women's Fitness*. Eleanor walks in. Steve puts Visine in his eyes.

STEVE

Hey Amigo. Have a seat.

Eleanor hands him her resume.

STEVE

Is that toot on your shirt?

ELEANOR

No.

STEVE

Damn. I could really use some.  
I really blew it out last night.  
Ok. What was your Grade Point  
Average?

ELEANOR

What was yours?

STEVE

Ten. Ten-ish. What's yours?

ELEANOR

It's on my C.V.

STEVE

What's a C.V.?

ELEANOR

It's a resume.

STEVE

(picks up resume)  
Let's see. Top of your class at  
DartMOUTH--

ELEANOR

Dartmouth.

STEVE

You know where I went to college?

ELEANOR

I didn't think you went to college.

STEVE  
(taps the desk)  
Right here.

ELEANOR  
What was your major?

STEVE  
I'll ask the questions. How much do  
you weigh?

ELEANOR  
I'm not answering that.

Steve makes a notation.

STEVE  
What's your favorite food?

ELEANOR  
Donuts. What's yours?

STEVE  
Pussy.  
(beat)  
Why should I hire you?

ELEANOR  
Because Mom is making you. She  
showed me the P and L statements  
last night--

STEVE  
Again, I'd be more comfortable if  
you let me ask the questions.  
What's a P and L statement?

ELEANOR  
Profit and loss.

STEVE  
We make a bitchload of profit.

ELEANOR  
You make revenue. But you spend so  
much money you barely break even.

STEVE  
You gotta spend money to make  
money.

ELEANOR  
You spent almost twenty thousand  
dollars on new staff uniforms.



STEVE

That includes limited edition  
kicks. And watches. Wait til' you  
see them. They're baller.

ELEANOR

The point is to actually turn a  
*profit*.

STEVE

Here's the situation. You might be  
wrong--

ELEANOR

I'm not.

STEVE

Then again, you might be right.

ELEANOR

I am.

STEVE

There's really no way of knowing--

ELEANOR

There's hard empirical evidence.

STEVE

Do you know how I run a business?

ELEANOR

You inherit it?

STEVE

I run it with my nuts and with my  
guts.

(stands up)

You're hired.

INT. GRAPPLE ROOM. MOMENTS LATER.

A room with wall-to-wall foam matting. The STAFF sits on  
Pilates balls. Steve and Eleanor stand in front of them.

STEVE

Turquoise. Any mail for me?

TURQUOISE

The mail doesn't come in the  
morning.

STEVE

This one did, if you know what I mean.

BRIAN laughs. He is in his late twenties, good-looking, exuding sexual energy. He and Steve high-five. DANA (aka MURDERBALL), thirties, wheelchair-bound, interrupts.

MURDERBALL

I'm sorry, that's just offensive--

STEVE

Take it easy, Murderball.

MURDERBALL

Do we have to have another sexual harassment seminar?

STEVE

No. God, no. That was a witch hunt.  
(shakes his head)  
This is Eleanor Jones, the newest member of our unit.

MURDERBALL

Can't we just call it a family?

STEVE

No. It's called *The Art of War* for a reason.

BLACK MAGIC, forties, black, well-built, interrupts.

BLACK MAGIC

Man, cancel that *Art of War* stuff.

STEVE

This is Rodney Weatherfield. Also known as Black Magic. A true inspiration. Not only did he fight for his country, he used to be disgustingly fat.

BLACK MAGIC

I gained two hundred thirty-seven pounds when I got back from the Suck. They call it Post Traumatic Eating Disorder.

STEVE

You should've seen him. He could tear up a party sub like a pack of wild coyotes.

ELEANOR  
Nice to meet you, Rodney.

BLACK MAGIC  
You can call me Black Magic.

ELEANOR  
Ok. You can call me the White Wizard.

BLACK MAGIC  
White Wizard? What kind of cracker-ass talk is that--

ELEANOR  
No. I was kidding--

STEVE  
It's cool, Blood. She's down.

BLACK MAGIC  
My blood-sugar is low. We cool.

He puts out his fist and gives Eleanor a bump.

BLACK MAGIC  
What exactly will you be doing?

STEVE  
Assisting me. She's my assistant.

ELEANOR  
I'm co-owner of the gym.

STEVE  
Turquoise. Strike the last thing she said from the record.

TURQUOISE  
I'm not taking notes.

Steve screams and throws an exercise ball across the room.

STEVE  
Screw this coup d'etat!

ELEANOR  
(to Murderball)  
You said something about a sexual harassment seminar. Is that what these legal fees are for? Sexual harassment?

BRIAN  
Hells yeah.  
(to Eleanor)  
I'm Brian. Wassup.

STEVE  
Brian is sort of the DJ Jazzy Jeff  
to My Fresh Prince.

BRIAN  
You should check out my Cardio  
Kegel Jam Class. Ladies only.

ELEANOR  
Just to get back to the Sexual  
Harrassment thing for a second...is  
that what the line item in the  
budget marked "S.H." refers to?

STEVE  
That's Shenanigans and Horseplay.

Steve stretches, putting his leg up on a chair.

BLACK MAGIC  
Man, one of your nuts is hanging  
out.

Steve looks down. His testicle is pixilated.

INT. GYM. MORNING.

Eleanor wears yoga pants and a tank top. Brian walks up.

BRIAN  
So. What are your fitness goals?

ELEANOR  
I want to lose a few pounds.

BRIAN  
Maybe get rid of that muffin top.

ELEANOR  
I have a muffin top?

BRIAN  
You're a tight looking piece of  
ass. I'd hit it. No question. But  
you're eating 500 extra calories a  
day.

ELEANOR  
You can tell that just by looking?

BRIAN  
That's why they call me the Pussy  
Whisperer. Like the Horse  
Whisperer, except with pussy.

ELEANOR  
Yeah, I got it.

BRIAN  
I can also tell you shaved your  
legs three days ago. You shower at  
night not in the morning. And  
you're not wearing underwear right  
now. Then again, neither am I.  
(walks off)  
I'll see you in there.

INT. AEROBICS ROOM. MORNING.

Brian leads a group of thirty WOMEN of various ages. Eleanor  
dances awkwardly along with the class.

BRIAN  
Feel it from your pinky toes to  
your perineum...

Brian steps behind Eleanor, presses into her, and guides her.

BRIAN  
Let's be adults, you know? Let's  
play with fire.

ELEANOR  
Are you speaking metaphorically?

BRIAN  
I'm saying, lets get sloppy. Quit  
our jobs...or you quit your  
job...you know, and let's  
just...let's get sloppy.

ELEANOR  
Your jonger just thumped me in the  
muffin top.

BRIAN  
(announcing to the class)  
Ladies, I'm going to be giving  
adjustments.

(MORE)

BRIAN (cont'd)  
If I have an erection don't be  
alarmed, it's only natural.

INT. OFFICE. DAY.

Steve sits behind his desk. He and Brian are eating pizza.  
Eleanor walks in.

ELEANOR  
I need to talk to both of you.

STEVE  
We're eating.

ELEANOR  
It's important.

STEVE  
Alright, fine. But beer me first.

Steve points to an ice chest.

BRIAN  
Me too.

Annoyed, Eleanor goes to the ice chest and gets two beers.

ELEANOR  
I'd like to have a sexual  
harassment counselor come in.

STEVE  
Pass.

ELEANOR  
I've already arranged it.

STEVE  
So un-arrange it.

ELEANOR  
I just watched him rub a boner on a  
dozen women.

STEVE  
Guess what? Boners happen. That's a  
medical fact.

BRIAN  
It's the human body.

STEVE

Sometimes we can't even help it.  
It's the burden of man.

ELEANOR

Are you twelve?

STEVE

Are you sexist?

BRIAN

When's the last time you made love?

ELEANOR

This is what I'm talking about.

STEVE

It kind of feels like you're  
singling us out--

ELEANOR

I am. As the boss, you've created a  
permissive environment. And Brian,  
no offense, is the sole offender--

BRIAN

None taken.

ELEANOR

According to the file, your dad  
gave Brian two strikes before he  
died.

STEVE

How many did I get?

ELEANOR

You didn't get any.

STEVE

Come on! Really? Not even one?

BRIAN

Sorry, man.

ELEANOR

This counselor is going to work on  
modifying your behavior. If she is  
convinced you've been *rehabilitated*  
she'll sign off on an insurance  
waiver which will save us a  
fortune.

STEVE

You will literally have to do that  
over my dead body.

ELEANOR

My job is to find ways to cut  
costs. I'm just trying to do it.

Eleanor grabs a piece of pizza.

BRIAN

I'd go easy on that 'za. That's  
like 600 calories a slice.

Eleanor looks at the pizza, then drops it angrily.

INT. JONES HOUSE. EVENING.

Eleanor, Steve and Susan sit at the kitchen table with wine.

ELEANOR

I need you to respect me in front  
of the staff.

STEVE

Respect my dick.  
(to Susan)  
Sorry, Mommy.

ELEANOR

She's not your Mommy. Stop calling  
her that.

STEVE

Stop hurting my feelings.

SUSAN

Look. You're a team now. Stevie,  
you're a people person. Ellie has  
experience with other aspects of  
business.

ELEANOR

Like making money.

STEVE

And farts.

SUSAN

The point is you're both in charge  
now. You need to learn to work  
together.



STEVE

I'm a cowboy. I ride alone.

SUSAN

Not anymore, honey.

STEVE

I just want to let you know, I'm going along with this for Mommy.

ELEANOR

And I just want to let you know that I'm gonna shave your moustache off when you're sleeping.

STEVE

I sleep with one eye open.

ELEANOR

You look like Magnum P.I.'s gay nephew.

STEVE

That's so homophobic.

INT. GYM. MORNING.

Turquoise and Eleanor sit on a mat with the soles of their feet touching, throwing a small weighted ball back and forth.

TURQUOISE

Wanna come to my spin class?

ELEANOR

I gotta meet with the sexual harrassment counselor.

TURQUOISE

(not getting it)  
That's hot.

ELEANOR

No, it's--

TURQUOISE

How *is* your sex life?

ELEANOR

Horny.

TURQUOISE

Totes.

ELEANOR  
How much does this ball weigh?

TURQUOISE  
Two pounds.

ELEANOR  
Dang.

TURQUOISE  
OMG. We should go out together and meet some boys.

ELEANOR  
I'm not sure I'm ready to date yet...

TURQUOISE  
I know what you mean.

ELEANOR  
You do?

TURQUOISE  
Yeah. I saw your bush in the locker room. But we can fix that--

Eleanor misses, the ball knocks her over.

INT. GRAPPLE ROOM. MORNING.

Brian, Steve and Eleanor sit around a table with KAREN, mid thirties, attractive. Eleanor now has a second black eye. She holds a bag of frozen berries to it.

KAREN  
Are you alright?

ELEANOR  
Me? Yeah.

KAREN  
You have two black eyes.

ELEANOR  
(shrugs)  
Shit happens.

Brian stares at Karen.

BRIAN  
God, you're beautiful.

STEVE

We thought you'd be ugly. But wow.

BRIAN

I'd love to work with your body.

ELEANOR

Do you see what I'm talking about?

BRIAN

Don't cock-block me--

ELEANOR

I'm not cock-blocking you.

STEVE

You're totally cock-blocking him.

ELEANOR

I'm so sorry about this.

KAREN

It's fine. We all have sexual thoughts. It's healthy.

STEVE

Like masturbating.

KAREN

Yes, in a way.

STEVE

But not in the workplace. Not masturbating there.

KAREN

Right.

STEVE

What if it's like, in a bathroom stall. Is that OK?

Karen stares at Steve for a moment.

KAREN

We want to express our sexuality appropriately. When we express it at the workplace, that can be sexual harassment.

BRIAN

I like to think of it more as *sensual* harassment.

KAREN  
"Harassment" is really the word we  
want to focus on.

STEVE  
Question. How can we protect  
ourselves from being sexually  
harassed?

BRIAN  
Strike first--

STEVE  
Smart.

BRIAN  
Can I paint you?

ELEANOR  
He teaches a dry-humping class.

BRIAN  
It's a cardio program with a focus  
on kegel work.

STEVE  
That's science.

BRIAN  
Those women come back three times a  
week, every week, on the reg.

STEVE  
It's tush to bush in there.

ELEANOR  
He's a sexual predator.

BRIAN  
I have a misunderstood gift.

KAREN  
Sorry, what?

BRIAN  
I was born with certain powers.  
Like the little kid in the *The  
Shining*.

ELEANOR  
Don't do this, Brian. I'm warning  
you.

BRIAN

People think a gift like this is a blessing but it can also be a curse.

KAREN

You're gonna have to be more specific--

ELEANOR

Brian. Don't--

KAREN

(to Eleanor)

It's ok, this a safe place.

ELEANOR

(to Karen)

I know you mean well, but you don't know what he's about to say--

BRIAN

I can whisper to pussy. To vaginas. They speak to me. I can speak to them.

(beat)

I'm a Pussy Whisperer.

Eleanor stands up and throws her chair across the room. They all stare at her.

KAREN

I think it might be helpful if I talk to Brian privately for a moment.

ELEANOR

By all means.

INT. GYM/RECEPTION AREA. LATER.

Eleanor, Steve, Brian, and Karen stand together. Karen and Brian look slightly disheveled. Karen blushes and leaves.

BRIAN

She's a sweet kid.

Eleanor looks at Brian.

ELEANOR

Did you just bump uglies with the Sexual Harrassment Counselor?

BRIAN  
Please. A gentlemen never tells.  
(beat)  
But yes. I did.

INT. JONES HOUSE. NIGHT.

Eleanor, Steve, and Susan sit at the dinner table, eating tacos and drinking margaritas. Eleanor has two black eyes and speaks in a zonked out deadpan.

SUSAN  
So. How was work today?

ELEANOR  
Work is a Twilight Zone episode  
where the world works in reverse.  
Where you can solve sexual  
harassment issues by porking sexual  
harrassment counselors.

SUSAN  
Are you ok?

ELEANOR  
I'm high as an air show.

STEVE  
Are you holding?

ELEANOR  
I took these pills Turquoise had.

SUSAN  
That's quite a shiner.

ELEANOR  
Yeah.  
(beat)  
You know what? I quit.

STEVE  
Yes!

ELEANOR  
I'm going to go upstairs and watch  
myself in the mirror while I cry.

Eleanor leaves.

SUSAN  
I think she's depressed.

STEVE  
 (takes Eleanor's tacos)  
 I've been depressed. So has Billy  
 Joel. We both made it.

Steve looks at her. He has sour cream in his moustache.

INT. GYM/WOMEN'S BATHROOM. AFTERNOON.

Eleanor sits on top a closed toilet seat, eating a Snickers.

STEVE (O.S.)  
 E.J.?

ELEANOR  
 What are you doing in here?

STEVE  
 What are you doing in here? I  
 thought you quit?  
 (waits for response)  
 Mom thinks you're depressed.

ELEANOR  
 She said that?

STEVE  
 Is it true?

No answer. Eleanor looks more vulnerable than before.

STEVE  
 Ellie?

ELEANOR  
 What?

STEVE  
 Are you pushing one out?

A FEMALE MEMBER walks in. She screams. Steve screams back.

INT. GRAPPLE ROOM. AFTERNOON.

Eleanor sits against the wall, a box of donuts next to her.  
 BLACK MAGIC sits next to her.

BLACK MAGIC  
 It's like that huh?

ELEANOR  
 Yeah, Esse.

Eleanor picks up a donut.

BLACK MAGIC

Let it go.

ELEANOR

Just one.

BLACK MAGIC

You and me both know you wouldn't stop with one.

ELEANOR

Please, Magic, just a taste.

BLACK MAGIC

Man up. You're better than this.

ELEANOR

Maybe I'm not, Magic. I'm all messed up. In New York, I never had to think. I had a plan. Now everything I had is gone and all I do is think. I think and worry and doubt myself.

BLACK MAGIC

When I was in the Suck, sometimes we'd get these sandstorms. You couldn't see two feet in front of you. It was like being in a bad dream, but sometimes you had to convince yourself it wasn't so bad, just to make it through.

ELEANOR

That's what this is? I'm in a sandstorm?

BLACK MAGIC

Nah. I think maybe you just got out of one.

ELEANOR

I don't know what to do here.

BLACK MAGIC

Do your job.

ELEANOR

I don't fit in.

BLACK MAGIC

That's what I like about you.



ELEANOR  
What if I can't?

BLACK MAGIC  
Don't come to me with "can't." I  
lost two hundred thirty-seven  
goddamn pounds. I had sleep apnea  
like a hippopotamus.

ELEANOR  
Yeah. And on top of that, your  
people have dealt with four hundred  
years of b.s.--

BLACK MAGIC  
We don't need to go there, White  
Wizard.

ELEANOR  
Sorry.

Black Magic puts out his fist. They bump knuckles.

ELEANOR  
Thanks, Magic.

Eleanor walks out. Black Magic grabs a donut, devouring it.

INT. MEN'S LOCKER ROOM MOMENTS LATER.

Eleanor bursts in. Everyone is naked, with pixilation. Steve  
is drying his crotch with the communal hair dryer.

ELEANOR  
I'm not quitting.

Steve switches off the dryer.

STEVE  
I was just trying to cheer you up.  
Not talk you out of it.

ELEANOR  
Tough titties. I'm not quitting. If  
I can't increase profits at a gym  
in Scottsdale Arizona, then I'm not  
worth a damn anywhere else.

STEVE  
I wish you would stop talking smack  
about Scottsdale. Have a little  
civic pride.

ELEANOR  
 You better start bringing your A-  
 Game.

Eleanor walks off before Steve can respond.

INT. GYM OFFICE. MORNING.

Steve is wearing a suit. Eleanor helps him tie his tie.

STEVE  
 This is my Dad's tie.

ELEANOR  
 He never taught you how to tie it?

STEVE  
 No. But he was still a good Dad.  
 You know, Mommy's not that bad.

ELEANOR  
 She's charging me rent. What kind  
 of mother does that?

STEVE  
 What do I look like, Dumbledore? Am  
 I running a school for wizards?

ELEANOR  
 It doesn't matter. You can't count  
 on anyone.

She straightens the knot on his tie.

ELEANOR  
 You're all done.

Steve takes a beer from a cooler and opens it.

ELEANOR  
 It's eleven in the morning--

STEVE  
 By the way, you're wrong about one  
 thing--  
 (takes a long drink)  
 You *can* count on people. You just  
 have to find the right ones.

INT. GRAPPLE ROOM. LATER.

Steve, Eleanor, Brian and DARREN, thirties, sit together.

STEVE  
Aaron, I don't understand--

DARREN  
It's Darren.

STEVE  
Darren. Where's Karen?

DARREN  
She asked to be taken off the case.

STEVE  
But, Brian had sex with her.

DARREN  
I know. She's upset that it happened in the first place. We considered legal action but she says it was consensual.

BRIAN  
It was beautiful.

DARREN  
I'm going to have to recommend the insurance company raise your level of coverage.

ELEANOR  
Balls!

DARREN  
Mam, please. Don't make it worse.

BRIAN  
Look man, let's be professionals. If you have feelings for Karen or something--

DARREN  
I'm gay.

Brian takes his shirt off.

DARREN  
What are you doing?

BRIAN  
I don't know. What am I doing?

Steve has been undoing his tie and taking his shirt off.

STEVE  
(provocative)  
What do you think we're doing?

INT. GRAPPLE ROOM. LATER.

Everyone is hanging out. Eleanor bursts through the door.

ELEANOR  
Brian. You're fired.

STEVE  
You can't fire him.

ELEANOR  
Yes I can. Mom said I could.

STEVE  
Then Mom's fired.

BLACK MAGIC  
You can't fire your Momma, man.  
That's cold.

STEVE  
Shut up, Magic. I'm bluffing.

BRIAN  
Are you fake firing me so we can  
bone?

ELEANOR  
No. I'm really firing you.

STEVE  
You're not looking at the big  
picture here.

ELEANOR  
I think I am. He's waging a sexual  
jihad. He'll ruin our business.

STEVE  
He *is* our business. He's our star  
trainer. You fire him and it's  
gonna be Armageddon up in this  
bitch.

MURDERBALL  
Steve's right. You can't fire  
Brian.

Eleanor turns, shocked the Murderball agrees with Steve.

ELEANOR  
Why don't you wheel your ass out of  
this or else you're next.

STEVE  
You can't fire Murderball. She  
doesn't work here. She's a member.

ELEANOR  
She doesn't pay dues--

STEVE  
Yeah, well, seeing as how she got  
paralyzed here, I figure it's the  
least we can do.

ELEANOR  
You paralyzed Murderball?

BRIAN  
Why are you so negative, baby?

ELEANOR  
Get out.

Brian raises his fist in the Power sign salute.

BRIAN  
F the man.

He spits on the floor and walks out.

INT. OFFICE. MORNING.

Eleanor walks into the office. Steve is asleep on a yoga mat.

ELEANOR  
We haven't seen you for four days.  
We've been worried sick.

Steve rolls over in his sleep. He has four days of stubble  
around his moustache. Eleanor covers him with her jacket.

INT. AEROBICS ROOM. MORNING.

Black Magic teaches Brian's class. LADIES do jumping jacks.

BLACK MAGIC  
I wanna hear your ass cheeks clap!  
I want the sound to knock the black  
off me!

A MIDDLE-AGED LADY collapses.

INT. OFFICE. MORNING

Eleanor works at her desk. Steve sleeps on the mat. Turquoise walks in.

TURQUOISE  
You better get out here.

INT. RECEPTION AREA. MORNING

The WOMEN of Brian's class stand in a group. At the head of the group is MIRANDA, mid-forties. Eleanor walks up to the counter.

ELEANOR  
Can I help you?

MIRANDA  
Who are you?

ELEANOR  
I'm Eleanor.

MIRANDA  
Where's Steve?

ELEANOR  
He's passed out.

MIRANDA  
Why did you fire Brian?

ELEANOR  
We have other instructors that are just as capable, I assure you--

MIRANDA  
I assure you that you don't.  
If Brian isn't back at this gym,  
I'm cancelling my membership.  
(points behind her)  
And I'm bringing these ladies with me.

ELEANOR  
There's a fee if you do that--

MIRANDA

(turns to the group)  
You hear what this bitch just said  
to me?

ELEANOR

What did you just call me?

TURQUOISE

I think she called you a bitch.

ELEANOR

(to Miranda)  
I swear, if you weren't a customer  
I'd so punch you in the tits--

Steve walks up, hung over.

STEVE

(to Eleanor)  
Easy Tiger. I got this.  
(to Miranda)  
I'm the only one who gets to call  
my sister a bitch around here.  
(admonishing)  
Let's be ladies about this.

MIRANDA

Where's Brian?

STEVE

Probably somewhere out in the  
desert. All we can do is pray for  
him.

MIRANDA

This is terrible!

STEVE

(glares at Eleanor)  
I know.  
(to Miranda)  
I'm in the middle of four day  
drunk. Let's go Cactus Jack's on  
me, Girls. We'll talk this out.

Steve turns to Eleanor and gives back her jacket.

STEVE

I'd get it dry cleaned if I were  
you. I had a wet dream.

Steve leads the women out of the gym.

INT. JONES HOUSE EVENING.

Eleanor and Susan eat dinner. Steve drinks a beer.

SUSAN  
Stevie, you look sad.

STEVE  
She fired my best friend.

ELEANOR  
It seemed like smart business.

STEVE  
Well, I spent fifteen hundred dollars on margaritas and Cactuspolitans today trying to convince four dozen pissed off horny women not to cancel their memberships on account of your smart business.

ELEANOR  
Look, maybe I made a mistake. Let's figure this out together.

He burps loudly.

STEVE  
I'm calling in sick tomorrow. Sick of this shit.

Steve sulks off.

ELEANOR  
Leadership means making tough decisions and sticking by them. What else can I do?

SUSAN  
You could improvise.

ELEANOR  
It was rhetorical question.

INT. GYM. DAY.

Eleanor sits on a weight bench, drinking coffee. Murderball sits nearby doing dumbbell curls.

ELEANOR  
Can I ask you something?



MURDERBALL

Yeah?

ELEANOR

Why don't you work out someplace else? I mean this where...you know...

MURDERBALL

I got paralyzed?

ELEANOR

Yeah.

MURDERBALL

(shrugs)

I like it here.

Eleanor is touched by this response. She looks out across the gym. Black Magic is screaming at an OVERWEIGHT TEENAGE BOY running on a treadmill.

BLACK MAGIC

You wanna quit? Don't even try to quit on me you fat son-of-a-bitch because I ain't quitting on you!

INT. WOMEN'S BATHROOM. MORNING.

Eleanor walks out of a stall. Steve stands at the sink, shaving (everywhere but his moustache). Eleanor is startled.

ELEANOR

Goddamnit, why are you in the women's room?

STEVE

Because I don't like looking at dicks. Then again, I'm looking at one right now. I'm talking about you.

ELEANOR

I get it. I thought you were calling in sick.

STEVE

I changed my mind.

ELEANOR

Last week I was too fat to fit into these jeans. Now I barely can.

(MORE)

ELEANOR (cont'd)  
It kind of makes me believe change  
is possible.

STEVE  
I cancelled the new uniform order.  
That should save us about twenty  
large.

ELEANOR  
I'm impressed.

STEVE  
I'm impressive.

ELEANOR  
I re-hired Brian, by the way.

STEVE  
What about the insurance?

ELEANOR  
I'm having waivers drawn up for his  
clients to sign, to protect us.

STEVE  
That's not a bad idea. I can't  
believe I didn't think of it.

ELEANOR  
Yeah, well, you're more of a people  
person.

A toilet flushes. Black Magic walks out of a stall.

STEVE  
Black Magic, dropping bombs like a  
mofo.

They slap five. Black Magic leaves without washing his hands.

ELEANOR  
He didn't wash his hands.

STEVE  
This isn't a restaurant.

Brian walks in, very rushed.

ELEANOR  
Jesus Christ.

STEVE  
Goddamn, are you a sight for sore  
eyes.

BRIAN  
Not now. I'm hanging chocolate.

Brian bursts into a stall.

ELEANOR  
Do all of you take shits in here?

BRIAN (O.S.)  
Yes.  
(beat)  
Oh god!

Eleanor is speechless.

STEVE  
I was right, by the way.

ELEANOR  
Right about what?

STEVE  
You can count on people. I can. On  
you, I mean.

Eleanor looks at Steve for a beat.

ELEANOR  
Yeah. Me too.

They smile. Neither of them say anything for a moment.

BRIAN (O.S.)  
It's about to get really weird in  
here. I'm just warning you.

CUT TO BLACK.