EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Ridley Scott, Tony Scott
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Robert King & Michelle King
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: David W. Zucker
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Brooke Kennedy
CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Todd Ellis Kessler
CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Ted Humphrey
CONSULTING PRODUCER: Frank Pierson
PRODUCER: Courtney Kemp Agboh
PRODUCER: Amanda Segel
CO-PRODUCER: Corinne Brinkerhoff

thegoodwife

Episode #120
"Unplugged"

Written By
Karen Hall

Directed By
Christopher Misiano

PRODUCTION DRAFT
WHITE: March 24, 2010

Copyright 2010 CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved.

This script is the property of CBS Productions, a business unit of CBS Broadcasting Inc., and may not be copied or distributed without the expressed written permission of CBS Productions, a business unit of CBS Broadcasting Inc.

This copy of the script remains the property of CBS Productions, a business unit of CBS Broadcasting Inc. It may not be sold or transferred and it must be returned to CBS Productions, a business unit of CBS Broadcasting Inc., promptly upon demand.

THE WRITING CREDITS MAY NOT BE FINAL AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR PUBLICITY OR ADVERTISING PURPOSES WITHOUT FIRST CHECKING WITH THE TELEVISION LEGAL DEPARTMENT.
THE GOOD WIFE #120

"Unplugged"

Cast List

3/24/10

ALICIA FLORRICK
WILL GARDNER
DIANE LOCKHART
CARY AGOS
KALINDA SHARMA

ZACH FLORRICK

ELI GOLD
DAVID LEE
DETECTIVE ANTHONY BURTON
JUDGE TIMOTHY STANEK
COURTNEY WELLS
JULIUS KREUTZER (FORMERLY "WARREN WEINBERG")
CAROLINE WILDER (FORMERLY "OLIVIA LYONS")
SHAINA WHITMAN (FORMERLY "SHAINA WHITMORE")
JAY VAN ZANDT
MAX WILDER (FORMERLY "MAX LYONS")
DR. HANSON
DR. BENDER
VERNON JORDAN
LISA THE RECEPTIONIST
NURSE
THE GOOD WIFE #120
"Unplugged"
Set List
3/24/10

Interiors

27TH FLOOR
  ALICIA'S OFFICE
  BULLPEN
  CARY'S OFFICE
  CONFERENCE ROOM
28TH FLOOR
  DIANE'S OFFICE
  WILL'S OFFICE
  SECRETARIAL SUBSTATION
  RECEPTION
  CONFERENCE ROOM
  DAVID LEE'S OFFICE
  HALLWAY
  EQUITY PARTNER'S OFFICE
  ANOTHER PARTNER'S OFFICE
  MEN'S ROOM
  OUTSIDE OF WILL'S OFFICE
FAMILY COURT
  HALLWAY
HOSPITAL
  ICU
    CONSULTATION ROOM
BAR NOVO
MAX'S MANSION - HOME STUDIO
ALICIA'S APARTMENT
ELI'S OFFICE
KALINDA'S CAR

Exteriors

FAMILY COURT
BAR NOVO - PARKING LOT
MAX'S MANSION
INT. 28TH FLOOR - RECEPTION - DAY

Two plastic to-go containers flop open. COURTNEY and LISA THE RECEPTIONIST. They eat their salads standing at the reception desk, gossiping, taking bluetooth calls:

LISA THE RECEPTIONIST
He’s coming in today. That’s what I heard—
(blueooth)
Lockhart, Gardner... One second.
(after connecting)
Margie said he’s coming in for a divorce settlement.

COURTNEY
I thought he was dead.
(blueoth)
Agos & Florrick... I’m sorry, she’s on the other line. Okay.

Courtney disconnects, notices an ASSISTANT leaning against the wall under the Stern, Lockhart sign, eating her lunch as if at a bus stop.

COURTNEY (CONT’D)
What’s Chrissy doing...?

LISA THE RECEPTIONIST
(laughs)
Oh, you don’t know, do you? When they put in the sign, they left a hole in the wall. If you stand just right, you can hear everything going on in the conference room.

COURTNEY
Nooo.

Yesss. Lisa laughs, knocks on the glass for the Assistant’s attention, points toward Courtney: Give her a turn. The Assistant nods: all yours. Courtney smiles at Lisa: Should I?

LISA THE RECEPTIONIST
Hey, information is power.

Courtney laughs, goes around the glass and to the exact spot. Leans against the wall casually. Listens.

(CONTINUED)
Just muffled mumbling. Not exactly the right spot. Lisa waves her a foot over. Oh, she moves and hears clear as day.

DIANE (O.S.)
Come on, David, we go back a long ways.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

DAVID LEE
Yes, and you’ve always had such admiration for Family Law.

Sarcasm. DIANE and WILL trade a look: not going well. A meeting with DAVID LEE.

DAVID LEE (CONT’D)
Face it. I do my thing. You do yours. The only difference is mine makes money.

WILL
It’s a bad economy, David, that’s all. We’re righting this ship.

David Lee stands to leave, always pleasant:

DAVID LEE
Then right it. I have no love for this place, but I don’t want to jump to Harper & Greene unless I have to. I don’t like boxes. Dump the dead weight. You’ve got a half dozen equity partners phoning it in.

Will and Diane trade a look. Not a great thought.

DIANE
We’re bringing in a third partner.

DAVID LEE
Oh lovely. Yes, I’ve been hearing about this messiah partner for two months now. Can’t wait.

WILL
You could help us. Collect on overdue accounts.

DAVID LEE
(smiles)
Yes, that’s our problem.

(MORE)
DAVID LEE (CONT'D)
I start making collection calls to my divorcees, they’ll bolt to another firm before I can hang up.

DIANE
Give us until the end of the week?

DAVID LEE
That’s what I like to hear.


WILL
Okay, we cull the herd.

DIANE
Lou, Jocelyn, Derek.

WILL
And Lenny.

DIANE
Accounts Lenny or litigation?

WILL
Litigation. That’s two of yours, two of mine.

DIANE
And the Junior Associates, we need to decide now. Cary or Alicia.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - RECEPTION - DAY
Courtney looks sharply up at that, still eavesdropping.

WILL (O.S.)
Okay. Friday. We decide Friday.

DIANE (O.S.)
Good.

WILL (O.S.)
But keep it to ourselves. I don’t wanna deal with a lot of last minute maneuvering.

Courtney. She steps away from the wall, considers it.

INT. 27TH FLOOR - BULLPEN - DAY
She starts down the stairs, bothered, thinking about it. She goes to her workstation, looks one way. Alicia in her office.
She looks the other way: CARY texting. Which one? She starts toward Alicia’s office...

INT. 27TH FLOOR – ALICIA’S OFFICE – DAY

COURTNEY
Alicia, do you have-- oh, I’m sorry.

ELI GOLD. Sitting on the couch.

ALICIA
Yes, Mr. Gold. On my couch. Again.

COURTNEY
Sorry, Alicia. I was upstairs.
(Alicia nods censoriously)
And David Lee needs to see you in ten minutes.

INT. 27TH FLOOR – BULLPEN – DAY

Courtney returns to her workstation, feeling spanked. Sees Cary approaching.

CARY
Hey. Really good work on my brief.

COURTNEY
Thanks.

CARY
You wanna be a paralegal, right?

COURTNEY
Yes, some day.

CARY
Well, any help you need.

And Cary returns to his office. Courtney thinks about it, crosses to Cary’s office door.

COURTNEY
Cary. Do you have a minute?

CARY
Sure, what?

COURTNEY
I just heard something upstairs.
INT. 27TH FLOOR - ALICIA’S OFFICE - DAY

And we’re back with Alicia and Eli...

ELI GOLD
I’m here because of Peter. He said I should lay all my cards on the table. Tell you everything.

He waits for a response. Alicia doesn’t offer one.

ELI GOLD (CONT’D)
There’s a good chance the State’s Attorney won’t prosecute Peter.

ALICIA
Because of Kozko’s suicide?

Eli stares at her: pointed?

ELI GOLD
Yes, actually. Now if that happens, you and I will need to get on the same page quickly.

ALICIA
And that page is...?

ELI GOLD
The campaign.

Ah. Alicia leans back.

ALICIA
I’m not doing interviews. I’m not doing photos.

ELI GOLD
I know, I respect that--

ALICIA
And my kids won’t either.

ELI GOLD
(not good)
If I could be so bold--

ALICIA
No, you can’t.

(CONTINUED)
ELI GOLD
Right. Got it. Anyway that’s not why
I’m here. Peter has it in his mind
that he won’t run unless you approve.

Alicia smiles. Eli smiles back. He actually likes her.

ELI GOLD (CONT’D)
Yes, I tried to convince him
otherwise. I told him wives get in
the way, but he was adamant.

ALICIA
Mr. Gold, Peter is an adult. He
doesn’t need a mother.

ELI GOLD
Are we talking about you or me?

Alicia laughs, sees David Lee approaching. Gets up...

ALICIA
I have to get back to work.

ELI GOLD
Think about it, Mrs. Florrick. Glenn
Childs has been a disastrous State’s
Attorney. Peter can make a difference.

And Eli watches her exit, go to David Lee.

INT. 27TH FLOOR - BULLPEN - DAY

DAVID LEE
More kettle korn. For you.

David Lee. With a larger barrel.

ALICIA
Thank you.

DAVID LEE
This one is bubble gum flavored. And
cotton candy. See, sectioned off.

ALICIA
I see that. Another divorce case?

DAVID LEE
With pre-nup. Her expectations are
too high. We need to get her down
to $300,000.

(CONTINUED)
And David Lee rushes her upstairs as Courtney follows:

COURTNEY
Alicia, can I get a minute with you?

ALICIA
Regarding...?

COURTNEY
(looks at David Lee)
That’s alright. Later.

And she watches Alicia continue up the stairs. Courtney looks back guiltily toward Cary industriously on the phone.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - DAVID LEE’S OFFICE - DAY

DAVID LEE
Here she is. I told you.

CAROLINE WILDER (40) stands to greet Alicia. At one time a young rocker. Now an older rocker. Pretty. Using all her money to stay current. Still a spark of sympathy and small town roots underneath it all.

DAVID LEE (CONT’D)
Mrs. Caroline Wilder, meet Alicia Florrick.

CAROLINE
Mrs. Florrick. So nice to meet you. I think I’ll be turning to you for some advice on how to bounce back.

Alicia smiles politely. A show horse.

DAVID LEE
But first things first. Alicia and I were just discussing our “ask,” and she worries our eyes might be bigger than our stomachs. Alicia?

David starts out to his assistant, leaving Alicia with Caroline.

ALICIA
The pre-nup makes this very difficult, Caroline.

CAROLINE
I know, I was young and-- in love. I signed everything.

(MORE)
And all his hit records were before we got married.

ALICIA
His--?
(realizes)
Oh, Caroline Wilder of Max Wilder?

CAROLINE
Yes, soon to be ex-Max Wilder.

ALICIA
Oh, I’m sorry, I didn’t know.

CAROLINE
That’s okay. I’m being replaced by a younger model. It happens. I can go to couples therapy, I can get a facelift. But I can’t be 28 again.

Alicia smiles an understanding smile.

ALICIA
You know the best revenge, Caroline?

CAROLINE
I’d love to know.

ALICIA
Make him see how happy you are.

Caroline laughs, nods.

ALICIA (CONT’D)
Let us be angry for you.

And the two hear commotion in the hall. A man being led to the office by David Lee, signing autographs for Lisa the Receptionist. MAX WILDER (50s). Bearded, sunglasses: one-time John Mellencamp rocker, friendly, coasting on his reputation. More a curiosity, than subject of screaming fans.

CAROLINE
Yep, here comes the parade.

Max enters followed by the newest version of Caroline. SHAINA WHITMAN (28). Sexy back-up singer. Trying to seem older, wiser.

CAROLINE (CONT’D)
I thought it was just going to be us, Max.
MAX
Shaina wanted to come.

SHAINA
It’s my right.

Caroline starts to argue, sees Alicia, and plasters on a smile. A wide smile.

CAROLINE
Great. Love it.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - DAVID LEE’S OFFICE - FIVE MINUTES LATER

Max’s lawyer, JULIUS KREUTZER (#108), hands out a document to all the players: Alicia, David Lee, Caroline on one of side of the table from Max, Shaina, Kreutzer:

KREUTZER
So, here’s where we stand. We--

DAVID LEE
Chocolate raisins anyone?

KREUTZER
No... thank you.

MAX
I will.

Max takes one. Shaina copying him, takes one too. Caroline smiles.

KREUTZER
Anyway we considered your counter-- thank you, by the way-- and we’ve decided we’re sticking with our original offer.

DAVID LEE
Ah. Well, that’s unacceptable.

KREUTZER
We don’t think it is.

CAROLINE
After all we’ve been through, Max, you really think $140,000 a year is fair?

MAX
I never thought of you as being greedy, Caroline.
ALICIA
Says the man with the 40 million dollar estate.

They all turn to Alicia. Whoa. David Lee smiles to himself: some fire in her belly.

KREUTZER
Look, we’re not here to argue or bandy numbers about. We have a court date tomorrow, and Max has been more than generous with his offer. We advise you to take it.

But Alicia sees Kalinda outside the office. With folder. Alicia taps David Lee’s arm. He looks up, sees it, nods.

DAVID LEE
Could you give us a minute?

INT. 28TH FLOOR - HALLWAY - DAY

KALINDA shows a folder to David Lee, Alicia.

KALINDA
Max Wilder is on probation for a 2007 possession charge, but he got judicial permission to leave the country this weekend.

DAVID LEE
This weekend, why?

KALINDA
(xeroxes)
Flight reservations to Bora-Bora. Rental of a room to accommodate 80.

ALICIA
(ah)
They’re getting married?

David smiles, his competitive juices churning:

DAVID LEE
If they make tomorrow’s court date. How do you get this stuff?

KALINDA
Friends.
DAVID LEE
(looks between them)
Just give me an army of women...

INT. 28TH FLOOR - DAVID LEE’S OFFICE - DAY

Meanwhile, Max stares across at his smiling wife:

MAX
What’s going on, Caroline?

CAROLINE
What do you mean?

MAX
You.

CAROLINE
What? I’m just enjoying the day.

Max isn’t sure what to think of that as David Lee and Alicia return.

DAVID LEE
Sorry for that. So... we have your offer-- thank you. And we’ll just need a few days to mull it.

KREUTZER
Uh, actually, no. We have a court date tomorrow.

DAVID LEE
Yes, well, why don’t we push that off.

KREUTZER
I don’t think you understand. This offer came with a clock. We need an answer now or we walk.

ALICIA
Then walk. Let them go, David.

DAVID LEE
Alicia. Don’t take out your aggressions on this.

ALICIA
It’s an insult. $140,000 a year.

Kreutzer eyes this, trades a guardedly nervous look with Shaina and Max.
KREUTZER
Look, David, if we get an agreement now, we can go to $180,000, but that exhausts our cushion.

ALICIA
Nope. Sorry. Let’s take the weekend.

Alicia stands, nods to Caroline to stand.

DAVID LEE
Alicia, wait.
(to Kreutzer)
Help me out here. I want this to work.

Kreutzer eyes them. Eyes Alicia. And...

INT. 28TH FLOOR - HALLWAY - DAY

...David Lee happily pops Raisinettes in his mouth, meeting over. Just Alicia and Caroline.

DAVID LEE
$300,000. Nicely played.

ALICIA
Thank you. Caroline, how are you doing?

CAROLINE
I’m fine. Soon as I go home and eat a bag of Mint Milanos.
(a level deeper)
I thought I was completely over him. But watching him walk off with her...

Alicia nods. I know.

INT. 27TH FLOOR - CARY’S OFFICE - NIGHT

Cary meanwhile has a stack of files open beside him, going through them, calling:

CARY
Yeah, sorry, Mr. Danforth. We’re trying to collect on all accounts, and I’d usually have our accounting department do it, but I thought I’d give it the personal touch.

(CONTINUED)
Cary sees Alicia rushing through the bullpen, late. He reaches over with his foot, kicks the door closed.

CARY (CONT’D)
Oh, great, sir. Can you do me a favor. It would help me a lot if you got it to us by Friday.

EXT. FAMILY COURT – DAY

Blossoms on trees. Spring in the air. And a cellphone rings. It’s coming from...

INT. FAMILY COURT – DAY

...court where-- klunk-- a trash pail is placed on the plaintiff’s table by... our good friend, JUDGE TIMOTHY STANEK. Frowning at Kreutzer.

KREUTZER
Sorry, your honor, this is an important call. My client.

JUDGE STANEK
Then let me answer it for you.

Kreutzer looks at the cell, reluctantly hands it over, and, of course-- plop-- Stanek drops it in the trash pail.

JUDGE STANEK (CONT’D)
Anybody else?

David Lee, Alicia, and Caroline quickly shake their heads. Stanek heads toward the bench:

JUDGE STANEK (CONT’D)
Good. Then I understand we’ve reached an agreement...

DAVID LEE
Yes, your honor. Mrs. Wilder has acquiesced to a divorce. We have a signed divorce agreement.

JUDGE STANEK
And Mr. Wilder. Where is he?

Kreutzer looks toward Shaina: where is he?

KREUTZER
Sorry, your honor, my guess is that call was in fact from Mr. Wilder.

(CONTINUED)
JUDGE STANEK
Then it was unfortunate you didn’t
answer it before court, counselor.

David Lee’s cellphone vibrates. He carefully slips it out of
his pocket, glancing at the text.

KREUTZER
If I could ask for a thirty minute
recess, your honor, to ascertain
Mr. Wilder’s whereabouts.

David suddenly jumps to his feet, startling Alicia:

DAVID LEE
We have no problem with that, your
honor.

JUDGE STANEK
Mr. Weinberg, in my courtroom, the
people’s time will be respected.
Even by rock stars. You have five
minutes to locate him.

INT. FAMILY COURT - HALLWAY - DAY

Bang-- David Lee bursts out the door, dialing, shooting looks
over at Kreutzer, running to a payphone. David Lee cackles.

ALICIA
What happened?

DAVID LEE
Max Wilder was just in a motorcycle
accident.

Alicia looks up, Startled...

ALICIA
He-- Is he alright?

DAVID LEE
No, he’s in a coma.
(cackles, loving it)
Can you believe it?

Alicia stares at him oddly.

DAVID LEE (CONT’D)
Kreutzer is going to have a fit!
(into phone)
Yes, Margie, shh, shh.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
Listen, you made notes on the Wilder pre-nup. What’s it say on power of attorney?

David Lee looks down toward the payphones at the end of the hall. Kreutzer on the phone. As Alicia realizes:

ALICIA
She could get half.

DAVID LEE
Yep. If he stays in a coma: a 40 million dollar estate. (into the phone) Margie. You’re killing me.

Alicia and David shoot a look toward Caroline coming out of court behind them.

ALICIA
We need to tell her.

DAVID LEE
No, first we need to make her filthy rich.

ALICIA
I think she’s still in love with him.

DAVID LEE
Damn.

What? David Lee sees Kreutzer starting back toward court--fast.

DAVID LEE (CONT’D)
Margie. Now. (to Alicia) We’re good... we’re good!

And David Lee spins toward court, Kreutzer 40 yards behind him.

INT. FAMILY COURT - DAY

David Lee struts toward Max/Kreutzer’s table, snatches the last page from the Divorce Agreement, just as Kreutzer enters court:

KREUTZER
What did you do?
But Kreutzer sees Judge Stanek entering...

KREUTZER (CONT’D)
Your honor! We already have a divorce agreement--!

DAVID LEE
No, it’s not signed! We don’t have a properly signed--

KREUTZER
Because you took a page!

JUDGE STANEK
Stop it, both of you! Where’s Mr. Wilder?

David Lee slips the now crumpled page to Alicia.

KREUTZER
He was in an accident, your honor. He’s in a coma. But this divorce is done.

Caroline, entering court, looks up, startled at this.

DAVID LEE
Your honor, in our rush to make it to court on time, I’m afraid we may have overlooked the very last page of the divorce agreement--

And David shoots a look toward Alicia: step out.

Alicia nods, stands, and starts out of the court, the crumpled page tucked in her hand. She pushes out the door, and...

INT. FAMILY COURT – HALLWAY – DAY

...pauses, seeing Caroline on her cellphone. Her body language says it all. She’s just been told. She slowly switches off the cellphone, and crumbles onto a bench.

Alicia takes a deep breath, and approaches her as...

OMITTED

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

INT. 28TH FLOOR - EQUITY PARTNER’S OFFICE - DAY

Knock-knock. Cary at the door of an EQUITY PARTNER.

CARY
Hey, John, if you could put in a
good word for me with Will and
Diane. I think they’re deciding on
Junior Associates this week.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - ANOTHER PARTNER’S OFFICE - DAY

Cary in another office. Young woman.

CARY
The thing is: I like Alicia. I
think she’s doing really well given
all her problems at home, you know?

INT. 28TH FLOOR - MEN’S ROOM - DAY

Cary talking to a guy next urinal over:

CARY
It’s not really ageism to ask: how
many more working years does anyone
have left. That’s just good sense.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Alicia meanwhile rushes behind David Lee, on his cell with
Will:

DAVID LEE
You don’t understand, this just
turned into a 40 million dollar
divorce-- No, it’s just me and
Alicia. I need troops.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - WILL’S OFFICE - DAY

Will on his cell, looks up, waves Diane in.

WILL
On their way. And I’ll take
litigation.
(hangs up, to Diane)
Max Wilder was just in a motorcycle
accident; he’s in a coma.

(CONTINUED)
DIANE
You’re kidding.

WILL
No, and our client controls his $40 million estate if he stays in a coma.

Diane stares at him. Quickly pushes compassion aside:

DIANE
What’s our payday?

WILL
No contingency. But Caroline will bring the estate to us.

(Diane whistles)

Here’s the rub: David is looking at the will. Our guess is he wrote our client out. So if he dies...

DIANE
She gets nothing.

WILL
Just the pre-nup.

DIANE
So we’re cheering for him to stay in a coma?

WILL
Effectively.

Diane just shakes her head: can’t believe it.

DIANE
We’re like ghouls.

WILL
Long as we’re solvent ghouls.

Diane starts to leave, turns back.

DIANE
Oh, what do you think of Vernon Jordan?

WILL
What do I think of Vernon Jordan?

(CONTINUED)
DIANE
Yes, as a third partner.

WILL
Oh. I-- Is that a possibility?

DIANE
He’s sniffing around us, looking for an opening into Chicago.

WILL
Well, that would be...

DIANE
A lifesaver?

WILL
We wouldn’t have to make our cuts.

DIANE
I’ll try to set up a meeting.

WILL
Don’t look desperate, okay? Cary!

Cary knocking on the door of another partner, turns, approaches.

WILL (CONT’D)
We need you on the Wilder divorce.
It just suddenly became important.

CARY
Sure-sure. Anything. I’ll head off right now.

And Cary starts off: a bit too eager. Diane and Will trade an accusing look.

WILL
I didn’t say anything.

INT. HOSPITAL ICU - DAY

Max Wilder in bed. Comatose. Surrounded with tubes, monitors. Alicia enters with Caroline. Barely a whisper...

CAROLINE
Oh my god.

(CONTINUED)
JAY VAN ZANDT (35) looks up. Wilder’s manager, goatee, ex-roadie, eyes wet. He stands, goes to Caroline, hugs her. In hospital whispers:

JAY
They said he just swerved into on-coming traffic.

CAROLINE
I always hated that thing. Alicia, this is Jay Van Zandt. Max’s manager. Alicia’s my lawyer.

JAY
(nods to Alicia)
He talked about you, Caroline. Just last week.

CAROLINE
No, he didn’t. Don’t try to make me feel better. Look at him. Just so... [small.]

She sees Max’s hand hanging slightly off the bed. She goes to it. Puts it back on the bed. Tucks it under the blanket. Pats his hand. Glances up to make eye contact with Alicia. Caroline shrugs: what am I going to do? When...

DAVID LEE
3.4 million in Kauai. 5.5 million in the properties in Chicago...

They look toward David Lee talking loudly on his cell in the hall when a NURSE hushes him...

NURSE
Shh, you can’t use your cellphone here.

DAVID LEE
You know that’s a myth, right? And where’s the doctor?

NURSE
Shh. He’s in with Mrs. Wilder.

Mrs. Wilder? David Lee pauses, looks at Alicia and Caroline. What the fuck?
Shaina. She sits teary-eyed in a dark consultation room listening to DR. HANSON pointing to CT scans. Kreutzer looks up to see Caroline, Jay, Alicia, David Lee enter at the back.

DR. HANSON
The helmet protected the frontal and temporal bone. But the base of the helmet snapped back causing severe trauma to the cerebellum. We’ve stopped the bleeding, but... I’m sorry, it’s a subdural hematoma.

SHAINA
Which means?

Caroline looks toward Shaina, jealousy. You’re not his wife.

DR. HANSON
Mrs. Wilder, your husband is... effectively brain dead. I’m sorry.

DAVID LEE
But he’s not dead-dead?

DR. HANSON
He-- Excuse me, who--?

SHAINA
Just ignore them.

CAROLINE
I’m his wife.

SHAINA
You divorced him.

DAVID LEE
She did not.

KREUTZER
Doctor, are you saying Mr. Wilder can never be revived?

Alicia glances over at another doctor at the back of the room. DR. BOYD (65). Older, avuncular, kindly blunt.

DR. HANSON
Effectively yes.

(CONTINUED)
DAVID LEE
Doctor, I look at contracts all day; and when I see the word “effectively” I know it means “no.”

DR. HANSON
(stares at him)
Medicine, sir, is not a contract. This massive loss of brain tissue means there is a one in million likelihood he will revive.

DAVID LEE
But a million-to-one means life.
(sermonizing)
And life needs to be cherished and treasured. What other value do we hold higher--?

Kreutzer starts to argue with him, but Alicia sees Dr. Boyd leave. She considers it, follows.

INT. HOSPITAL ICU - DAY

ALICIA
Doctor, do you have another assessment?

Dr. Boyd turns. Looks at her. Sees she really wants to know.

DR. BOYD
No. I had a patient-- he fell off a ladder in 1988 and ended up in a persistent vegetative state. I made the same speech I just heard in there. Then 21 years later, he just... “woke up.” I don’t know how else to say it. He woke up from a 21 year sleep.

Alicia nods. Likes this guy.

DR. BOYD (CONT’D)
He was a one-in-a-million shot. And, yes, science and medicine deal in repeatable phenomenon, and not this. But I don’t know what to do with this.

And the doctor starts off. Alicia watches him go, then turns to find Caroline behind her having listened to it all.
INT. 28TH FLOOR - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY


CARY
Shaina has filed a petition for legal guardianship, so she can unplug Max.

WILL
She can file all she wants. Wife trumps girlfriend.

DAVID LEE
My guess is Kreutzer argues intent. Both Max Wilder and Caroline initialed all but the last missing page of a divorce settlement. Good job, by the way, Alicia.

Alicia nods her thanks as Cary eyes her jealously.

WILL
When are we in court again?

DAVID LEE
Tomorrow.

ALICIA
Should we be talking about negotiating with Shaina? Caroline could live with half the estate?

CARY
Are you kidding?

Alicia looks toward Cary. Pretty tough.

CARY (CONT’D)
This is a gold-digger who wants to steal from our client. I think we go in whole hog. Protect our client.

WILL
And protect our future relationship with her.

Alicia looks toward Will-- what’s going on here?-- As Kalinda leans toward Alicia, whispers:

(CONTINUED)
We need to talk.

Alicia looks at her, sees it’s serious, nods.

INT. BAR NOVO - NIGHT


KALINDA
You have until Friday.

ALICIA
I have--? No. I have two more weeks.

KALINDA
No, Friday. Diane and Will are deciding between you and Cary on Friday.

ALICIA
Where’d you hear that?

KALINDA
Cary was going door to door with equity partners, lining up support. He heard it from your assistant.

Alicia pauses: a slap to her face. She sips her drink.

KALINDA (CONT’D)
My guess is he’s phoning in accounts, loading up on receivables. How’re you with Will?

Alicia glances up. Another issue.

ALICIA
I don’t know.

KALINDA
What happened?

ALICIA
I don’t know.
KALINDA
(studying her)
You do know. You just don’t want
to say. Did you sleep with him?

Alicia looks toward Kalinda, not offended. Blunt Kalinda.
Indifferent as a doctor.

ALICIA
No.

KALINDA
So is that the problem: you didn’t
sleep with him?

ALICIA
No. We talked. We had... a
moment.

KALINDA
A moment?

Alicia stares at her. Shrugs noncommittally. Kalinda sighs.

KALINDA (CONT’D)
And you shut it down?

ALICIA
He did too.

KALINDA
Okay, you have three problems.
Cary’s a good finisher. He got a
head start. And Will’s gonna work
overtime to appear objective.
Unfairly objective.

ALICIA
(sits back, sighs)
I’m just tired of all this,
Kalinda.

KALINDA
I know. But that’s what people
like Cary count on.

Kalinda sees someone at the bar nodding to her. DETECTIVE
ANTHONY BURTON. Toasting her with a beer. She looks away.

KALINDA (CONT’D)
Talk to Diane. She wants to
mentor. So ask her to mentor.

(CONTINUED)
Alicia nods. The smart play.

KALINDA (CONT'D)
It’s a bad time to be a lawyer out there. No jobs.

ALICIA
I know. Thank you, Kalinda.
Really, thank you.

And Alicia gets up to go. Starts out of the bar. Kalinda turns her attention to Burton who smiles, starts toward her. But, no, Kalinda gets up, goes to him.

BURTON
So how’d that Max Wilder info work out for you?

KALINDA
Well. What’re you doing here, detective?

BURTON
Buying you a drink.

A bartender places two drinks in front of them. Burton raises one. Kalinda looks at the other, takes it, klinks.

BURTON (CONT’D)
I was three hundred miles away, at Baldy Lake, fishing, my day off, and for some reason, just out of the blue... I had this image of you. Don’t ask my why. So I got in my car and I drove back here.

Burton smiles, eyes her. Kalinda eyes him back.

BURTON (CONT’D)
I’m divorced. I have one kid. Owen. He’s six--
(Kalinda looks around)
And I’m boring you?

KALINDA
Yep.

Kalinda starts out of the bar. Burton watches her go, gets up, follows.
EXT. BAR NOVO - PARKING LOT - NIGHT


BURTON
Okay, what am I doing wrong?

Kalinda stares at him.

KALINDA
Is that your car?

BURTON
Yeah.

KALINDA
Get in it.

BURTON
Why?

Kalinda just shoots him a stare, and--

--thirty seconds later-- klunk-- he closes the door of his four-wheel drive, in the driver’s seat, window open. Kalinda outside.

BURTON (CONT’D)
Now what?

Kalinda looks in the backseat. Fishing equipment. She smiles.

KALINDA
Three hundred miles, huh?

BURTON
Seven hours.

Kalinda nods, leans in, kisses him passionately through the window. Beyond passionately. In control. The door between them. Enjoying having the door between them.

BURTON (CONT’D)
Get in.

KALINDA
No.

(CONTINUED)
But Kalinda hears a buzzing. Looks toward the dashboard. A large fly there.

BURTON
What’s wrong?
(it’s not a fly; it’s a bee)
Oh, yeah, some bees found their way into my backpack. It’s just--

But Kalinda violently jumps away from the window. Banging against the car behind her. Swiping at her hair. Appalled. Burton laughs...

BURTON (CONT’D)
What’re you--? What’s this, like Indiana Jones with the snakes?

But Kalinda suddenly winces, feels her neck. Shit, shit.

KALINDA
I got stung.

BURTON
What’s wrong?

Kalinda. We see it on her face. Alarm. Alarm we haven’t seen there before. She takes a second, thinking. And hops into action, racing toward her car. Burton gets out. Something’s up. Something serious.

Kalinda opens her car door, fumbling in a way we’ve never seen. Searching her seat. The backseat. Damn, damn, damn.

BURTON (CONT’D)
Kalinda, you’re freaking me out.

KALINDA
(under her breath)
It’s at the office.

BURTON
What? What is?

Kalinda turns to Burton. Calm:

KALINDA
Tony, in about five minutes I’m going into anaphylactic shock. I need you to take me to the hospital-- Saint Anthony’s is the closest-- and get on the phone with the emergency room;

(MORE)
tell them I misplaced my Epi-Pen shot, and I need an emergency injection of epinephrine.

Burton gets it immediately. Man of action.

INT. KALINDA’S CAR – NIGHT

Skiddddd-- Burton driving expertly, on his cell, calm:

    BURTON
    No, sir, no, sir. I’m ten minutes away.
    (hangs up)
    You okay?

Kalinda strapped into her passenger seat.

    KALINDA
    No.

    BURTON
    Has this happened before?

    KALINDA
    Yes.

    BURTON
    When?

    KALINDA
    When I was thirteen. Watch the road.

    BURTON
    Should I be trying to keep you awake?

Nothing from Kalinda. Burton rolls down both windows.

    BURTON (CONT’D)
    You’re scaring me here.

    KALINDA
    You don’t sound scared.

    BURTON
    I hide it well.

END OF ACT ONE
Three cellphones. In a waste basket. And we know exactly where we are. Judge Stanek’s court. He listens, un-awed to the proceedings, a fly swatter in his hand. The court more crowded today.

KREUTZER
We would respectfully submit, your honor, that in view of the timing of Mr. Wilder’s accident and the suspicious removal of the last signed page of our divorce agreement, clearly Max Wilder’s intention was to be free of his ex-wife--

WILL
Objection!

Will at the other table. With David Lee and Caroline. Cary, Alicia, and four other associates behind them.

KREUTZER
Withdrawn. Free of the respondent. My client is the person Max Wilder had chosen as his partner, and therefore should be awarded legal guardianship.

WILL
Your Honor, this is very simple. We’re not even going to get into Shaina’s motives in wanting to unplug Max--

KREUTZER
Objection!

WILL
Like I said, it’s not pertinent. Neither is the fact that she got him to change his will to leave her everything--

KREUTZER
Objection!

(CONTINUED)
JUDGE STANEK
Gentleman, you see there’s no jury, right? You realize all this bombast is going to waste?

WILL
Apologies, your honor. My client is still married to Max Wilder and in legal terms “wife” trumps “mistress.”

KREUTZER
We would like to introduce a new piece of evidence, your honor.

And Kreutzer nods toward his second chair at the back of the court who opens the door, revealing Shaina carrying an infant.

KREUTZER (CONT’D)
Your Honor, this is Max Wilder, Jr. Two months old.

Alicia spins from the child to Caroline who opens her mouth, stunned.

KREUTZER (CONT’D)
And these are the results of his paternity test. Shaina and Max have kept this child from the public eye for obvious reasons.

Caroline just stares at “Max, Jr.” as Alicia studies her compassionately, while...

JUDGE STANEK
Okay, let me see if I can sum this up. I’ve got the fiancé over here, who also happens to be the mother of Mr. Wilder’s sole offspring--

WILL
Your honor, we would question this paternity--

JUDGE STANEK
And she wants guardianship so she can withdraw Mr. Wilder’s life support, in which case she inherits his fortune.

(MORE)
JUDGE STANEK (CONT’D)
Then over here I have the wife, who wants to maintain Mr. Wilder’s life support, in which case she is free to spend his fortune.

Both Kreutzer and Will overlap: “Your honor, I think that’s an unfair--” “We would argue, your honor--”

JUDGE STANEK (CONT’D)
Yes, everybody’s got Mr. Wilder’s welfare at heart, I’m sure. So here’s what we’re going to do. The court is taking temporary guardianship of Mr. Wilder, and we will hear evidence on his wishes regarding end-of-life decisions. Please prepare briefs and testimony. We will hear on it this afternoon.

And-- gavel-- that’s it. Will turns to Cary...

WILL
Let’s get into Max’s house. Find anything you can: songs, poems, e-mails-- anything that points to him valuing life.

Alicia looks toward Will making eye-contact with Cary. Then finally to her...

WILL (CONT’D)
And Alicia, sit down with Caroline. Dig up any memories you can that would help. And where’s Kalinda?

ALICIA
She was supposed to be here.

WILL
Phone her. Let’s get her over to Max’s house.

ALICIA
(takes out her cell)
Okay, I’ll try her again.
Beautiful grounds. Beautiful wealthy person’s house. And...

INT. MAX’S MANSION - HOME STUDIO - DAY

...Cary and Alicia accompany Jay through the home studio. Very cozy. All sorts of recording equipment:

JAY
If he had a Living Will, I woulda known. He said he wanted to be frozen, and then we could wake him up when the technology was available.

CARY
Good. Stories like that. Doesn’t sound like someone who wants the doctor to pull the plug.

Alicia eyes Cary. A perky Cary. It makes her mood darken.

JAY
Who knows. Like most creative geniuses, his deepest convictions changed hourly.

ALICIA
Is there any chance he could’ve downloaded a Living Will--?

CARY
From some place like Legal Zoom?

JAY
No. It would never have occurred to him outside of a lawyer’s office.

ALICIA
Can I get your cell number? We may need to prep your testimony.

JAY
No problem.

And as Jay hands her his business card, Alicia turns to see a slightly awkward and sullen Kalinda entering.

CARY
Hey, where were you?

(CONTINUED)
KALINDA
Does it matter?

CARY
(whoa, whoa)
Okay. Could you show us Max’s computer?

JAY
Sure. This way.

And as they start out, Kalinda notices Alicia’s sullenness.

KALINDA
You alright?

ALICIA
Yeah. You?

KALINDA
Never better.

Both lying, they continue off, Kalinda nodding toward Cary:

KALINDA (CONT’D)
Why’s he so cheery?

But Alicia is distracted, noticing in an alcove... a daybed. And a chair by itself with a DIGICAM on a tripod pointed at it.

Alicia considers it, approaches, studies the digicam, switches it on. Flips the side-screen open. A warning title appears over the image... “No Memory card.” Hmmm. Kalinda approaches too, pops open the memory card slot in back. Yep, no card.

CARY
You two coming?

ALICIA
What’s this set up for?

JAY
Oh, that’s where Max composed. He liked to sleep, get up with any inspiration, shoot whatever he composed.

Kalinda nods, studies the camera, sees a cable coming off the back. Mac white cable. USB to iPhone. Interesting.
INT. 28TH FLOOR - OUTSIDE OF WILL’S OFFICE - DAY

DIANE
Tomorrow at one.

Will rushes toward his office, Diane passing the other way.

WILL
“Tomorrow”...?

DIANE
Vernon Jordan.

WILL
Oh! He’s coming in?

DIANE
Yes. Definitely interested. Wants to look around.

WILL
We need to close off the empty offices.

DIANE
Already doing it.

WILL
And your flowers. You should get your flowers back.

DIANE
Okay, let’s not turn this into The Inspector General.

Right. Not another word. Will starts toward his office when he sees Alicia waiting outside...

ALICIA
Do you have a minute... Will?

INT. 28TH FLOOR - WILL’S OFFICE - DAY

Alicia and Will. Very uncomfortable. Hard for Alicia:

ALICIA
I’m sorry, this isn’t me. I just--
I heard you’re deciding on Friday.

Will looks up.

(CONTINUED)
WILL
That really wasn’t supposed to be... circulated.

ALICIA
I know. I just-- I’m proud of the work I’ve done here.

WILL
As you should be.

ALICIA
And I wanted to make sure you saw that.

Will takes a second. Studies her.

WILL
Alicia, I don’t know what you’re hearing, but that’s all we’ll be looking at.

Alicia stares at him. Uncertain now.

ALICIA
Okay, good.

WILL
You have my word on it, Alicia. When we decide, nothing else will enter into the picture other than your work.

Alicia nods, but-- god, that’s not sounding good, as...

INT. 28TH FLOOR - HALLWAY - DAY

...a passing Cary, pauses in his step, sees Alicia in with Will. Fuck. Is she using her personal relationship? He looks toward Diane’s office. Goes to it. Knocks.

CARY
Diane. Can I grab a minute?

INT. HOSPITAL ICU - DAY


CAROLINE
The nurses shaved him.

Alicia, still a little flush from her Will meeting, nods.

(CONTINUED)
CAROLINE (CONT’D)
That’s the way he looked when I met him. Oh my god, was he charming. He used to write these songs for me. Just stupid.

Alicia smiles. Sits with her. As Caroline reaches out, combs his hair off his forehead.

CAROLINE (CONT’D)
I’ve only had one love in my life.

Alicia nods, sees Kalinda enter.

KALINDA
Mrs. Wilder, excuse me. Is this his bag-- from the accident?

An old army surplus PACK on a side-table...

CAROLINE
Yes. Why?

KALINDA
I just want to check something.

Kalinda zips it open. Looks through it. Books. A harmonica. Clothing. And-- there-- an iPhone. She clicks it on. As Alicia leans toward her, whispers...

ALICIA
What’re you looking for?

She shrugs, clicks on the iPhone and...

OMITTED

OMITTED

OMITTED

OMITTED

INT. 27TH FLOOR - ALICIA’S OFFICE - DAY

...it shows a bearded Max Wilder, sitting in his home studio, playing an acoustic guitar, singing/composing a song.

MAX (ON THE SCREEN)
Look at the light... how it falls on the floor... in a ribbon of gold... like a blessing...
Alicia and Kalinda crowd around it, watching...

**ALICIA**
This is just before his crash?

**KALINDA**
Yes.

They watch as Max almost falls off the chair. Has to right himself. Startled by an off-screen ringtone: a Bach tune.

**ALICIA**
He’s drunk.

**KALINDA**
No. They did a tox screen for alcohol and drugs after the accident. He was sober.

**ALICIA**
Well, that’s not sober.

**KALINDA**
No, it’s not.

Alicia looks up at Kalinda...

**ALICIA**
Then...?

**KALINDA**
It’s something else.


**KALINDA (CONT’D)**
So you’re talking to her?

**ALICIA**
I am.

**KALINDA**
Play the mentor card.

Alicia smiles, takes a deep, deep breath, and starts out. Kalinda watches her go.
INT. 28TH FLOOR - DIANE’S OFFICE - DAY

Mid-meeting. Just Diane and Alicia. Very serious.

DIANE
One of the reasons we didn’t want it to be public knowledge is because we didn’t want a lot of last minute politicking.

ALICIA
I understand. I just-- Can you... hint to me where I stand?

DIANE
(considers it)
I like you Alicia. I didn’t start by liking you. And of course, you know Will likes you. You’ve more than proved yourself. But...

Alicia finds her heart beating faster. Fuck. “But”?

DIANE (CONT’D)
...we’ve never seen an economic climate like this.

ALICIA
I second chaired on a lot of winners.

DIANE
Yes. Cary has too. He’s had higher billable hours; his receivables are coming in high and immediate.

ALICIA
So... I don’t understand. Have I... lost?

Diane looks at her, compassionately. Oh shit-- the worst thing is to be looked at compassionately.

DIANE
It’s not subjective. It’s who keeps the doors open. Cary doesn’t have a family. He’s in here every night at 9. Every morning at 8.

ALICIA
Then I’ll work harder.

(CONTINUED)
DIANE
And so will Cary.

ALICIA
Then I don’t know what to do. I’ve worked hard. You tell me that’s not enough. So I’ll work harder. You say Cary can work harder still. So what do you want? Tell me what you want. Because I can’t lose this job.

Diane stares at her. Likes her for that. Considers it. Okay, blunt honesty.

DIANE
You’re not Cary. You can never be Cary. But you don’t have to be.

ALICIA
I don’t understand.

DIANE
Your name. Your connections. You’ve been reluctant to... use them.

Alicia stares at her. Oh shit. Getting it.

ALICIA
You want me to use my connections?

DIANE
I want you to want the job.

Alicia stares at her. And...

END OF ACT TWO
ACT THREE

INT. ELI’S OFFICE - DAY

Eli Gold. He smiles warmly. In his large office. Glass looking out at a skyscraper canyon.

ALICIA
I like to work.

Alicia sitting across from him, embarrassed.

ALICIA (CONT’D)
I like to work at Lockhart/Gardner.

ELI GOLD
I hear you’re good at it.

ALICIA
I think I am.

ELI GOLD
What’s wrong, Alicia?

ALICIA
(deathly embarrassed)
Do any of your clients want to change law firms?

ELI GOLD
Do any of my clients--? Do they want to change to your law firm?

ALICIA
Yes.

Eli grabs a well-worn tennis ball, squeezes it, paces.

ELI GOLD
I can ask. Is there some reason I’m asking?

ALICIA
Because we’re a good firm.


ELI GOLD
Okay. Well, I can arrange a few calls. Next week okay?
(off Alicia’s hesitation)
Or not next week. What timeline are we talking about?

(CONTINUED)
ALICIA
Friday.

ELI GOLD
Friday? For a call or...?

ALICIA
This is stupid. I’m sorry, Mr. Gold.

ELI GOLD
No, no. Alicia, stop. What’s going on? Talk to me.

ALICIA
It’s my own thing.

ELI GOLD
No, it’s not your own thing. I know I don’t seem like the warm and understanding type. But this is my warm and understanding face.

ALICIA
I’m in competition with another Junior Associate...

ELI GOLD
And...? You’re worried you’ll be laid off?
   (Alicia nods)
Okay. Look, I can hire this guy away, and then dump him.

ALICIA
No, no--

ELI GOLD
I’ve done it before. Offer him a massive salary, then when he--

ALICIA
No, please. I was wrong to come here. I don’t want to-- I’m not this person.

ELI GOLD
Mrs. Florrick, the one thing I know in life: everybody’s that person. So let me make some calls, okay? Friday?
Alicia stares at him, beaten down.

ELI GOLD (CONT’D)
I’m just making the calls. You get the client, it’s your client. Okay?

Alicia nods, gets up, turns back, shakes Eli’s hand.

ALICIA
Thank you.

ELI GOLD
Hey, we’re like family, right?

Alicia smiles, leaves, as Eli sits back in his chair, throws his tennis ball up in the air, catches it.

ELI GOLD (CONT’D)
Hmmm, interesting.

INT. FAMILY COURT - DAY
Caroline on the stand. Back in Judge Stanek’s court.

CAROLINE
I guess I can’t let go.


CAROLINE (CONT’D)
When Max and I were in rehab together, there was this 12-step quote we used to say. “Don’t quit before the miracle happens.”

Alicia eyes her. Caroline’s eyes tearing up.

CAROLINE (CONT’D)
They say it’s a million to one shot—after a coma like this. But Max’s life—growing up poor, high school drop-out—becoming who he was—that was a million-to-one long shot.

She wipes her eyes. And now...

INT. FAMILY COURT - TEN MINUTES LATER - DAY
...it’s Shaina’s turn...

(CONTINUED)
Max loved life. He loved action. He wanted to sky-dive on his 80th birthday. The reason he worked so hard was he didn't want to end up dying in Vegas like Elvis, you know, some shadow of his former self. So I know for a fact, he would never want this.

And Shaina finds herself moved. No calculation in this.

I'm sorry, but he's gone. Caroline. I know we both love him, but he's... This is torturing him. This is putting yourself ahead of him.

She stares straight at Caroline, and Alicia looks between them.

Detective Burton stands, smiling, with two drinks waiting as Kalinda approaches. An uncomfortable Kalinda. She sees a folder on the bar. Just out of her reach.

Is that the tox report?

Yep.

(sees it's out of reach)
You're not gonna let me see it, are you?

I'm thinking about it.

Kalinda sips her drink. Waits. Okay, Burton slides the file toward her. She opens it, devours it.

I had them re-check for alcohol and drugs.

But that--
When they found nothing, I had them check for other foreign substances. Mr. Wilder ingested ethylene glycol. Anti-freeze.

KALINDA
(looks up)
That's why the drunken appearance?

BURTON
(nods)
We're opening a murder investigation. With your client as prime suspect.

Why?

BURTON
A 40 million dollar motive, for one thing.

Kalinda reads, flips the page.

KALINDA
Where's the rest?

BURTON
Why aren't you answering my calls?

KALINDA
Because I'm in a relationship.

BURTON
I don't believe you.

KALINDA
Believe me.

BURTON
Not with that kiss. Look, I know you have vulnerability issues--

Kalinda laughs. He likes her laugh-- even at his expense.

BURTON (CONT'D)
But I don't want to cuddle with you. I don't want to discuss your little bee problem. I just want to...
But Burton sees a nice tourist couple approaching, sitting next to them. Burton leans in and whispers in Kalinda’s ear. She chuckles.

**BURTON (CONT’D)**
That’s all. Purely recreational. Go to somebody else for emotional validation.

Kalinda smiles. Likes it put that way.

**BURTON (CONT’D)**
Drink your drink. Pay the bill. Then follow me out.

And Burton starts away. Stops. Turns back, grabs his toxicology report. Leaves.

Kalinda smiles, sits there, drinks her drink. The bartender pours her another, unasked. Kalinda looks up. A sexy female bartender with a California smile.

**INT. 28TH FLOOR - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY**

**CAROLINE**
But I wasn’t at Max’s house.

Caroline is being questioned by Alicia, David Lee, and Kalinda.

**KALINDA**
Do you have proof? This was just before you went to court.

**CAROLINE**
I don’t know. I guess I do. I’m trying to think...

**ALICIA**
The police believe they’ve established motive, Caroline, and now they’re trying to establish access by putting you at the house.

**KALINDA**
That’s when they think Max was poisoned-- just before he got on his motorcycle.

**DAVID LEE**
Could Shaina have been there?

(CONTINUED)
CAROLINE
At the house? Well, she had a key so I guess it’s possible. Do you really think they suspect me?

KALINDA
Yes.

DAVID LEE
They want to question you. But we’re delaying it until tomorrow.

Alicia, Kalinda, and David Lee look up, see VERNON JORDAN being escorted toward Diane’s office.

KALINDA
Who’s that?

DAVID LEE
Our savior.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - DIANE’S OFFICE - DAY
Vernon Jordan smiles, shakes Will’s hand...

WILL
Mr. Jordan.

VERNON
Now come on. Vernon.

Will smiles, likes him.

DIANE
So, Vernon, you’ve been looking us over I hear.

VERNON
That’s right. I love Chicago. I drove a bus here in ’57 and ’58.

DIANE
(laughs)
Really?

WILL
Best buses in the world.

Diane laughs, but shoots Will a look: that makes no sense.

VERNON
My first big city experience.

(CONTINUED)
DIANE
Well, I don’t think we’re speaking out of turn to say we’re happy to be looked over. We’re hoping you can open some doors for us to Washington.

VERNON
Well, it’s the new economy. We all have to diversify.

WILL
We sure do. So after your tire-kicking, what do you think?

VERNON
Your firm lacks definition. Focus. It feels like cases are chosen on a whim.

Will and Diane trade a smile...

WILL
Well, I think you’ve just nailed our vulnerability. More passion sometimes than sense.

DIANE
Will and I know we need a referee so we’d be willing to offer a three-way split.

Vernon pauses. Stares at them.

VERNON
I’m sorry, I thought-- I’m wanting to buy you out.

Will and Diane trade another look.

VERNON (CONT’D)
That’s not what you want?

The room. Silence rules. Diane and Will frozen in place.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - DIANE’S OFFICE - TEN MINUTES LATER - DAY

Will loosens his tie, falls back in a seat. Diane rubs her forehead. Just the two of them.

WILL
Well, that didn’t go well.
DIANE
Who would’ve thought our firm means more without us than with us?

WILL
Really undercuts one’s confidence.
(after a second)
Okay. Time to cull the herd.

INT. ALICIA’S APARTMENT – NIGHT

Numbers. Large numbers fill the screen. 835. 1,987. 35.00. They’re on bills. Phone bills. Cable bills. Energy. All being sorted through by...

...Alicia at the dining room table. Writing checks. One check after another. She stops, looks at the stack of bills, and her eyes tear up. She wipes the wetness away. When...

ZACH
I’m sorry, mom.

Zach coming into the dining room.

ALICIA
No, why? What’s wrong?

ZACH
I found out about Becca— saying...
things about you. I’m sorry. We broke up.

Alicia wipes her eyes. Reaches out a hand. Zach goes to her. Lets her hug him.

ZACH (CONT’D)
Please don’t be sad.

ALICIA
No, it’s not— It’s not about you.

ZACH
Dad will be fine.

ALICIA
I know. It’s not us.

Zach looks at the bills. Can’t decipher what any of it means.

ZACH
Are we going to be alright?

(CONTINUED)
Alicia nods, hugs him one more time.
ALICIA
I love you.

ZACH
You’re a good mom.

And Zach goes out of the room. Alicia watches him go. Exhales deeply. Turns back to her bills.

END OF ACT THREE

BURTON
And you weren’t here?

Detective Burton and another cop question Caroline, as Alicia sits beside her. Kalinda and Jay look on.

CAROLINE
No.

BURTON
You never went to his house?

CAROLINE
That day? No.

BURTON
And who had keys to his house?

CAROLINE
Well, I’m not completely sure. Jay?

JAY
As far as I remember: Max, Shaina, and the housekeeper.

BURTON
And Mrs. Wilder too?

JAY
Well, yes.

But Kalinda looks from Burton to Jay. Considers it.

BURTON
And the last time you saw Max?

JAY
Me? The night before. And he seemed in a good mood. Looking forward to his wedding.

Burton nods, scribbles in his notepad as Kalinda leans toward Alicia, whispers:

(CONTINUED)
KALINDA
Let me see his business card.

ALICIA
Whose?

Kalinda points toward Jay. Oh, Alicia reaches into her pocket, finds it, slips it to Kalinda:

ALICIA (CONT’D)
Why?

Kalinda takes out her cellphone, dials the number in as Alicia stares at her. What are you doing? And...

...Jay’s cellphone rings-- the Bach tune.

Both Kalinda and Alicia look up sharply. The Bach tune they heard off-screen on Max’s recording. Burton looks up from his notepad too-- recognizing the tune as Jay pulls out his cell, answers it:

JAY
Hello.

Kalinda smiles at Burton, answers:

KALINDA
Hello.

INT. 27TH FLOOR - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

David Lee and Kreutzer finish negotiations. Alicia and Cary offering assistance...

DAVID LEE
So we’re set?

KREUTZER
My client receives one million a year for life.

DAVID LEE
My client receives the rest of the estate and full guardianship--

KREUTZER
Of a comatose patient.

DAVID LEE
It’s what she wants.
The two lawyers stand, shake hands.

**DAVID LEE (CONT’D)**

So you’re the reason Jay did it?

**KREUTZER**

Well, I’m not the reason. But Shaina and Max were planning to change the will after they got married: Shaina wanted to remove Jay.

**KREUTZER (CONT’D)**

Ah, money. Dependable money.

**DAVID LEE**

Pleasure doing business with you.

**KREUTZER**

And you.

And the two start out, leaving Alicia and Cary to clean up documents. An awkward silence. Courtney enters:

**COURTNEY**

Alicia, Cary. Will and Diane want to see you.

**CARY**

Thank you, Courtney. Be right up.

She nods, pauses, realizes she’s not getting the same acknowledgement from Alicia. She leaves again, regrettfully.

**CARY (CONT’D)**

Weird, huh?

**ALICIA**

Like a date with the executioner.

**CARY**

I liked working with you.

**ALICIA**

You too. You’re a good lawyer.

**INT. 27TH FLOOR - BULLPEN - NIGHT**

They exit the conference room, start up the stairs.
CARY
Do you know what you’ll do if it goes... against you?

ALICIA
No. You?

CARY
No idea.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - HALLWAY - NIGHT

They continue on toward the partner’s offices.

CARY
I hear it’s always the first one called in. They’re the one who gets fired.

ALICIA
I really didn’t want to know that.

CARY
Sorry.

And they turn the corner toward the office, seeing Will and Diane in Diane’s office meeting with a suited man. Alicia pauses, eyes him. The man turns.

Eli Gold.

Alicia’s eyes widen as an oblivious Cary takes a chair, waits. Eli shakes Will and Diane’s hand, exits. Sees Alicia. Smiles.

ELI GOLD
My clients kept asking if I was so high on your firm why I wasn’t bringing my business here. So I didn’t want to appear hypocritical.

ALICIA
Mr. Gold.

ELI GOLD
Eli.

ALICIA
Eli, you-- Thank you.
ELI GOLD
Hey, I hear it’s a good firm. And we will have to talk.

ALICIA
About?

ELI GOLD
Your husband’s campaign.

Oh. Alicia stares at him. Gets it. Nothing’s free. Eli starts off, as Alicia turns to see Cary watching.

WILL
Alicia, could you come in please?

It’s Will, leaning out Diane’s door. Alicia nods, as Cary looks over at her. He nods, comforting: you’ll be fine.

INT. 28TH FLOOR – DIANE’S OFFICE – NIGHT

Alicia enters. Will closes the door. Nods toward a chair:

WILL
Go ahead.

Alicia sits. Diane looks up from a report, takes off her glasses.

DIANE
We don’t mean to draw this out any longer than we have to. Good job, Alicia.

Alicia looks from a smiling Diane to a smiling Will.

WILL
Very good job. Thanks for going all out this year. It’s been... quite a ride.

DIANE
And we’re not out of the woods yet. We have a lot of trimming to do, so we’re all going to have to work harder.

WILL
Do more with less.

Alicia is more relieved than overjoyed:
ALICIA
I’m ready.

DIANE
We know you are. And thanks for listening the other day. You heard us. That’s all we needed to know.

ALICIA
No, thank you.

And Alicia gets up, turns to go, stops, pauses. Her smile disappearing. What about Cary? But, no, she leaves, finding...

INT. 28TH FLOOR - SECRETARIAL SUBSTATION - NIGHT

...Cary looking up at her. Checking on her.

CARY
Are you okay?

Alicia studies his face, all joy out of her now. Appalled.

ALICIA
Yes.

CARY
Don’t worry, everything will be fine.

WILL
Cary, do you have a minute?

Will leaning out the door for him now.

CARY
Yes.

And Cary shoots one more comforting smile to Alicia, then enters the office. Alicia stands there, staring in, seeing the same moves by Will, nodding toward a chair, Cary sitting, the same casual look up from Diane. And...

...Alicia finds her breath coming with more difficulty, as...

INT. 28TH FLOOR - DIANE’S OFFICE - NIGHT

WILL
I’m sorry.

Cary just stares at them, face composed.

(CONTINUED)
DIANE
You were great, Cary. And if we weren’t in this situation, this financial situation, we would want you both.

CARY
I understand.

And Cary does. It’s actually heartbreaking how well he’s taking it. Grace under pressure.

WILL
We can make a few calls for you if you want. And we’ll give you unqualified references.

CARY
Thank you.

DIANE
Do you have any questions?

CARY
No. I get it.

INT. 28TH FLOOR – SECRETARIAL SUBSTATION – NIGHT

Alicia. She watches Cary. Watches him stand. Watches him start toward the door. Watches him exit, and sees him stare right at her. Dead burning eyes.

Then he passes by her, and Alicia watches him go.

END OF SHOW