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thegoodwife

Episode #106

"Unorthodox"

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THE GOOD WIFE #106
"Unorthodox"
Cast List
10/29/09

ALICIA FLORRICK
WILL GARDNER
DIANE LOCKHART
CARY AGOS
KALINDA SHARMA

* ZACH FLORRICK
* JACKIE FLORRICK

RYAN ALPRIN (formerly "Ryan Alpert")
ANNA LOEB
ISAAC LOEB (formerly "Jacob Loeb")
AARON ABBOTT (formerly "Eric Abbott")
JUDGE HORACE DUNN (formerly "Judge Bernard Dunn")
DAWN DECATO (formerly "Donna Decato")
HANK
DWIGHT KNOX (formerly "Danny Knox")
EZRA
BREE
* BEN TORTELLA
JURY FOREWOMAN (formerly "Jury Foreman")
* KATARINA (V.O. only)

Omitted

MICHAEL GREEN
PLAINTIFF'S LAWYER (O.S. only)
LORI

THE GOOD WIFE #106
"Unorthodox"
Set List
10/29/09

Interiors:

27TH FLOOR
ALICIA'S OFFICE
BULLPEN
SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM
28TH FLOOR
HALLS
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
WILL'S OFFICE
DIANE'S OFFICE
RESTROOM HALL
LADIES ROOM
CIVIL COURT
HALLWAYS
RYAN'S LAW OFFICE
MEGALITH SECURITY
LOEBS' HOUSE
KITCHEN
VARIOUS ROOMS
DELI
* ALICIA'S APARTMENT
* ZACH'S BEDROOM
* DINING ROOM
* KITCHEN

Exteriors:

WYNTON RIDGE - DEVON AVENUE
ROSCOE VILLAGE - CORNER MALL
CIVIL COURT

TEASER

A1 **INT. 28TH FLOOR - DIANE'S OFFICE - DAY**

A1

Diane and Will in the conference room. Arguing. No sound.
Seen through glass.

BREE
It's nothing.

CARY
What do you mean "it's nothing"--
look at them.

Watching are Cary, Alicia, two other associates, and BREE,
waiting for a meeting with Diane, trial transcripts open in
their laps.

BREE
I *am* looking at them. It's a
financial meeting. That's how they
look in financial meetings.

Alicia eyes the partners scratching off something in binders.

CARY
No, *that's* how they look when they're
cutting jobs. Come on, law firms
aren't recession-proof the way they
used to be.

BREE
Would you stop scaring yourself?
They said billable hours are up
this year. They said we're fine.

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

1

And we're inside the room now with Will and Diane...

DIANE
And tax litigation? We have six
full-time.

WILL
Cut four. Hold on to two.

DIANE
Which four? Bayer?

WILL
(reluctant)
Bayer's wife's pregnant.

(CONTINUED)

1

DIANE
(but...)
He doesn't have seniority.

WILL
(grimaces)
See if he'll do part-time.

Diane nods, looks out, sees Cary, Lori, and Alicia peering in. They quickly look away. Diane considers it.

DIANE
And the Junior Associates?

Will looks up, follows her gaze.

WILL
Put a pin in that.

DIANE
We don't have a lot of pins left.

WILL
Diane.

Right. She nods: okay. His cellphone rings. He looks toward the caller I.D.

WILL (CONT'D)
Well, better late than never.

DIANE
Stern?

WILL
(nods)
The great man decides to make an appearance...
(answers)
Jonas? How are you? We have some names to run by you for layoffs.
(hard to hear)
Where are you? It sounds loud.

2

INT. 28TH FLOOR - DIANE'S OFFICE - DAY

2

The conference room door opens, and Bree, Alicia, and Cary look up, see Diane and Will exiting, neither partner smiling.

WILL
Hey, Alicia, do you have a second?

(CONTINUED)

Uh-oh. Cary and Bree look toward her.

ALICIA

Sure.

3 **INT. 28TH FLOOR - WILL'S OFFICE - DAY** 3

Will and Alicia in his office. Alicia glances out the door, sees Cary shooting a look in at her. Is she getting fired?

WILL

How are you doing?

ALICIA

Good.

WILL

(smiles)

It's nothing like law school, is it?

ALICIA

(smiles nervously)

It's better. I always felt unsure in law school.

WILL

Really? You could've fooled me.

ALICIA

I did fool you.

Smiles. Alicia bracing herself: let's get to it.

WILL

So I have a favor to ask. Actually, Mr. Stern has a favor to ask-- you've never met Mr. Stern?

ALICIA

(relieved)

No, he's been away.

WILL

(a sore point)

Right. Bali and the Barrier Reef. Anyway, he has a daughter-- Anna-- from his first marriage. She's being sued-- I don't know the details-- I'm sure they're ugly. Last time we got her out of a drug possession.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3

WILL (CONT'D)

Before that it was a car driven through a department store window. Anyway-- You don't need to take notes on this.

Okay. Alicia stops.

WILL (CONT'D)

Her new husband hired a lawyer from some no-name firm, and Mr. Stern wants someone from our firm to co-counsel with him.

ALICIA

With this other lawyer?

WILL

Yes, make sure he doesn't screw up. Second chair him. She's meeting with this lawyer in an hour. So take Kalinda and get the lay of the land, okay?

Alicia nods, starts toward the door when Will stops her...

WILL (CONT'D)

Alicia. We're going through a lot of changes here, and... there are only three votes that really matter: mine, Diane, and Mr. Stern's. This is a good way to impress Mr. Stern.

Alicia stares at him. A lot of meaning there.

ALICIA

Thanks.

And she leaves, considering that, as Will watches her go.

A4

INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - ZACH'S BEDROOM - DAY

A4 *

ZACH

Close the door.

*

*

Zach and school buddy, BEN TORTELLA (14), excitable, a troublemaker's streak, but more Computer Club than jock. A blase Ben closes the doors, turns back to see--

*

*

*

BEN

Whoa, you're not kidding.

*

*

The photos from episode 101. Zach has them on the bed. Flipping through them...

*

*

(CONTINUED)

ZACH
They were just on our doorstep.
Someone rang the bell and ran.

BEN
Why?

ZACH
I don't know. I think to scare my
mom.

BEN
Is that... what, crack?

ZACH
Yeah, but it's photoshopped. My
dad isn't even in the picture.

BEN
Why do all the cool things happen
to you? Is that the hooker from
the sex tape: the toe-sucker?

ZACH
No. Somebody else. I thought if I
could find her, I could find who
took the pictures, and who did
this.

BEN
Here.

Ben nudges Zach aside at the computer, sits at the keys:

BEN (CONT'D)
What's the password for the
parental controls?

ZACH
I don't have parental controls.
(Ben looks at him)
My mom trusts me.

BEN
(laughs)
You're kidding. That is so great.
You can get away with so much.

Ben starts to type in the search engine prompt "Chicago
prosti..." No. Deletes that. Instead types in "Chicago
escort."

(CONTINUED)

ZACH
What are you doing?

BEN
39,000 matches. Um...

He thinks for a second, types in two additional words: "woman"
then "modeling," hits return. "13,000 matches."

BEN (CONT'D)
That's a start.

He hits a link and clicks through various "Are you 18?" screens:

BEN (CONT'D)
Aren't you glad you have a friend
like me to help you with tough
chores like this?

ZACH
(smiles)
Here, let me--

BEN
(fighting him off)
--No, no, no!

The screen fills with women. Zach stares at them-- sexy,
enticing. He sits beside Ben who props one of the episode 101
call girl photos next to the screen, clicks from woman to woman:

BEN (CONT'D)
No... no... no... hot but no--

ZACH
This is gonna take forever.

BEN
(dry)
Yeah... damn. Maybe you should go
do your algebra homework.

Zach frowns at him, then looks back at the screen. A photo
of a stunning woman staring out at him, licking her lips.

4 **EXT. WYNTON RIDGE - DEVON AVENUE - DAY**

Wynton Ridge. Jewish Orthodox neighborhood. Men in prayer
shawls, beards. Elegant Orthodox women pushing baby
carriages. Store signs: Hebrew mixed with English. (No
shtetl clichés here. Very suburban.

(CONTINUED)

Only a handful of accents.) Alicia and Kalinda look around
oddly. See an Orthodox man passing.

KALINDA
Stern's daughter lives *here*?

ALICIA
Maybe we have the wrong address?

4

KALINDA

Or maybe there's a methadone clinic
near here--

ANNA

Excuse me? Are you looking for me?

They turn to find a confident and sunny Orthodox housewife,
returning to her house with groceries. ANNA LOEB, (27),
elegantly though conservatively dressed, worldly.

ALICIA

No, we're actually... Are you...?

ANNA

Anna. Jonas Stern's daughter.

It takes them a second, actually more than a second to absorb
this. Alicia and Kalinda stare at the Orthodox woman.

ALICIA

I'm sorry, I...

ANNA

(chuckles)

Don't worry, I get that a lot from
dad's friends. This is me now. Hi.

KALINDA

...Hi.

5

INT. LOEB'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

5

Alicia and Kalinda watch Anna open cans with an electric can
opener, set them on the counter. The house seems to be about
music. Jazz. A synthesizer in the corner.

ANNA

I was in rehab out in Westchester,
and there was this volunteer there.
A yeshiva student.

KALINDA

Those hot-blooded yeshivas.

Alicia shoots a look toward Kalinda, but Anna laughs.

ANNA

Yes, I surprised myself.

(CONTINUED)

5

ANNA (CONT'D)

Isaac was talking about passion and music and-- the Torah, and I just-- I fell in love. That's the problem with love: you can't just make it do what you want.

Alicia smiles, liking her, as Anna nods toward the canning:

ANNA (CONT'D)

Sorry, I can't do this during the Sabbath. It's work.

Ah, Alicia and Kalinda nod.

A6

INT. LOEBS' HOUSE - VARIOUS ROOMS - DAY

A6

KALINDA

So what happened?

Anna sets timers on all the lights, Alicia and Kalinda following her through the house...

ANNA

Well, a lady tripped in front of our house, and she's suing us. We have homeowner's insurance, but it only covers the \$20,000 in compensatory damages, not the punitive.

ALICIA

How much is the punitive?

ANNA

1.2 million.

Alicia and Kalinda trade a look, startled:

ALICIA

She's suing you for 1.2 million dollars?

ANNA

Yes. It'll take everything. Our house. Our... savings. Just when you think you find your place in life, here comes this.

Alicia nods: understands completely. Kalinda shoots a look toward her. Bonding again-- at the drop of a hat.

(CONTINUED)

A6

KALINDA
And your dad, can he help?

ISAAC
We won't take it. We're not in
touch with him.

ISAAC LOEB (29) enters the room. A bearded Orthodox man.
Committed, but not unkind. There's a softness to his face.
An artist's face.

6

EXT. WYNTON RIDGE - DEVON AVENUE - DAY

6

Alicia and Kalinda wait on the doorstep looking in at Isaac
and Anna talking, discussing. Mostly Isaac talking.

ALICIA
Wow.

KALINDA
Yeah. A year ago she was club-
hopping with Tara Reid. You know
what she'll be doing in another
year? Club-hopping with Tara Reid.

Alicia smiles at Kalinda's cynicism:

ALICIA
Have you ever been surprised by
anyone?

KALINDA
Nope.

ALICIA
Even me?

KALINDA
Especially by you.

Alicia laughs as Isaac approaches. Closes the door.

ISAAC
Sorry, I know Anna probably told
you: we've already hired a lawyer.
He did work for my brother on a
foreclosure, and he's very good.
But thank you.

ALICIA
Isaac, could you just tell us what
happened?

(CONTINUED)

ISAAC
Are you Jewish?

ALICIA
Am I-- Is that important?

ISAAC
To understand what happened, yes.

KALINDA
It's important to be Jewish to
understand a slip-and-fall?

ISAAC
Yes, I'm sorry you came all this way,
Mrs...?

ALICIA
Florrick.

Isaac pauses, startled: "Florrick?"

ISAAC
You're...?

Alicia exhales, nods. Here we go again. But Isaac takes a
second, thrilled.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Your husband was a great man, Mrs.
Florrick. A very great man.

Alicia pauses, surprised as Kalinda shoots her a smile.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
The hate crimes on 58th, he put the
skinheads away for life. He took us
seriously. How's he doing?

ALICIA
He's... in prison.

ISAAC
Yes, I'm sorry. A righteous man
quickly finds the world aligned
against him.

Kalinda clears her throat: yep, "righteous."

ALICIA

Thank you, Isaac. Actually, can you just show us what happened, since we came all this way?

Isaac considers it, considers her. The mood completely changed now. And...

7 **EXT. WYNTON RIDGE - DEVON AVENUE - TEN MINUTES LATER - DAY** 7

...click-- a photo of a wire fifteen feet overhead. Thinner than a telephone wire, it seems to serve no purpose. Click-- another shot of the same wire connected to a thin pole. Click-- the wire runs from pole to pole down the street.

ISAAC

It's an eruv wire.

Kalinda takes pictures as Alicia walks with Isaac and Anna:

ALICIA

A what?

ISAAC

You know the Sabbath is a holy day of rest?

(Alicia nods)

An exception is made for minor work, like carrying a baby or groceries, in a community's courtyard.

ANNA

But there are no courtyards these days so the eruv wire--

(points to the wire)

--creates a symbolic courtyard. For the whole neighborhood.

ALICIA

So... this "eruv" wire fell?

ISAAC

Yes, from there.

The corner of the Loeb house where the eruv wire attached.

ALICIA

And it's not the responsibility of the community?

ISAAC

No. It's on our property.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

Someone tripped over it, and now she's suing you for 1.2 million. I feel like I'm missing something.

RYAN

"Willful and wanton conduct."

Alicia turns, sees a man leaning against the stoop. RYAN ALPRIN (33). Not orthodox. Handsome but quirky, wildly unpredictable, wildly un-lawyer-like, and wildly... well... wild.

ISAAC

Mr. Alprin, there you are. This is the other lawyer Anna mentioned.

ALICIA

We were just discussing the suit. We think our firm could offer you some... assistance.

RYAN

Odd, I didn't know I needed some... assistance.

Ryan turns to Isaac. A second. Alicia looks between them.

ALICIA

Mr. and Mrs. Loeb, why don't you give us a moment to talk.

ISAAC

Yes, please. Ryan, if you could make this work, we would prefer that. And, Mrs. Florrick, next time you see your husband, please tell him how much he is appreciated.

Ryan turns to Alicia at the name, studies her. Of course, that Florrick. Isaac and Anna start back toward the house as Alicia and Ryan wait. All smiles. Then... the client's gone.

RYAN

So, I do the depositions, the pre-trial motions, prep for next week's trial, and here comes the 600 pound gorilla.

ALICIA

Yep, that's me, 600 pounds. Stocking feet.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN
Have you read the brief?

ALICIA
Nope.

RYAN
Talked to the plaintiff?

ALICIA
Nope. Came on this...
(checks her watch)
...two hours ago. Our firm is doing
this as a favor to Mrs. Loeb. Why
willful and wanton conduct?

But Ryan starts off. Alicia shoots Kalinda an "I'll handle
this" look, follows...

ALICIA (CONT'D)
Look, I was put on this case. It's
not my choice. And I really don't
care if it's your choice. So call
it 600 pound gorilla or whatever
you want, but I'm now your second
chair.

Ryan looks over at her. Shrugs.

RYAN
They saw the eruv wire was down;
they knew it could trip somebody
up; and they didn't try to repair
it. That's why it's willful and
wanton conduct, and subject to high
punitive damages.

ALICIA
They admitted that?

RYAN
In their depositions.

ALICIA
And-- Why did they admit that?

Ryan stops by his motorcycle, puts on his helmet.

RYAN
The wire fell on the Sabbath. They
couldn't do anything.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
(ohhh, getting it)
Wow.

RYAN
It's a perfect legal trap. It
fulfills the demands of civil
liability because their religion
wouldn't let them act.

ALICIA
And your defense?

RYAN
My defense is to suggest you go tell
your boss you're meeting regularly
with me, and I'm doing a great job.
And let me win this case.

Ryan revs his engine, and Alicia yells over it:

ALICIA
It's not going to happen, Mr.
Alprin. We're in this together.

But Ryan races off, and Alicia watches him go.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

8 **OMITTED** 8

A9 **INT. 27TH FLOOR - SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY** A9

A woman in a deposition. DAWN DECATO (28). The trip-and-fall victim. Pretty, sweet, athletic. Answering honestly:

DAWN

I would've reached out, but-- I had my groceries in my arms-- and I-- I hit my head on the curb. Here.

The right side of her head. The depo video plays on a conference room monitor, watched by Alicia. A worried Alicia. This woman seems genuine. She hears an off-screen Ryan, questioning. A little harsh:

RYAN (O.S.)

And this grocery store was a half-mile from your home, Miss. Decato. Why did you pass up five closer grocery stores to go to this one?

DAWN

My daughter needs gluten-free food. The kosher grocery store has more options.

KALINDA

Good answer.

Kalinda entering behind her. Alicia nods:

ALICIA

Great answer. Anything to undercut her injury testimony?

KALINDA

Still checking. Far as I can tell nobody witnessed her fall, but I'm checking with first responders. Any word from your... co-counsel?

ALICIA

Nope. Our friend Mr. Alprin doesn't seem to pick up his phones. I'm heading there now.

They eye Dawn. In tears now. Describing her injuries.

(CONTINUED)

KALINDA
This one's a tough one.

ALICIA
Yep, jury's gonna love her.

KALINDA
And you're dealing with... sympathy
issues.

ALICIA
Is that a euphemism for something?

KALINDA
(matter of fact)
Anti-Semitism.

Alicia considers it.

ALICIA
We can handle that in voir dire.

KALINDA
Yeah, not sure what those questions
look like. "Do you dislike Jews?"

ALICIA
Well, you're a bundle of fun today.

KALINDA
(smiles)
Least you have a co-counsel you trust.

Alicia laughs, hears a slam outside. A male employee
slamming his chair down. They both look.

KALINDA (CONT'D)
Lay-offs. They're "slimming down"
tax litigation.

Alicia watches the employee sit at his desk, look down.
Destroyed. As...

B9 INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - ZACH'S BEDROOM - DAY

...another screen of pretty half-clad call girls appear on
Zach's screen. Zach, alone now, scrolls down them, studying
the women. Brunette. Blondes. All sexy. All smiling
innocently. Luridly. Happily. Zach clicks to another page
when...

(CONTINUED)

..."dink"-- a computer box opens in the bottom corner. An Instant Message. Zach reads it: *

"Ben: Still surfing for yr girl?" *

Zach types back: "yep... no luck." *

"Dink"-- another IM comes back from Ben: "Check out Katarina at Siren Escorts." *

Zach perks up, quickly types in the search engine prompt: "Siren..." *

And after clicking on the link, and past a "Are you 18? Screen (without even thinking about it), he comes to... *

..."Siren Escorts." A middle-brow porn and escort site. Trying to suggest Gold Card classiness. Zach scrolls down the row of girls. Finds one in the bottom corner. A girl in lingerie. Trying to look coyly innocent. *

"Katarina." *

He grabs one of the episode 101 photos. The best view of the girl. He puts it next to the computer screen and double-clicks on Katarina. The photo blows up, fills the screen. *

It's her. An exact match. Excited, he double-clicks on her name. A screen of information... *

..."If you would like to live chat with Katarina, phone..." *

Zach sits back, considers it. Looks toward his desk phone. Back toward the number. Okay. He turns to the closed door. Grabs a chair, slides it up against it, blocking it. *

He picks up the phone. Dials. Everything but the last number. Pauses over it. Clicks it. Swallows. Listens. A playful innocent voice. Recorded. *

KATARINA (O.S.)
Hi, I'm Katarina. And I am so
excited to chat with you. You must
be 18 or older to chat and please
have your credit card ready-- *

Oh, Zach hangs up. Takes a moment. *

9 **EXT. ROSCOE VILLAGE - CORNER MALL - DAY**

Ryan's motorcycle. Alicia eyes it as she passes, goes to the door of... "Alprin and Associates." A store front.

(CONTINUED)

Next to a laundry. Glass windows. She tries the door.
Locked. She hits a buzzer, waits. Sees a lady nearby. A
PROSTITUTE. She stares at Alicia. Alicia stares back.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN
And as if life wasn't full enough.

Ryan opening his door.

ALICIA
Hello, Mr. Alprin, we--

But Ryan turns inside, lets the door swing closed, but Alicia catches it, enters.

10 **INT. RYAN'S LAW OFFICE - DAY** 10

She looks around. One room. Desk. Computer. Chairs. It's not sad or squalid, just bare bones. She approaches Ryan talking with ANOTHER PROSTITUTE.

RYAN
I asked for a continuance until Monday morning because vice cops like to sleep in, so don't fail to show up in court, okay? If you don't show up, you'll have to take a plea.

She nods, gets up, starts out as Ryan looks up, sees Alicia approaching. His phone rings. Answering:

RYAN (CONT'D)
Alprin and Associates.

Alicia sits at his desk. Opens her binder, pulls out transcripts.

RYAN (CONT'D)
I thought you were taking away his keys, Mrs. Frazzi... Okay, arraignment won't be until three. I'll meet you there.

Ryan hangs up, jots down a note, ignoring Alicia...

ALICIA
Okay, tell me when we can talk. I'll just sit here.

Ryan stops, looks up at her...

RYAN
So, Mrs. Florrick... Mrs. Peter Florrick. Right here in my office.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

Yep.

RYAN

Dressing up as a peasant and walking among the serfs.

ALICIA

That's me.
(looks around)
So this is what idealism looks like.

RYAN

I liked your husband. He was better than this current State's Attorney. Easier on DUIs and drug cases.

Alicia smiles.

ALICIA

So here's your problem. You've got a client who admitted to liability, and a sympathetic plaintiff.

RYAN

You saw the depositions?

ALICIA

Got them from the plaintiff's attorney. You wouldn't answer your phone. The only play I see is you attack the medical evidence, try to reduce the punitive amount.

Ryan smiles, leans back in his chair.

RYAN

What do you think of the First Amendment?

ALICIA

I like it.

RYAN

Isaac and Anna's religion requires they *not* act on the fallen eruv wire because it's the Sabbath. Therefore they can't be held liable for not acting.

(CONTINUED)

Alicia takes a second:

ALICIA

You want to use the First Amendment
to attack a slip-and-fall?

RYAN

They believed God would judge them
if they acted, so they couldn't act.

Alicia takes another second. Doesn't dislike it.

ALICIA

And *OSHA vs. Smith*?

RYAN

OSHA vs. Smith can kiss my ass.
Liability is outweighed by the
Loebs' right to exercise their
religion.

ALICIA

Up to what point? If they saw
someone dying outside--

RYAN

Mosaic laws are suspended.

ALICIA

And in the case of anticipated
injury?

RYAN

It's not a knowable consequence.
Seeing a wire down isn't inevitably
going to lead to someone tripping.

ALICIA

And if it's a *live* electrical wire--

RYAN

Well, yes, when that happens, I'll
call on you, Mrs. Florrick.

ALICIA

But you're creating a loophole in
liability law--

RYAN

No. The constitution is. How long
were you married?

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
Fifteen years, and don't do that.

RYAN
What?

ALICIA
Throw personal questions into the middle of an intellectual argument.

RYAN
It gets more honest answers. Judges in civil courts crave two things: novelty and getting out of civil court. The First Amendment is novel.

Alicia takes a second here. Interesting.

ALICIA
We'll need to get a First Amendment scholar on the stand.

Ryan clicks a key on his computer, a list of names pop up.

RYAN
I was about to make calls.

ALICIA
Give me half.

RYAN
How can you work there?

ALICIA
How can I work where? What are we talking about now? Try to just offer topic sentences.

RYAN
Stern, Lockhart, and Gardner.

ALICIA
Ah, that's right. Big bad corporate overlords. Much better to be working out of a storefront fighting for DUIs and prostitutes.

RYAN
I sleep at night.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

Righteous much?

Ryan stares at her, pushes print, goes to his printer to collect the paper...

RYAN

Two years ago, I had a case of lead poisoning in toys. Benny Brauer. Eight months old. Fell into a coma after sucking on a crib mobile. The insurance company offered to settle until your firm got involved.

ALICIA

Excuse my naivete, isn't that the point of representing clients: to help them win?

RYAN

Meet me in open court, I'll beat you every time. That's not what your firm did. You buried us in paper, continuances, trial motions waiting for Benny Brauer to die. I was there at the hospital. You don't want to see an eight month old die of lead poisoning. A week later, I heard your chief litigator had a name for it... "Litigating the margins." Delaying the reward to exhaust the opposition and therefore reduce the payout.

Alicia stares at him...

ALICIA

We do pro bonos. We do death row cases. You can't tarnish a whole firm with one case--

RYAN

Sure you can. Especially when one of your partners was the chief litigator. Will Gardner. The fish stinks from the head.

Alicia pauses, studies him.

12 INT. 28TH FLOOR - HALLS - DAY

12

Will Gardner. He sits in the conference room, with Diane. Alicia eyes him when he looks up, nods. Gets up, exits, walks with her toward the stairs:

WILL

So, hey, Stern phoned for an update on his daughter's case. And he sent you something.

ALICIA

Me?

WILL

Well, whoever we put on the case.

Will reaches into his office, takes out a coconut with a monkey painted on it.

WILL (CONT'D)

He's in Bora-Bora.

Alicia stares at it. Ummm.

ALICIA

Thanks.

They walk toward the stairs:

WILL

So how's it going?

ALICIA

Good. We're...

(decides: what the hell)

We're going for a First Amendment defense.

WILL

On a slip-and-fall?

ALICIA

Religious freedom trumps liability.

Will pauses, laughs, impressed:

WILL

Smart. So I might sneak into court, see how it's going. How's the co-chair?

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
(considers it)
He's... interesting.

WILL
Well, interesting is good.

An assistant hands Will some phone messages. As he sorts through them:

ALICIA
In fact, he was saying some things.

WILL
Yeah, what?

But Alicia thinks about it. Bad idea to ask.

ALICIA
I-- Nothing. Another time.

Will watches her oddly as she continues off. Cary takes a second, falls in beside her:

CARY
So what'd he say?

ALICIA
About what?

CARY
"About what?" About the lay-offs.

ALICIA
Oh, I didn't ask.

CARY
You didn't ask? What's that?

ALICIA
A coconut.

Cary just stares at her, as...

A13 INT. 27TH FLOOR - BULLPEN - DAY

A13

...they start down the stairs.

CARY
This is my take. We're too low on the totem pole to fire. We don't cost enough.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARY (CONT'D)

The problem is these older people--
(looks to her)
And I don't mean that in any
generational sense-- just, you know,
people who've been here longer--

ALICIA

Thanks.

CARY

They're not hungry enough, you
know? And they cost too much.

ALICIA

Cary, have you ever heard of a case
here defending a toy company
against lead poisoning.

CARY

No, why, should we be on it?

ALICIA

No, no, it was two years ago. Kid
died when we didn't settle.

CARY

Two years ago? Why are we talking
about something that happened two
years ago?

An older associate passes in tears. Fired. Cary and Alicia
peel off and...

*
*

B13 OMITTED

B13 *

C13 INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

C13 *

...Alicia types on her laptop at home. Work piled up on the
dining room table. A glass of red wine. She scrolls her
computer screen down a web site. "Alprin & Associates."
Something refreshingly home-grown about it. She studies it.
Scrolls down to a...

*
*
*
*
*

...photo of Ryan Alprin. Pauses over him. A few seconds.

*

ZACH

*

Hey.

*

Alicia clicks off the photo. Looks up, smiles:

*

ALICIA

*

Hey, how's homework?

*

(CONTINUED)

ZACH
Done.

Alicia reaches out. Zach goes to her, leans against her as
Alicia hugs him...

ALICIA
You're too tall.

ZACH
I'm working on that.

ALICIA
What've you been up to?

ZACH
Nothing. Working.

D13 **INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT** D13 *

Zach slips into the kitchen, starts toward the refrigerator.

ALICIA
Oh. Grandma left her wallet.
Could you put it by the door so she
doesn't forget it again?

ZACH
Sure.

Zach goes to the wallet, pauses. Looks toward the dining
room. Alicia out of sight. He quietly clicks it open,
reaches in. A row of pretty credit cards. Like candy.

Zach pauses only a second before taking one.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

*

13 **EXT. WYNTON RIDGE - DEVON AVENUE - DAY**

13

An insignia on a hybrid car: "Shoymer."

(CONTINUED)

EZRA

Shoymer is a purely volunteer
policing force for the Hasidim.
Mostly we deal with hate crimes.

Kalinda, with Nikon, walks with EZRA, an Orthodox college
student in his 20s. Modern, a street accent. Mutual
respect. Pragmatist to pragmatist.

EZRA (CONT'D)

We don't carry guns; we have no
power to arrest. We carry walkie-
talkies and badges, that's it.

KALINDA

And you were the first responders
on the scene?

EZRA

Yeah, right here. Lady was on her
back, screaming. Really in pain.

KALINDA

On her back? She fell forward.

EZRA

Yeah, she rolled on her back.
There was a lot of broken glass in
her groceries.

Oh, Kalinda nods. Points toward a surveillance camera on a
pole overlooking the scene:

KALINDA

That seems to have a direct view.

EZRA

It was put in before the lady fell,
but it wasn't hooked up until
after.

KALINDA

Unlucky.

EZRA

Yeah. Just happened that way.
With the hate crimes around here,
we have almost every square yard of
this street covered by cameras.

(CONTINUED)

Kalinda nods, zooms her Nikon in on a deli across the street. Pans along the roofline. Yep. Another surveillance camera, two actually.

KALINDA
Can I ask a favor, Ezra. Could you stand here-- where Dawn fell.

EZRA
Sure.

A14 INT. DELI - DAY A14

Busy. Customers. Two men behind the counter. Kalinda enters, sees a familiar blue-tinted light by the cash register. Crosses to it, peers over. Yep. Two small monitors. A view of the street, reaching as far as the parked cars across the road, but... no Ezra in frame.

Kalinda backs up three feet, peers out, sees-- yep, Ezra still stands there. He's just not in frame. Damn. And--

14 INT. CIVIL COURT - DAY 14

--a burst of angry whispering. We're in court now: in the middle of an angry sidebar beside the judge's bench. Four lawyers. Alicia, Ryan, two plaintiff's lawyers.

JUDGE DUNN
Okay, hold up, hold up.

JUDGE HORACE DUNN (58). A frustrated intellectual. Professorial. Feels like he's in the backwaters of the law when he should be swimming the main stream.

JUDGE DUNN (CONT'D)
So, Mr. Alprin, let me get this straight. You intend to argue a slip-and-fall as a First Amendment issue?

RYAN
Yes, your honor.

The plaintiff lawyer interrupts. AARON ABBOTT (37), tall, stiff, square jawed, Dudley-Do-Right.

AARON ABBOTT
This is ridiculous, your honor. They can't even keep a straight face.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

In *Kolatch vs. Harper*, 1983, your honor, it was argued that the Constitution can't be segregated from peripheral areas of law.

AARON ABBOTT

Kolatch vs. Harper? You can't just bring up some two-bit case from 1983 as a citing.

JUDGE DUNN

Actually it was a one-bit case. My first one as a litigator.

Oh, Aaron pauses: shit. As Alicia looks toward Ryan: nice move.

JUDGE DUNN (CONT'D)

As I remember it, Mr. Alprin, I lost that case.

RYAN

Yes, sir, but it was still a good argument.

Judge Dunn chuckles. Ryan too. Aaron fuming.

ALICIA

(closing the deal)

Your honor, shouldn't the jury be allowed to decide?

JUDGE DUNN

Yes, that's what I argued then. I lost that argument.

AARON ABBOTT

Your honor, this is about liability; it's not about the constitution--!

JUDGE DUNN

Counselor, everything's about the constitution. Okay, life rarely gives you a chance to reverse a past regret, so what the hell? Let's let the jury decide. Step back, and Mr. Abbott, you may call your first witness.

Aaron and his second chair fume as Alicia and Ryan start back toward the defense table, pleased, whispering:

(CONTINUED)

RYAN
Nicely played.

ALICIA
Just keeping up.

They sit beside Isaac, as Alicia turns back to shoot a comforting smile to Anna in the first row.

ANNA
Is everything alright?

ALICIA
Yes. Actually it is.

Anna nods. Good.

15 **INT. CIVIL COURT - THIRTY MINUTES LATER - DAY** 15

DWIGHT KNOX (29) is now on the stand. A General Contractor with a frat boy chumminess. A bit pleased with himself...

AARON ABBOTT
So when you installed the wire a year ago, you warned the Loeb's about maintenance?

DWIGHT KNOX
Yeah, I did. I always recommend that I be called once a month to maintain and inspect.

Alicia eyes the FOREWOMAN, seeing her look from Dawn at the plaintiff's table to a bearded Isaac. Distaste on her face. Uh-oh.

(CONTINUED)

AARON ABBOTT
And how often did the Loeb's phone
you after you installed it?

DWIGHT KNOX
Zero.

Alicia winces. Not good. As Aaron returns to his seat.

JUDGE DUNN
Mr. Alprin?

Ryan takes a second. Looks over at Alicia. She looks at
him: what? Ryan just grins. Wide. Um, Alicia isn't sure
what that means, but... Ryan is on his feet, starting toward
the witness. Truly "on" when he's cross-examining:

RYAN
So, good morning, Mr. Knox.

Dwight eyes Ryan: something heightened about that. Hesitant:

DWIGHT KNOX
Good morning.

RYAN
Every time a customer phones you for
maintenance, you make money, correct?

DWIGHT KNOX
That's not why I ask them to.

RYAN
Of course not. Now, you ask
customers to phone you once a month
not because your work is shoddy?

DWIGHT KNOX
Oh, no.

RYAN
Because that would mean you were
liable in this case too, if your
work was shoddy.

AARON ABBOTT
Was that a question, your honor?

RYAN
It was a preamble to a question
your honor-- just as this is now a
parenthetical to my preamble.

(CONTINUED)

Judge Dunn waves his hand: continue, as Alicia leans forward, listens, while behind her, Will slips into court. Sits.

RYAN (CONT'D)
When was the last time you were sued
for shoddy workmanship, Mr. Knox?

DWIGHT KNOX
I was-- I've never been sued.

Ryan sweeps by Alicia who hands him a document...

RYAN
And have you ever been served?

Dwight eyes the document unhappily.

DWIGHT KNOX
I-- I guess I might have.

RYAN
Isn't it true that the plaintiff in
this case tried to sue you--?

AARON ABBOTT
Objection--

RYAN
--for the shoddy workmanship at the
Loeb house, and it was only when you
agreed-- with a proverbial gun to
your head-- to testify for the
plaintiff--

AARON ABBOTT
--Objection, your honor--

JUDGE DUNN
Mr. Abbott, the question hasn't
been asked yet.

RYAN
Wasn't it only when you agreed to
testify against the Loeb's that the
lovely Mr. Abbott over there agreed
to drop the lawsuit against you?
(to Aaron)
Go ahead, you can object now.

Will smiles, watching this.

(CONTINUED)

AARON ABBOTT
Objection, your honor.

JUDGE DUNN
Overruled.

DWIGHT KNOX
No, you're making this sound bad.

Ryan smiles, grins. Loves that kind of opening.

RYAN
Then help me make it sound good.
You did shoddy construction in
connecting the eruv wire--!

AARON ABBOTT
Mis-states the facts! Objection!

RYAN
--You were sued; and you threw the
blame onto your customer to avoid a
lawsuit yourself! Make THAT sound
good!

Ryan smiles, spins to Aaron Abbott before he can object:

RYAN (CONT'D)
Withdrawn. Your witness.

And Ryan plops in his seat. Next to Alicia. Both staring
straight ahead.

16 **OMITTED** 16

17 **EXT. CIVIL COURT - DAY** 17

Alicia sits with a sandwich outside court. A beautiful day.
She looks up from case notes, sees...

...Isaac and Anna in the shade. Isaac talking on a cell.
Anna behind him, looking off in the other direction. Almost
back to back.

Alicia eyes them. Is that a picture of marriage? Two people
at cross purposes? No connection? But Alicia suddenly sees...

...Isaac reaching his hand behind him. And Anna feeling the
touch of his hand, places her palm in his. It's a tiny
little glimpse of intimacy. More passionate than a kiss.
Private. Intended for no one else. And...

(CONTINUED)

...Alicia smiles. Marriages are just mysteries. Ryan flops on the bench beside Alicia, eating potato chips.

ALICIA
Nice cross.

RYAN
Thanks.

ALICIA
Where'd you go to school?

RYAN
(looks at her)
So we're getting intimate now?

ALICIA
Yep, school talk. Very personal.

RYAN
Samford University.

ALICIA
Stanford, really?

RYAN
No, Samford, Cumberland. Ranked in the top 133 of law schools.

Alicia smiles. Okay.

RYAN (CONT'D)
I make up in passion what I lack in law books.

ALICIA
You're good.

Ryan smiles, gets up, starts toward court. Alicia watches him go.

18 INT. CIVIL COURT - DAY

18

Anna. Uncomfortable. Nervous. On the stand now.

AARON ABBOTT
So you can't use any machinery during the Sabbath? Because God would disapprove?

ANNA
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

AARON ABBOTT

So that's why you couldn't use the phone to call about the eruv wire being down? Because that would be operating machinery?

ANNA

Yes.

AARON ABBOTT

Okay, I think I get it.

Aaron returns to the plaintiff's table, smiling at Ryan on the way. Alicia and Ryan trade a look: that's odd. Whispering:

RYAN

What's he got?

AARON ABBOTT

Mrs. Loeb, this is a record of your cellphone bill.

Anna. She immediately blanches. Horrified. Alicia sees this, looks sharply toward Ryan. Something not good.

AARON ABBOTT (CONT'D)

If you could look at the underlined item there. That's a phone call you made at 9:33 pm on what day? Could you read it?

Anna pauses. Her lips dry.

ANNA

September 4th.

AARON ABBOTT

And what day was that? What day of the week.

ANNA

...Friday.

And Anna immediately looks toward Isaac at the defense table who stiffens. Stunned. Like a brick thrown at him.

AARON ABBOTT

So that would be on the Sabbath? You made a phone call on the Sabbath?

ANNA

I... I'm... yes.

(CONTINUED)

AARON ABBOTT
And this was a call to?

Anna looks directly at Isaac, appalled, horrified.

ANNA
To my father. We'd been estranged,
and I...

AARON ABBOTT
And you called at night on your
cell so your husband wouldn't know
about it, is that right?

Anna takes a long second. As Alicia looks back and forth
between the husband and wife.

ANNA
Yes. I'm... sorry.

AARON ABBOTT
And you did the same on August 7th,
July 17th, and June 19th, is that
correct? Other Fridays?

Anna nods as Isaac stands sharply. Ryan pulls on his sleeve:

RYAN
...sit down...

But Isaac pulls away, turns, starts out of court. Judge Dunn
watches him leave compassionately.

AARON ABBOTT
So, Mrs. Loeb, you could've phoned
about the eruv wire being down, but
you chose not to, thus making you
liable?
(Anna stares, doesn't answer)
No further questions.

JUDGE DUNN
Why don't we recess until tomorrow.

Anna. She just stares straight ahead. Destroyed. As Alicia
and Ryan stare at her, destroyed too.

*

*

A19 **OMITTED** A19

19 **INT. LOEBS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT** 19

Isaac sits staring straight ahead, siddur open in front of him. Alicia stands, eyeing him.

ALICIA

I understand it. I understand why she would want to phone her father.

ISAAC

It's a betrayal.

ALICIA

It's a weakness.

Isaac looks up at her...

ISAAC

Was what happened with your husband a weakness?

ALICIA

That's different.

ISAAC

How is it different?
(Alicia is silent)
She lied to me; she betrayed... everything.

ALICIA

But it wasn't selfish.

(CONTINUED)

ISAAC
Have you forgiven your husband?

Alicia considers it a second, stares at him. Can't answer.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Then how can you tell me to forgive?

Alicia looks up, sees Anna on the stairs, goes to...

A20 **OMITTED** A20 *

20 **EXT. WYNTON RIDGE - DEVON AVENUE - NIGHT** 20

Alicia exits, exhales deeply, sees Ryan hanging up his cell.
Quiet:

RYAN
They want to talk settlement. They know we've lost our First Amendment argument; now they want to pick our pockets.

ALICIA
We don't have a lot of options. *

A21 **INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - ZACH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT** A21 *

The room is mostly dark. The chair again blocking the bedroom door. And we're not sure where Zach is. We hear his voice... *

KATARINA (O.S.)
And you're really eighteen? *

ZACH
Yes. *

Zach sits on the floor in the corner of his room, finding protection in the cramped space, phone beside him. *

KATARINA (O.S.)
And what do you look like, Zach? *

Zach pauses, swallows, looks down at the episode 101 photo of the girl in the hotel room with his father. He slides one of the other photos over it: one with just the girl. *

ZACH
Can I ask you a question? *

(CONTINUED)

KATARINA (O.S.)
(seductive)
You can ask me anything you want.

ZACH
I think I have a picture of you.
It's of you and a man in a... it
looks like a hotel room.

KATARINA (O.S.)
Mmm, sounds good.

ZACH
No. This is a real picture. You
have a...
(studies the 101 pics)
...a gold bracelet on your wrist.
And you're in a hotel room with
flowers on the bedspread.

KATARINA (O.S.)
What am I wearing?

Zach pauses. Not sure if she's taking this seriously or not.

ZACH
You're in a black bra.

KATARINA (O.S.)
Does that turn you on?

ZACH
Katarina. Listen. I'm paying you
so can I ask you something serious.
Someone took pictures of you in a
hotel room, and you were... using
drugs. And I need to know who took
the pictures...

Silence from the phone. Zach waits. Is she still on the
line? A slightly more formal Katarina clears her throat:

KATARINA (O.S.)
*Kid, look, I'm not Katarina. There
is no Katarina. The lady in the
picture she doesn't work here
anymore. They just try to get you
to phone here with that picture.*

Zach frowns, disappointed.

ZACH
Do you know where she works?

KATARINA (O.S.)
*Hey, I don't even work there. I
just work out of my house.*

Zach frowns, slides the pictures away.

KATARINA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
*So what do you wanna do? You paid
for the ten minutes.*

B21 **INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT**

Jackie pauses, kitchen clean, nothing more to do. She looks toward her purse, reaches in, takes out her wallet, clicks it open, takes out a small address book, licks a finger to turn a page, picks up the phone to dial when she hears on the extension...

KATARINA (O.S.)
But you sound so sexy.

ZACH (O.S.)
No, I don't.

KATARINA (O.S.)
*Yes, you do. Your voice is so...
it makes me want to do things.*

Startled, Jackie hangs up again. Appalled. She stares at the phone. Alone in the kitchen.

21 INT. 28TH FLOOR - HALLS - DAY

21

WILL
Alicia...

It's Will, leaning out of the conference room-- some quiet confrontation going on inside. Alicia goes to him...

WILL (CONT'D)
So this lawyer yesterday you were working with? Who is he?

ALICIA
(surprised)
Ryan Alprin?

WILL
Yeah, I saw him in court yesterday; he's good.

A quiet burst of words-- "I can't believe this"-- comes from within the conference room. Alicia peers in. A security guard. A manager trying to offer calming words. Somebody being laid off. Will steps out, closes the door.

WILL (CONT'D)
Sorry, this is tough. He's good, right? I like him. It's like we were right out of a law school. Hungry. Is he with some firm?

ALICIA
No. He's coming here actually for the settlement conference. Aren't we laying people off?

WILL
Yeah, but we need new blood. Litigators who can do the job of two. You know?

Alicia studies Will. Like he's a stranger.

ALICIA
You met him before.

(CONTINUED)

WILL
Who?

ALICIA
Ryan Alprin. On that case
involving lead poisoning in toys.

WILL
Oh, the--? From two years ago?

ALICIA
Yes, he was on the other side.

WILL
The losing side?
(Alicia nods)
So, what, he holds a grudge?

ALICIA
He thinks we buried him.

WILL
I'm sure we did. That's how you
kill shallow pockets.

ALICIA
Litigating for the margins?

WILL
Representing your client. Look, if he's
with a bigger firm, he'll have deeper
pockets. See if he's interested.

Alicia studies Will. Not sure what she thinks.

ALICIA
Sure.

But Alicia sees Ryan in reception sticking his face against
the glass, flattening his nose.

ALICIA (CONT'D)
I'd better go.

And Alicia starts toward him as Will watches her go.

A22 **OMITTED** A22

22 **INT. 27TH FLOOR - BULLPEN - DAY** 22

Alicia leads Ryan down the stairs. Night and day from his
one-room office...

(CONTINUED)

RYAN
A lot of glass here.

ALICIA
Yep, every time we sell a piece of
our soul, we buy glass.

Ryan smiles, passes Cary who looks up from a secretarial
station, eyes Ryan. Ryan looks back, sees he's being eyed.

RYAN
Who's that?

ALICIA
My competition.

RYAN
Ah.

23 **INT. 27TH FLOOR - ALICIA'S OFFICE - DAY** 23

They enter Alicia's office, close the door. Ryan looks around.

RYAN
Nice coconut.

The coconut with the monkey painted on it.

ALICIA
Thanks.

RYAN
Can I have it?

ALICIA
No.

Ryan smiles. Likes she can slap him down like that. Sits.

A24 **INT. 28TH FLOOR - WILL'S OFFICE - DAY** A24

Will and Kalinda stand in the doorway of his office, Kalinda
taking notes. Lots of movement, people passing.

WILL
Just do your usual thing.

KALINDA
(smiles)
My usual thing? My investigative thing?

(CONTINUED)

WILL
Yeah. But don't knock yourself
out, okay?

KALINDA
The person's name?

WILL
Ryan Alprin.

Kalinda looks up...

KALINDA
Alicia's lawyer?

WILL
Her... co-counsel? Yeah.

KALINDA
And this is for...?

WILL
Me.

Kalinda studies Will.

WILL (CONT'D)
In case we hire him.

Oh, Kalinda nods. Gets it now. Turns back to her notes.

KALINDA
You want personal stuff too?

WILL
No. Why?

KALINDA
No reason. Okay.

And Kalinda starts off. Will watches her go.

B24 **INT. 27TH FLOOR - ALICIA'S OFFICE - DAY**

B24

ALICIA
What's our fallback position?

Alicia and Ryan deep in discussion...

RYAN
Like you said before: undercut the extent
of injuries, try to reduce the award.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
We're still vulnerable on punitive.

RYAN
The jury liked Anna. I think they see it as a human mistake.

ALICIA
Yeah, but they hate Isaac. They'll want to punish him. I've gone over the numbers. We can settle for double compensatory.

But Ryan sees the screen saver. Photos of Alicia and Peter.

RYAN
Why didn't you divorce him?

ALICIA
(seeing where he's looking)
Because I didn't want to. Double compensatory handles the victim's medical, and a bit more.

RYAN
That's not an answer.

Alicia clicks the space bar, makes the screen saver go away.

ALICIA
It's the only answer you're getting.

RYAN
No one asks you?

ALICIA
Ryan. I'm your co-counsel. I know you think you've got this cute little spontaneous thing going--

RYAN
This is my take on it. You're a rule-follower. The way you dress, the way you act. But there's this part of you that wants freedom. Rule-breaking. Look at who you married. Look at--

ALICIA
Ryan. Seriously. Stop.

RYAN
You like people who scare you.

(CONTINUED)

Alicia just stares at him. Too many things to object to, she doesn't know where to begin. But Alicia sees Kalinda outside the office, staring in.

ALICIA

Review the homeowner's policy.
Let's come up with a settlement
number we can accept and the Loeb's
can afford.

Alicia exits.

24 INT. 27TH FLOOR - BULLPEN - DAY

24

Kalinda rolls a schematic of the slip-and-fall scene out at a secretarial station. Pointing for Alicia...

KALINDA

The Loeb house. The deli. Parking
lot. Park. There are video cameras
here, here, here, here. This is
what they shot.

She slaps the b/w xeroxed video images on the map.

KALINDA (CONT'D)

Now there's a three foot clearance
between the victim's head and this
view. A two foot clearance between
her feet and this view. That is
either the strangest coincidence in
the world or...

ALICIA

A scam?

Kalinda nods.

KALINDA

But she had to know exactly what the
cameras saw to avoid being taped.
This view at the deli was obvious.
The security screen is right behind
the cash register. But these cameras--
the park cameras-- their screens
aren't on site. The only way you
could see them was at the security
company, Megalith Security.

ALICIA

You think the victim has a
connection there?

(CONTINUED)

Kalinda nods, pauses, sees Ryan in Alicia's office tossing the coconut around. Alicia sees her look.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

What?

KALINDA

I had a friend who always told me when I was about to make mistake.

ALICIA

And...?

KALINDA

You like him.

ALICIA

He's my co-counsel.

(Kalinda raises an eyebrow)

I'm fine, Kalinda. Really. I'm fine.

25 **OMITTED** 25

26 **INT. 28TH FLOOR - LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY** 26

Four people in the conference room. The plaintiff's attorney, Aaron Abbott, his second chair. Alicia. Ryan.

AARON ABBOTT

We'll settle for one million.

RYAN

That's unlikely. I've shown you how much the homeowners policy will pay. That's our zone.

AARON ABBOTT

No, our zone is what Jonas Stern can pay.

Alicia stares at him.

ALICIA

So that's what this is about? You're targeting Mr. Stern.

AARON ABBOTT

We're aware of Mr. Stern.

ALICIA

Then you're aware Mr. Stern isn't stepping in on this.

(CONTINUED)

AARON ABBOTT
I see. We're in Mr. Stern's
office, and you work for Mr. Stern,
but he's not stepping in on this?

Ryan gets up.

RYAN
Okay. This was fun. See you in court.

AA27 **INT. 28TH FLOOR - HALLS - DAY** AA27

Alicia escorts Aaron and the other plaintiff attorney back
toward the elevator, Ryan bringing up the rear...

AARON ABBOTT
There's a web site about you.

ALICIA
Excuse me?

AARON ABBOTT
I said there's a web site about
you. "The Women of Scandal."

Alicia nods. The usual hazing.

ALICIA
There's a web site for everything.

AARON ABBOTT
They rate you. I went on line and
voted for you. The sexiest. Just
so you know.

Alicia stares at him. Yuck.

ALICIA
So now I know. There's the exit.

The elevator. Alicia splits off, continues down the hall,
feeling that vulnerable scandal feeling again, as Ryan
watches her go. Looks back toward Aaron.

A27 **INT. 28TH FLOOR - LADIES ROOM - DAY** A27

A surgically clean office restroom. Alicia looks in the
mirror. Studies herself. Takes a long deep breath. She
exits into...

27

INT. 28TH FLOOR - RESTROOM HALL - DAY

27

...a restroom hall. The backstage of Stern, Lockhart. Empty, except for Alicia. She pauses, hears voices around a dog leg in the hall. Angry voices.

She looks toward the corner, hears a loud THUD. Something going on there. She starts toward the corner, pauses, hears...

AARON ABBOTT (O.S.)

Let go of me! I said--

And we're around the corner now, in the middle of a burst of violence. Ryan, his hand grabbing Aaron's suit. Face into his:

RYAN

Don't you ever talk to my co-counsel that way again. You understand?

Alicia, startled. Still only hearing it around the corner. Startled and something more. As she hears:

AARON ABBOTT

I'll sue you-- I'll--!

But-- WHAM-- Ryan slams him against the wall. Then takes out a card, slips it into Aaron's pocket.

RYAN

There. That's my number. Phone me.

Done, Ryan straightens Aaron's coat, shirt, lets go of him. Aaron backs away, stumbling, rushing, racing around the corner, seeing...

...Alicia standing there, fascinated by all this. He meets her eye-- only for a second before rushing off. Gone. Alicia looks up, sees...

...Ryan coming around the corner too. He stops, sees Alicia. She sees him. A long second.

And Ryan starts off. Leaving the hallway. Alicia pauses there for a second. Alone.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

28 INT. MEGALITH SECURITY - DAY

28

A row of surveillance sixteen-square screens. Black and white, color.

HANK

I have 63 security link-ups.
Households, businesses, loading
docks, parks. We DVR everything.
Up to six months.

HANK (40), a chubby computer. Too much food from vending machines. Kalinda follows him through his small security company. Just three guys in three rooms.

KALINDA

Do all the employees have access to
all the screens?

HANK

Well, there are only three of us.
What are you looking for?

KALINDA

Just covering my bases. There was
a surveillance camera put in right
above where this trip-and-fall
happened?

HANK

Right. The community watch
requested it. But it wasn't linked
up until the next week. In fact,
we rushed it due to that fall.
There.

Hank points toward one of the checkerboard images on a monitor. But Kalinda eyes Hank, not the monitor.

KALINDA

Really? Why rushed?

HANK

Well, it's kind of dark there.

KALINDA

So someone goes out there with a
cherry-picker to put the camera up?

HANK

That's right.

(CONTINUED)

KALINDA
Who does that?

HANK
I do. This is pretty much a four-
man operation.

Kalinda eyes him. Nods.

29 **INT. 27TH FLOOR - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY** 29

The xeroxed video screens. Map of the street. Video
cameras. Alicia and Ryan sit side by side studying it all.

ALICIA
We've got phone records. We've got
credit card bills. He was within
reach of the eruv wire days before
it fell. This could work.

RYAN
Yeah. You want to do cross?

ALICIA
No, you should.

Ryan nods, looks at her...

ALICIA (CONT'D)
Get him to deny any connection,
then go for impeachment--

RYAN
I like working with you.

ALICIA
Yep.

RYAN
No, I really do.

Alicia just shakes her head, turns to focus on a new document.

RYAN (CONT'D)
What?

ALICIA
You shouldn't do this.

RYAN
Do what?

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
Talk... this way.

RYAN
Because you're married?

ALICIA
For a start.

RYAN
Your husband cheated on you.

ALICIA
(looks up sharply)
And so what? What does that mean?
What do you want?
(Ryan starts to talk)
Ryan. I've got two teenaged kids.
I've got... a "to do" list you
wouldn't believe.

RYAN
You're not convincing me.

ALICIA
Just do the work, okay? Please.
The Loeb's are counting on us.
Don't make it anymore difficult.

Ryan stares at her as...

30 **INT. 27TH FLOOR - BULLPEN - DAY** 30

...Will pauses outside the conference room, peering in.
Something about the conversation. Something about the body
language. Between Ryan and Alicia. Will considers this,
starts up the stairs.

31 **OMITTED** 31

32 **OMITTED** 32

33 **INT. 28TH FLOOR - LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY** 33

WILL
We're doing this wrong.

Will enters the upstairs conference room, deep in thought,
some heat on him.

DIANE
Probably.

(CONTINUED)

WILL

I can't fire another person. I can't look another one in the eye and say "You're going to land somewhere" when I know they're not.

DIANE

What do you propose?

WILL

You have a lifeboat that holds fifteen people or one person, who do you put in it?

DIANE

Is one a priest and one a rabbi?

WILL

Stern costs just as much as fifteen litigators.

Diane realizes...

DIANE

Oh. You want to make a move against Stern?

WILL

I want to save fifteen jobs.

DIANE

He brought us together. We're only a firm because of Stern.

WILL

Yes, and when the wedding is over, the minister goes home. Stern costs us. He's not what he used to be. He doesn't bring in clients.

DIANE

This would be a whole lot less galling if you were just honest. There are three votes on this board, and you want to get rid of the one that sides with me. This is a power play, pure and simple.

Diane gets up...

(CONTINUED)

WILL
Oh, get off it, Diane. Nothing here is pure. And nothing here is simple.

DIANE
This is.

And Diane is out the door. Will frowns, paces.

34 **EXT. CIVIL COURT - DAY** 34

Isaac and Anna. They approach court. A pronounced gap between them. A marriage on the rocks. They're eyed by...

...Alicia. Frazzled herself. They both see her. Nod. And Isaac moves past as Anna pauses with Alicia. Tired.

ANNA
It's going to be hard.

ALICIA
I know, I'm sorry.

ANNA
I can see-- even with small things-- he doesn't trust me. It's like with my dad-- after rehab the first time-- he looked at me differently. Like I was a time bomb.

A hard thought. Anna faces it.

ALICIA
I'm sure Isaac wants it to work.

ANNA
He does. You can't just throw a marriage away. Can you?

Alicia shakes her head, looks up, sees Ryan passing. And...

35 **OMITTED** 35

36 **INT. CIVIL COURT - DAY** 36

...Hank is on the stand, the chubby security manager. Waiting. Likes the attention. While...

...Ryan stands at the defense table, his back to him, staring down at several documents, files, legal pad scrawls. Alicia whispering...

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

You good?

Ryan scans the documents. His hand on the table. Next to Alicia's. He looks down at it, and lets...

...his small finger touch the edge of her hand. Both stare down at the contact. The whole world wrapped up in that small, tiny contact. A millimeter of skin actually touching.

JUDGE DUNN

Mr. Alprin, are you ready?

Ryan smiles. Prize-fighter mode again.

RYAN

Yes, your honor.

He starts toward the witness stand. As Alicia looks back at Anna and Isaac in the gallery. Two feet between them.

RYAN (CONT'D)

So you're the owner and operator of Megalith Security, is that right, sir?

HANK

It is.

RYAN

And how do you know the plaintiff?

Hank looks up. What?

RYAN (CONT'D)

Do you want me to repeat the question?

HANK

Did you ask "How do I know... her?"

Hank points toward Dawn, the plaintiff.

RYAN

Yes, I did.

HANK

I don't know her.

RYAN

You're under oath, sir, and you're swearing you don't know her?

(CONTINUED)

Hank pauses. Trying to decide which way to take this. He looks toward Dawn, and for the first time we see something else on her face. She's only had a pained and stoic expression up until now. Now there's an edge of worry.

HANK

Yes, I am.

Alicia offers a document to Ryan who smiles cockily at Aaron at the plaintiff's table as he passes...

RYAN

Sir, what's this?

HANK

(uh-oh)

It's a phone bill.

RYAN

Your phone bill, correct?

(he nods)

And this number here, do you see that? That number belongs to... the plaintiff.

Aaron frowns, looks down toward Dawn. Shit.

RYAN (CONT'D)

So was that a wrong number, sir?

HANK

Probably, I don't know.

RYAN

And here on this page. Did you phone that wrong number three more times?

Hank frowns now, angrily staring at Ryan...

HANK

I don't know.

RYAN

And this call was eight minutes long. Is that usually how long you talk to a wrong number?

HANK

I would contest that bill.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

And this call of five minutes? And this one of 23 minutes? Would you contest those too?

HANK

I... would.

RYAN

Now this surveillance camera you installed near the eruv wire a week before the... "accident." You were in a cherry-picker bucket, right? Installing the camera?

HANK

(hesitant)

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

And that would've put you right at the exact place where the eruv wire attached to the Loeb house?

HANK

Well, no, not right there.

RYAN

Five feet away?

HANK

I don't know. I didn't measure it.

RYAN

Well, we did.

Alicia nods, watching Ryan. He's really good, as...

...a note is dropped in front of Alicia by a bailiff. Alicia opens it, reads: "We need to talk." Alicia turns, sees Kalinda at the back door. Alicia frowns, gestures sharply toward the witness stand: Not now.

But Kalinda points just as sharply toward the door. Now. Alicia frowns, looks up toward Ryan still questioning.

RYAN (CONT'D)

So you were in a position to weaken the eruv wire so it could fall, weren't you?

AARON ABBOTT

Objection!

37 INT. CIVIL COURT - HALLWAYS - DAY

37

Kalinda waits outside the door, pacing, waiting on her cellphone. Alicia pushes out...

ALICIA

Kalinda, I'm in trial. Can't this--

KALINDA

No, it can't. Will was having me look into your co-counsel.

ALICIA

What, why?

(CONTINUED)

KALINDA

He was thinking of hiring him.
It's standard operating procedure.

ALICIA

Okay.

KALINDA

(her cell)

I'm on with a friend from the bar
association. They can't find his
bar number.

ALICIA

They--? What? Why?

KALINDA

Because he's not a lawyer.

Alicia stares at her, stunned.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

38 INT. CIVIL COURT - HALLWAYS - DAY

38

Just a second later. A stunned Alicia staring at Kalinda.

ALICIA

He's not a lawyer, or you *think*
he's not a lawyer?

Kalinda rolls her eyes, still waiting on her cell:

KALINDA

My friend is checking to see if he
missed anything. But as far as we
can tell, Ryan Alprin went to law
school, but failed the bar exam,
and never took it a second time.
They can't find his bar association
number.

ALICIA

How is that possible?

KALINDA

It's possible. The system is based
on trust more than we think.

Alicia turns away, mind racing. Fuck, fuck, fuck.

ALICIA

He's up there right now, cross-
examining. Oh my god.

KALINDA

(into the phone)
Yeah, I'm still here.

ALICIA

He's winning this case--

KALINDA

Look, it's not just about this case.
He'll be arrested-- this is a State
crime-- and you could be disbarred
if you don't take this to the judge--

ALICIA

If I know he's not a lawyer--

KALINDA

Which you'll know in two minutes.

(CONTINUED)

Alicia stares at her, nods.

ALICIA
Once the jury starts deliberating,
the verdict stands-- even if it's
found out he's not a lawyer.

KALINDA
Yes, but...

She gestures toward her cellphone. The word is coming.

ALICIA
Okay. We're winning this case.
The Loeb's need us to win this case.
And I'm not gonna let Ryan--

And with that Alicia has to stop. Emotion there. But just
for a second. She can only allow herself a second.

ALICIA (CONT'D)
I need you to walk around the block.

KALINDA
What?

ALICIA
I need you to walk around the block
now. We'll talk later.

KALINDA
Wait, I want to be clear.

She looks around. Nobody nearby.

KALINDA (CONT'D)
You want me to not be here when I
get this piece of information?

ALICIA
We are minutes away from sending
this to a jury. So go for a walk.

Okay, Kalinda nods. Starts away. Still on her cell. Alicia
turns, takes a long deep, deep breath, and starts into...

39 INT. CIVIL COURT - DAY

39

...court. And we're there with her as she starts up the
aisle, hearing Ryan still questioning...

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

So you're saying, sir, you're not connected to the plaintiff, and yet you had access to the eruv wire just days before it fell, you control the placement and view of your surveillance cameras, and you phoned the plaintiff three times in the week before the accident?

HANK

(weakened to his core)
Look-- I don't know about any of this.

RYAN

So the documentation is lying? All these bills, all these--

But Alicia is suddenly at Ryan's side, whispering:

ALICIA

Stop.

RYAN

What?

ALICIA

You're resting the defense right now.

RYAN

I'm-- not--

ALICIA

I know you're not a lawyer. And I'm not going to let you endanger this case.

Ryan stares at her.

JUDGE DUNN

Mr. Alprin?

RYAN

The defense rests, your honor.

40 **EXT. CIVIL COURT - DAY**

40

...bang-- Alicia bangs out the door, Ryan beside her, the two sharply whispering:

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

This is what you're going to do.
After jury instructions, you turn
yourself in, or I'm going to the
judge.

RYAN

This is all a mistake.

Alicia stops, turns to him:

ALICIA

Don't. I mean it.

RYAN

I'm sorry.

ALICIA

No, this is not one of those
"sorry" things. Turn yourself in,
or I will.

And Alicia charges on ahead. Jaws set to keep in the emotion.

A41 **INT. 27TH FLOOR - BULLPEN - DAY**

A41

Alicia at the same speed crosses the bullpen floor when Cary
catches up with her...

CARY

Hey, you know that case you were
talking about, the lead poisoning
one Will was on?

ALICIA

Yeah.

CARY

Bree was talking about it. She
said we wanted to settle. Offered
the families a lot of money too.
But one plaintiff held out for
more, and that brought everything
crashing down.

Alicia slows down, listening...

CARY (CONT'D)

Anyway Bree said one of the kids
died, and Will sent the family his
bonus check. Anonymously.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARY (CONT'D)

Pretty amazing, huh? I would never
do that. Would you?

Alicia stares at him now. And...

41 **INT. 28TH FLOOR - WILL'S OFFICE - DAY** 41

...knock-knock-- Alicia taps at Will's office. Will nods.

WILL

Yeah?

ALICIA

Just quickly... this lawyer, Ryan,
I think I made a mistake about him.

WILL

What do you mean?

Alicia pauses. Something a little harder in Will's attitude
toward her.

ALICIA

I mean, I don't think he's right
for us.

WILL

Okay. Got it. Thanks.

And that's it. Um, Alicia stands in the door. Feeling like...
an employee dismissed. A low level one at that. She nods,
goes.

42 **INT. CIVIL COURT - DAY** 42

Alicia sits at the defense table, the chair next to her
empty. Ryan's chair. She looks toward it. Sad. As we stay
on Alicia's face, hearing:

JUDGE DUNN

And have you reached a verdict?

FOREWOMAN

Yes, we have, your honor.

Alicia looks up, worried. The same Forewoman who eyed Isaac
with such disregard before.

JUDGE DUNN

How do you find?

Alicia closes her eyes, waits.

(CONTINUED)

FOREWOMAN
We find for the defense.

And Alicia opens them, smiles, turns, sees...

...Anna and Isaac in the first row. Pausing, stunned.
Didn't expect that. Isaac looks toward his wife. Reaches
his hand toward...

...hers, rests it on top. She nods, smiling, but eyes wet.
And she leans toward him, and hugs him. Hard. Close. He
returns it. Two people trying to make themselves one, as...

...Alicia watches, moved.

43 **OMITTED** 43 *

44 **INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY** 44 *

Alicia plops her computer bag on the counter, her purse,
everything, exhausted. She sees her cellphone, blinking. A
missed message. She clicks it on. Looks up, sees...

...Jackie staring in at her, worried about something or
other.

RYAN (O.S.)
*"Hey, it's me. Sorry I missed the
verdict. I heard. Congratulations."*

Alicia turns away from Jackie, listens to Ryan.

RYAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
*"Look, the law's the only thing I'm
good at-- the only thing I've ever
been good at. But I'm going to make
this right. I made a mistake and
I'm going to fix it. I just,
Alicia, I wanted to say to you--"*

But-- click-- Alicia clicks it off. Fuck that. She puts the
cellphone aside, turns to deal with Jackie now.

45 **INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - ZACH'S BEDROOM - DAY** 45 *

Zach sits on his bed, Algebra book in his lap. Alicia opens
the door, pauses, doesn't know how to start.

ALICIA
Who were you on the phone with last
night?

(CONTINUED)

ZACH

No one.

ALICIA

Jackie picked up the extension.
She heard you on the phone with
someone.

Zach hesitates. Hates to lie. Hates to be caught in a lie.
Alicia closes the door behind her:

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Zach. Tell me.

ZACH

You won't understand.

ALICIA

I will or I won't, but you're still
gonna tell me.

Zach frowns, not sure how to start.

ZACH

I phoned a sex line. I was curious.
That's all. I won't do it again.

Alicia exhales. Sits on the bed. Zach tenses: feels the
talk coming.

ZACH (CONT'D)

Mom, please. I'm not going to do
it again.

ALICIA

I know.

(thinks about it)

I can't stop everything out there
from happening, Zach. But, in
here, we have to tell each other
the truth.

ZACH

That is the truth.

Alicia studies him. Looks toward the computer.

ALICIA

You're sure? There's nothing you
want to tell me?

(CONTINUED)

ZACH *
No. Why? *

Alicia nods. *

ALICIA *
Okay. Then for a month you come *
home from school and help grandma *
with the laundry. *

Zach stares at her. Nods. Alicia gets up: *

ALICIA (CONT'D) *
And, Zach, don't do it again. *

ZACH *
Okay. Thanks, Mom. *

Alicia crosses to the door, looks back at him, exits. Zach *
exhales. Gets up. Crosses to his drawer. Pulls it open. *
Finds the pictures from 101 there. *

END OF SHOW