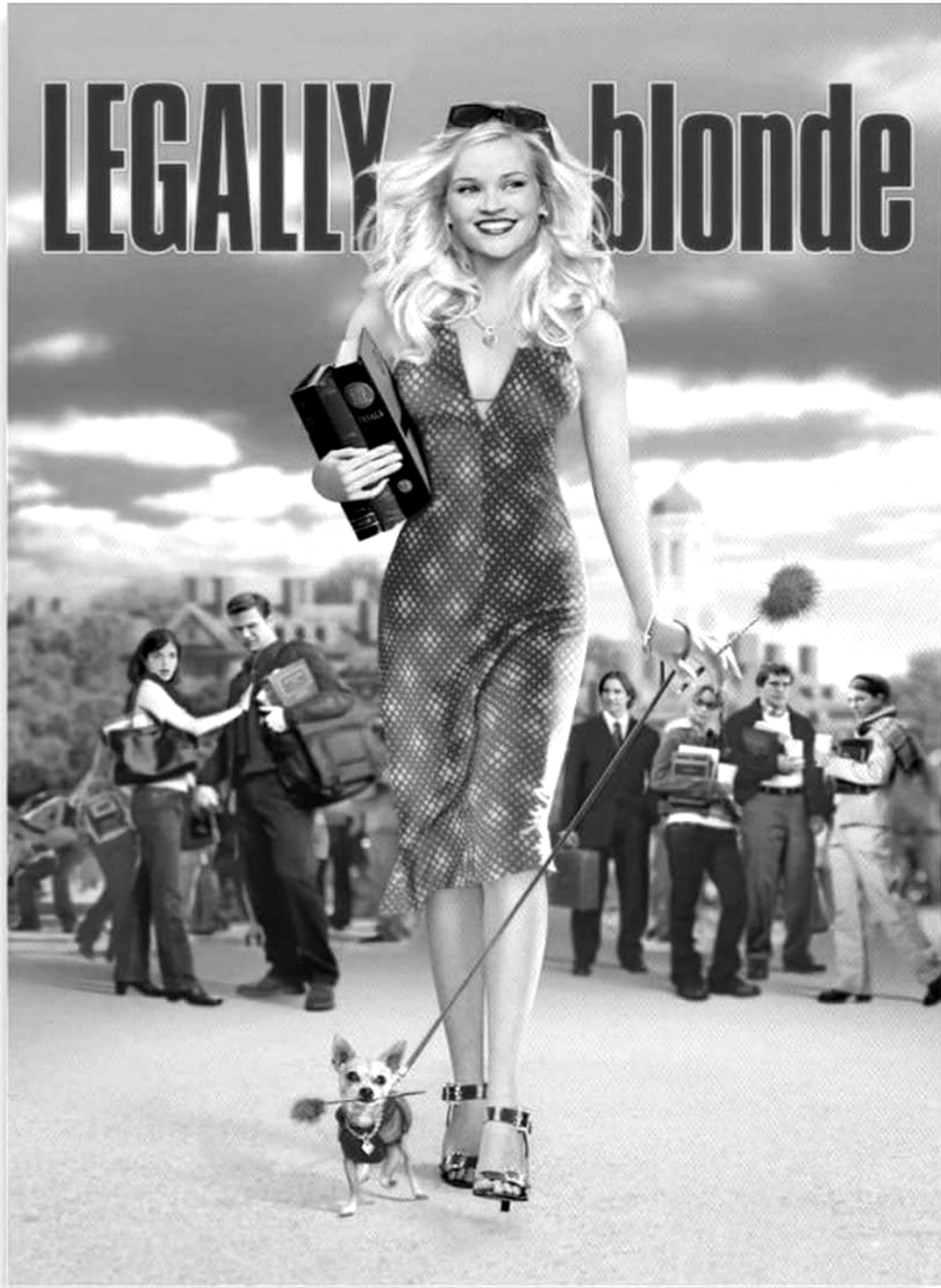


# LEGALLY BLONDE



by

Karen McCullah Lutz & Kirsten Smith

SHOOTING DRAFT  
July 31, 2000

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**LEGALLY BLONDE**

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**INT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - DAY**

1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Once the card arrives back in the Card Girl's hands, we

follow her out of the room and down the hall until she reaches the very last and biggest door -- She puts a kiss mark on the card, then kneels down and slides the card under the door.

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

2

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

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

(CONTINUED)

2.

2

2

As he rises, we RISE WITH HIM, passing toned, waxed, tanned legs in pink Prada pedal pushers and a pair of perky boobs encased in a spaghetti-strap top -- until we finally reveal a magnificent head of long blonde hair and a sweet, beautiful face. This is ELLE WOODS, 21, the Goddess Queen of Delta Gamma. She talks on a pink, fuzzy phone.

**ELLE**

(into the phone)

I love you, too!

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

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing; into phone)

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

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
"Elle and Warner forever". Aww...  
Underdog yips.

2

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

A Delta Gamma/Sigma Chi barbecue in full swing. Beautiful college students drink beer and mingle, trying to figure out who they're going to sleep with next. The main wall of the living room has been designated as a "Model Wall" of Delta Gamma girls -- ELLE smiles at us from a Hawaiian Tropic ad and a Miss June USC calendar photo. A cover of an Italian Vogue shows a blonde sexpot MARGOT; a USC cheerleader poster displays a hard-bodied non-blonde SERENA in a pom-pom pose. Serena walks up, fending off an admirer.

**SERENA**

Jeremy, enough! I am not going to formal with you.  
Jeremy slinks off as Margot arrives, agitated.

**MARGOT**

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

**(CONTINUED)**

3.

3

**ELLE (O.S.)**

You guys are so sweet!

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

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

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

**. SERENA**

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

**MARGOT**

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

**ELLE**

(excited)  
You think?

**SERENA**

I can't believe you're getting engaged!

. . .

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

**ELLE**

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

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

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
Amy, what's wrong?

**AMY**

I don't really -- know anyone.

**ELLE**

(teasing)

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

(to Serena and Margot)

I'll meet you outside.

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

**(CONTINUED)**

**4.**

**( 2 )**

**3**

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

Brandon, Jason, Grant --this is Amy.  
Why don't you tell her about the time you  
guys went golfing naked?

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

**BRANDON**

It was classic. Jason hit with wood all  
day.

**GRANT**

And we never ran out of balls --

Amy laughs.

**INT. SUNSET PLAZA BOUTIQUE - DAY**

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

**ELLE**

Too demure?

**MARGOT**

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

**ELLE**

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

**SERENA**

I don't understand why you're completely disregarding your signature color. She holds up a tiny pink slipdress.

**ELLE**

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

**ACROSS THE STORE**

A SALESWOMAN looks at her cohort.

**(CONTINUED)**

4

**SALESWOMAN**

(sot.to)

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

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

**ON ELLE AND THE GIRLS****. SERENA**

I can't wait to see you wearing The Rock!

Elle looks at them, suddenly concerned.

**ELLE**

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

**MARGOT**

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

**SERENA**

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

,"

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

**SALESWOMAN**

Did you see this one? We just got it in  
yesterday.  
Elle fingers the dress, then the new price tag, looking back  
at the saleswoman, excited.

**ELLE**

Is this a low-viscosity rayon?

**SALESWOMAN**

Uh, yes -- of course.

**ELLE**

With half-loop top-stitching on the hem?

**SALESWOMAN**

(smiling a lie)  
Absolutely. It's one of a kind.

**(CONTINUED)**

6.

CO NT I NU E D: ( 2 )

4

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

**ELLE**

It's impossible to use a half-loop  
topstitch on low-viscosity rayon. It  
would snag the fabric. And you didn't  
just get this in, because I remember it  
from the June Vogue a year ago, so if  
you're trying to sell it to me at full

price, you picked the wrong girl.

The saleswoman slinks off, embarrassed.

**MARGOT**

(to the saleswoman)  
Nice try...

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

**ELLE**

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

**5 EXT, DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - NIGHT**

An attractive male finger presses the doorbell.

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

Amy peeks through the peephole and turns.

**AMY**

(whispering)  
He's here!

Elle, standing nearby with Margot and Serena and several other DG's, smooths down her dress and takes a deep breath, opening the door to find --

WARNER HUNTINGTON, III, 21, tall, chiseled and outrageously handsome. He takes her in, a smile spreading across his face.

**WARNER**

You're beautiful.

**ELLE**

So are you!

(CONTINUED)

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6

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

**WARNER**

(nervous)  
You ready?

Her face is awash with devotion.

**ELLE**

I am so ready.

7 **EXT. THE IVY - NIGHT**

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

**ELLE**

Here' s to ~ us.  
Warner is slower to sip his.

**WARNER**

The reason I wanted to come here tonight  
was to discuss our future.  
Elle is on the edge of her seat.

**ELLE**

I ' m fully amenable to that discussion.

**WARNER**

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

**ELLE**

Of course.

**WARNER**

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

**ELLE**

And I fully support that.

(CONTINUED)

8.

7  
7

**WA R N ER**

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

**ELLE**

I completely agree.

**WARNER**

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

**WARNER (CONT'D)**

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

I think we should break up.  
Elle's champagne glass drops from her hand and CRASHES onto the patio.

**ELLE**

What?  
Elle starts to flush, completely caught off guard.

**WARNER**

I ' m sorry, Elle, I just --

**ELLE**

You're breaking up with me?!  
(tearing up)  
I thought you were proposing.

**WARNER**

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

**ELLE**

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

**WARNER**

T hat ' s not entirely --

**ELLE**

Then what? My boobs are too big?

**WARNER.**

Elle -- no -- your boobs are fine --  
Her tears start.

(CON TINUED

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CONTINU ED:

**ELLE**

So when you said you'd always love me,  
you were just "dicking around"?  
Warner looks around the restaurant nervously.

**WARNER**

I do love you, Elle. I just can't marry you.  
You have no idea the pressure I ' m under. My  
family has five generations of senators. My  
brother is in the top three at Yale Law. He  
just got engaged to a Vanderbilt, for crissakes.  
Elle stares at him aghast, tears streaming down her face,  
then pushes her chair away from the table and walks out.

**WARNER (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
It's not like I have a choice, sweetheart

He follows her out.

**8 EXT. STREET - NIGHT**  
**8**

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

**WARNER**

C'mon. Let me take you home.

**ELLE**

No.

**WARNER**

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

**9 EXT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - USC - NIGHT**  
**9**

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

**WARNER**

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

**(CONTINUED)**

**10.**

**9**

**ELLE**

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

**WARNER .**

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

**ELLE**

So you're breaking up with me because you're afraid your family won't like me?  
(through her tears)  
Everybody likes me!

**WARNER**

East coast people are different.

**ELLE**

Just because I ' m not a Vanderbilt, all of a sudden I ' m white trash? I grew up in Bel Air, Warner! Across the street from Aaron Spelling! I think most people would agree that's way better than a Vanderb ilt --

**WARNER**

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

**ELLE**

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

**WARNER**

I ' m sorry.  
She gets out of the car and drags herself up the stairs to her sorority house. When she's at the top, she turns back to look at him. His perfect cheekbones highlighted by the streetlamp.  
He meets her eyes, pained, but determined. Then pulls away, leaving her there.

10 INT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - USC - NIGHT  
10

Elle walks down the pink and green carpeted hall, dazed and tear-stained.  
Margot and Serena emerge from the bathroom, post-shower.  
Getting ready for a night out.

(CONTINUED)

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**MARGOT**

Why are you back so soon?

Serena sees Elle's bare hand.

**SERENA**

Did he forget the ring?

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

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

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

**MARGOT**

Elle?

**SERENA**

Where's the Rock?

**ELLE**

..

..

We're not engaged. It's over!

**SERENA AND MARGOT**

What?!

**ELLE**

.

He broke up with me!  
Serena and Margot gasp in horror, rushing to her side.

**SERENA**

Is it a Kappa?

**MARGOT**

It's not a Theta --

**ELLE**

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

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

**ELLE**

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

(CONTINUED)

12.

11

11

**SERENA**

What happened?

Elle starts to lose it again.

; **ELLE**

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

(sob-choked)

Serious! .

**MARGOT**

S e r i o u s ? ! Who the hell does he think he  
i s ? Y o u ' r e the most popular month on the  
U S C calendar!

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

**SERENA**

O h , he is so over on this campus.

**ELLE**

I just don ' t understand what went wrong --

**MARGOT**

Maybe it's the grandmother. Have you  
e v e r m e t h e r ?

E l l e wipes her face.

**ELLE**

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

They shrug, mystified.

**SERENA**

How could this happen?

**ELLE**

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

(wiping a tear)

I just need to be by myself.

**SERENA**

Are you sure?

Elle nods.      The girls rise, hugging her.

(CONTINUED)

13.

11

(2)

11

**MARGOT**

We still love you.      Sisters forever!

**ELLE**

(sniffing)  
Thank you. I love you, too.  
As they go, Margot looks at Serena.

**MARGOT**

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

**SERENA**

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

**(TV VERSION)**

Helloo... you let him videotape you  
diddling yourself.

**MARGOT**

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

12 **EXT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - DAY**  
12

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

13 **INT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY**  
13

Amy knocks on Elle's door.

**AMY**

Elle?  
ANOTHER SISTER passes.

**ANOTHER SISTER .**

(whispering)  
Didn't you hear?  
She leads a reluctant Amy down the hall.

14 INT. ELLE'S DELTA GAMMA ROOM - DAY

14

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

(CONTINUED)

14.

14

14

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

**ELLE**

I just love him so much! I loved him the first moment I saw him. He's beautiful and smart and someone I totally respect. And I did everything I could to make him love me, but it wasn't enough. Now what am I supposed to do? I planned my whole future around him. My life was going to be all about Warner. Now what's it going to be about?

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

15 INT. ELLE'S DELTA GAMMA ROOM - DAY

15

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

**TV SOAP STUD**

(on TV)  
"Oh, darling. I'll love you forever."

**ELLE**

(teary)  
Bullshit!  
Serena and Margot enter, bearing Jamba Juice.

**MARGOT**

Honey, stop! You have to leave this room  
-- it's been a week.

**ELLE**

So?

+

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

**SERENA**

What's the thing that always makes us  
feel better, no matter what?

**MARGOT**

Cunnilingus?

**(CONTINUED)**

15.

Elle lets out a wail, realizing what she'll be missing.  
Serena shoots Margot a stern look.

**SERENA**

No -- the thing after that,

**16 INT. UPSCALE MANICURE SHOP - DAY**  
**16**

A row of uniformed manicurists and their classy clients.  
Chattering away. Therapy in full session. Serena sits in  
front of her regular nail technician.

**SERENA**

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

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

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

**ELLE**

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

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
Do you know who this is?

The old lady looks.

**OLD LADY**

No.

**ELLE**

It's Warner's older brother!

**OLD LADY**

Who?

Elle continues, undaunted.

**(CONTINUED)**

**16.**

**16**

**16**

**EL LE**

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

(reading)

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

She turns to the old lady.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

The old lady looks at the picture.

**OLD LADY**

Butt ugly?

**ELLE**

No -- a law student.  
Elle rushes out. Serena looks after her.

**SERENA**

Elle?  
(turning back to her nail  
technician)  
She'll never get him back with those  
cuticles.

17 INT. COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY

17

Elle sits in front of her ADVISOR.

**ADVISOR**

(flummoxed)  
Harvard Law School?

**ELLE**

That's right.

**ADVISOR**

But it's a top three school --

**ELLE**

(offended)  
I have a 4.0.

(CONTINUED)

17  
17

**ADVISOR**

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

**ELLE**

I don't need backups. Harvard is the school I'm going to.  
He decides to humor her.

**ADVISOR**

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

**ELLE**

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

18     **INT. ELLE'S DELTA GAMMA ROOM - DAY**  
18

Elle sits on the floor surrounded by piles of LSAT prep books, the framed photo of Warner, and Underdog. There's a KNOCK at the door as Serena and Margot peek inside, gasping in horror at the sight of books.

**MARGOT**

What are you doing?!  
Elle smiles brightly at them.

**ELLE**

Reading about the LSATs.  
Margot looks at Serena, confused.

**SERENA**

(in a horrified whisper)  
My cousin had them. Apparently you get a  
really bad rash on your --  
Elle interrupts her.

**ELLE**

The LSATs are an exam.  
She takes a deep breath.

**(CONTINUED)**

18.

18

18

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
Girls-- I ' m going to Harvard!

**· SERENA**

What, like on va-kay?

**MARGOT**

Let's all go! Road trip!

**. SERENA**

Wait -- Cecil has a condo in Tahoe.  
Let's go there!

**ELLE**

No -- I ' m going to law school at Harvard.  
They look at her, confused.

**MARGOT**

Why?!

**SERENA**

I mean, I know you're upset and all, but  
can't you just take a sedative?  
Elle rolls her eyes at their naivete.

**ELLE**

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

**MARGOT**

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

**ELLE**

I have the highest GPA in Delta Gamma!  
Margot pulls something off her wrist and hands it to Elle.

**MARGOT**

Here. You're gonna need this.

**ELLE**

Your scrunchie?

**MARGOT**

My lucky scrunchie. It helped me pass  
Spanish.  
Serena rolls her eyes and looks at Margot disapprovingly.

**(CONTINUED)**

**S E R E N A**

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

**MARGOT**

(duh)  
Yeah, luckily.

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

19 **EXT. WOODS' BEL AIR BACKYARD - DAY**

19

ON VIDEO, Elle sits in a Jacuzzi in her bikini.

**ELLE**

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

20 **INT. KAPPA SIG LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

20

The girls watch a horror movie with Kappa Sigs. Eating  
popcorn and drinking red wine.

Off to the side, Elle reads an LSAT Study Guide.

21 INT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY  
21

ON VIDEO, a Delta Gamma chapter meeting takes place.

**ELLE (V.O.)**

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

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

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

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

22 INT. CLASSROOM - NIGHT  
22

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

20.

23 EXT. WOODS BACKYARD POOL - DAY

23

ON VIDEO, FROM ABOVE, we see Elle as she floats on a raft in  
her pool, in a pink Versace bikini. She addresses the  
camera.

**ELLE**

(to the camera)

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

We reveal Margot on a raft beside her.

**MARGOT**

(badly acting)  
Elle, do you know what happened on "Days  
of Our Lives" yesterday?

**ELLE**

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

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

**24**

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

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

**DISSOLVE TO:**

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

**25 EXT. BEACH - DAY**

**25**

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

**ELLE**

(to the camera)  
And the laws and bi-laws of civil  
obedience are crucial to my life --  
Serena skates by and fake-elbows Elle.

**(CONTINUED)**

21.

25

25

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing; calling after her)  
No shoving on the skate path! City  
ordinance 22G!

26 **INT. LIBRARY STUDY ROOM - NIGHT**

26

Elle sits in front of Amy, as Amy quizzes her with practice LSAT questions. Books are piled high around them. Elle gazes out the window to see ---Warner and some BARE-CHESTED FRATERNITY BOYS carrying a keg across the quad. Her eyes light up and she looks at Amy pleadingly. Amy shakes her head no. Elle slumps, then rises and goes to the window, closing the shades and getting back to work.

·27 **EXT. USC CAMPUS - DAY**

27

ON VIDEO, Elle addresses the camera.

**ELLE**

I feel confident using legal jargon in  
daily life.

**CUT TO:**

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

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

I object!

28 **INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY**

28

"LSAT EXAM -- Sections 1-6" is scrawled on the chalk board.

Elle sits in an auditorium with about 90 other students, LSAT booklet open, filling in answers. Concentrating so hard she's practically getting a forehead wrinkle.

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

ON VIDEO, Elle speaks to the camera.

**ELLE**

(to the camera)

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

**CUT TO:**

22.

30     **EXT. DYLAN MCDERMOTT'S HOUSE - DAY**  
30

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

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

**SERENA**

There he is!

. **MARGOT**

Pull up next to him!

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

**ELLE**

Dylan! We love you!

Dylan McDermott burns rubber as he flees.

**EXT. USC CAMPUS - DAY**

31 "

31

ON.VIDEO, Elle jogs while she addresses the camera.

**ELLE**

:

(to camera)

. .

I'm totally focused and goal-oriented.  
Plus I ' m able to sway people with my very  
convincing arguments.

.

She turns to Serena, jogging next to her.

**ELL E (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

**SERENA**

(convinced)

Absolutely!

32 **INT. DELTA GAMMA HOUSE - FOYER - DAY**

32

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

**AMY**

It's here!

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

**(CONTINUED)**

**ELLE**

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

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

**33 INT. HARVARD LAW ADMISSIONS OFFICE - DAY**

33

ON THE TV, Elle stands up in the Jacuzzi.

**ELLE**

(on TV)

And that's why you should vote for me.  
Elle Woods. Future lawyer. For the Class  
of 2003.

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

**ADMISSIONS GUY #1**

That was certainly a very --  
(adjusting himself)  
Imaginative essay.

**ADMISSIONS GUY #2**

(to the Dean)  
She does have a 4.0 from USC and she got  
a one-seventy-nine on her LSATs.

**DEAN OF ADMISSIONS**

A fashion major?

**ADMISSIONS GUY #3**

Well, we've never had one before...  
aren't we always looking for diversity?

**AMISIONS GUY #1**

Her list of extracurriculars is  
impressive.  
The Dean looks at her application.

**DEAN OF ADMISSIONS**

(unimpressed)  
She was in a Ricky Martin video --

**ADMISSIONS GUY #2**

Clearly, she's interested in music...

**(CONTINUED)**

**24.**

**33**

**33**

**DEAN OF ADMISSIONS**

(reading on; skeptical)  
She also designed a line of faux fur  
panties for her sorority's charity  
project --

**ADMISSIONS GUY #3**

Then she's a friend to animals as well as  
a philanthropist.

**. AMISIONS GUY #1**

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

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

**DEAN OF ADMISSIONS**

Elle Woods -- Welcome to Harvard.

**34 EXT. WOODS' BACKYARD - DAY**  
**34**

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

**DANIEL**

(frowning)  
Law school?

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

**ELLE**

It's a perfectly respectable place...

**DANIEL**

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

Sapphire is in agreement.

**SAPPHIRE**

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

**ELLE**

Because this is what I want. I've worked

hard for it. Don't you understand that  
this is important to me?

(CONTINUED)

25.

34

34

She looks at her uncomprehending parents.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

Sapphire looks at her, still not getting it.

**SAPPHIRE**

Can't you just suck his wiener?

**(TV VERSION)**

Can't you just get your nose done?

Elle reacts to her mother's skewed logic.

35 EXT. HARVARD DORM - DAY

35

Pale, studious LAW STUDENTS clad in earth tones, move into their dorm, carrying in their spartan belongings (coffee makers, books, computers). In the distance, a HAPPY POP SONG (perhaps "Heaven Tonight by Hole) is heard. As it gets louder, heads turn to see -- A silver, convertible Boxster driving up, Elle at the wheel, / MUSIC BLASTING. A large MOVING VAN follows the Boxster. People lean out of their windows, buzzing with interest as-- Elle's car stops in front of the dorm. She hops out, scooping up Underdog and looking every inch the LA-Fred-Segal-glamour-queen, as she looks around with a smile. Elle looks at Underdog.

**ELLE**

We're here!  
She bends down to pour some Evian into his inflatable doggy dish, inadvertently revealing cleavage to a passing BESPECTACLED BOY (several yards away). He trips, dropping his I-MAC. It shatters into a million pieces.  
Not noticing/ Elle stands and turns to two MOVING GUYS/ who are hauling a pink, faux-fur love seat and a potted palm tree out of the truck.

**(CONTINUED)**

26.

35

35

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
This way, guys!

With a beauty queen smile in place, she strides into the dorm as the other students watch in amazement.

**HANGING OUT OF THE WINDOW**

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

**ARROGANT AARON**

Whose knob did she honk to get in here?

**36 EXT. LAW SCHOOL QUAD - DAY**  
**36**

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

**F U Z Z Y 2L**

Class schedule, map, book list.

**ELLE**

Has Warner Huntington checked in yet?

**F U Z Z Y 2L**

(checking)  
Uh, no. Maybe you should try the Lido deck.  
She frowns and starts to move on, but then looks through the packet with a frown and turns back.

**ELLE**

Wait -- my social events schedule is missing.

**F U Z Z Y 2L**

Your what?

**ELLE**

You know -- mixers, formals, beach trips.

(CONTINUED)

27.

36

36

**FUZZY 2L**

(deadpan)

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

**ELLE**

(wrinkling her nose)

I guess it'll have t o . . .

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

**FUZZY 2L**

What the hell.was that?

**BALD 2L**

(watching her go)

Malibu Barbie lives.

37 EXT. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL - OUTDOOR GARDEN - DAY  
37

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

**BURNED OUT 2L**

Okay. Welcome to law school. This is the part where we go around in a circle and everyone says a little bit about themselves. Let's start with you.  
He gestures at a guy with glasses, DORKY DAVID.

**DORKY DAVID**

I have a Masters in Russian Literature, a Ph.D in Biochemistry, and for the last eighteen months, I've been de-worming orphans in Somalia.

**BURNED OUT 2L**

Awesome. How about you, Enid?

ENID, a militant feminista, looks up.

**ENID**

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

**BURNED OUT 2L**

Killer.

**(CONTINUED)**

28.

37

37

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

**INTENSE IVAN**

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

**BURNED OUT 2L**

Sweet. What about you?  
He looks at Elle. She sits up straight.

**ELLE**

I ' m a Gemini. I have a Bachelors degree from USC, where I was Sigma Chi Sweetheart and president of Delta Gamma, and last year ' ' -- I was Homecoming Queen .

She smiles, as the group leader nods, waiting.

**ELL E (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

Oh!

(dramatically)

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

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

38 INT. ELLE'S DORM ROOM - DAY  
38

A grey, dingy, cell-block style room -- now crammed with Elle's clothes, the pink fluffy love seat and potted palm, along with an Elliptical Cross-Trainer, pink flamingo party lights and a neon pink margarita glass sculpture.

Elle tries to shove a large law textbook into her tiny Prada backpack to no avail. She gives up and tosses the book onto the bed where Underdog leaps away to miss being squished.

**ELLE**

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

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

(CONTINUED)

29.

38

38

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing; to herself)  
I totally look the part!

39 INT. LAW SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY  
39

Elle heads for a classroom, amidst a crowd of students who eye her like she's an alien. She rounds a corner, seeing --

WARNER, in all his handsome glory, looking over his schedule. She starts toward him, as if pulled by a magnetic force. Arrogant Aaron sees her passing by.

**ARROGANT AARON**

(seductively)  
H l o t e e . . . . .  
el hr.

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

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

**WARNER**

(stunned)  
Elle?!

Elle turns, ultra-nonchalant.

**ELLE**

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

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

**WARNER**

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

**ELLE**

No, silly. I go here.

**WARNER**

(still confused)  
You go where?

**ELLE**

Harvard. Law school.

(CONTINUED)

30.

39

39

**WARNER**

v- y  
--

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

**E L L E .**

(con fuse d at his confusion)

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

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

She

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

**. ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

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

**WARNER**

U h -- s u r e .

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

**40 INT. CIVIL PROCEDURES CLASS - DAY**

4.0.

Students file in and take their seats. Elle enters,  
looking

Aaron, around nervously at the imposing auditorium. Arrogant  
next to her, leans over.

**ARROGANT AARON**

If you're looking for the best seat, I  
hear the front row is the place to be.

Elle smiles at him.

**ELLE**

Thanks.

**41 INT. CIVIL PROCEDURES CLASS - DAY - LATER**  
**41**

in PROFESSOR ELSPETH STROMWELL, a tough-as-nails Grande Dame  
for her 50' s , addresses the class. Laptops abound -- except  
Elle, who has a fuzzy pink notebook and a pen with a pink  
plastic heart on the end.

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

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

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**PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

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

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

Dorky David raises his hand.

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

Yes?

**DORKY DAVID**

(confidently)

Aristotle.

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

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

Are you sure?

Now he's not.

**DORKY DAVID**

Yes?

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

~ Would you be willing to stake your life

on it?

**DORKY DAVID**

I think so...

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

H o w about --

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

**(CONTINUED)**

32.

41  
41

(2)

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
-- his life?

**DORKY DAVID**

(scared)  
I don't know.

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

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

As she turns away --

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

And you were right. It was Aristotle.

The class half-laughs in relief.

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

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

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

Who can tell us about Gordon v. Steele?

Silence. Stromwell looks down at the seating chart.

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

Ivan Greenstein?

Intense Ivan straightens in his' seat.

**IVAN**

Gordon sued her doctors for malpractice.

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

And what did the dispute entail?

(looking at her chart)

Let's call on someone in the hot zone.

Elle Woods? Elle looks up, distressed.

**(CONTINUED)**

41  
41

(3)

**ELLE**

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

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

(looking at her chart)  
Sarah Knottingham?

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

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
Do you think it's acceptable that Ms. Woods is unprepared?  
Sarah looks over at Elle. Elle gives her a mortified smile. Sarah turns back to Professor Stromwell.

**SARAH**

No, I don't.

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

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

**SARAH**

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

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

Now, Ms. Knottingham, did diversity

jurisdiction'exist in this case?

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

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

**EMMETT**

Are you okay?  
Elle looks up, snapping out of her stupor.

(CONTINUED)

34.

42  
42

**ELLE**

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

**EMMETT**

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

**ELLE**

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

He smiles.

**EMMETT**

You have Stromwell.

**ELLE**

(hopeful)  
Did she do that to you, too?

**EMMETT**

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

**ELLE**

(stricken)  
Neat . . . ' , ' .

**EMMETT**

Don't worry. It gets better. Who else do you have?  
Elle looks at her schedule.

**ELLE**

Donovan, Royalton and Levinson.

**EMMETT**

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

**(CONTINUED)**

**EMMETT (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

**ELLE**

Wow. I ' m glad I met you.

She smiles at him, grateful.

**EMMETT**

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

Students trickle out of the building.

**ELLE "** . . .

Are you a third-year?  
Warner walks up, behind Emmett, interrupting.

**WARNER**

Hey.

Elle looks up, pure adoration on her face.

**ELLE**

Hi!

Emmett rises and walks off.

**EMMETT**

Good luck.

**ELLE**

(calling after him)  
Thanks again for your help!

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

**WARNER**

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

**ELLE**

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

**(MORE)**

**(CONTINUED)**

36.

42  
42

(3)

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(perky)  
How was your summer?

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

• **WARNER**

(distracted)  
Good. Good.

**ELLE**

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

**WARNER**

(nervous)  
Urn, hey, have you met Sarah?

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

**SARAH**

Hi. Sarah Knottingham.

**ELLE**

(to Warner; horrified)  
You know her?

**WARNER**

She 's --

Sarah jumps in.

**SARAH**

-- I ' m his fiancée.

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

**ELLE**

(in disbelief)  
I'm sorry, I just hallucinated.

**WARNER**

Sarah was my girlfriend at prep school.  
We got back together over the summer at  
my grandmother's birthday party.

Elle looks stricken. Sarah gives her a smug smile.

(CONTINUED)

37.

42  
42

(.4)

**SARAH**

Warner told me all about you. You're  
famous at our Club.  
She says it in a way that is anything but flattering. In  
fact, it's completely condescending.

**SARAH (CONT'D)**

(continuing; pointedly)  
But he didn't tell me you'd be here.

**WARNER**

I didn't know --  
Elle looks from Warner to Sarah.

**ELLE**

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

! . . . .

face, .

**SARAH**

(to Warner)

I thought you said she was pretty.

**43 EXT. STREET/INT. ELLE'S CONVERTIBLE BOXSTER- DAY**

**43**

Elle drives, wiping the tears from her face. She spots something off to the side and SWERVES her car toward it, a gasp of hope escaping her lips.

Her car stops in front of a strip mall salon called "Beauty Oasis".

**44 INT. BEAUTY OASIS - DAY**

**44**

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

**PAULETTE**

Bad day?

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

**ELLE**

You can't even imagine.

**(CONTINUED)**

**PAULETTE**

.Spill.,

Elle lets it all out in a rush.

**ELLE**

I worked really hard to get into law school -- I blew off Spring Break and Greek Week to study for the LSATs, I completely neglected my Homecoming Queen duties, I hired a Coppola to direct my admissions video -- all so I could get my boyfriend Warner back and now he's engaged to this awful girl Sarah so it was all for nothing! I wish I ' d never even come to Harvard.

Paulette dries Elle's hands and begins filing.

**PAULETTE**

After you went to all that trouble?

**ELLE**

:

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

**PAULETTE**

You're asking the wrong girl. I ' m with my guy eight years and then one day it's "I met someone else. Move out."

**ELLE**

(horrified)  
What'd you do?

**PAULETTE**

Cried a lot and gained twenty pounds.  
Dewey kept the trailer and my precious  
baby Rufus. I got jackcrap.  
She looks at a picture of the pit-bull.

**PAULETTE (CONT'D)**

(continuing; re the dog)  
I didn't even get to go to his birthday  
party.

**ELLE**

No!

(CONTINUED)

39.

44

( 2 )

44

**PAUL ETTE**

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

**ELLE**

That's terrible!

**PAULETTE**

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

**ELLE**

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

**PAULETTE**

Is she as pretty as you?  
Elle looks down.

**ELLE**

(embarrassed)  
I ' m not pretty -- I ' m genetically  
blessed.  
Paulette rolls her eyes, shaking her bottle of polish and  
starting on Elle's right hand.

**PA UL ETT E**

Is sJie.?

**ELL E**

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

**UPS GUY (O.S.)**

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

(CONTINUED)

40.

44

( 3 )

44

**UPS GUY (CONT'D)**

See ya later.  
He goes. Paulette watches him. Elle notices.

**PAULETTE**

(hating herself)  
Could I be anymore goddamn spastic?  
(beat)  
So you're sure, this Warner guy is "the  
one"?

**ELLE**

Definitely! I love him!  
Paulette looks at her.

**PAULETTE**

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

45 INT. DORMITORY - WARNER'S ROOM - DAY

45

Elle knocks on Warner's door, bottle of wine and two glasses  
in hand.

**ELLE**

Warner?

When she gets no answer, she write a message on his memo board -- CLOSE ON-- "Call me! Love, You Know Who". She leaves the wine bottle and two glasses and goes.

**46 EXT. HARVARD LAW CAMPUS - DAY**

**46**

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

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

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

**41.**

**47 INT. CRIMINAL LAW CLASS - DAY**

**47**

Elle sits, glaring at Sarah, who keeps waving her "The Rock" in Elle's direction, as she plays footsie with Warner.

PROFESSOR DONOVAN -- 40s, a big fan of himself, salt and pepper hair, no time for bullshit -- stands before the class.

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

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

He looks around.

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

Ms . Woods --

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

**SARAH**

This should be amusing.

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

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

**ELLE**

Neither.

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

Why not?

**ELLE**

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

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

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

Dare to dream, Ms. Woods. Ms. Knottingham? Which would you prefer?

**(CONTINUED)**

**SARAH**

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

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

Yes? Ms. Woods?

' **ELLE** ' ..

I changed my mind. I ' d pick the dangerous one.  
She looks pointedly at Sarah.

**ELLE (CONT' 'D)**

(continuing)  
I ' m not afraid of a challenge.  
Sarah glares back at her. Warner looks between the two of them, worried.

**48 INT. STUDY LOUNGE - DAY**  
48

The Harvard Public Interest Law Association meeting is underway. Warner listens intently, A few seats away, Elle appears to be taking notes.  
Meet C L O SE ON--her "notes" -- "I'm free for dinner tonight.  
points me at The Cask & Flagon at 8."  
off. She folds the note and sticks it in Underdog's mouth, then him toward Warner. Humiliated but dutiful, Underdog bounds off.  
CLOSE ON -- Underdog, as he carries forth his mission, arriving at Warner's feet. UNDERDOG'S POV -- Warner discreetly takes the note from him, then looks over at Elle,



**SARAH**

Our group is full.

**ELLE**

Oh, God, was this like an RSVP thing?

**CLAIRE**

No, it's like a smart people thing.       And  
like Sarah said, we're full.

**WARNER**

Come on ~ we can make room for one more.  
Sarah looks at Warner with evil eyes.

**SARAH**

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

**CLAIRE**

(to Warner)  
Besides, you wouldn't let the fat guy  
\_ join.

**WARNER**

He tried to watch me take'a shower!  
Sarah looks at Elle.

**SARAH**

The answer is no.  
Warner looks at her, feeling guilty. He shrugs an "I'm  
sorry", but Elle's perkiness has gone.

**(CONTINUED)**

50  
50

(2)

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

**ELLE**

Then I guess I'll leave you alone.  
She walks away, completely deflated, passing by the RAGING FEMINIST STUDY GROUP. Enid calls out.

**ENID**

Maybe there's a sorority you could join instead.  
Elle stops and looks at her.

**ELLE**

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

**ENID**

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

**ELLE**

I don't use that word. Only mean people use that word. You must've heard it from Sarah.  
She looks back at Warner's table and walks off. As she does., she's nearly mowed down by a gaggle of NERDS led by DORKY DAVID, who knock the muffins out of her hands. She stands there, even more depressed.

51 **INT. ELLE'S DORM ROOM - DAY - LATER**  
51

Elle sinks down onto her bed, deflated. She picks up the phone and dials.

52 INT. BRIDAL SHOP - DAY  
52

Serena, with a new hairdo, and Margot are surrounded by wedding dresses. Margot talks on her cell phone. We

**INTERCUT.**

**MARGOT**

(to Serena)  
It's Elle!  
(into phone)  
Guess what I ' m doing right this second?

**ELLE**

Power yoga?

(CONTINUED)

45.

52  
52

**MARGOT**

Picking out my wedding dress!

**ELLE**

· What?!

**MARGOT**

Josh proposed!

**ELLE**

(startled)  
N o way --  
Serena grabs the phone.

**SERENA**

(into phone)  
;;po you have The Rock yet?  
Elle lies.

**ELLE**

Almost.

**SERENA**

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

**ELLE**

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

**SERENA**

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

**ELLE**

What?

**SERENA**

I got bangs!

**ELLE**

(hurt and annoyed)  
Re a ll y --  
Margot grabs the phone back.

(CONTINUED)

46.

52 (2)  
52

**MARGOT**

:

(into phone)

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

**ELLE**

Iwl.

il. . . .

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

53 **INT. ELLE'S DORM - HALLWAY - DAY - SAME TIME**  
53

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

**SARAH**

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

**CLAIRE**

That-'s genius.  
Elle pops her head out of the room.

**ELLE**

(excited)  
No way! Someone at this school is  
actually having a party?  
Sarah and Claire turn around. Elle's face falls when she  
sees that it's them.

**SARAH**

No.

**CLAIRE**

You must've heard us wrong.

**SARAH**

Sorry. Looks like you'll be staying home  
tonight. Alone.  
They continue on as Elle goes back into her room, snubbed.

**54 INT. ELLE'S DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

**54**

Elle shuts the door behind her and looks at Underdog.

**ELLE**

I can't believe this. Not only do I not  
have Warner, but I'm --unpopular!  
The realization hits her hard. Underdog barks. She looks at  
him.

..'. . . .

**(CONTINUED)**

**47.**

**54**

**54**

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
But I wasn't invited.

He barks again.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
You really think I should?

**55 EXT. OFF-CAMPUS HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT**  
**55**

Two feet in high heels and fishnet hose stride purposefully up the sidewalk.  
A perfect butt wearing a bunny tail wiggles up the steps.

**56 INT. OFF-CAMPUS HOUSE - NIGHT**  
**56**

A party filled with people who are no fun to party with. NAMETAGS denote which famous defendant everyone is dressed as. Menendez's, Tonya Harding's, and Buttafuco's pepper the room.

Elle, decked out in a Playboy Bunny costume -- looking sexy as hell -- strides in. People roll their eyes and ignore her. Elle continues on.

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

**ENID**

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

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

**ENID (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

Hey , Elle-- I've been meaning to ask you  
    (re her boobs)  
-- are those real?

Elle snorts.

**ELLE**

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

**(CONTINUED)**

48.

56

56

She keeps walking.

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

57

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

**ELLE**

(continuing; sarcastic)  
Thanks for inviting me, girls. This party  
is super fun.

They roll their eyes, checking out her Bunny costume.

**SARAH**

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

Elle smiles at Sarah.

**ELLE**

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

She grabs a glass of wine and moves on.

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

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

**ELLE**

Hey, O.J.

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

**WARNER**

Wow. You're a walking felony.

**ELLE**

Thank you. Having fun?

**WARNER**

( c h e c k i n g her out )  
Now I am.

**(CONTINUED)**

58

58

**ELLE**

(flirty)

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

**WARNER**

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

**ELLE**

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

**WARNER**

(scoffing)

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

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

**WARNER (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

I didn't mean --

**ELLE**

(cutting him off)

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

**WARNER**

(covering)

We ll , yeah, but --

**ELLE**

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

**WARNER**

I just don't want to see you get your  
hopes up. You know how you get.  
She stares at him. Realizing the awful truth.

**ELLE**

I'll never be good enough for you, will

**I?**

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

50.

59 **INT. OFF-CAMPUS HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT -SAME TIME**  
59

A group of tipsy ILs stand around.  
bowl filled with cash. One of them holds a salad

**ENID**

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

**DORKY DAVID**

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

**SARAH**

If she spreads her legs, maybe --

**ARROGANT AARON**

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

**ELLE (O.S.)**

What is this?

They turn around to find Elle standing there.

**CLAIRE**

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

**ELLE**

(stung)  
What?

**SARAH**

Look around, Elle. Do you actually think  
you belong here?

They all stare at her.

**ELLE**

(hurt)  
Why wouldn't I?

**ENID**

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

**ARROGANT AARON**

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

after we get rich?

**(CONTINUED)**

51.

59

59

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

**ELLE**

You know what? All of you can just kiss  
my ass.

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

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing; to herself)

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

She stomps out of the house.

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

60 **INT. HARVARD BOOKSTORE - NIGHT**

60

A hot pink laptop is yanked off the shelf.

**TO:**

**CUT**

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

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

Elle turns, seeing him.

**ELLE**

Don't ask.

**EMMETT**

Wasn't gonna. -

She marches off. Laptop in hand.

**61 INT. ELLE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT**  
**61**

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

**52.**

**62 INT. LAW LIBRARY - DAY**  
**62**

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

**63 INT. STUDY LOUNGE - DAY**  
**63**

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

64 INT. BEAUTY OASIS - DAY  
64

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

65 INT. CRIMINAL LAW CLASS - DAY ..  
65

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

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

And the purpose of "diminished capacity"  
is?  
She swallows nervously, then speaks.

**ELLE**

To negate mens rea?  
Donovan nods affirmatively and continues. Elle hides a smile.

66 INT. LAW LIBRARY - NIGHT  
66

Elle reaches for a book on a high shelf, but she's not tall enough. She tries a running start and leaps for it. Still missing it.  
FROM THE LEFT, she runs and leaps again, missing again.  
FROM THE RIGHT, she runs and leaps again, missing again.  
Dorky David walks up and sets down a step-stool at her: feet.  
Now winded, she smiles her thanks, stepping up to retrieve her book.

67 INT. STUDY LOUNGE - DAY

67

Enid flips through her notecards, memorizing, when she comes upon a picture of a NAKED MAN. Oh, the horror. She throws it down in disgust as if her eyes have been burned. Looking around, Enid sees Elle smiling and waving at her from across the room.

68 INT. LAW LIBRARY - DAY

68

Elle walks past Arrogant Aaron, as he sleeps at his study cubicle, head back on the chair. She stops, backs up, and waves her hand over his face. When he doesn't stir, she takes a magic marker out of her knapsack and leans over to write something on his forehead.

INT. ELLE'S DORM ROOM - DAY

69

69

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

LECTURER (V.O.)

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

70 INT. LAW LIBRARY - DAY

70>

Arrogant Aaron wakes up with a start, checks his watch, and rushes off to class. Oblivious to his facial graffiti, which we can't yet read.

71 INT. CIVIL PROCEDURES CLASS - DAY

71

Professor Stromwell is in front of the class.

PROFESSOR STROMWELL

So you've filed a claim. Now what?

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

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
Ms. Woods?

**ELLE**

Don't you also need to have evidence?

**(CONTINUED)**

54.

71  
71

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

Meaning?  
Everyone now stares at Elle.

**'ELLE**

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

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

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

And what kind of evidentiary support does  
this case require? Let's ask Mr.  
Harriman, who clearly believes that I  
might be hungry.  
She looks up at Arrogant Aaron in the back row. Who  
unknowingly has "Eat Me" written on his forehead. He looks

back at her, confused, as the students around him snicker.

72 **EXT. BEAUTY OASIS - NIGHT**

72

A "Closed" sign is on the door.

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

73 **INT. CRIMINAL LAW CLASS - DAY**

73

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

**WARNER**

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

**PROFESSOR DONQVAN**

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

**(CONTINUED)**

**WARNER**

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

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

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

Now you're thinking like a lawyer.

EMMETT enters from the back, holding a file. He stands  
there quietly, watching. He stands  
Elle tentatively raises her hand.

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN (CONT'D)**

Ms. Woods?  
Sarah looks at Claire.

**SARAH**

(sotto)  
The idiot speaks.

**ELLE**

Although Mr. Huntington makes an  
excellent point, I have to wonder if the  
defendant kept a thorough record of each  
sperm emission made throughout his life?

The class titters. Elle grows annoyed.

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

(bemused)  
Why do you ask?

Elle's hesitancy is replaced by conviction.

**ELLE**

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

Emmett's mouth twitches into a smile.

**(CONTINUED)**

56.

73 (2)  
73

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

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

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

I believe you've just won your case.

Elle grins. :

74 INT. DONOVAN'S CLASS - LATER  
74

As the students file out, Elle passes Donovan.

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

You did well today.

She stops.

**ELLE**

I did?

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

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

**ELLE**

I don ' t know --

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

You should. Do you have a resume?

**ELLE**

(excited)

" ... ' ' . . . . i do. ' ' , . ' ' . ' . . . ; . . .  
She pulls a resume out of her briefcase and hands it to him..  
He looks at it. .

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

It's pink.

**ELLE**

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

See you tomorrow!

(CONTINUED)

57.

74

74

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

**EMMETT**

I brought you the Windham notes.

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

(watching Elle go)

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

Emmett looks after Elle, bemused.

**EMMETT**

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

75 **INT. ELLE'S CAR-DAY**

75

Elle drives. Paulette is shotgun.

**PAULETTE**

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

**ELLE**

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

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

You ready?

**PAULETTE**

No.

**ELLE**

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

She points ahead of them. Paulette goes.

76 **EXT. DEWEY'S TRAILER - DAY**

76

The door opens. DEWEY(40s) and his beer gut emerge. Paulette is on the porch. Trying to exude confidence, but failing.

**(CONTINUED)**

9/172000 Revision (Blue)

58.



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

**ELLE**

Dewey Newcomb?

**DEWEY**

Who's askin'

**ELLE**

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

Paulette looks at Elle in surprise, Elle keeps going.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

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

**(CONTINUED)**

**59.**

**78**  
**"78**

Paulette watches Elle, mouth hanging open.

**DEWEY**

(confused)  
Come again?

**ELLE**

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

**DEWEY**

:

Huh?

**ELLE**

Tell him, Paulette.  
A still-stunned Paulette looks at Elle, then turns to Dewey,  
fire in her ass.

'.

."

**PAULETTE**

I ' m taking the dog dumbass.  
(calling into the trailer)  
C'mere, baby, Mommy's here!

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

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

79

Elle, Paulette and Rufus get in.

**ELLE**

W e did it!

Elle high-fives her.

**PAULETTE**

God, that felt great!

**ELLE**

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

**PAULETTE**

Which must be a nice vacation for his  
bls . .  
al.

She turns to Rufus, hugging him.

**(CONTINUED)**

60.

79

79

**PAULETTE (CONT'D)**

And now Mommy's got somebody to eat  
dinner with again. You don't care what  
Mommy's butt looks like, do you?

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

**80 INT. CIVIL PROCEDURES CLASS - DAY**

80

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

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

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

She looks around as hands are raised.

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
Mr. Greenstein?

**INTENSE IVAN**

Judge Sandra Day O'Connor?

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

C ose... .  
1

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

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
Ms. Woods?

**ELLE**

Madonna?  
The class rolls their eyes and laughs, watching Stromwell.

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

Damn. Thought I 'd get everyone on that one.  
The class can't believe Elle is right.

81 EXT. CRIMINAL LAW CLASS - HALLWAY - DAY

81

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

(CONTINUED)

61.

81

81

**ELLE**

What's going on?

**DORKY DAVID**

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

**ELLE**

He chose them already?

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

**SARAH**

We got it!

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

**ENID**

The competition must not have been that

stiff.

Arrogant Aaron pushes his way to the board.

**ARROGANT AARON**

Why? ion .got a spot?

**ENID**

Hey! Watch your hands, Mr.Grabass.

**ARROGANT AARON**

(ignoring her)

That only leaves one for --

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

**ELLE**

(shocked)

Me?!

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

Dignified, she walks through them as they PART for her, stopping in front of Warner and Sarah.

**EL LE (CONT'D)**

(continuing; to Warner)

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

**(CONTINUED)**

81  
81

(2)

Sarah looks away.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

This is way better than that.

(pushing Sarah aside)

Excuse me. I have some shopping to do.

As she goes, surprised CHATTER overtakes the hallway.

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

82

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

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

83

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

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

84

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

**WARNER**

You look -- nice.

**ELLE**

Thank you.

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

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

85

Donovan strides through the office, his four interns behind

him. He points as he walks.

**DONOVAN**

There's your office, there's the  
bathroom, there's the coffee machine.  
There's Gerard, Dick and Bobby.

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

**DONOVAN (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

63.

86 INT. AUSTEN, JARET, PLATT AND DONOVAN - CONFERENCE ROOM 86

Professor Donovan opens his briefcase as Elle, Sarah, Enid  
and Warner hang on his every word.

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

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

**SARAH**

Gold digger?

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

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

Elle frowns.

**ELLE**

Wait a minute -- are we talking about  
Brooke Daniels?  
Donovan checks his papers.

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

M a i d e n name--Daniels.  
(looking up)  
You know her?

**ELLE**

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

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

Amazing how?

**ELLE**

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

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

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

**(CONTINUED)**

**WA R N ER**

B y who?

**SA RAH**

(correcting him)  
Whom?

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

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

**ELLE**

Maybe she found him like that.

**P R O F E S S O R DONOVAN**

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

Emmett walks in and sits.

**EMMETT**

Sorry I ' m late.  
Elle looks at him, confused.

**P R O F E S S O R DONOVAN**

This is Emmett Kerrigan, another associate.  
Top three in his class and former editor of  
H a r v a r d Law Review. You've probably seen  
h i m lurking around campus doing my research.

**EM ME TT**

Or napping on the quad. .  
Elle smiles at him. He smiles back. Almost shy.

**WARNER**

(to Donovan)  
What about the murder weapon?

**P R O F E S S O R D O N O V A N**

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

**ELLE**

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

( CON TINU

ED)

65.

86  
86

(2)

**PROFESSOR DONOVAN**

You don't really believe she's innocent?

**ELLE**

Of course, I do!

Emmett looks at her.

**EMMETT**

Then we may actually have a case.

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

...'

87           **EXT. BOSTON JAIL - DAY**  
87

Grey and imposing.

88           **INT. BOSTON JAIL - DAY**  
88

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

**DONOVAN**

What alibi?

'           .           .'

**BROOKE**

I can't tell you.

'           **DONOVAN**

You understand you're on trial for murder ?

**BROOKE**

I didn't do it! I walked in, saw my husband lying on the floor, bent down to check his heart, screamed my head off and Chutney and Enrique ran inside.

**DONOVAN**

Where they saw you standing over the body  
covered in his blood.  
She glares at him.

**BROOKE**

Why would I kill my husband?

**DONOVAN**

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

**(CONTINUED)**

66.

88

8E

**B ROO KE**

I l o v e d h i m !

**DO NO VA N**

He was thirty-four years older than you.  
That doesn't sound so good to a jury.

Now she's pissed.

**BROOKE**

Then show them a picture of his cock.  
They might put a few things together.

Everyone stiffens except for Elle, who laughs out loud.

**DONOVAN** , .

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

**BROOKE**

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

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

**DONOVAN**

Were you with another man?

**BROOKE**

Go to hell.

**DONOVAN**

I'll take that as a no.

**BROOKE**

Are we done for today?

**DONOVAN**

I believe we are.

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

**BROOKE**

Hey -- I know you.

Elle perks up.

**ELLE**

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

yours!

(CONTINUED)

.67.

88 (2)  
8£

**BR Ooke**

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

**ELLE**

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

**BROOKE**

Well, thank God one of you has a brain.

89 INT. BEAUTY OASIS - DAY  
89

Rufus sleeps happily on the floor. Elle sits in front of  
,  
Paulette, nails in the soapy water.

**ELLE**

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

. **PAULETTE**

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

**ON THE DOOR**

The UPS GUY stands in the doorway with a package, sun streaming in around him.

**UPS GUY**

Afternoon, ladies.

**O N ELLE AND PAULETTE**

**PAULETTE**

It's him!  
Paulette smooths down her hair.

**ELLE**

It's who?  
She turns to look as we go to --

BUTT-CAM -- CLOSE ON the crisp brown shorts of a regulation UPS uniform, as they stretch across the taut, muscular buttocks of UPS GUY, as he strides through the shop.

**(CO NTINUE**

**D)**

When the butt stops moving, we WIDEN to reveal the UPS Guy now standing in front of Elle and Paulette.

**UPS GUY**

I've got a package.  
Elle turns to Paulette, eyes wide.

**ELLE**

(agreeing)  
He's got a package.  
Paulette is frozen. Blushing and nervous.

**UPS GUY**

How ya doin' today?

**PAULETTE .**

Fine?  
He waits for her to sign. She remains frozen. Elle takes  
the pen and signs for her, trying to help.

UPS Guy smiles kindly at Paulette and heads out.

**UPS GUY**

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

**ELLE**

So, this is the only interaction you two

have ever had?

**PAULETTE**

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

**ELLE**

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

.. ' . . . . . ''

**PAULETTE**

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

**ELLE**

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

(CONTINUED)

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89  
89

(2)

Paulette snorts.

**PAULETTE**

Good one.

**ELLE**

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

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

I ' m going to .show you a little maneuver  
my mother taught me when I was in junior  
high. In my experience, it has a 98%  
success rate in getting a man's attention  
an d when used appropriately--an 83%  
rate of return on a dinner invitation.  
The HAIRSTYLISTS and CLIENTS listen, intrigued.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
It's called the "Bend & Snap".  
(acting)  
"Oh, look! There's something on the  
floor that I need to pick up!" Bend...  
She slowly BENDS down, as if to pick up something, sticking  
out her tush, knee cocked. She slids her hand down her  
cocked leg until her hand touches the floor and she SNAPS  
back up, boobs a'bouncing.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
And snap! Now you try.  
Paulette stands up repeating the maneuver.

**PAULETTE**

Bend...and snap!  
I t ' s a spastic version of what Elle just did.

**ELLE**

Good. Now this time, put a little arch in  
your back and maybe get your footing more  
solid.  
Paulette does it again. This time, getting it right.

**(CONTINUED)**

89  
89

( 3 )

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

Perfect!

A HAIR CLIENT walks over, head full of curlers.

**HAIR CLIENT**

Like this?

She tries.

**ELLE**

Good.

She adjusts her like a yoga instructor would.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

But cock that knee.

ANOTHER CLIENT calls over.

**ANOTHER CLIENT**

Am I doing it right?

Elle walks over to her.

**ELLE**

More snap, less bend.

She turns to the rest of the clients.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

C'mon -- everyone try!  
Clients hop up out of their chairs as someone reaches over  
and cranks the transistor radio, blaring "BRICK HOUSE" by the  
Commodores.

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

Elle walks around them, continuing to adjust them.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

Now everyone together.  
They all bend in unison -- going down on "Brick" --

**EVERYONE**

Bend --  
And snapping back up -- on "House" .

(CONTINUED)

.71.

89  
89

( 4 )

**EVERYONE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
And snap !

The frivolity continues as the roomful of ladies perfect the  
maneuver .  
M A U R I C E , a male hair-dresser, comes out of the back room,  
m i x i n g a bowl of bleach as he walks. He stops when he spots  
the activity.

**MAURICE**

Oh, my God! The Bend & Snap!  
(to an old lady)  
Works every time...

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

90

90

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

**CHUTNEY**

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

**DONOVAN**

Did she have a weapon in her hand?

**CHUTNEY**

No.

**DONOVAN**

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

**CHUTNEY**

Uh, yeah, because the bitch shot him.

**DONOVAN**

Was there any evidence that Mrs . Windham shot him?

**CHUTNEY**

(duh)  
His dead body with a bullet in it.

91 INT. AUSTEN, PLATT, JARET & DONOVAN-CONFERENCE ROOM-LATER

91

ENRIQUE, 25, Latino and hunky as hell, sits in the seat that Chutney has vacated.

(CONTINUED)

72.

91 aONTINUED:

91

**DONOVAN**

What did you see when you entered the house?

**ENRIQUE**

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

**DONOVAN**

Was she carrying a weapon?

**ENRIQUE**

No, she was crying her eyes out.

Donovan smiles.

**DONOVAN**

So she was distraught that her husband was dead?

**ENRIQUE**

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

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

**92 INT. STEAKHOUSE - NIGHT**  
**.9.2**

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

**GERARD**

She's screwing the pool boy.

Elle gasps and makes a face.

**ELLE**

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

Warner shrugs, embarrassed. Sarah looks at Donovan.

**SARAH**

I hate to agree ~ but I don't see the two of them actually --  
(wrinkling her nose)  
-- doing it.

**(CONTINUED)**

92  
92

**ENID**

Women like that will screw anything.

**ELLE**

So, because she's beautiful and has a good body, she's easy? What book of feminist theory did you read iiiiai in, Enid?  
Emmett jumps in before war breaks out.

**EMMETT**

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

**ELLE**

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

**DONOVAN**

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

**BOBBY**

What about her mother?

**DONOVAN**

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

**ELLE**

All I know is-- it's not Brooke.

**DONOVAN**

That's touching, Elle, but we need an

alibi.  
Elle thinks about this.

93 INT. BOSTON JAIL - LOBBY - DAY '   
93

A--nervous Elle stands in front of the burly CHECK-IN GUARD..  
She holds a basket of goodies.

**ELLE**

I ' m here to see Brooke Wi'ndham.

**GUARD**

Licensed attorney or family member?

**ELLE**

Uh -- family.

(CONTINUED)

74 .

93  
93

**GUARD**

Relation?

**ELLE**

I ' m her sister.

**GUARD**

Name?

**ELLE**

Delta. Gamma.

He makes a note and buzzes her in. '

**94 INT. BOSTON JAIL - DAY**

**94**

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

**ELLE**

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

**BROOKE**

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

**ELLE**

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

Brooke sits, not looking convinced.

**BROOKE**

He better be, for what I ' m paying him. Elle pushes her basket forward.

**ELLE**

I brought you some necessities. Pink sheets. Aromatherapy candles. Loofah. And The Bible. She holds up a "Cosmopolitan".

**BROOKE**

You're an angel. Elle squirms in her seat.

(CONTINUED)

75.

94

94

**ELLE**

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

Brooke tears up.

**BROOKE**

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

**ELLE**

Who could better understand than me?

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

**BROOKE**

It's so shameful...

**ELLE**

Whatever it is -- it could save you.

**BROOKE**

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

**ELLE**

How?

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

**BROOKE**

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

**ELLE**

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

Brooke starts to cry again.

**BROOKE**

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

**BROOKE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

-- getting liposuction.

Elle gasps.

(CONTINUED)

76.

94

(2)

94

**ELLE**

No!

**BROOKE**

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

Elle hugs her to her chest, consoling her.

**ELLE**

Your secret is safe with me.

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

**95**

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

**DONOVAN**

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

**DONOVAN (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
Sarah, can you grab me some coffee?

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

**DONOVAN (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
And according to this communique from the  
prison, our client apparently had a visit  
fr om her sister? A Miss Delta Gamma --  
He looks at Elle.

**DONOVAN (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

Anyone you know?

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

**ELLE**

I went to get her alibi.

Emmett looks over, surprised.

**(CONTINUED)**

77,

95

95

**DONOVAN**

Did you get it?

**ELLE**

But I can't tell you what it is.  
Yes.

The others can't believe this.

**DONOVAN**

Why the hell not?

' **ELLE**

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

Now he's pissed.

**DONOVAN**

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

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

**ELLE**

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

An ASSISTANT pokes her head in the room.

**ASSISTANT**

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

Donovan rises, still annoyed.

**DONOVAN**

Someone reason with her while I take  
this.

He walks out.      The others look at Elle.

**BOBBY**

Are you crazy? Tell him the alibi.

**ELLE**

, No!

**DICK**

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

**(CONTINUED)**

78.

95

(2)

95

**ELLE**

Then we're not very good lawyers.

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

**WARNER**

(quietly)

If you tell him, you'll probably make summer associate. Who cares about Brooke? Think about yourself.

**ELLE**

I gave her my word, Warner.

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

Donovan storms back in.

**DONOVAN**

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

**GERARD**

A spa?

(to Elle)

Isn't that like, your Mother-Ship?

Elle shrugs and looks at Donovan.

**ELLE**

I can go if you want.

**ENID**

Why you?

**GERARD**

(to Enid)

Have you ever been to a spa?

**ENID**

And subscribe to the doctrine of self-hatred imposed upon my gender by male delusions of the way women are supposed to look?

(beat)

Twice.

Donovan motions toward Elle. Then looks at Emmett with a pointed "Get the alibi" look.

**(CONTINUED)**

79.

95  
95

(3)

**DONOVAN**

Go with her.

96 INT. EMMETT'S VOLVO - DAY

96

Emmett drives, Elle is shotgun.

**ELLE**

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

**EMMETT**

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

**ELLE**

Aside from that.

**EMMETT**

She's completely untrustworthy.

**ELLE**

Why?

**EMMETT**

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

**ELLE**

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

**EMMETT**

And D) Brooke is obviously hiding  
something.

**ELLE**

But maybe it's not what you think.

**EMMETT**

But maybe it is-- .

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

**ELLE**

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

(CONTINUED)

80.

96

96

**EMMETT**

(amused)

How do you figure?

**ELLE**

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

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

He looks

**EMMETT**

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

**ELLE**

Maybe not to your face...

She gives him a teasing smile.                    He smiles back at her,  
shaking his head.

**97**    **INT. SPA - LOBBY - DAY**  
**97**

Elle and Emmett are at the desk.

**ELLE**

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

**DESK CLERK**

Go on back.

Elle starts to go, then stops.

**ELLE**

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

**DESK CLERK**

(checking)  
She's in the mud room until four.

Elle smiles her thanks and walks off with Emmett.

**EMMETT**

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

(CONTINUED)

81.

97

97

**ELLE**

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

98 **INT. SPA - MUD ROOM - DAY**

98

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

**ELLE**

Mrs. Windham Vandermark?

**EMMETT**

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

**MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK**

So, you found me.

Emmett looks at Elle.

**EMMETT**

(sotto)  
She's naked.

**MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK**

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

**ELLE**

(to Emmett)  
I'll cover her -- parts.  
Elle settles on three washcloths, strategically placed.

**MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK**

So, I hear the tart from California shot -  
Heyworth.

**EMMETT**

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

**MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK**

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

**ELLE**

(interrupting her)  
She's not!

(CONTINUED)

**EMMETT**

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

**MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK**

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

**EMMETT**

I ' m sure that was very awkward for Chutney.

(sotto)

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

**MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK**

But I guess it wasn't enough for Brooke.

**EMMETT**

Why do you say that?

**MRS . WINDHAM VANDERMARK**

Haven't you seen the cabana boy?

**ELLE**

(uneasy)

Ys. . . .

e

**MRS. WINDHAM VANDERMARK**

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

**EMMETT**

Hovering?

**MRS . WINDHAM VANDERMARK**

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

99 INT. EMMETT 'S VOLVO - DAY  
99

Emmett drives, raving.

(CONTINUED)

83.

99  
99

**EMMETT**

How can you still believe she's innocent?

**ELLE**

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

**EMMETT**

And you know this for a fact?

' **ELLE**

Did you see the icky black color of her hair?

**EMMETT**

So?

**ELLE**

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

**EMMETT**

The what?

**ELLE**

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

**EMMETT**

You're serious?  
She's fired up now.

**ELLE**

You should see the way I ' m treated in class! I'm a complete source of mockery. This is why the Blonde Legal Defense Fund is needed.  
He goes along with it, won over by her enthusiasm.

**EMMETT**

Okay, how would it work?

(CONTINUED)

84 .

99

(2)

99

**E L L E**

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

**EMMETT**

-- I can't.

**ELLE**

That is a direct result of anti- blonde discrimination!

**EMMETT**

Wait -- Hilary Clinton.

**ELLE**

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

Emmett frowns.

**EMM E T T**

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

**ELLE**

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

**EMMETT**

That's not really a topic that keeps me  
up at night -- but maybe it should.  
Elle digs in her purse.

**ELLE**

Speaking of that -- I bought you some  
seaweed cream while we were at the spa.  
She hands it to him. He keeps his hands on the wheel, not  
taking it.

**EMMETT**

What the hell is that for?

**(CONTINUED)**

85.

99

(3)

99

**ELLE**

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

**EMMETT**

I don't --  
(gesturing to the cream)  
Do that stuff.

**ELLE**

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

**EMMETT**

Projecting joy is not my job.

**ELLE**

(sighing)  
Fine. Sorry I brought it up.

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

**EMMETT**

You really think I ' m attractive?

**ELLE**

For a butt-head? Yes.

She smiles at him.

100 **EXT. HARVARD CAMPUS - NIGHT**  
100

Elle walks down the sidewalk to her dorm, approaching Dorky David as he tries to ask out a FRESHMAN GIRL who thinks she's a lot cuter than she actually is. She stands with her freshman friends.

- **DORKY DAVID**

So -- I called your room last night.

**FRESHMAN GIRL**

(cold) '   
I heard.

**DORKY DAVID**

I was thinking maybe we could go out  
sometime.

**(CONTINUED)**

86.

100  
100

**FRESHMAN GIRL**

Uh, n o . . . you're a dork.   
turns back to her FRIENDS who all laugh at him. Elle   
winces as she passes.

**DORKY DAVID**

(hopeful)   
I ' m in law school --

The Freshman Girl turns back to him.

**FRESHMAN GIRL**

Look -- I ' m not going out with you. I   
can't believe you'd even ask. Girls like   
me don't go out with losers like you.

Her friends snicker. Elle stops at this and sighs,

acknowledging to herself that she has to help this guy. She  
turns and marches back, SLAPPING Dorky David across the face.  
Dorky David is stunned, as is the Freshman Girl.

**ELLE**

(upset)  
Why didn't you call me?

**DORKY DAVID**

What?

**ELLE**

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

**DORKY DAVID**

I -- uh --

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

**DORKY DAVID (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
I'm sorry?

**ELLE**

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

**DORKY DAVID**

U h -- both?

**ELLE**

Forget it. I've already spent too many  
hours crying over you.

(CONTINUED)

87.

100 ( 2 )  
100

She rushes off. Dorky David and the Freshman Girl and her friends watch Elle go. After a moment, the girl turns to David.

**FRESHMAN GIRL**

So, urn, when did you wanna go out?

**ANOTHER GIRL**

I ' m free on Friday.  
W al k in g away, Elle hears this and smiles.

101 **EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY**  
101

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

**BA ILI F F (O.S.)**

Th e first district court is now in session.  
Th e honorable Judge William R. Ptak presiding.

102 **INT. COURTROOM - DAY**  
.102

T h e DA grills Mrs. Windham Vandermark.

**D A JOYCE RAFFERTY**

A nd what was the defendant doing?

**M R S. WINDHAM VANDERMARK**

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

C U T

TO:

103 INT. COURTROOM - DAY  
103

DA Rafferty continues her grilling.

DA JOYCE RAFFERTY

A n d where was she exactly?  
T h i s time -- Chutney is on the stand.

C H U T N E Y

St and in g over my father's dead body.

C U T

TO:

104 INT. COURTROOM - DAY  
104

CLOSE ON a tiny Speedo thong .

DA JOYCE RAFFERTY (O.S.)

Mr. Salvatore, can you tell us what this  
is?

(CONTINUED)

88.

104  
104

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

ENRIQUE

My uniform.

**DA JOYCE RAFFERTY**

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

**ENRIQUE**

Yes.

**DA JOYCE RAFFERTY**

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

Enrique shifts in his seat.

**ENRIQUE**

Define affair.

**DA JOYCE RAFFERTY**

Have you inserted your genitalia into hers?

**DONOVAN**

Objection --

**DA JOYCE RAFFERTY**

(to Enrique)

Have you and Mrs. Windham had sexual relations?

**ENRIQUE**

Y es! Okay? Yes!

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

**105 INT. COURTROOM - MOMENTS LATER**  
**105**

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

to Elle.

**BROOKE**

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

(CONTINUED)

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105  
105

**ELLE**

I believe you! Don't worry.

Brooke is taken away.

106 **INT. ELLE'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT**  
106

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

**ELLE**

Come in.

Sarah enters.

**SARAH**

(re the depo)

You done with that yet?  
Elle hands the deposition over.

**ELLE**

Take it. I've read it twenty times.  
She grabs another one off of the stack and begins reading.  
Sarah lingers.

**SARAH**

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

**ELLE**

Too bad you and I are the only ones.

**SARAH**

I ' m still can't believe you didn't tell  
Donovan the alibi.  
Elle looks up, defensive.

**ELLE**

It's not my alibi to tell --

**SARAH**

(interrupting)  
I know. I thought that was very --  
classy of you. .

**ELLE**

(surprised)  
Really? Thanks.  
Sarah starts to go, then stops.

**(CONTINUED)**

**SARAH**

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

**ELLE**

Men are helpless. You know that. Sarah lingers, leaning on the edge of the couch.

**SARAH**

Warner can't even do his own laundry.

**ELLE**

I know. He has it sent out.

**SARAH**

-

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

**ELLE**

(stunned)  
You're kidding!  
A KNOCK sounds on the open door and Margot and Serena poke their heads in.

**MARGOT AND SERENA**

Surprise!

**ELLE**

Oh, my God! ' - .  
Sarah watches as Elle jumps up to hug the girls, who each have a bottle of Veuve Cliquot in their hands.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
What're you doing here?!

**SERENA**

We're on our way to the bridal show in  
New York so we thought we'd rescue you  
from law school for the night.

**MARGOT**

(tempting her)  
We have a limo downstairs and lots more  
of these.  
She wiggles her champagne bottle.

**(CONTINUED)**

91.

106  
106

(2)

**ELLE**

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

**SERENA**

Where's Warner?

**SARAH**

(confused)  
At the office ~  
Margot and Serena look over at her.

**MARGOT**

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

**ELLE**

Margot!

**SERENA**

Bring her, too.  
                  (to Sarah)  
C'mon. You can wear one of Elle's  
outfits.

**SARAH**

T h a t ' s okay --

**MARGOT**

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

**ELLE**

                  (torn)  
I can't believe you guys are actually  
here -- but this case is important. I'll  
make it up to you after finals, okay? I  
--               promise. I really want to do a good job.  
Margot and Serena stare at her, realizing she means it.

**SERENA**

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

**MARGOT**

Here.

**(CONTINUED)**

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106  
106

(3)

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

**MARGOT (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

Elle hustles them out the door.

**ELLE**

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

**MARGOT AND SERENA**

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

**ELLE**

(continuing)  
Sorry about that.

Sarah sets down the Veuve.

**SARAH**

Save it.

She smiles at Elle.

**SARAH (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

We'll drink it after we win.

Elle smiles .

107 INT. BEAUTY OASIS - DAY

107

Paulette arranges a nail polish display by the door.

UPS GUY (O.S.)

I've got a big one for you.

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

UPS GUY (CONT'D)

Can you sign?

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

Paulette watches as it FALLS IN SLO-MO. Realizing that now is the perfect time to try the Bend & Snap.

(CONTINUED)

93.

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107

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

UPS GUY (CONT'D)

(continuing)

Got it?

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

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

**PAULETTE**

Oh my God!

**CUT TO:**

**108 INT. COURTHOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY**  
**108**

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

**ELLE**

(into phone)  
You broke his nose?!

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

**UPS GUY**

I 'm okay --

**PAULETTE**

I think he noticed me, Elle --  
(sobbing)  
But only because I maimed him!

**ELLE**

(consoling)  
I'll be over right after the trial, okay?  
We're about to cross-examine Enrique.  
And don't worry! My friend Serena barfed  
on a guy during "The Blair Witch Project"  
and end up dating him for three months.  
She hangs up. Enrique cuts in front of her in line for the  
water fountain. She glares at him, tapping her foot.  
He finishes getting his drink and turns, looking at her.

(CONTINUED)

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108

108

**ENRIQUE**

Don't stomp your little Prada sandals at  
me, Miss Thing.  
He walks past, as Elle gapes at him. Realizing.

109 **INT. COURTROOM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER**

109

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

**ELLE**

He's gay! Enrique is gay!

**EMMETT**

What?!  
She grabs Warner as he's passing.

**ELLE**

Warner, what kind of shoes do I have on?  
He looks down at her Prada sandals.

**WARNER**

Pink ones.

**ELLE**

See?

Donovan frowns, not seeing.

**DONOVAN**

What are you talking about?

**ELLE**

He's gay -- he isn't Brooke's lover!  
He's making it up. Whoever killed  
Heyworth is paying him off.

**EMMETT**

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

**ELLE**

Gay men know designers. Straight men  
don't.  
She points at Warner, who shrugs. Brooke leans over.

**BROOKE**

What's going on?

**ELLE**

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

**(CONTINUED)**

**95.**

**109**  
**109**

**BROOKE**

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

**DONOVAN**

While I appreciate your masterful legal  
theory, I have a murder trial to attend  
to.  
He grabs Emmett's arm and pulls him aside as they confer on  
more serious matters. Emmett looks at her as if to say  
"Sorry", before he looks back at Donovan.  
Brooke looks at Donovan, then back at Elle, rolling her eyes.  
Elle sits down, pissed. Warner is next to her.

**ELLE**

Thanks for the backup.

**WARNER**

How was I supposed to know what kind of  
shoes you had on?  
She looks at him like he's a complete idiot, as the judge  
takes his seat.

110 **INT. COURTROOM - MOMENTS LATER - DAY**  
110

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

**DONOVAN**

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

**ENRIQUE**

Just the love in my heart.  
Women in the audience openly sigh. Elle makes a puke  
gesture. Enid concurs.  
Donovan smiles a smug smile.

**DONOVAN**

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



**EMMETT**

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

**ENRIQUE**

Three months.

**EMMETT**

And what is your boyfriend's name?

**ENRIQUE**

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

Enrique begins to sweat.

**ENRIQUE (CONT'D)**

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

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

**CHUCK**

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

**(CONTINUED)**

110  
110

(2)

The courtroom ERUPTS and the judge bangs the gavel.

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

Donovan shakes his head, smiling in amazement.

111 **EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY**  
111

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

**DONOVAN**

Good work today, Ms. Woods.

**ELLE**

Thank you!

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

112 **INT. BEAUTY OASIS - NIGHT**  
112

Paulette is closing up as Elle follows her around.

**PAULETTE**

(in a giddy, rush)  
And after they set his nose, he came back for his truck and I offered to drive for him since he was still on pain-killers and we spent the whole afternoon together! He was unconscious for part of it, but it was really fun!

**ELLE**

(hugging Paulette)  
I ' m so happy for you!

**PAULETTE**

How'd it go at the trial?

**ELLE**

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

**PAULETTE**

Of course I can believe it. You're going  
to make a great lawyer.

Paulette looks at Elle. Emotional.

(CONTINUED)

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**PAULETTE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

Elle, you've changed my life. You are  
the kindest, most wonderful angel.  
Without you, I wouldn't have Rufus or a  
dinner date. Now go and share your  
goodness with the world while I stay here  
and have my hoo-hoo waxed.

Elle passes Sarah, who carries a stack of depositions into the conference room to Dick and Bobby.

**SARAH**

Donovan asked to see you before you  
leave.

**ELLE**

(excited)  
Really?

**SARAH**

He's already got his coffee -- maybe he  
needs a donut.  
They share a smile as Elle walks over to Donovan's glass-  
walled office and knocks on the door. Nervous.

**DONOVAN**

Come on in.

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

**114 INT. DONOVAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT**  
**114**

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

**DONOVAN**

Sit down.

**ELLE**

Is everything okay?

**DONOVAN**

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

(CONTINUED)

99.

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114

**ELLE**

(stunned)  
Thank you.

**DONOVAN**

Ab ou t the alibi --  
She sighs,

**ELLE**

I ' m sorry, but --

**DONOVAN**

(cutting her off)  
I ' m impressed that you took the  
initiative to go there and get it. That's  
what makes a good lawyer. And on top of  
that, you gained the client's trust and  
kept it.. That' s what makes a great  
lawyer. You're smart, Elle. Smarter than  
.. .  
most of the guys I have on my payroll.  
Elle is overwhelmed by his praise.

**ELLE**

Wow. That means so much to me to hear you  
say that.  
Donovan walks around his desk and sits in the chair opposite  
her.

**DONOVAN**

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

**ELLE**

(still overwhelmed)

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

He smiles.

**DONOVAN**

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

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

**DONOVAN (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

It's about ferocity. Carnage.

**(MORE)**

**(CONTINUED)**

100.

114

**(2)**

114

**DONOVAN (CONT'D)**

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

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

**THIGH.**

**115 OUTSIDE DONOVAN'S OFFICE**  
**115**

Sarah walks down the hallway, glancing in Donovan's office to see --

**H E R P O V --**

Donovan's hand sliding up Elle's skirt. She shakes her head in disgust, & heads off- NOT SEEING

**116 INT. DONOVAN'S OFFICE**  
**116**

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

**ELLE**

(upset)  
You're hitting on me?

**DONOVAN**

You're a beautiful girl, Elle.

**ELLE**

So everything you just said --?

**DONOVAN**

I ' m a man who knows what I want.  
Elle rises, stung. She stares at him for a beat.

**ELLE**

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

She walks out.

**DONOVAN**

(calling out)  
Too bad. I thought you were a law  
student who wanted to be a lawyer.

Elle keeps walking.

101.

117 INT. AUSTEN, JARET, PLATT ETC. - ELEVATOR - MOMENT LATER  
117

Elle is in the elevator. Flushed and upset. As the doors  
start to close, Sarah sticks her arm in, blocking them.

**SARAH**

You almost had me fooled.

**ELLE**

What?

**SARAH**

Maybe you should sleep with the judge  
too. Then we can win the case.  
Sarah steps back, letting the doors shut.

118 INT. BUILDING LOBBY - NIGHT  
118

Elle stomps out of the elevator, as Emmett gets in.

**EMMETT**

(smiling)  
He y --

**ELLE**

I'm quitting.  
She marches past. He follows, catching up.

**EMMETT**

Whoa -- Why?

**ELLE**

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

**EMMETT**

What're you talking about? You earned  
it-  
She snorts.

**ELLE**

I didn't earn anything. I got this  
internship because Donovan liked the way  
I looked. Which he made clear .tonight  
when he tried to feel me up.  
Emmett looks pissed as he processes this.

(CONTINUED)

102.

118

118

**EMMETT**

(mind reeling)  
So now you're --?

. **ELLE**

Going back to LA. Maybe I can fulfill my destiny as a useless bimbo and join the Swedish Bikini Team. No more navy blue suits. No more panty-hose. No more trying to be something I ' m not.

**EMMETT**

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

She stops, giving him a sad smile.

**ELLE**

Thanks for not treating me the way everyone else here does. Call me if you're ever in California.

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

119 **EXT. BEAUTY OASIS - NIGHT**  
119

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

120 **INT. BEAUTY OASIS - NIGHT**  
120

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

**PAULETTE**

(upset)  
You can't go home!

**ELLE**

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

**(MORE)**

**(CONTINUED)**

103.

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120

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

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

She stands up.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

**IN A NEARBY CHAIR**

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

**PROFESSOR STROMWELL**

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

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

**121 INT. JAIL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT**  
**121**

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

**DONOVAN ON TV**

Enrique Salvatore has been discredited as a witness.

**REPORTER #2 ON TV**

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

**DONOVAN ON TV**

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

He gives the reporters a smug smile.

**IN THE WAITING ROOM**

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

**BROOKE**

Is he always such an ass?

**EMMETT**

(containing himself)

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

(CONTINUED)

104.

121           121  
121

/" "

"^

**BROOKE**

^..

..J

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

**EMMETT**

He's an ass that's gonna try.

**BROOKE**

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

**EMMETT**

That's not what's important.

**BROOKE**

To me it is. He doesn't trust me. Why should I trust him?  
Emmett thinks for a moment. Then looks at Brooke.

**EMMETT**

You're right. Why should you?

122      **EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY**  
122

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

123      **INT. COURTHOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY**  
123

Donovan and Emmett head into the courtroom.

**DONOVAN**

Keep that bitch away from me.

**EMMETT**

She's our client.

**DONOVAN**

Not Brooke. Elle.

**EMMETT**

(blatantly pissed)

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

Donovan glares at Emmett as they continue in.  
Behind them -- SARAH stops in her tracks, having heard  
all of this.

124      **INT. COURTROOM - MOMENTS LATER**  
124

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

**(CONTINUED)**

105.

124

124

**DONOVAN**

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

**BROOKE**

Get up.

**DONOVAN**

What?

**BROOKE**

You're fired. I have new representation.

**DONOVAN**

Who?

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

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'

**ELLE**

(to Donovan)

Excuse you. You're in my way.

She nudges him aside. Donovan looks at Brooke.

**DONOVAN**

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

Dorky David steps up, holding out a marked casebook.

**DORKY DAVID**

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Rule

3:03.

**ELLE**

(to Donovan)

See?

**JUDGE**

Counselors, approach the bench.  
Elle starts to head up.

**DONOVAN**

You're not going up there.

**ELLE**

Yes, I am.

(CONTINUED)

106.

124  
124

( 2 )

**BROOKE**

(to Donovan)

I don't think you heard me. You're fired.  
She's my lawyer.

**JUDGE**

Counselors, now. All of you.  
Elle, Donovan and Emmett head up, as does the DA. Elle  
hands the judge the case book.

**ELLE**

Elle Woods, your honor. Rule 3:03 of the  
Supreme Judicial Court states that a law  
student may appear on behalf of a  
defendant in criminal proceedings.

**DA JOYCE RAFFERTY**

(stoked)  
I have no problem with this.

**DONOVAN**

I do. I'm not allowing it.

**ELLE**

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

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

**JUDGE**

(reading the casebook)  
The ruling also states that you need a  
licensed attorney to supervise you. Mr.  
Donovan?

**DONOVAN**

That, I won't agree to.

Emmett steps forward.

**EMMETT**

I ' m supervising, Your Honor.

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

**JUDGE**

Well, then, Ms. Woods. Proceed.

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

**(CONTINUED)**

107.

124 ( (3)  
124

**IN THE AUDIENCE**

Paulette beams, the UPS Guy in the nose brace, next to her.

Serena and Margot, now in attendance, STAND clapping and squealing in a completely inappropriate way.

**SERENA**

Go, Elle!  
Donovan takes a seat in the audience. As he passes by Brooke:

**DONOVAN**

Enjoy prison.

The judge looks at Brooke.

**JUDGE**

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

**BROOKE**

Absolutely.  
As Donovan sits, Margot leans over.

**MARGOT**

Don't fuck with a Delta Gamma.

**AT THE DEFENSE TABLE**

Sarah leans forward to Elle, who gathers her notes.

**SARAH**

Kick some butt.  
Elle looks at her, surprised.

**JUDGE**

Ms. Woods, call your first witness.

**ELLE**

I'd like to recall Chutney Windham as a defense witness.  
The crowd murmurs. Donovan rolls his eyes.

125 **INT. COURTROOM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER**  
125

Chutney takes her hand off of the Bible and sits.

**JUDGE**

Ms. Woods, begin your questioning.

(CONTINUED)

9/18/2000 Revision (Pink)

108.

125

125

**ELLE**

First, your Honor, I ' d like to point out that not only is there no proof in this case, but there's a complete lack of mens rea, which by definition tells us that there is no crime without a vicious will. The DA rolls her eyes, as do the lawyers present.

**JUDGE**

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

**ELLE**

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

**CHUTNEY**

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

**ELLE**

And when you came downstairs, what happened?

**CHUTNEY**

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

**ELLE**

But Mrs. Windham didn't have a gun?

**CHUTNEY**

No, she'd stashed it by then.  
Brooke rolls her eyes.

**EMMETT**

Move to strike that from the record, your  
Honor. Speculation.

**JUDGE**

Stricken.  
Elle mentally kicks herself for not doing this herself.  
Eirimett gives her a reassuring nod. She takes a deep breath,  
then continues on.

**ELLE**

Did you hear a shot fired?

**(CONTINUED)**

9/18/2000 Revision (Pink)  
108A.

**125**                   **(2)**  
**125**

**CHUTNEY**

No. I was in the shower.

**ELLE**

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

**CHUTNEY**

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

**(CONTINUED)**

9/18/2000 Revision (Pink)

109.

125  
125

**(3)**

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**ELLE**

Your father was shot while you were in the shower?

Gerard looks at Emmett.

**GERARD**

Where's she going with this?

**EMMETT**

Have a little faith.

**ELLE**

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

**CHUTNEY**

(annoyed)

Yes. I was washing my hair.

Elle's onto something, but not sure what.

**ELLE**

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

**CHUTNEY**

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

**ELLE**

Where you got in the shower.

**CHUTNEY**

(impatient)

Yes.

**JUDGE**

I believe the witness has made it clear that she was in the shower.

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

**ELLE**

Yes, Your Honor. Had you ever gotten a perm before, Miss Windham?

**CHUTNEY**

(confused)

Yes.

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

(CONTINUED)

9/18/2000 Revision (Pink)

109A.

125

( 4 ) .

125

**ELLE**

How many, would you say?

**CHUTNEY**

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

(CONTINUED)

110.

12 5

(3)

125

**ELLE**

You know, a girl in my sorority, Tracy Marcinko, got a perm once. Even though we all told her not to ~ curls really weren't the right look for her --

(chummy)

She didn't have your bone structure.

Chutney almost smiles.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)

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

Donovan shakes his head at her incompetence.

**DA JOYCE RAFFERTY**

Objection. Why is this relevant?  
Emmett clears his throat, worried. Elle turns around, giving him a "trust me" look. Then turns back to the judge.

**ELLE**

(to the judge)  
I have a point. I promise.

**JUDGE**

Then make it.

Elle looks at Chutney. ..

**ELLE**

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

**CHUTNEY**

Because they got wet.

**ELLE**

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

Chutney pales.

(CONTINUED)

111.

125 ( 4 )  
125

**CHUTNEY**

Yes --  
Elle continues.

**ELLE**

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

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

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

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

Chutney continues to glare.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

(continuing)  
And if you in fact, heard the gunshot,  
then Brooke Windham wouldn't have had

time to hide the gun before you got downstairs. Which would mean that you would've had to have found Mrs. Windham with a gun in her hand to make your story sound plausible. Isn't that right?

**CHUTNEY**

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

**ELLE**

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

Brooke looks at Chutney in horror, realizing.

**CHUTNEY**

I didn't mean to shoot him --

(to Brooke)

I meant to shoot you!

Pandemonium erupts. The gavel pounds.

**BROOKE**

...''

I knew it!

(CONTINUED)

112.

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

**ELLE**

(shocked)  
Oh, my God!

**EMMETT**

(even more shocked)  
Oh, my G^d.! !

**126 INT. COURTHOUSE FOYER - DAY**  
**126**

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

**REPORTER**

Elle, how did you know Chutney was lying?

**BROOKE**

Because she is brilliant.

**ELLE**

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

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

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

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

**DANIEL (O.S.)**

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

**DANIEL (CONT'D)**

Honey, stop!  
(proud)

Bile's on TV!

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

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

**SAPPHIRE**

Oh, my God! What happened to her tan?

113.

128 INT. COURTHOUSE FOYER - MOMENTS LATER  
128

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

**SERENA**

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

**ELLE**

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

**MARGOT**

Hello! You're like, a lawyer.

**ELLE**

(grinning)  
Not yet.

Enid walks up to the girls.

**ENID**

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

She looks at Serena.

**ENID (CONT'D)**

(continuing; to Serena)  
Although -- you're kinda hot. Call me.

She walks off. Serena looks alarmed.

**ELLE**

(hugging them)  
Don't worry. She's harmless. I'll see  
you guys soon! Thanks for coming!  
She air-kisses them as Margot leads a still shell-shocked  
Serena away as Emmett walks up to Elle.

129 **EXT. COURTHOUSE STEPS - DAY - LATER'**  
129

Elle looks up at the courthouse as the sun sets behind it.  
She smiles, proud of herself.

**WARNER (O.S.)**

You were amazing today.  
She turns and finds Warner.

**(CONTINUED)**

114.

129

129

**ELLE**

Thank you.  
He moves closer.

**WARNER**

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

**ELLE .**

Really?  
He turns on the charm.

**WARNER**

I want to be with you, Elle. Forever.  
He pulls her close, hand around her waist, kissing her. She  
looks up at him, a trace of the old love in her eyes. For a  
moment, she melts.

**ELLE**

I want to be with you, too, Warner.  
After a moment, she steps back, removing his hand from her  
waist and wrenching it behind his back.

**ELLE (CONT'D)**

In court. On opposing sides.

**WARNER**

(shocked)

Are you serious?

**ELLE**

Huh. Imagine that. Looks like I am.  
She walks down the steps. Warner watches her go, then  
turns to see Sarah, who's witnessed the entire episode. She  
glares at him, then walks past.

**WARNER**

Sarah -- hold on.

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

**SARAH**

(calling out)  
El le , wait up --  
Elle turns.

**(CONTINUED)**

115.

129 (2)  
129

**SARAH (CONT'D)**

(continuing; sheepish)  
I ' m a bitch.

**ELLE**

Yes, you are.

**SARAH**

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

' **ELLE**

Yes, he is. .  
They look at each other in a silent truce.

**SARAH**

So -- can we drink that champagne when I  
get back from the pawnshop?  
She pulls off her engagement ring.

**ELLE** ..

You're pawning The Rock?!

**SARAH**

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

She smiles and heads off. Elle smiles, processing this as  
Em me tt approaches Elle.

**EMMETT**

Up for a celebration dinner?

**ELLE**

Are you asking me on a date?

**EMMETT** -

As long as you realize I'm not just some  
man-toy you can show off like a trophy.

**ELLE**

(joking)  
Then, forget it. Besides, I have an early  
class tomorrow.

**EMMETT**

So Friday at eight?  
She smiles at him.

(CONTINUED)

116.

129

( 3 )

129

**ELLE**

Perfect.  
She heads down the stairs, stops and thinks a moment, then  
runs back up --  
-- Grabbing Emmett in a hellacious KISS. He kisses her back.  
We CRANE UP as they embrace on the courthouse steps.

**FADE OUT:**

**FADE IN:**

130 EXT. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL QUAD - DAY

130

"Welcome Law Students Class of 2004" banners hang over orientation tables. Nervous first year students stand in line.

We PAN ACROSS a row of club tables -- passing "Harvard Law

Journal" and "Environmental Law Association" -- until we reach a table that proudly bears the banner of "Blonde Legal Defense Club".

Elle, in a red 2L t-shirt, stands behind the table,

straightening some flyers. UNDERDOG is plopped down on top of the stack. Elle turns to see EMMETT next to her.

. . . . .

**EMMETT**

(re Underdog)  
Someone missed you.

**ELLE**

Is he the only one?

**EMMETT**

What do you think?  
They kiss.

**EMMETT (CONT'D)**

(continuing; re the crowd)  
Looks like you're pretty popular.

Elle smiles, turning back as A NERVOUS 1L GIRL steps up.

**NERVOUS 1L GIRL**

Do you have to be blonde to sign up?

**(CONTINUED)**

130  
130

**ELLE**

Only blonde at heart.

(to the girl next to her)

Right?

Elle smiles and looks down at -- the NEWLY BLONDE SARAH.  
Sarah returns the smile as we PULL BACK to see a CROWD of  
first year girls gathered around Elle's table, rushing to  
sign up. Ready to be as blonde as they can be.

**FADE OUT:**