

Ally McBeal

“The Promise”

Written by:
David E. Kelley

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FOR EDUCATIONAL
PURPOSES ONLY

ALLY McBEAL

"The Promise"

CAST LIST

ALLY McBEAL
BILLY ALAN THOMAS
RICHARD FISH
GEORGIA THOMAS
ELAINE VASSAL
RENEE RADICK

Vonda Shepard
John Cage
Sandra Winchell
Harry Pippin
Angela Tharp
Dr. Martin Carpenter
Judge Herbert Spitt
Judge Stephenson
"The Girl"
Clerk
Bystander #1
Bystander #2
Forewoman

SONG LIST:

"Only Want To Be With You" (Vonda Shepard)
"Ask The Lonely" (Vonda Shepard)
"John Jacob Jingle Hymer Smith" (John Cage)
"Goodnight My Someone" (Ally & Renee)

ALLY McBEAL

"The Promise"

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

CAGE AND FISH LAW OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY
ALLY'S OFFICE - DAY & EVENING
CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY
BILLY'S OFFICE - DAY

SUPERIOR COURT - DAY
CORRIDOR - DAY
BATHROOM - DAY

CRIMINAL COURT - DAY
CORRIDOR - DAY

ALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT
BATHROOM - NIGHT

HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

BAR - NIGHT

EXTERIORS:

GRAVESITE - DAY
OLD NORTH CHURCH - NIGHT
BOSTON - NIGHT

ALLY McBEAL
"The Promise"

ACT I

FADE IN:

1 INT. ALLY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

1

ALLY and RENEE with a newly-delivered used piano.

ALLY
(excited)
Isn't it beautiful?

RENEE
Yeah but it's kind of old-looking.

ALLY
Well I think it's perfect. I can't
wait to start taking lessons again.

RENEE
Can you play anything now?

ALLY
Well, "Heart And Scul".
Chopsticks.
(suddenly remembering)
Oh. Let's see.

She tentatively starts to play, singing--

ALLY (CONT'D)
(playing/singing)
Goodnight my someone/ Good night...

RENEE
I know that. From "The Music Man",
my mother sang us that all the
time.

ALLY
(singing)
Sleep tight my someone/ Sleep tight
my love.

On "love" she hits the wrong key.

ALLY (CONT'D)
(singing; going for the
right key)
Love. Love.
(getting it)
Love. There.
(more)

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

ALLY (Cont'd)
(to Renee)
I can never get that note right.

RENEE
Tell me about it.

ALLY
(playing/singing)
True...
(wrong note, try again)
True--

And Renee joins in:

ALLY/RENEE
--love can be whispered from heart
to heart/ When lovers are parted
they say/ But I must depend on a
wish and a star/ As long as my
heart doesn't know who you are.

They stop.

RENEE
(realizing)
This is a sad song. It's about a
lady who's got nobody so she's
gotta sing to an imaginary someone
every night. It's about a lady...

ALLY
Just like us.

RENEE
(depressed now)
I hate pianos.

ALLY
Maybe I can sell it.

OFF this, we:

SMASH CUT TO:

2 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

2

Ally and ELAINE on a clipped walk towards the conference room.

ALLY
I'm supposed to get an injunction
so they can't sell ice cream?

ELAINE
You'll do your best.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

ALLY

And how can I possibly attach the real estate, the claim itself--

ELAINE

I don't think they expect you to win the motion, the client's just insisting that we be aggressive.

3 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

3

BILLY, FISH and CAGE are there, seated.

FISH

And aggressive we shall be. Harry Pippin is opposing counsel, so be early and ready to pop when he comes through the door.

ALLY

Who's Harry Pippin?

FISH

Fat man, no wind, moves like continental drift, soon as he enters the room they move his case to the top and off you go.

ALLY

What do you mean as soon as he enters the room?

BILLY

The judges give him a little grace 'cause of his condition. They don't punish him for being late and Richard's right, he comes through the door arguing his case. So as soon as he enters you just gotta jump up and get in there.

CAGE

(softly singing)

Da da da da da da da.

(then; quietly)

I apologize.

What the hell was that? Fish knows.

FISH

Moving on, new client, Sandra Winchell, F.O.W., I promised we'd help, though I don't know how.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

ALLY
What's F.O.W.?

FISH
Friend Of Whipper, Sandra Winchell,
arrested for prostitution, third
time, a conviction means jail.
John, since you've recently visited
the subject matter...

Cage holds a hand up, not wanting to re-visit the memory.

FISH (CONT'D)
I wouldn't ask but the Whip has
cracked, conjugals could be at
stake.

CAGE
I'll meet with the woman.

FISH
Excellent, Ally, I'd like you to
second chair if possible, that
puritanical prudism you seem to
waft could work to our benefit,
teamwork.

ALLY
Richard--

FISH
Here's the glitch. She fired her
old lawyer last night, trial starts
today, eleven o'clock--

ALLY
What?

FISH
It won't, new Counsel, you'll get
a continuance, try to buy at least
a month, so--

ALLY
Why can't John get the continuance?

CAGE
(it's beneath him)
I don't do criminal motion
practice.

ALLY
Why not?

It's beneath him to even explain why.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

FISH
You'll be down there anyway on the
ice cream case, why...

And suddenly Fish stops, his attention arrested, Billy's too.

ELAINE
(disapproving)
Oh, please.

Ally turns to see:

THEIR P.O.V.

A DELIVERY GIRL, twenties, tee-shirt and jeans, well-endowed,
mountain spring fresh... a vision of a Pepsi commercial.

RESUME

Fish and Billy take time out to watch. Cage continues his
straight-ahead stare, he's in his own world.

FISH
(re the girl)
She was about to ask me a question
once and I said "don't spoil it".
I don't want to attach anything
audio to her.

A beat.

ALLY
(to Elaine)
What year is this?

FISH
Ssssh. This isn't a time for
words.

ALLY
It isn't time for words?
(to Elaine)
You can give them law degrees,
dress them up... but in the end?
Neanderthals.

BILLY
Oh come on, Ally, you can't blame
us for looking at...
(reverence)
that.

ALLY
Can't blame you? For acting
like...
(more)

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (3)

3

ALLY (Cont'd)
(to Elaine)
Are they playing a prank on me?

FISH
Lemme tell you something, Ally.
That is nature at its best out
there, they should get Richard
Kiley to narrate her. Looking at
her is human nature for a man, coat
and tie aside when a male species
looks at that it's exactly like you
say, he should become homo erectus.

ALLY
I said Neanderthal.

Ally looks to Elaine.

ELAINE
(reassuring)
I'm sure she's quite stupid and in
time gravity will get her.

ALLY
I... I don't believe this. I leave
one firm because the senior partner
squeezes me like a melon. And now
my new senior partner...

FISH
I'm not touching her. I'm just
drinking her in.

ALLY
Drinking her in?

FISH
Boys club, Ally, c'mon. Go free
that hooker.

OFF Ally, we:

CUT TO:

*

4 INT. SUPERIOR COURT - DAY

4

Motion session in progress. Over near the jury box, Ally is
whispering with Renee. JUDGE STEPHENSON presides.

ALLY
You're the D.A. on it?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

RENEE

I get a lot of the vice cases.
I've convicted your client before,
by the way, have you met her?

ALLY

No. She's supposedly a friend of
Whipper's. Will you agree to the
continuance?

RENEE

Yeah, yeah, --

ALLY

I got to wait here till my ice
cream case is called, -- I don't
know--

RENEE

I'll cover you.

As the door opens, HARRY PIPPIN waddles into the room in mid-argument, arguing in a loud but monotone voice. The lawyers up at the bench suspend, they know the drill with Harry.

HARRY

No likelihood of success on the
merits, court also has affidavits,
back accounts, financial
statements, my client can easily
satisfy any judgment.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Case rings of anti-trust
any injunction would be
against public policy.

ALLY

(to Renee)
God, this must be Harry Pippin,
my ice cream case.
(rushing out)
Ally McBeal for the plaintiff.

By now Harry is only halfway up the aisle.

HARRY (CONT'D)

(still monotone)
In fifteen years of practice I've
never been so shocked by--

JUDGE STEPHENSON

I'm denying plaintiff's motion, Mr.
Pippin.

Harry, without registering a reaction pivots, beginning his
exit, under--

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

HARRY

(monotone)

Thank you Your Honor, move for costs,

(on his way out; monotone)

attorney fees and sanctions, abuse of process, frivolous prosecution, Rule Eleven, it's shocking--

JUDGE STEPHENSON

You lose on that score.

HARRY

Sorry to hear that, Your Honor.

And he's gone. He's already out the door! Ally, stunned, turns to the Judge, she didn't even get to argue.

ALLY

But...

JUDGE STEPHENSON

The defendant was far from judgment-proof, Counsel, I can't attach property no matter what the merits.

OFF Ally, we:

CUT TO:

5 INT. SUPERIOR COURT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

5

Harry waddles/sways toward the elevator. Ally comes bursting out of the courtroom.

ALLY

Mr. Pippin! Mr Pippin.

(catching up to him)

I'm Ally McBeal, Counsel for the plaintiff.

HARRY

(still in waddle stride)

Hi. A pleasure.

ALLY

I was really hoping we could sort of settle this out, it's kind of silly, two ice cream chains, fighting. All we're looking is for your guy to change the name of his store and not call it Steve's.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

HARRY
(still moving but slowly)
That's his name. Steve.

ALLY
I understand but since he sold the franchise as "Stevie's", calling his new chain "Steve's" you can see how people could confuse it.

And now for the first time Harry seems to be coming to a stop. He turns back toward Ally, under--

ALLY (CONT'D)
One of the things my client feels he paid for is the trademark name "Stevie's", and that asset you see is devalued if... y'know.

Harry is now facing her and his hand is on his chest. He looks bad, even for him. In fact... he appears to be having a heart attack.

ALLY (CONT'D)
Mr. Pippin? Are... are you alright?

He's not alright. He's going down.

ALLY (CONT'D)
Oh... my God.

And as he starts to fall back, we go to

SLOW MOTION

Harry back-steps then... timber. He seems to be falling forever and ever as we INTERCUT Ally's horror. Falling. Falling. Falling. Then, with a thud to cause Cape Cod to chip off the coastline, he hits. His briefcase opens, papers go everywhere, in SLOW MOTION.

BACK TO LIVE ACTION

Ally SCREAMS. Everybody stops to stare.

ALLY
Help! Somebody help him! He's having a heart attack, somebody help him!! Does anybody know--
(CPR?)

She knows. She drops down onto the massive giant. She begins to do chest compressions. She can't even dent his necktie.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

ALLY (CONT'D)
Somebody call 911!!!

The compressions are futile, her tiny little arms buckle on this beached whale. She then starts bouncing her butt up and down on his chest, maybe that could have an effect.

She checks for a pulse, then checks for breathing.

ALLY (CONT'D)
Oh God!

And she begins to give mouth-to-mouth. She pulls back.

ALLY (CONT'D)
Mr. Pippin!!! Come on!!!

She resumes mouth-to-mouth. Then... it works. He starts to breath.

BYSTANDER #1
He's breathing.

BYSTANDER #2
He's got a pulse!!

By now the courtroom is emptying, due to the commotion. Bailiffs are moving in, Court Officers are taking over. Ally stands back... back-steps away.

CUT TO:

6 CLOSE ON ALLY, GARGLING

6

INT. COURT BATHROOM - DAY

Ally is gargling with mouthwash. Her shoes are off.

RENEE
You saved his life.

She spits.

ALLY
Not before he ate a Spanish omelette, God the onions, is my skin breaking out?

RENEE
Not yet.
(then)
Are you okay?

ALLY
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

RENEE

Well, we better go, then our little prostitution case is up in two minutes.

Ally and Renee head out. A beat. Ally dashes back in, grabs her shoes. Heads out.

7 CLOSE ON CLERK

7

CLERK

Two-three-two-two-two Commonwealth versus Sandra Winchell.

8 INT. CRIMINAL COURT - DAY

8

Sitting at Ally's table is SANDRA WINCHELL, mid-thirties, attractive, smart, even classy. JUDGE HERBERT SPITT presides.

ALLY

Your Honor, Ally McBeal for the defendant, I just filed my appearance as Counsel and I'd be requesting--

JUDGE SPITT

Ally McBeal? You just did mouth-to-mouth on Harry Pippin?

ALLY

Um. Yes.

JUDGE SPITT

Good for you. Brave too, lucky he didn't suck you into his intestines. I know Harry.

She decides to let that pass without comment.

ALLY

Your Honor, in as much as I've just been retained, I'd be requesting additional time to prepare my defense--

JUDGE SPITT

Ha.

ALLY

Excuse me?

JUDGE SPITT

I said "ha". You don't think I know a stall when I see one?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

RENEE

Your Honor, the Commonwealth
doesn't oppose the continuance.

JUDGE SPITT

I didn't ask. The fact that the
District Attorney's office is for
it is another reason for me to be
against it.

ALLY

I just got this case. And--

JUDGE SPITT

If she wants to fire her lawyer
fine, but she should do it before
voir dire. We've already got a
jury. She's had three prior
continuances, this case is marked
no further continuances.

ALLY

Your Honor--

JUDGE SPITT

Shush!

ALLY

Shush?

JUDGE SPITT

You either say ready for trial or
I schedule it for a year from now
and revoke bail.

ALLY

You can't do that.

JUDGE SPITT

"Ready for trial" or no bail.

RENEE

Your Honor in the interests of
justice--

JUDGE SPITT

I didn't ask!!
(to Ally)
Ready or not?

ALLY

(weakly)
Ready.

9 INT. CRIMINAL COURT CORRIDOR - TEN MINUTES LATER

9

Ally with Sandra.

ALLY

If he revoked bail, it could have amounted to a jail sentence.

SANDRA

But how can you be ready by two o'clock?

ALLY

Well... I paged John Cage, he's on his way. This isn't a good judge for us.

(thinking aloud)

If we could transfer to Happy Boyle somehow, he loves hookers.

(oh my God; to Sandra)

I'm sorry.

SANDRA

What's your defense?

ALLY

It just slipped out, I really meant to say--

SANDRA

For the trial. What's your defense going to be?

ALLY

Well... Is there one?

As Cage arrives.

ALLY (CONT'D)

John, thank God. What are we going to do?

CAGE

(calmly)

I'm ready to proceed.

ALLY

You are? Really?

(then)

John Cage, this is our client, Sandra Winchell.

CAGE

Hello.

SANDRA

I know you.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

CAGE

I beg your pardon?

SANDRA

I know you. Three years ago. You brought me to a Democratic fundraiser, some guy's house on Beacon Hill.

CAGE

I'm sure you're mistaken.

SANDRA

Cracker? The little cracker?

ALLY

Biscuit.

SANDRA

Biscuit. Exactly. How've you been?

Cage pinches the bridge of his nose.

CUT TO:

10 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

10

Harry lies on his bed as Ally enters, bearing flowers.

ALLY

Mr. Pippin?

HARRY

Ally. Oh come in, come in.

ALLY

I brought you some flowers.

HARRY

Oh. Thank you.
(then; heartfelt)
How can I thank you?

ALLY

I'm just glad I knew CPR. Are you okay?

HARRY

Yes, I'm fine. I might even be discharged today.

ALLY

Today? You had a heart attack.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

HARRY

Well, actually... it was kind of a phantom attack.

ALLY

Phantom?

HARRY

It was angina but... well I panicked, I thought I was having a coronary and the fear made me pass out. I was awakened by your kiss.

Eeeeeech! Calling it a kiss.

ALLY

Oh. Well. So you're okay?

HARRY

That's what they say. Angela. This is her.

Ally turns to see ANGELA THARP, thirtyish, also heavy-set.

HARRY

This is Ally McBeal, Ally, this is Angela Tharp, my fiancée.

ALLY

Nice to meet you.

ANGELA

How do I ever thank you?

She hugs her tightly, it looks like Ally may snap in two.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

You saved my life too.

ALLY

(the air squeezed out)
It was just angina.

ANGELA

(hugging tighter)
Everybody there said it looked like he stopped breathing.

ALLY

I think I have.

Angela releases.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

ANGELA

I just don't know what to say. You brought him back from the grave, maybe.

11 FANTASY

11

A crane is lifting Harry out of a grave.

12 BACK TO PRESENT

12

ANGELA

When I got the call... the paramedics said the person who saved him looked like an itty bitty Angel. And they were right.

Ally is embarrassed by the gratitude.

ALLY

Well. I'm just glad he's okay.
(then)
I'd stay longer but I'm actually in trial right after lunch.

ANGELA

Lunch, my God, I was supposed to wheel it in. I'll be right back.

Angela bolts.

ALLY

She seems great.

HARRY

May I ask you something? After... this is embarrassing but... well after you brought me back... did you kiss me?

VOICEOVER

Did I what?

HARRY

It felt... I dunno, maybe if you did it was to lift my spirits or something.

VOICEOVER

Did I kiss you?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

HARRY

Anyway, it worked. A man like me... a woman like you. Not that I don't love Angela but I... y'know I'm marrying her on Friday and since I intend to be faithful... well, I was faced with the prospect of living my whole life without ever kissing a beautiful woman. My whole life wondering what it must feel like. Now I don't have to wonder.

Her heart breaks for him.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Was it a kiss? Or just my imagination?

ALLY

Just between us?

HARRY

Of course.

ALLY

It was a little kiss.

And Harry's spirits go into orbit, though he tries not to show it. A beat. She then kisses him on the cheek.

ALLY (CONT'D)

I gotta get to court. Bye Harry.

HARRY

Bye.

And she exits. OFF Harry, we:

FADE OUT.

END ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

13 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY 13

Ally, on a quick move, being dogged by Fish. She's heading for Billy's office.

FISH
Shouldn't you be down at the courthouse?

ALLY
It's only one-thirty, I'll be there, it would help to have some clue as to how we're gonna defend this case, Richard.

FISH
You defend it vigorously.

ALLY
Thank you, I'm clear now. I can't even find John Cage, --

FISH
It's really a question of burden of--

And he stops cold.

FISH (CONT'D)
...proof.

She's there again. The girl. The Pepsi commercial vision is dropping off another package. Ally stops to look at Fish looking at the girl.

14 FANTASY 14

Water cascading down the girl as she arches her back, lifting her chin and arms to the sky.

15 BACK TO REALITY 15

ALLY
She can really increase the blood flow, can't she, Richard?

He holds up his hand as if to say, "Please. No words". Ally shakes her head, continues on, entering into:

16 INT. BILLY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

16

Billy and Georgia are liplocked in a passionate moment. Ally SCREAMS upon seeing them, which scream breaks up the passion.

ALLY
(mad at herself)
Damn it, damn it, damn it.
(to them)
I'm sorry.

BILLY
It's okay. What's up?

ALLY
Well...

She closes the door.

ALLY (CONT'D)
I'm about to go into this trial
and... is John Cage... is he good?
I mean... he seems...

BILLY
Strange. He is, but he's also
effective in a courtroom. Juries
like him.

ALLY
It's just... he's always got that
far-away look on his face and...
it's hard... it's hard to know if
he's even in the room.

17 CLOSE ON CAGE

17

Staring into nowhere.

CARPENTER (O.S.)
The date itself cost a thousand
dollars.

REVEAL

INT. CRIMINAL COURT - DAY

Sandra's trial is in progress, Renee is questioning DR. MARTIN CARPENTER, handsome, late forties. Ally sits next to Sandra at the defendant's table.

CARPENTER
Anything on top of the escort would
be more.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

RENEE

What do you mean on top of the escort?

CARPENTER

Sex. Sex was more.

RENEE

And did you pay more, Dr. Carpenter?

CARPENTER

Yes, we agreed on seven hundred dollars for missionary intercourse.

RENEE

And did the two of you...

CARPENTER

We began to. Then special agent Mackleroy entered the premises and... intervened.

RENEE

You were arrested.

CARPENTER

I was.

RENEE

Dr. Carpenter. Your relations with the defendant. It was sex for a fee?

CARPENTER

That's correct.

RENEE

You're clear on that?

CARPENTER

I actually have the receipt. I deduct it as stress therapy.

RENEE

I see. Thank you, Sir.

Renee sits.

JUDGE SPITT

Mr. Cage.

Cage pours himself some water. Sips. Rises. Buttons his coat. Moves from behind his table. Then--

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

CAGE

Dr. Carpenter, my name is John Cage. How do you do Sir?

CARPENTER

Hi.

CAGE

I have no questions, Your Honor.

Cage nods politely to the witness. Moves back behind his table. Unbuttons his coat. Sits. A precise man.

ANGLE ALLY, her face contorting with confusion.

CUT TO:

18 INT. BAR - NIGHT

18

VONDA, singing "Only want to Be With You" (Dusty Springfield).

FIND Ally and Georgia at the bar.

GEORGIA

No cross at all?

ALLY

Nothing. He introduced himself to the witness, then sat down.

GEORGIA

Is he a kook?

ALLY

I don't know. He pours water, unbuttons--

(as Renee steps up)

Nevermind.

RENEE

What "nevermind"?

ALLY

It's about the case, you're the enemy.

RENEE

You're talking about Cage, I bet. He's a kook.

As Harry Pippin steps up.

HARRY

Ally?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

ALLY

Harry? What are you doing out of the hospital?

HARRY

They released me. I went to your office, they said I could find you here.

ALLY

What's the matter?

HARRY

Could we talk in private? Maybe upstairs.

CUT TO:

19 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - EVENING

19

Ally comes in with Harry. Ally closes the door. Harry seems troubled.

ALLY

Something is the matter.

HARRY

Well. One of my gifts as a trial lawyer... I can size people up fast. By the time I stand up to question a witness I know who he is. 'Course it takes me a while to get up. Look. I got a feeling about you.

ALLY

What... what... what... are you saying?

HARRY

I'm saying that in addition to being beautiful... I can tell you're a compassionate person. And uh... well however remote the odds... y'know, you can't win a raffle if you don't at least buy a ticket.

Horror. Is this headed where she thinks it is?

ALLY

What... what... what... are you saying?

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

HARRY

Do you think a person such as
yourself could ever be interested
in a person such as myself?

When ice balls pound Honolulu.

ALLY

(thrown)

Uh. Well. Sure, I mean... I'm
sure a person like me could like
somebody like you, I'm sure out
there people similar to me have
gotten together with men similar to
you.

HARRY

Do you think you... could become
interested in me?

ALLY

What... what... Harry, Angela's a
friend of mine.

VOICEOVER

What?

HARRY

Angela and you are friends?

ALLY

What I mean is is... I've met her.
What I mean is, you're marrying
her, Friday.

HARRY

Yeah. I've come to reconsider
that.

ALLY

(shock)

Because of me?

HARRY

I've never felt a kiss like that,
Ally.

VOICEOVER

Oh my God.

ALLY

Oh... Harry. I...

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

HARRY

I love Angela, don't get me wrong.
but it's... it's not a romantic
love. It's... we're good friends.
With limited options.

ALLY

She's not in love with you?

HARRY

Actually, she is, and that's one of
the reasons I...

(admitting)

It's nice to be with a person who
loves you. Comfort. But...

ALLY

But but... what, comfort is good.

HARRY

The truth is women like you aren't
available to men like me. So I've
always thought. But meeting you.
Like I said I got this feeling.

A beat as she stares back. What can she say?

HARRY (CONT'D)

I'm not asking you to declare
yourself or anything. But if you
even had the slightest inclination
to... just go out on a date... to
see if... if there is a scintilla
of a chance.

ALLY

(ever so gently)

I... don't see that possibility,
Harry.

Honest, however painful.

HARRY

Okay. Okay.

(he's hurt)

Like I said, can't win a raffle if
you don't buy a ticket.

(a beat)

Well, I'll be leaving now. And
I'll be out of the room
momentarily.

ALLY

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (3)

19

Harry turns, waddles toward the door, eventually exiting. Ally, crushed for him, drops into her seat, lets her head go THUMP on the table.

VONDA (O.S.)

Sweet dreams be yours dear, if
dreams there be.

20 EXT. BOSTON - NIGHT

20

Ally walking home, looking a little lost emotionally.

VONDA (O.S.)

Sweet dreams to carry you close to
me/ I wish they may and I wish they
might/ So goodnight my someone...

CUT TO:

21 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

21

Renee is taking a bubble-bath, Ally sits on the edge, soaking her feet, head in her hands.

RENEE

What else could you say? You had
to be honest.

ALLY

(plaintive)
Really?

RENEE

What are you gonna do? Have him
call off his wedding, take him to
Burger King and a movie just to be
nice?

ALLY

You should've seen him sag. It
made me wish I had never brought
him back to life.

RENEE

Ally. I know how you like to feel
lovesick for everybody. But if you
really want to cry... look at your
own life.

Ally splashes her, under--

ALLY

That's real funny.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

RENEE
You know what I mean.

ALLY
Yeah.

Renee extends her hand.

RENEE
Help pull me out?

Ally lends her hand to do so. Instead Renee pulls her in. Ally screams, then--

ALLY
Renee!!

RENEE
You needed it.

Ally splashes her. Renee splashes back, they start laughing, splashing, as we:

CUT TO:

22 INT. CRIMINAL COURT - DAY

22

Cage has Sandra Winchell on the stand. Cage stands straight, hands folded, his voice contained... like some wise sage.

SANDRA
Actually, I used to be a lawyer, I worked in a downtown firm for six years.

CAGE
Which firm would that be, Ma'am?

SANDRA
Cuppings and Gil.

CAGE
And you left the Bar to join the escort service?

SANDRA
Yes.

CAGE
Could you tell the court the reason for your career change?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

SANDRA

Well... I couldn't meet any interesting men. At least not single men. The best ones, the most interesting ones, they were all married. And they were asking me out.

CAGE

The married men?

SANDRA

(nodding)

Or I should say, they were asking me in.

CAGE

And this impelled a change in your vocation.

SANDRA

In an odd way, yes.

CAGE

Could you elaborate on the oddity?

VOICEOVER

Please.

SANDRA

Well. Married men, good men, were always hitting on me. And every friendship I've had with a man, whether the pretext be a common love for Charles Dickens or the symphony, shared political views, similar upbringings, whatever the basis for the friendship beginning... they have almost always resulted with the men wanting to have sex with me.

CAGE

And this drove you to the escort business.

SANDRA

It drove me to the conclusion that man as a species is not suitable for long-term partnership. They can be good for companionship. Satisfying sexual needs. But long-term commitment. Fidelity. Marriage. Men just aren't built for it.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

ALLY
(jumping up)
Objection!

Cage's head jerks to Ally. So does Renee's.

ALLY (CONT'D)
(oops)
Withdrawn.

And she sits.

JUDGE SPITT
The objection is sustained.

CAGE
Your Honor...

JUDGE SPITT
No, I'm trying to make sense of
this.
(to Sandra)
You hate men so that's why you
became a call girl?

SANDRA
I became disillusioned with the
idea of long-term relationships.
Men seem to stay interested and
passionate for finite periods of
time, so I chose to engage in
finite relationships and since I
need to make a living, I allowed
myself to be paid for it.

JUDGE SPITT
And what kind of message does that
send to young women?

SANDRA
I'm not trying to send any message,
in fact I've tried to keep it
discreet. You wouldn't even know
about it if I hadn't been arrested.

CAGE
But even so, Ms. Winchell, let's be
fair. You hardly lead a noble
life.

SANDRA
No, and I've never disappointed
anyone pretending to be noble.
(pointing at Carpenter)
See the star witness over there?
(more)

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (3)

22

SANDRA (Cont'd)

Doctor. Community minded, sits on the school committee, coaches boys' soccer. He's noble. He also comes to me with his VISA card twice a month to earn frequent flyer miles.

CAGE

One might say you entrapped him with your feminine wiles.

SANDRA

One might. But I didn't slither up to him wearing perfume, he found me in the yellow pages.

Upon which Renee laughs, she couldn't help it. The Judge glares at her.

RENEE

Sorry. The Commonwealth sees the humor.

CUT TO:

23 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - AFTERNOON

23

Cage and Ally come off the elevator.

FISH

Hey. How's it goin'?

CAGE

Good.

He keeps going.

ALLY

She was so good, it was depressing.

ELAINE

Ally. Angela Tharp is in your office, she was hostile with me.

ALLY

Oh, great.

ELAINE

I didn't know how long you'd be so I offered to check her cholesterol, it's something I do, but she wouldn't let me prick her finger.

Ally holds a look.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

ELAINE (CONT'D)
You're looking at me snappish.

Ally heads for her office, goes into:

24 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

24

ALLY
Angela... hi.

ANGELA
(cutting right to it)
I know you kissed Harry.

Ally just stares back.

ANGELA (CONT'D)
He told me.

If she denies it, it will hurt him.

ALLY
Oh. Well, Angela, I didn't know he
was with somebody then. I thought
he was, y'know, single.

ANGELA
Well you did damage. I heard him
dictate it.

ALLY
Excuse me?

ANGELA
His diary, he dictates it when his
hands retain water. I heard him,
he said your lips were like candy.

ALLY
Oh, I... I think he's got this
exaggerated memory 'cause...
(winging it)
y'know I was pumping air into his
lungs at the time so he's probably
got this feeling that it was like
y'know... the kiss of life.
(then)
If he goes down again I'll just
check his pulse, I swear.

She holds a look.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

ANGELA

You're locating humor in a situation which is difficult for me.

ALLY

I'm not.

(then)

Angela if I've... caused you any pain, I really am sorry. I didn't mean it.

ANGELA

Yeah. Anyway... and I'm humiliated to say this 'cause you seem like a nice person. He's... he's insisting on inviting you to the wedding. Even toasting you for allowing him to live that long. But uh, I'd appreciate it if you didn't come.

ALLY

I understand.

ANGELA

The bridal gown can only work so much magic, y'know?

ALLY

I won't be there.

ANGELA

Thank you.

And Angela leaves. Ally just stands there. In the b.g.:

ELAINE (O.S.)

It's no charge.

ANGELA (O.S.)

You're not pricking my finger.

OFF Ally, still standing there, we:

FADE OUT.

END ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

25 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - DAY

25

Ally and Renee having lunch.

RENEE

First time I've ever ever seen a lawyer object to her own witness.

ALLY

Shut up.

(then)

The things she was saying... about men. And relationships. You think the jury could buy into that?

RENEE

Ally you objected 'cause we almost buy into it.

ALLY

We do not.

RENEE

Well do we ever meet interesting single men?

ALLY

That's just 'cause we're lawyers, all we meet are single male attorneys, that's a pathetic breed, I've yet to meet--

She stops upon seeing Cage at the door.

ALLY (CONT'D)

John.

(oops to Renee)

Now here's an exception.

CAGE

(contained)

Why are you lunching with the District Attorney?

ALLY

Renee and I live together.

RENEE

It's come to that. No men.

Ally whacks her shoulder. Cage sees no humor.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

CAGE

We're in the middle of trial. I find it inappropriate for you to be lunching with the District Attorney.

And without more, he leaves. Renee and Ally exchange looks, "what is this guy?"

ELAINE

(stepping in)

Ally. Harry Pippin is making his approach.

Oh no. Ally goes to the door.

HER P.O.V.

Sure enough, waddling his way from the elevator... here comes Harry. Slowly.

26 CLOSE ON ALLY

26

ALLY

So. What brings you?

REVEAL

INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - TEN MINUTES LATER

Harry is in the room.

HARRY

(as he blots his forehead)
I just thought I'd pop in. Say hi.

ALLY

Ah.

HARRY

I talked to my client. They're willing to change the name of their new ice cream franchise if your client will waive the anti-compete clause in Cambridge.

ALLY

(happily surprised)

Oh. Well, I think that could work.
Yeah.

HARRY

Great.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

ALLY

Great.

An awkward beat. Elaine's head slides in. Ally closes the door.

ALLY (CONT'D)

(probing gently)

Anything... else, Harry?

HARRY

I came to apologize for the time I came before.

ALLY

Oh that's okay.

HARRY

And I know Angela was here. I feel I put you on and in a spot and it wasn't fair for me to do that.

ALLY

(sweetly)

It's okay. I was flattered.

HARRY

Yeah. Look Ally,...

(off her look)

Don't take this the wrong way, I'm not going to try to court you. But...

ALLY

But what?

HARRY

What I said before about getting a feeling about people... I get this sense you're kind of the romantic type.

ALLY

Well...

HARRY

I'm not going your way with this you don't have to be concerned. I just came for some advice. Your advice.

ALLY

Okay.

The man is coming from total honesty.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

HARRY

What I said earlier about Angela.
I do love her. Very much. She'll
be a great mother and I want kids.
But it's... it's like love out of
appreciation. And maybe
convenience. She's never made my
heart bounce. And sexually... I
don't even think of her during.

(a beat)

I guess what I'm asking... do you
think it's wrong for a person to
marry another person... not because
she's the one but... because she's
the only?

27 FANTASY

27

Ally is thrown up on a giant hook on the wall.

28 BACK TO REALITY

28

ALLY

Harry. I couldn't possibly
answer... I don't know you well
enough to...

(a beat)

If you don't love her, you probably
shouldn't, y'know... I... I... I
can't make a decision like that,
you know I can't.

HARRY

When I first met Angie, I called my
mother and said, "Ma I met
somebody". She said "I love her".
I go "You don't even know her yet".
She said, "I don't need to".
Sounds like a mother's
unconditional love, huh? But it
wasn't that.

A beat. The man is reaching out. Should he factor his
desperation into the decision?

ALLY

Harry. I can only tell you. Every
night when I go to bed... I put my
head on the pillow thinking "maybe
tomorrow". "Maybe tomorrow I'm
going to meet that someone". I
might be alone.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

ALLY (Cont'd)

But I get to cling to that "maybe" every single night, the hope that... and that's what keeps me going.

(a beat)

We make so few promises to ourselves as we grow up. One is that on our wedding day, we'll walk down that aisle with somebody who...

(a beat)

And if it doesn't happen... you at least gotta be able to hope that it will.

OFF Harry, we:

CUT TO:

29 INT. BILLY'S OFFICE - DAY

29

Elaine, having entered, closes the door ON THE CUT.

BILLY

Elaine.

ELAINE

I come to you because you're the designated sensitive male.

BILLY

I beg your pardon?

ELAINE

The girl, who works in the mail room, you know, the one who saunters about demonstrably with her ample bosom.

BILLY

What about her?

ELAINE

Well... the women in the office don't appreciate the gawk fest and we feel her continued presence together with the reactions are contributing to a hostile working environment. We certainly don't want to file but... it's probably best that she not make deliveries here anymore.

And Elaine begins to head out.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

BILLY
Ho, ho, whoa.

Elaine turns back.

BILLY
You want us to terminate her?

ELAINE
Yes.

BILLY
Because of how she looks?

ELAINE
Because of how you all grossly
objectify her, said objectification
suggesting to the female personnel
at large that--

BILLY
Oh please.

ELAINE
The women here don't like it,
Billy. And with Richard's little
human nature speech... I'm warning
you in a nice way. You're
fostering a lawsuit.

BILLY
That is ridiculous.

ELAINE
The law doesn't discriminate
against the ridiculous. As the
designated sensitive male... maybe
you should speak to Richard.

And she leaves. OFF Billy, we:

CUT TO:

30 INT. CRIMINAL COURT - DAY

30

All parties present. Renee is delivering her closing.

RENEE
This isn't a case about the mating
habits of the male species. It's
about-- did she break the law or
not? The law says sex for money is
a crime. Sitting over there is a
prostitute.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

RENEE (Cont'd)

Proud and rich, I grant you. But still... a person who gives sex for a fee. That's a crime. You all know it.

Renee struts over and sits.

JUDGE SPITT

Mr. Cage.

Cage pours his water. Ally discreetly rolls her eyes, here we go. He rises. Buttons his coat. Moves to the jury. A beat.

CAGE

Hypocrisy troubles me greatly.

Another beat. Renee shoots a look to Ally.

RESUME

CAGE (CONT'D)

Today's biggest and brightest film actresses make upwards of ten million dollars per picture. They only rise to that level, however, if they're willing to simulate sex acts on camera. I say simulate, that's merely for the intercourse. The kissing. The nibbling on nipples, the sticking of tongues in ears, mouths, the groping of breasts and thighs, hands on penises, groins... that's real. That's actually going on. The actresses will tell us they do it for some redeeming social value. That and a million dollars.

(a beat)

It happens on lesser levels. Women employees sometimes have been known to gratify their male superiors in the hopes that a promotion may ensue. Not a noble thing... but it happens sometimes. We don't jail them. I've known many women... who wouldn't consider a man marriage material unless his income is in a certain bracket. I don't respect that but it happens. Women marry for money. We don't jail them. The truth is... sex has always been a currency for women. Always, though often at a quid pro blurry quo. My client was honest. To this man. To you.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

A beat, he is pained.

CAGE (CONT'D)

I apologize, hypocrisy always gives
me such pause. Let's all take a
moment.

And Cage looks down, pinching the bridge of his nose. A moment
of silence for hypocrisy. Renee looks to Ally who shrugs. They
look to Judge Spitt, also pinching his nose. Finally-- OFF
this, THEN Ally, we:

CUT TO:

31 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY

31

Ally, working up a rage, steps off the elevator with Cage and
Sandra.

ALLY

(laying into him)

There's a big big difference
between marrying a man who makes a
good living and sleeping with one
for shopping money.

CAGE

(calm)

The line is grey.

ALLY

Grey. Grey?

CAGE

If you're going to bark in my ear,
Ally, I'd appreciate you mitigating
the spittle.

FISH

(intervening)

How'd it go?

As Cage heads off.

ALLY

It went disgusting, I think we
actually may win, he got up there
and argued jury nullification, he
gave a closing that was anti-love,
anti-law, I--

SANDRA

Who's side are you on?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

ALLY

Who's side are you on? It's bad enough with all the men being... who's side are you on, we're supposed to be the better species.

ELAINE

(appearing)

You have really done it now.

ALLY

What?

ELAINE

There's a very big, very angry woman in your office who says she won't leave till she snaps you like a pencil.

ALLY

Angela?

ELAINE

I couldn't even soften her with my sweet way.

FISH

Who's Angela?

ALLY

(as she heads off)

Why is it even when a stranger has a heart attack, it has to be at my expense?

And she bumps into... "the girl".

THE GIRL

Sorry.

Ally holds a look, then--

ALLY

My fault.

And she continues on to:

32 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

32

Ally enters.

ALLY

Angela--

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

ANGELA

What did you tell him?

ALLY

Why, what happened?

ANGELA

It's over! That's what happened,
what did you say to him?

ALLY

He called off the wedding?

ANGELA

He didn't call it off, he asked for
a continuance but it's the same
thing. Once Harry loses
momentum... you said something to
him, I know he came here.

ALLY

Look, Angela, what's between you
and Harry should be between you and
Harry, so I think--

ANGELA

Exactly, but what came between us
was you.

And her anger begins to turn... to despair. She's fighting
tears, which of course is excruciating for Ally.

ALLY

Um. All I said... y'know is
that... um... that--

ANGELA

(quietly)

That if I'm not the woman of his
dreams, he should wait. I know you
romantic types. You told him
something like that, didn't you?

ALLY

(weakly)

Maybe.

A painful beat.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Angela... and you... the man you
marry, you deserve to be the woman
of his dreams. Look at this from
your side.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

ANGELA

You're gonna tell me how it looks
from my side?

Just hearing that question cuts Ally in half.

ANGELA (CONT'D)

People like me and Harry... we
don't get the partners of our
dreams. We have to adjust the
picture a little. Which is okay.
Being with somebody who loves you.
Having a family. A son, a yard to
play in, that's something. Not
everything. But sometimes holding
out for everything... you end up
with nothing. Please remember that
the next time a fat man walks in
asking you for advice.

And she exits. OFF Ally, we:

CUT TO:

33 CLOSE ON VONDA

33

Singing "Ask The Lonely".

REVEAL

INT. BAR

FIND Ally with Georgia.

GEORGIA

I don't know what you could've done
differently.

ALLY

Do you think... I dunno. Maybe I
encouraged him to hold out for the
illusion of marriage? And the
reality now is he could grow old
alone.

GEORGIA

Ally, if he doesn't love her...

ALLY

He loves her. She just doesn't
make his heart bounce.

(unconvinced)

It should, shouldn't it?

(more)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

ALLY (Cont'd)

Not all the time but at least on his wedding day, his heart should do a little hop during the ceremony shouldn't it?

GEORGIA

Yeah.

A beat.

ALLY

Do you know what's one of the big causes for heart attacks with men, right up there with smoking cigarettes?

(off Georgia's look)

Hopelessness.

GEORGIA

Hopelessness.

ALLY

It causes this thing called atherosclerosis. The narrowing of arteries, it can be caused by despair.

GEORGIA

It's so you to know that.

ALLY

He's gonna be lonely, depressed and have another heart attack because of me.

(then)

The wedding's not technically off yet.

GEORGIA

What are you thinking?

ALLY

I'm gonna get him to take her back.

GEORGIA

Really?

ALLY

I have to. I have to. I think.

OFF this, THEN Vonda singing "Ask The Lonely", we:

FADE OUT.

END ACT III

ACT IV

FADE IN:

34 INT. CRIMINAL COURT CORRIDOR - DAY

34

Ally and Renee emerge from the elevator. Cage is there waiting.

RENEE

Pretty quick verdict, actually...
hey, Johnnie.

(rubs his head)

Great closing yesterday, you
passing out any questionnaires?

CAGE

That was uncalled for.

RENEE

See you in there.

As Renee heads off.

CAGE

Ally, I know you've had a hard time
with the defense we've put on.

ALLY

You're doing what you have to...

Her attention is arrested by--

HER P.O.V.

Harry is talking to Sandra.

RESUME

ALLY (CONT'D)

Excuse me a second.

And Ally hustles over to them.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Harry. What's going on,
(to Sandra)
you wouldn't be quoting him off-
season rates, would you?

SANDRA

I beg your pardon?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

ALLY

Excuse us please.

(she ushers him to the
side)

What were you discussing with her?

Harry is silent. Were they talking business?

ALLY (CONT'D)

You call off your wedding. And now
you...

(taking charge)

You have to get married to Angela,
Harry. She's right for you, I was
thinking about it all night, I was
wrong for telling you to... you
should marry Angela.

HARRY

Really?

ALLY

Yeah. Y'know marriage...

(winging it again)

it really is more about
companionship than passion and you
and Angela, you say you communicate
well and you trust each other and
each of you could shampoo the other
in time of sickness... and that's
what it's about.

VOICEOVER

Total unmitigated compromise.

HARRY

What about my heart?

ALLY

Exactly, if you had another heart
attack how many women would go down
on you,

(correcting)

give mouth-to-mouth, how many,
Angela would. A prettier woman
might let you choke out.

HARRY

You didn't.

ALLY

(quiet candor)

Harry. I was also thinking last
night.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

ALLY (Cont'd)

I have a lot of single girlfriends
a lot, I made a list and I went to
circle all the ones I thought might
go out with you and... I didn't
circle any.

(gently)

None of my friends would date you.

A beat.

HARRY

(quiet pain)

Because of my heft?

ALLY

(quiet truth)

Because we live in a world that
prioritizes beauty and and... and
most of them are great girls who
have a lot of choices.

HARRY

So you think I should... settle.
For Angela.

ALLY

I think... um... if you're really
willing to risk living the rest of
your life alone... then take the
chance. Maybe you'll meet your
someone. But if you want a family,
kids, and... well... I don't know
what's more important to your
heart's content.

A beat. Harry's seeing the logic.

HARRY

And Angela. She's a good girl.

ALLY

She's a good girl.

HARRY

And promises we make to ourselves
as kids... stupid anyway.

The words pain Ally a little, they ring of such compromise. But she's genuine in her concern for him. A beat, as Cage approaches.

CAGE

C'mon, Ally, jury's coming in.

CUT TO:

35 INT. CRIMINAL COURT - DAY

35

The jury is in, the Bailiff brings the verdict to Judge Spitt.

CAGE
(softly singing)
Da da da da da da da.

Ally looks to Cage.

CAGE (CONT'D)
(softly)
I apologize.

JUDGE SPITT
Has the jury reached its verdict?

FOREWOMAN
We have, Your Honor.

JUDGE SPITT
What say you?

FOREWOMAN
We find the defendant not guilty.

Sandra gasps with relief/joy. Renee shakes her head, looks to Ally. As the Judge dismisses the jury--

SANDRA
(to Cage)
Thank you. So much.
(to Ally)
Thank you for sitting here in
apparent support. I'm sure it
helped.

ALLY
(not vicious; honest)
It was apparent, Sandra, my
outlook's a little different from
yours.

SANDRA
I know. And I envy you. I really
do.

CUT TO:

36 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY

36

Billy and Fish over by the elevator.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

FISH
(disbelief)
Wait, wait wait. I realize I
didn't pay tremendous attention in
law school. But are you telling
me...
(pointing one way)
if I stare at a woman over here...
(pointing in a different
direction)
a woman over there can sue me for
sexual harassment?

BILLY
It's possible.

FISH
How is that possible?

BILLY
The law now defines harassment to
include hostile working
environment. If our staring at the
girl causes an environment that--

FISH
That's crazy.

BILLY
Of course it is.

FISH
And if we fire this girl, she could
sue us.

BILLY
Absolutely, since we'd be firing
her for the way she looks.

FISH
So our only real option here... is
to let her continue to work... and
for us to stop staring at her.

BILLY
Right.

FISH
Impossible. Absolutely impossible.

Upon which the elevator door opens. Out come Cage and Ally,
rather somber for the winners. Billy is there.

BILLY
You lost?

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

CAGE
(flat)
We won.

And Ally continues toward her office, oblivious that Cage is behind her step for step. She enters.

37 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

37

She goes to her desk, Cage still on her heels. She drops her briefcase on the table, then turns back, almost collides with Cage. She YELPS.

ALLY
What are you doing?

CAGE
After each case, I like to collect thoughts.

ELAINE
(at the door)
I have great news. Harry and Angela are back on, Friday night service.

ALLY
Great.

ELAINE
Angela called, she said since you pulled a Cupid she would like you there after all as long as you don't wear white.

ALLY
Thank you, Elaine.

Ally then goes to the door, closes it.

ELAINE (O.S.)
I resent this side of the door.

ALLY
You really want my thoughts, John? I think the world is in big big trouble. We laugh at people for aspiring to romance. We celebrate hookers under the guise of feminine autonomy. Do you want me to put this in writing?

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

CAGE
(singing)
Da da da da da da da.

ALLY
Why do you do that? That da da da
da thing.

CAGE
I stutter. I did as a child
anyway. I learned to control it
with music, I'd sing that song John
Jacob Jingle Hymer Smith. His name
is my name too. You know that
song.

ALLY
Yeah.

CAGE
I sing to myself to control my
stutter if I feel myself nervous.
Sometime the refrain just pops out.

Ally just stares back. The little secrets that we all have.

CAGE (CONT'D)
Anyway, I'm not here to collect
your thoughts, I came to give you
mine. Criminal law requires that
criminal lawyers play a certain
game.

ALLY
I know, you don't have to apologize
for the system or for your little
performance. I get it.

CAGE
I didn't come in here to apologize,
I came in...

(a beat)
The world is no longer a romantic
place. Some of its people still
are, however, and therein lies the
hope.

(a beat)
Don't let the world win, Ally
McBeal. That's what I came in to
say.

And with that he exits. Elaine pops back in.

ELAINE
He's a strange little biscuit,
isn't he?

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

OFF Ally, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

38 EXT. OLD NORTH CHURCH - NIGHT

38

OVER MUSIC, Vonda SINGING a slow version of "Only Want To Be With You". Harry and Angela Pippin emerge from the church as well-wishers throw rice. The happy couple makes its slow waddle toward the limo as the guests cheer them on.

FIND Ally, her smile tempered by melancholy as she throws rice. Who knows? Perhaps Harry is guaranteed against loneliness now. Or perhaps his heart is assured to be lonely forever. Who knows? Certainly not Ally. Stay on her as she throws rice. Eventually, we:

FADE OUT.

THE END