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Ally McBeal

"The Attitude"

Written by:
David E. Kelley

FIRST DRAFT

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**FOR EDUCATIONAL
PURPOSES ONLY**

ALLY McBEAL - "The Attitude" - 9/19/97 - Blue

ALLY McBEAL

"The Attitude"

CAST LIST

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

Vonda Shepard
John Cage
Jerry Burrows
Karen Horwitz
D.A. Jason Roberts
Rabbi Joseph Stern
"The Girl" *

SONG LIST:

"Searching My Soul" (Vonda Shepard)
"This Guy's In Love" (Vonda Shepard) *

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ALLY McBEAL

"The Attitude"

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

COURT CORRIDOR/LOBBY
ELEVATOR

*
*

CAGE AND FISH LAW OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY
ALLY'S OFFICE - DAY
CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY
BILLY'S OFFICE - DAY
FISH'S OFFICE
BATHROOM
BATHROOM STALL
UPSTAIRS

*
*
*
*

JERRY BURROWS' OFFICE - DAY

TEMPLE - DAY

RESTAURANT - NIGHT

ALLY'S APARTMENT - MORNING
BATHROOM - NIGHT

BAR - NIGHT

"The Attitude"

FADE IN:

1 INT. COURT CORRIDOR - DAY

1

ALLY and RENEE, heading toward the elevator. Ally stops.

ALLY
There he is again.

RENEE (O.S.)
He's here a lot Ally, he's a D.A.

ANGLE THEIR P.O.V.

"He" is JASON ROBERTS, suit, briefcase, thirties, talking to a defense lawyer.

RESUME

ALLY
Yes, which can only bring me back
to why can't you introduce me?

As they continue to the elevator--

RENEE
I could introduce you but you want
me to introduce you in a way where
he doesn't know I'm introducing
you, that makes it harder.

As they board, Renee going first....

ALLY
I could go to one of your office
parties. Maybe--

RENEE
Office parties, we don't have
office--
(suddenly)
Don't move, don't turn around,
don't look, he's coming.

ALLY
Here? To the elevator?

RENEE
Block the door a little so it
doesn't close.

ALLY
How--

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

RENEE

Quick.

And Ally, ever so subtly steps into the closing elevator door. It's a heavy door. It bangs her into the other oncoming one, she ping pongs off them and goes down.

RENEE (CONT'D)

That'll do.

1A INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

1A

As Roberts rushes to her aid Helps her up, under--

ROBERTS

Are you okay?

ALLY

Oh. Me? I'm fine.

ROBERTS

You can fall hard.

VOICEOVER

You have no idea.

As she looks into his eyes--

ROBERTS

You sure you're okay?

ALLY

Oh yeah. It just caught me in the eyes. Shoulder.

And they step into the elevator.

ROBERTS

Hey, Renee.

RENEE

Hi Jason. This is Ally McBeal.
Jason Roberts.

ALLY

Hi.

ROBERTS

Hi. Actually, I know who you are.

ALLY

(disappointed)
You do?

(CONTINUED)

1A CONTINUED:

1A

ROBERTS

That's a good thing. I saw you in court last week and I asked.

VOICEOVER

Oh.

RENEE

Ally and I are roommates.

ROBERTS

Really?

RENEE

Oh yeah. Girlfriends. Unmarried.

Ally shoots a look at Renee.

ROBERTS

Aren't we all. Hard to meet people in this town.

ALLY

Tell me about it.

The door opens. The elevator door does as well.

RENEE

And this is suddenly my floor. See you at home, girlfriend. Unless you make plans or something.

Ally shoves her slightly. And the door closes.

ROBERTS

Going to the bottom?

ALLY

Oh yeah. The bottom. That's where I'm going. You too?

ROBERTS

Second floor. Social law.

ALLY

Ah.

A beat. Will he ask her out? We begin to HEAR the THEME SONG from JEOPARDY'S FINAL QUESTION. Finally--

ROBERTS

Ally.

The MUSIC STOPS.

(CONTINUED)

1A CONTINUED: (2)

1A

ALLY

Yeah?

ROBERTS

You feel like getting dinner
sometime?

ALLY

(playing it cool)

Oh. Sure.

ROBERTS

Great.

(then)

Tonight?

ALLY

(that'd be tough)

Tonight, oh,

(switching gears)

that'd be great.

ROBERTS

Cage and Fish?

ALLY

Love it. Spicier the better.

ROBERTS

No, where you work. Cage and Fish?

ALLY

Oh. Yeah. Ha.

ROBERTS

I'll call.

ALLY

Great.

1B INT. COURT CORRIDOR/LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

1B

She smiles a little. The door-opens, she makes way to let him
out. He passes, their bodies proximately close.

ROBERTS

I'll call this afternoon.

ALLY

Excellent.

And he heads off. She watches, unaware she's in the path of the
killer doors again. WHAM. WHAM. Down she goes, out of frame.

SMASH CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

1B CONTINUED:

1B

MAIN TITLES

2 INT. OFFICE - DAY

2

ALLY and ELAINE, by Elaine's desk.

ELAINE

Big big mistake. If you go home
and change before, that tells him
he has the edge and he'll diddle
with you.

ALLY

(re what she's wearing)
But this doesn't really flatter me.

ELAINE

He asked you out wearing that.
This is fine, do you get all pitted
by the end of the day?

ALLY

Not to my knowledge, Elaine, do I?

Suddenly--

FISH

ALLY.

She yelps.

ELAINE

(reprimanding; to Fish)
I've asked you not to walk up on
her sudden like that.

FISH

I pop, Elaine. It's who I am.

ALLY

Yes, well do you want something?

FISH

New case, small but possible
business behind it, Karen Horwitz,
nice lady, family money, she's
suing her Rabbi, I told her you
could handle it.

ALLY

Suing her Rabbi? For what?

FISH

I never get involved in the legals,
she'll be here at ten, thanks.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

Starts to leave, turns back.

FISH (CONT'D)

Oh. That's all I have.

And off he goes. OFF Ally and Elaine, we:

CUT TO:

3 INT. BURROWS' OFFICE - DAY

3

GEORGIA enters with BURROWS, a senior litigator at Georgia's firm. Late forties, good lawyer, good man. But something's up here.

GEORGIA

(radar on)

What's going on?

BURROWS

Georgia, this is a difficult situation. You know my wife Robbie.

GEORGIA

Sure.

BURROWS

(simply)

She doesn't like my working side-by-side with you.

GEORGIA

I'm sorry?

BURROWS

She's an insecure woman and... what can I say, there's nothing to justify her insecurity but it's nevertheless real.

A beat.

GEORGIA

What's the punchline here, Jerry?

BURROWS

I have nine litigation associates, but only one wife and part of marriage is accommodating your partner's feelings even when they're unfounded. I'm transferring you to our corporate department.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

That's a bomb.

GEORGIA
To corporate?

BURROWS
If you'd prefer tax or real estate,
we could--

GEORGIA
I'm a litigator.

BURROWS
I'm sorry.

GEORGIA
You're sorry. Your wife has an
irrational jealousy, I get punished
for it and all you say is you're
sorry?

OFF Burrows we:

4 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - DAY

4

Ally is there with KAREN HORWITZ, fiftyish.

ALLY
I don't mean to be rude, Ms.
Horwitz, it's just I don't really
understand.

HORWITZ
What's not to understand, my ex-
husband's in a coma, he's a
vegetable, the nurses call him
kumquat.

ALLY
Yes, I understand the coma part.
But why this makes you want to sue
your Rabbi...

HORWITZ
I'm scheduled to be re-married in
three weeks, I've never been so
happy in love in my life.

ALLY
Oh. Mistle toe.

HORWITZ
You meant to say mazel tov, thank
you. Here is my problem.
(more)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

HORWITZ (Cont'd)

Though I'm legally divorced from
Ira, by Jewish law I'm still
married since Ira got hit by the
bus before he gave me the Get.
Without the-Get, it's kind of a
Jewish release, you see... I can't
remarry under Jewish law.

(off Ally's look)

Did you follow, I'm happy to repeat
myself.

ALLY

No, I think I understand but...
suing your Rabbi. That part...

As she retrieves some gum from her purse--

HORWITZ

I think this Get rule works a
hardship in this situation. It's
not fair, I think the Rabbi should
waive it, he won't, I'm suing, gum?

OFF Ally, we:

CUT TO:

5 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

5

Georgia and BILLY, heading for his office.

BILLY

What if you refused?

GEORGIA

He didn't give me the opportunity
to refuse he just said that I'm
transferred and he's sorry.

BILLY

Sorry.

Billy's "sorry" was meant for... "The Girl" who he almost bumped
into. "The Girl" smiles "no problem" and continues on. Georgia
takes Billy by the ear and escorts him quickly into:

6 INT. BILLY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

6

BILLY

(re his ear)

Ooow. That hurts, Georgia.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

GEORGIA

Yeah, it hurts me to think about it, do I have a case in your opinion?

BILLY

You're the expert on sex discrimination.

GEORGIA

I know, and this doesn't make out a prima facie case. I haven't been fired, or docked, just transferred. The guy has never harassed me, it's never been a bad place to work.

BILLY

Still, he transferred you based on...

(thinks)

let's talk to the Biscuit.

GEORGIA

The what?

BILLY

John Cage. He's a star on wrongful termination, maybe--

GEORGIA

I haven't been fired.

BILLY

Even so, the same laws could apply.

A beat.

GEORGIA

I can't believe this. How can this be... this is just incredible.

A beat.

BILLY

Well. It's wrong completely, but... a few weeks ago you wanted Ally transferred out of litigation here.

GEORGIA

That's different.

CUT TO:

7 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - DAY

7

Elaine is working on the face of Ally who is reclined back in her chair. - Elaine, trained as a facialist, works with a needle and a bright light.

ALLY

Just pop it.

ELAINE

I don't want to pop it, it could swell, you don't want enlarged pores on a first date. There. I've diminished it.

ALLY

What do you mean you "diminished it"?

ELAINE

I diminished the pimple. It's not as big, it's less than, smaller, not as much, you know how Richard would put it, it's now a pimple deminimus, you look fab.

FISH

(entering)

How'd it go with Karen Horwitz?

ALLY

Okay. I'm not sure we have a cause of action. But at least the Rabbi agreed to a meeting, I'm on my way to his Temple to see him.

FISH

Good.

(to Elaine)

And what are you up to?

ELAINE

Ally has a date tonight, I'm minimizing her facial flaws.

FISH

(without missing a beat)

Great.

And Fish is gone. Ally glares at Elaine.

ELAINE

(re the pimple)

I do good work. You look fab.

CUT TO:

8 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY

8

Georgia and Billy are with CAGE, by the upstairs bookshelves. Cage stands stoic, listening intently but not looking at them.

BILLY

I don't doubt that we could make a case, but the damages would be pretty speculative.

GEORGIA

And I don't really want to sue, 'cause... then what? I like this job. I don't want to worry about fallout.

BILLY

Which makes me think... a quiet meeting with this Burrows guy might be best.

GEORGIA

Nobody's gonna force this guy's hand, I know Jerry.

BILLY

Which is why I'm thinking the sword in the stone approach. And there's nobody better than you at that John.

(then)

Can I set up a meeting?

An eternal beat. Then--

CAGE

You may.

(then)

But first...

(to Georgia)

You meet with him again. Establish that your goal is to work it out. You won't be able to resolve it but I don't want him braced for hostility. Then I'll do my meeting.

Billy and Georgia exchange looks as we:

CUT TO:

9 INT. TEMPLE - DAY

9

Ally sits with RABBI JOSEPH STERN, thirties.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

ALLY

Can't you... y'know forget about
the rule just this once?

STERN

(incredulous)

Can I forget about it just this
once?

ALLY

Well...

STERN

The law is an ancient one, Ms.
McBeal, the Get is deeply steeped
in Judaism.

ALLY

I don't mean to offend your
religion. But... certainly you can
make an exception.

STERN

We don't do that. We don't just
"modify" our faith to make it more
popular.

ALLY

(irked)

You don't need to be condescending.

STERN

Well forgive me, I'm not used to
people bouncing in here asking me
to "adjust" Judaism.

ALLY

(more irked)

I didn't "bounce" in here, you
didn't even see my approach.

STERN

I don't like your attitude.

ALLY

(conciliatory)

The guy's in a coma, he can't give
a Get and she can't remarry without
it, doesn't that seem unfair?

STERN

Sometimes it might seem unfair,
yes.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

STERN (Cont'd)

But the Torah decreed this strict rule for a reason: to give would-be adulterers the strength to resist. That's what I'll say to you. That's what I tell my congregants.

ALLY

And they let you get away with that?

Stern stares back, insulted.

ALLY

I'm sorry. I didn't mean... um... look. Suppose we could show that Ira planned to grant the Get, 'cause he did. It's just that the bus hit him before he could do it.

STERN

I'm afraid that doesn't help.

ALLY

Why? These people want to be married, this is a really silly rule, I'm sorry.

A beat.

STERN

You come into my Temp'e and say it's a silly rule?

ALLY

Well... yes. I think it's not fair if two people love each other, they want to marry, and they can't because of... this silly rule. It's silly, I don't care if you have a Torah and a lot of Jewish hoopla to back it up.

STERN

Hoopla? What a rude little woman.

ALLY

What if this happened with your wife? Suppose she had had a former husband who was a vegetable, you wouldn't be married, ever think of that?

STERN

I'm not married.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

9

ALLY
And you wonder why.

STERN
What... are you always such a
bitchy little thing?

ALLY
Bitchy?

STERN
Coming in here, insulting the
Talmud, insulting me--

ALLY
What kind of Rabbi calls somebody
bitchy?

STERN
I'm going to have to ask you to
leave.

ALLY
'Cause I'm bitchy? God has no love
for the bitchy?

STERN
Out!

ALLY
Let me tell you something. Just
'cause you wear that little thingie
on your head and that big heavy
scarf, it doesn't give you the
right to be vicious.

STERN
Vicious?

ALLY
Yes, vicious. You're a vicious
Rabbi. And I'm going to write a
letter.

ALLY holds another look. Stomps out. OFF this, THEN Rabbi
Stern, we:

FADE OUT.

END ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

10 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - DAY

10

Renee has come to have lunch with Ally.

RENEE
You insulted a Rabbi?

ALLY
(mortified)
Am I a bigot? It's just this seems
so unfair-- I have to go back
there and apologize.

ELAINE
(entering)
I think you're prone to
overreactions when the issues
involve matters of the heart.

ALLY
Thank you, Elaine.

ELAINE
Karen Horwitz called, she's on her
way.

ALLY
Oh great, I don't know how...

She freezes, catching a glimpse of her reflection in a letter
opener. She holds it up. Then whips out a mirror.

ALLY (CONT'D)
(panic)
I'm blotchy.
(to Elaine)
You blotched me.

ELAINE
I did not.

ALLY
I'm red here, look.

Sure enough, there's a red mark on her face.

ELAINE
I didn't do that.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

ALLY

Oh no, my face just happens to get red in the same place you minimized a pimple, look at that red spot, does it look less than, not as much, reduced--

RENEE

Calm down.

ALLY

What calm down, I look like Gorbechov, I have a first date tonight with a great-looking guy and I look like a dead president from Russia, this is just rich.

FISH

(entering)

I got a call from the Anti-Defamation league, did you go sicko on a Rabbi?

ALLY

Did I go sicko?

FISH

He says you marched into his Temple all anti-semitic.

ALLY

That little liar.

(then)

All I did was criticize one tiny little Jewish law, a big one for Karen Horwitz but... I'm sorry, maybe I was out of line. I'm so embarrassed.

FISH

I can tell, part of your face is turning red.

Upon which Ally covers her face with her hands.

ELAINE

(to Fish)

That wasn't helpful.

(then)

Is Gorbechov dead?

CUT TO:

11 INT. BURROWS' OFFICE - DAY

11

Georgia and Burrows.

GEORGIA

It's not acceptable, Jerry.

BURROWS

Georgia. Put yourself in my shoes.
This affects my kids, if my
marriage is strained--

GEORGIA

I'm not saying I don't sympathize.
But the first step maybe should be
for you and your wife to get
counseling, not to transfer me.
It's not my problem.

BURROWS

I'm not going to argue the merits
of it, I know you win on that
score. All I'm saying... if
working with a beautiful woman
jeopardizes my family... my family
comes first.

GEORGIA

Well, I've retained a lawyer.

A beat. That hits Burrows between the eyes.

BURROWS

Georgia. I could have said you
were being transferred to help the
corporate department. I could have
said the partners wanted to thin
out litigation. I could have made
up any excuse, you think I wanted
to tell you the truth here? But I
did so because I have always been
honest with you.

GEORGIA

And I admire your honesty, Jerry.
But it's still wrong for me to get
punished for your wife's problem.

BURROWS

So... you're suing me.

GEORGIA

I hope not. I'd like you to meet
with my lawyer, though.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

BURROWS
(seething)
Fine. Fine.

CUT TO:

12 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - DAY

12

Renee is examining Ally's face.

RENEE
It's already less red.

ALLY
It is not, it's just the rest of my
face is more red 'cause I'm so
upset.

ELAINE,
(entering)
Bad news, good news, and
potentially horrendous news,
whichever order you'd like.

ALLY
Let's go in that order.

ELAINE
That would be my choice. The bad
news is Karen Horwitz has returned,
looking a little like my dog Pupple
before we put him to sleep for
rabies. The good news is this
Jason Roberts really is interested.
The potentially horrendous news is
that he's here in person right now
to confirm tonight's date.

ALLY
He's here? With my face like this?

ELAINE
I'd tell him it's a Rorschach's
test for love.

Renee laughs. Ally wheels on her.

RENEE
Sorry, that was good.

ALLY
(to Elaine)
Tell Karen I'll be a minute and...
tell Jason I'm in a meeting.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

ELAINE

You can't snub him.

RENEE

Just pop your head out, say you're tied up but--

ALLY

He'll see my face.

RENEE

Do it quick.

ELAINE

I recommended a dark restaurant to him, this should help, by the way.

ALLY

Thank you, Elaine.

Ally opens the door as we go to:

13 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

13

Ally only exposes her good side, concealing the red side behind the ajar door.

ALLY

Jason. Hey.

ROBERTS

Hi, Ally.

Still, half a face--

ALLY

Look, I'm in a meeting right now I can't really get out of. But I'm looking forward to tonight.

HIS P.O.V.

It's almost like she's peering from behind the door.

ROBERTS

Great. I thought I might pick you up right here, seven thirty.

ALLY

Fabulous. I can't wait.

This is a little odd but Roberts rolls with it.

ROBERTS

Okay. Seven thirty then.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

ALLY
Seven thirty. Bye.

And she closes the door. Roberts holds a befuddled look, then starts to head off. Behind him, we see the door crack open, as Ally watches him go. -OFF this, we:

CUT TO:

14 INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

14

Ally, peering out.

ALLY (CONT'D)
I even like the way this guy walks.

HER P.O.V.

as he walks away--

ALLY
I like the way he walks, the way he acts... and his eyes. Those eyes.

Suddenly TWO EYES, menacing eyes, come INTO FRAME, causing Ally to yelp. The eyes of Karen Horwitz. Ally then opens the door to REVEAL her.

HORWITZ
You've ruined me.

ALLY
Karen, c'mon in.

As she does.

ALLY (CONT'D)
Renee, Elaine, I'll catch you later.

ELAINE
Would you like me to stay?

ALLY
Just this one time "no".

Elaine mouths out "snappish". Renee and Elaine exit, Ally closes the door.

HORWITZ
One of the reasons I came to you is because I regard Jewish customs seriously.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

ALLY

I tried to gently persuade him.

HORWITZ

I was invited to leave the
Synagogue altogether.

ALLY

Excuse me?

HORWITZ

He said it's one thing to sick a
lawyer on him, quite another to
send somebody who doesn't like men
and still yet another to hire a Jew
Hater. But to send all three in
one waify little package...

ALLY

He called me waify?

HORWITZ

Oh great, make it about you, I'm
the one who got expelled.

ALLY

Karen. I will talk to this this
this... Rabbi. And I promise
you... not only will I get you
back into your Synagogue, I'll make
sure you get married. This is a
promise from me to you.

HORWITZ

You don't have to worry about the
Get business anymore. Ira died
last night so I'm free to marry
again.

ALLY

Oh? He died?

HORWITZ

In his sleep.

ALLY

Oh. Well um,...

HORWITZ

Mistle toe, yes, thank you, but
even still I would like to be
married in my own Temple and I
can't very well do that expelled.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

ALLY
I'll talk to Rabbi Stern, I'll
apologize, I'll make this all go
away. I promise.

CUT TO:

15 INT. BURROWS' OFFICE - DAY

15

Burrows enters with Cage.

BURROWS
Could I offer you something to
drink?

CAGE
(serious; quiet)
No, thank you, I actually had a
small Sprite in your lobby, it
refreshed me.

BURROWS
Good.
(a beat)
Look. I know how delicate this
situation is and I'm prepared to
make it my responsibility to see to
it that her partnership track is
not interrupted. Her future here
is solid, she's a great great
lawyer and everybody here knows it.

A beat.

CAGE
I find myself deeply troubled.

Burrows stares back. Is that it? Another beat. Then, to
shatter the silence--

BURROWS
I tried to tell Georgia--

Cage raises a hand to say stop. Burrows does so. Burrows is
now thrown, who is this odd man? A beat. Cage rises.

CAGE
It would be unfair for me to
negotiate while troubled, I'm less
receptive to compromise. I'll call
to reschedule.

And Cage goes to exit. Stops at the door as if to turn back.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

He doesn't. He exits. What the hell was that? OFF Burrows,
we:

CUT TO:

16 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY

16

Billy and Georgia, by the elevator.

BILLY

And he just walked out?

GEORGIA

According to Jerry. Is this guy...
all there?

BILLY

The Biscuit? He's there. He just
works differently.

Speak of the devil, Cage comes off the elevator.

BILLY (CONT'D)

John?

(playing dumb)

How'd it go?

CAGE

I suspect intransigence. This
won't be easy.

GEORGIA

I tried to tell you that.

CAGE

Georgia. I want you to think very
hard as to what you really want.

GEORGIA

I want my old job back in
litigation.

Cage holds up his hand.

CAGE

Please don't rush with your
answers.

And he heads off. Georgia, perplexed, looks to Billy.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

BILLY
He works differently.

OFF this, we:

CUT TO:

17 EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

17

Ally and Roberts, eating salads at an elegant, candle-lit bistro. They look like a dream couple.

ALLY
So now I have another meeting with the Rabbi to try to persuade him to take her back into the Synagogue. That's the thing about me. I make my clients forget about all their problems by giving them bigger ones.

VOICEOVER
Don't try to be funny. I hate myself funny.

ROBERTS
By the end of the month, she'll be remarried and everything will be fine.

VOICEOVER
This guy has future written all over him.

ALLY
Did you become a D.A. right out of law school?

ROBERTS
Almost. Worked in the Justice Department for a year. Then I switched. I wanted the trial experience.

He just holds a look.

ALLY
(re his look)
What?

ROBERTS
Oh. Nothing. I was just thinking about something.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

VONDA (O.S.)
(singing)
This guy's in love/ This guy's in
love with you.

ALLY
Something. About the law?

VONDA (O.S.)
(singing)
Yes I'm in love.

ROBERTS
Yeah. This Ten-B-five stock fraud.
You know how thrilling those cases
can be.

ALLY
Oh yeah. I get tingles.

And he takes a bite of his salad. A little bit of the creamy
Italian dressing drips on his chin.

ROBERTS
I still haven't figured out a way
to prosecute them.

VOICEOVER
He's got salad dressing on his
chin.

ROBERTS
The object in those cases is
probably to keep the jury awake.

VOICEOVER
He's got creamy Italian on his
face.

As Roberts continues to talk--

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)
Should I say something? It would
embarrass him.

She wipes her own mouth.

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)
I always wipe my own mouth when
somebody else needs it. Like it's
a hint.

ROBERTS
Worst thing about being a D.A. is
the sense of futility, I suppose.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

ALLY

Oh yeah.

VOICEOVER

Get that gunk off your face.

As he reaches for a napkin, goes to wipe--

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

Thank God.

He wipes his mouth but misses the dressing drip. As he continues to talk--

VOICEOVER (CONT'D)

He missed! How could he miss?

(then)

I have to tell him. I can't look at it.

ALLY

Um. You have a little uh...

She points to her chin.

ROBERTS

Oh. Thank you.

He smudges it.

VOICEOVER

Oh no.

ROBERTS

Especially when you see the same defendants...

ALLY

Um.

(pointing)

A little...

He wipes again, this time getting it.

VOICEOVER

(relieved)

Thank God.

Vonda's "This Guy's In Love" starts up again.

ROBERTS

I'm not really in favor of the three strikes law. But it is frustrating.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (3)

17

He takes another healthy bite of his salad. Leaving a gob of dressing on his chin. The music stops.

VOICEOVER

(weakly)

It's all one big giant conspiracy.

Dejected, she just slumps a little, as Roberts continues on, creamy Italian on his chin. OFF this, we:

FADE OUT.

END ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

18 INT. ALLY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

18

RENEE
(disbelief)
So you're not going to date him.

ALLY
I have a thing about first
impressions, I will forever see him
as salad dressing face.

RENEE
Ally--

ALLY
It's not a criticism of him, it's
me, I need therapy-I know it.

RENEE
Salad dressing.

ALLY
I might have been able to get by
the first little drip, but the
second one was a gob, a big gob of
gooey creamy Italian, it's etched
on his face forever and ever and
ever.

RENEE
You have such a talent for ruling
guys out.

ALLY
You blew off a guy last week for
neck hair.

RENEE
Well I wouldn't have if I could
have wiped it off with a napkin.
The truth is you missed a giant
opportunity.

ALLY
I did?

RENEE
You could've blotted his chin.
First off, it's physical affection.

She demonstrates.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

RENEE (CONT'D)

And it's maternal. Guys fall for that. If I'm attracted to a guy I hope and pray for him to get a crumb or something on his face.

Ally holds a look. Then--

ALLY

I would love to talk more, but I'm late for Temple.

RENEE

Alone. Forever. You. Alone.

OFF Ally, we:

CUT TO:

19 INT. BILLY'S OFFICE - DAY

19

Cage, Billy and Georgia.

GEORGIA

I know my answer may have seemed rushed. But I really do want to stay where I am, doing what I'm doing. I'd like everything to stay the same.

CAGE

And unfortunately that's the one option which is unavailable to you.

BILLY

Why?

CAGE

We could perhaps get her job back in litigation by pressuring him. But it won't be the same. It'll be different from Burrows' perspective, different from yours, and you'll have all the security of a network executive. That's the reality. The reality of suing him is even worse.

GEORGIA

How so?

(a beat)

How so?

Cage holds up a hand.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

CAGE

I'm collecting an errant thought.

Billy and Georgia exchange a look. Then--

CAGE (CONT'D)

Should you prevail in a lawsuit,
and it's my feeling you would,
you'd get money, but as for future
employment, nobody...

(he stops, looks directly
at Georgia)

Nobody... will hire a pretty young
woman fresh on the heels of a sex
discrimination suit. Like it or
not, you would be unhireable,
that's not a real word, I use it
anyway, which should give you an
idea as to how severely it applies.

GEORGIA

Well then what do you suggest I do?

CAGE

Accept the transfer, go to
corporate, call a headhunter and
update your resume.

GEORGIA

What? That sucks.

CAGE

Not the word I'd use but it is a
real one.

GEORGIA

I'm not going to corporate.

CAGE

Pragmatically--

GEORGIA

I hate that word pragmatic.

CAGE

Georgia. May I take your hand?

Georgia looks to Billy. Billy shrugs "who knows why but go
ahead".

CAGE (CONT'D)

As a woman I'd say sue. But I'm
not a woman. That's not where I
was going but I got boxed in by my
poor choice of syntax.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

CAGE (Cont'd)

(then)

You could make a point for
womankind. Or you could do what's
probably best in your own self
interests..

Georgia looks to Billy. Then--

GEORGIA

I want to sue. If it means not
working there, fine. I won't sit
back and take this.

A slight smile creeps over Cage's face.

CAGE

Splendid.

CUT TO:

20 INT. TEMPLE - DAY

20

Ally and Stern.

ALLY

I'm normally a calm person. But
when you call me, what, a man-hater
a Jew-hater and and there was a
third--

STERN

Lawyer.

ALLY

Yeah that, in a pejorative way,
it's not in me to let that go.
It's only because of Karen Horwitz
that I decided to come here
conciliatory.

STERN

This is you conciliatory?

ALLY

Well. You said very bad things
about me. Very bad.

STERN

You said bad things about Judaism,
you called it Hoopla.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

ALLY

I did not call it hoopla, I just meant, a person shouldn't y'know be denied the right to marry because of some little custom that probably came before the wheel.

STERN

Oh well if you had put it that way I wouldn't have taken offense.

ALLY

(softening)

I'm sorry. I... I do these things. I have a habit of saying the wrong thing when I'm upset, I mean if you were to fill this room with everybody I've offended, people would think you're a much better Rabbi than maybe you are and you see there I've offended you again.

Stern just stares at her.

ALLY (CONT'D)

(genuine)

Here's the deal. When people are together or they're about to get married, and something happens to keep them apart, it pushes a button. If I came on aggressive, I really apologize. I just hope you don't punish Karen, she's very devoted to you and this Synagogue. She really is.

STERN

(softening)

I understand, I do. But you came here as her agent, acting within the scope of that agency and therefore your actions run to her accountability.

Ally holds a look.

ALLY

Where do you come up with these jingles?

STERN

I must've hit the bitchy button.

And now they're nose-to-nose, angry.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

ALLY (CONT'D)
Two people want
to be married and
you keep firing off
slogans, what the hell
is the deal, if she
doesn't get a get you
lose funding? Is
common sense pinched
off by that thing on
your head?

STERN
Oh, I must have
pushed the conciliatory
button again, you are
a rude rude little
thing and I'd be vulgar
if I weren't standing
so close to The Ark.

Silence as they stare one another down. Then--

STERN (CONT'D)
(calm)
Did you just say to me... something
like... "is common sense pinched
off by that thing on my head"?

ALLY
(embarrassed)
That was a slip.

Stern holds a look. Then he starts to laugh a little.

ALLY (CONT'D)
What?

He laughs more.

ALLY (CONT'D)
What? I demand to know what par
of me you're laughing at.

STERN
It doesn't matter. All I'll say...
I'm going to assume that Karen's
hiring of you says something about
her. You tell her she's welcome
here. And I would be glad to do
the ceremony.

Ally's confused.

ALLY
Is this a trick? Is this trickery,
you being nice?

VOICEOVER
I hate it when I don't know what
I've done, especially when it's
something good.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (3)

20

ALLY

I demand to know why you're pleased with me.

But Stern heads off, chuckling. OFF Ally, we:

CUT TO:

21 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - UPSTAIRS - DAY

21

Billy and Georgia stand outside Cage's office, the door is cracked open. Behind it... we see and HEAR Cage PLAYING the BAGPIPES.

GEORGIA

I'm sorry. I know he's supposed to be good but he is making me really nervous now.

FISH

(arriving)

What's going on?

GEORGIA

What's going on? The Biscuit is in there playing bagpipes, that's what's going on.

FISH

You should be pleased, Georgia, the bagpipes come out when he's intense. That means he's ready for this meeting. I'd like to be a fly on the wall.

The CAMERA WHIP PANS TO FIND Ally, coming off the elevator, met quickly of course by Elaine.

ELAINE

Ally, hi, the Reynolds deposition has been postponed, Reynolds died, so his lawyer says, I pressed him for an affidavit, under oath.

ALLY

Good.

ELAINE

Three calls from Silverman on Novotny, he's looking for a continuance I think, and Jason Roberts called, this is good.

ALLY

Oh. Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

ELAINE

Also, the Anti-Defamation League asked me to fax your resume, I wanted your okay first.

ALLY

No. Anything else?

ELAINE

(simply; matter-of-fact)

Yes, Renee called to say give dip-chin one more chance, I don't know what that meant, and that doesn't please me being out of the loop.

CUT TO:

22 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - BATHROOM - DAY

22

Cage, dressed crisply, navy blue pants, freshly pressed, white white shirt, stands before the mirror. He puts in a cufflink. Then does the other. He's like a warrior putting on armor, his face is stoic. He straightens/tightens his tie. Adjusts his collar. Takes his coat off the hanger, puts it on. Examines. He's ready. The soldier is ready to do battle. He's about to go. Then he turns, crisply approaches and enters the second stall. He puts the toilet lid down steps up on it, peers into stall one.

HIS P.O.V.

Fish, legs up, snooping. Feeling a stare upon him, he looks up, sees Cage looking down.

FISH

Oh. Hey, John, how's it going?

CAGE

Unacceptable.

Cage exits the stall as does Fish, under--

FISH

Forgive my snooping but I just had to get a glimpse of your pre-game regimen. Not that I learned much. Are you ready?

Cage turns back to face Fish.

CAGE

I am.

FOLLOW Cage as he exits to:

23 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

23

Cage moves like a disciplined shark toward the conference room. He only smells the blood in the room, he doesn't even acknowledge those approaching him here.

BILLY

He's in there, waiting.

GEORGIA

Good luck, John. Sometimes he can scream.

ELAINE

The room is ready, the water is chilled to forty-one degrees.

Cage stops short to avoid a collision with something in his path. It's "The Girl" but to Cage it is merely an obstacle in the road. Once the path clears he continues on, entering into:

24 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

24

Burrows sits there. Cage holds a look.

CAGE

Thank you for agreeing to meet me.

Cage then pours himself some water. Burrows rolls his eyes, he's not quite sure who this kook is but he's not intimidated by him. Cage then sits at the opposite end. Two men at opposite ends of a large conference table.

BURROWS

Look, Mr. Cage. Litigators have various techniques for distracting opponents but please. I've been around a long time. Perhaps we could sit closer.

CAGE

I sit here as if to suggest the room is full.

BURROWS -

But it isn't.

CAGE

The next meeting it will be, these chairs will be occupied by your fellow partners. The people whose eyes you look into more than any others for respect. Acceptance.

BURROWS

They know the situation, but excellent idea.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

CAGE

They may know the facts, Mr. Burrows but they've only heard you tell them. My presentation may be less exonerating.

And now he rises. Starts to move slowly towards Burrows.

CAGE (CONT'D)

My presentation may have the added impact... of presentation. One if made in front of a jury would incur embarrassment not just to you but to your entire firm. A firm that, and correct me if I'm wrong, cherishes reputation. Flaunts it for recruitment purposes.

(moving in on him)

It would be painful to have these allegations levied against you before a jury in a public forum, but it would be excruciating to bear them in a room filled with colleagues who consider you a friend; colleagues who trusted you with preserving the integrity of a franchise they've all committed themselves to deeply. Look at yourself through their eyes, Mr. Burrows and hear the truth. You hurt a young woman at the bequest of a jealous wife.

He's very close to Burrows now.

CAGE (CONT'D)

Your partnership earnings together with bonuses totalled nine hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars last year. That's quite a bit of money, Mr. Burrows.

By now, Cage has sat in the chair next to Burrows.

CAGE (CONT'D)

But it's only money. And for a man who prioritizes family...

(leaning in)

money really is... only money. So it becomes a smaller sacrifice to give some of it to Georgia Thomas. In exchange for your right to spare embarrassment to your wife, to your children, to spare ridicule to a firm devoted to it's high brow pedigree of principle.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

Cage's face isn't far from Burrows, maybe eight inches.

CAGE (CONT'D)

You want to dismiss today's meeting to one litigator's technique, Mr. Burrows, you may do so. But at enormous personal and professional peril.

(a beat)

Fortunately you have a very easy out here. Money.

OFF Burrows, Cage's face still eight inches away, we:

CUT TO:

25 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - TEN MINUTES LATER

25

Burrows exits from the conference room. Billy, Georgia, Ally, Elaine, Fish... they're all nearby, curious bystanders. Burrows just proceeds out quickly. After a beat. Cage emerges.

FISH

How'd it go, John?

CAGE

Well.

FISH

What happened?

Cage raises a hand. No discussion. He continues on. They watch him go.

GEORGIA

I'm sorry, this man is just too strange.

PAN TO FIND Ally approaching. Intercepted by Rabbi Stern.

ALLY

Rabbi. Hi.

STERN

The wedding is on. In my synagogue, I'll be doing the service.

ALLY

That's great.

STERN

Can I steal a second?

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

ALLY

Sure.

They go into Ally's office. Elaine is on the sniff, she trails. Ally doesn't even have to look to know Elaine is trailing, she closes the door, shutting her out.

ELAINE (O.S.)

(muted)

Snappish.

25A INT. ALLY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

25A

STERN

Listen, I apologize for laughing back at the Temple. But I have to say... the thing I hate most about being a Rabbi is how everyone tip-toes around me. Friends I grew up with suddenly became embarrassed to say a dirty word in front of me. I just found it refreshing that you were so willing to be obnoxious. Thank you.

ALLY

Oh. Any time.

STERN

Listen. Would you like to come to the wedding? As my date.

26 QUICK FANTASY CUT

26

Of old Hasidic Jews lifting her in a chair.

27 BACK TO REALITY

27

ALLY

(impulsively)

Oh God, no.

(then)

I mean, what would God think, you showing up with a Methodist?

(off Stern's look)

It's just... three weeks is kind of a ways off and I might be in a relationship by then, God willing. My God.

(then)

I'm sorry, here I go I...

(more)

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

ALLY (Cont'd)
(slowing herself down)
Look I've been having kind of a weird stretch. Last week I gave mouth-to-mouth to this huge person and he thought it was kind of Snow White thing in reverse and he asked me out and then I finally met somebody I could like and he had creamy Italian and now I assault Judaism and end up getting hit on by a Rabbi and something tells me I just probably shouldn't date until the world begins to make sense again.

A beat.

STERN
You could have just said "no thank you".

ALLY
You're right. Ask me again.

Stern holds another look. Exits.

27A INT. BATHROOM - MINUTES LATER

27A

As Ally enters.

ALLY
(muttering to herself)
I don't have my mental health. I don't have my mental health.

STAY WITH HER as she enters a stall and simply sits, grabbing a moment of solitude.

27B INT. BATHROOM STALL

27B

A beat, Ally's face lifts. From her expression, we see something clearly isn't right. PULL BACK TO REVEAL... she is sitting right in Georgia's lap.

GEORGIA
(calm)
This will probably teach me to lock the door.

Ally is frozen with embarrassment.

GEORGIA
Don't get up.

(CONTINUED)

27B CONTINUED:

27B

ALLY
I would but... I'm lacking the
words, Georgia. I'm also lacking
any feeling in my feet, this
happens sometimes when I'm
embarrassed.

A beat.

GEORGIA
Is there any way I can help?

ALLY
No. I'll be getting up now. I
apologize.

GEORGIA
Okay.

ALLY
Good to see you.

GEORGIA
You too.

And she exits.

27C INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

27C

Billy is in the bathroom. He holds a look.

ALLY
You might think there's an
explanation but you would be wrong.

And she exits. We HEAR Georgia FLUSH as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT III

ACT IV

FADE IN:

28 INT. BILLY'S OFFICE - MORNING

28

Cage PLAYS the BAGPIPES as Billy and Georgia pace nervously.
Then--

GEORGIA
(snappish)
That thing is giving me a headache.

BILLY
Relax, Georgia.

GEORGIA
(with a tone)
Billy.

BILLY
(re her tone)
Georgia.

GEORGIA
Billy.
(contained)
Don't tell me to relax. I know
Jerry Burrows. When you tell him
he can't win, he digs in.

CAGE
Which is why we're all ready for
this meeting.

GEORGIA
Are we ready?

BILLY
Yes. We are.

A beat. Cage RESUMES with the BAGPIPES. Georgia rolls her eyes
as we:

CUT TO:

29 INT. COURT CORRIDOR/LOBBY - DAY

29

RENEE
Oh I'm tired of your excuses, girl,
you got all these excuses,--

ALLY
I don't have excuses, it's--

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

RENEE

They're either too fat, too Jewish,
too much chin-dressing, you go cold
on guys 'cause it's your nature.
You need a new attitude.

ALLY

Would you go out with a Rabbi?

They're now in front of the elevator, which is opening. Ally
has her back to it, but Renee sees...

HER P.O.V.

Roberts is in there, he's proofing a motion, oblivious to Ally
and Renee.

RENEE

I might.

ALLY

I seriously doubt it.

As the door begins to close, Renee ushers her in.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Don't usher me.

Renee more like pushes her in, under--

RENEE

Later.

ALLY

Hey--

Renee departs as Ally tumbles into:

30 INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

30

Ally's alone with Roberts.

ROBERTS

Ally.

ALLY

Jason! Hey, how are you?

ROBERTS

Great. You're looking good this
morning.

ALLY

So are you.

31 FANTASY 31

Gobs of salad dressing dripping off his cheeks, chin, nose.

32 BACK TO REALITY 32

ROBERTS

I had fun the other night.

ALLY

Me too.

ROBERTS

Wanna try it again sometime?

ALLY

Um.

Roberts senses her indecision.

ROBERTS

Whatever. We don't have to make a plan today.

ALLY

Okay.

A beat. Another beat. Then Ally steps over to him, pulls him in and plants a big kiss on him. A serious kiss. It really startles him.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Don't ask me to explain that. It's just... no actually I will explain it. I'm interested. But that salad dressing on your face the other night, the image keeps sticking with me so I needed to do something to pre-empt it. And now I have, I've wiped the slate and your face clean. Call me.

The door opens. Ally starts out, turns back.

ALLY (CONT'D)

Nice kiss by the way.

And off she goes, surprised but pleased with herself.

33 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - DAY 33

Elaine with Ally.

ELAINE

You just did that?

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

ALLY

It was so out of my character. I think that's why I enjoyed it.

ELAINE

What a story, I can't wait to embellish it.

ALLY

(re conference room)

What's going on in there?

ELAINE

The big meeting.

ALLY

Oh.

(then)

Elaine if you were married with kids and... would you ever hire a nanny who was beautiful?

ELAINE

Inner beauty?

ALLY

No, outer.

ELAINE

Would you?

ALLY

Not a chance.

CUT TO:

34 INT. OFFICE COMPLEX - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

34

The blinds are drawn. Cage, Burrows, Georgia and Billy. All on their feet.

BURROWS

I thought real hard about your "presentation", Mr. Cage. And I don't doubt the efficacy of your delivery. But you know what? I sense a waning public appetite with sex discrimination laws.

CAGE

Do you?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

BURROWS

I think these safeguards insult women, make them look weak, even. I also sense a waning appetite for people who sue when they haven't really been hurt.

GEORGIA

(anger)

I haven't been hurt? You flip me over to corporate where I can proof-read leverage buyout contracts instead of--

BURROWS

You weren't fired, you weren't demoted, your salary--

GEORGIA

I got kicked out of my department because your wife thought I was too pretty, you gonna argue that in court?

BURROWS

I plan to champion it. Because I'm also willing to bet a jury won't hate a man who puts his family before his job. And--

BILLY

You put your family before her job!

BURROWS

Yes I did and here's the bottom line. There are no compensatory damages here, she's not out of pocket. All you have are possible punitives, that means you have to get a jury to not like me, I'll take that bet.

BILLY

We could plead emotional distress--

BURROWS

Do that, I'd love it, the beautiful blonde is emotionally distressed, do that.

GEORGIA

(losing it)

You don't think I'll get you, Jerry, try--

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

BILLY
(overriding)
I will get you, if I have to spend--

BURROWS
Don't yell-at me.

BILLY
I will yell, I might even kick your
ass right in this room!

CAGE
(calmly)
Alright.
(to Georgia and Billy)
Would you excuse us?

BILLY	GEORGIA
No, I won't excuse	Like hell I will,
you, I'm gonna stay	this is my case, my
right here.	life--

CAGE
Please.
(then)
Just give me two minutes.

Billy and Georgia, still red-faced, exchange a look. They exit.

35 INT. COMPLEX - CONTINUOUS

35

Billy and Georgia, livid, emerge and march away. Out of eyeline from the conference room... stand Fish and Elaine. Georgia and Billy head over there. Their demeanor completely changes once out of Burrows' view, they drop the feigned rage.

FISH
(quiet)
How'd it go?

GEORGIA
Good, I think.

BILLY
We did our part.

FISH
The Biscuit will bring it home.
Trust me.

36 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

36

CAGE

Interesting defense strategy, I'm tempted to incorporate it into another case I'm defending where the issue is similar. The appeal to family, -I like that, you're to be commended.

BURROWS

Thanks.

CAGE

And I agree, actually, the successful prosecution of our claim here is by no means a guarantee. But as you can see... I'm dealing with very emotional clients, the prospect of losing is no deterrent. They're determined to see this through, whatever the cost.

BURROWS

Can they afford the cost? Young kids, mortgage to pay.

CAGE

(near collegial)

Yeah, well, that's where I sort of helped them. Since Billy's a member of the firm.. this case is on the house. Given that, given their outrage, we can't count on practicality to ever figure : to their thinking. And as inventive as your little family defense is, and again I like it... we both know in the end, you probably lose. And you'll probably look bad.

(a beat)

Yesterday I got to do my little dance, today it was your turn to play peacock. Now... it's time to do what we lawyers always do in the end. We pick a number.

OFF Burrows, we:

CUT TO:

37 INT. TEMPLE - DAY

37

Ally is waiting. Stern emerges.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

STERN

Ms. McBeal. How delightful to see you.

ALLY

Call me Ally, and that was snide.

STERN

I'm sorry. I just had this sudden fear you now have a client who likes ham and you're here asking me to waive that stupid little Kosher thing.

ALLY

Actually, I came here to ask you out. On a date.

A beat.

STERN

(hugely suspicious)

What are you up to?

ALLY

Nothing. I've been thinking... I'm so indifferent about every man I meet these days, it's rare that one comes along who I could so immediately dislike. And I figure, maybe there's something behind that.

A beat.

STERN

This is how you ask me out?

ALLY

Look. They say it's not good to be honest with men since the truth is so detrimental to their image. But I'm going to lay this out. You and I... it's probably like mayonnaise on brisket. But I've decided to make an adjustment in my social life.

STERN

What do you mean "adjustment"?

ALLY

I've decided to juggle. Instead of waiting for Mr. Right, I'm gonna take chances on Mr. Not Likely's on the theory of "who knows".

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

37

STERN

Juggle.

ALLY

Yes. And I'd like you to be one of
the balls I keep up in the air.

OFF Stern, we:

CUT TO:

38 INT. FISH'S OFFICE - DAY

38

Fish, Billy, Georgia... waiting.

GEORGIA

It's taking a long time.

FISH

He doesn't like to rush.

GEORGIA

He doesn't like to rush, y'know, it
doesn't give me great confidence,
(wheeling on Billy)
don't "Georgia" me.

BILLY

I didn't say anything.

GEORGIA

You were about to.
(then)

I've put my whole career in the
hands of a Bagpipe Biscuit who
doesn't even look at people when he
talks.

Upon which, the door opens, Cage enters, looking neutral. A
beat as they wait. Then--

CAGE

Three hundred and eleven thousand
dollars. End of business.

They look back, stunned. Really stunned.

GEORGIA

Payable to... me?

CAGE

Today.

BILLY

Three hundred thousand dollars?

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

CAGE
(annoyed)
And eleven. Three hundred and
eleven.

BILLY
How did...

GEORGIA
I'm rich. I can... student loans
gone. Car payments, gone.
(she looks to Billy)
Billy...

FISH
Gone. Kidding.

CAGE
Look, it is conditioned on you
being out in two weeks. That's a
concern. Even though this is all
sealed, there are leaks. And when
you're out of a job it's difficult
to find a new one.

FISH
She'll work here.

GEORGIA/BILLY
What?

FISH
She can work here while she looks,
we could use the talent and she'll
be able to interview from strength.

GEORGIA
Really?

FISH
If it's okay by Billy, some men
don't like to work side by side
with the ball and chain,-- it's
your call.

BILLY
I think it's great.
(to Georgia)
Do it.

GEORGIA
You...
(to Cage and Fish)
You don't have to do all this for
me.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

FISH

Georgia you're a great lawyer, this is good for us. Helping people is never more rewarding than when it's in your own self interest. Look there, you already got your first Fishism.

CUT TO:

39 INT. BAR - NIGHT

39

VONDA singing, "Searching My Soul". Fish, Cage, Georgia, Elaine and Billy clink their glasses in celebration. The CAMERA FINDS and GOES TO Ally and Renee at the bar, Renee grabs their drinks.

RENEE

So you kiss Dip-Chin and tell the Rabbi you want to juggle his--

ALLY

New me, Renee, you were right. I have to start ruling men in. I got Roberts on Tuesday, the Rabbi on Thursday, "Chicago Hope" in between, I have a life.

RENEE

This Rabbi is conservative. He can't intermarry, you do know this.

ALLY

I don't convert on first dates and besides this is exactly the point. I'm not looking for a lifetime, I'm looking for a fun Tuesday night.

RENEE

That would be fine if you were capable of fun.

ALLY

Well I am. Ally McBeal, man-eater.
(re the sound of that)
I like it.

And she looks over to the bar.

HER P.O.V.

Twins.

GEORGIA (O.S.)

Ally?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

ALLY
Georgia.

Renee goes to the table, under--

GEORGIA
You're the one person I haven't run
this by. My joining the firm.

ALLY
(genuine)
I think it's great.

GEORGIA
It's probably only temporary. A
few months until--

ALLY
Georgia. Here's a hot flash. I
like you. I'm glad.

Georgia holds a grateful look, interrupted by Elaine, cutting
through with Cage.

ALLY
Just lock the door in the--

GEORGIA
I will.

ELAINE
I have a dance with the Biscuit.

CAGE
(to Ally)
Out of courtesy. She asked. I'm
not moved by the music.

ALLY
Ah.

BILLY
(arriving; to Georgia)
All new associates have to dance
with me.

GEORGIA
Oh, really.

ALLY
I did.

Georgia knows she's kidding, makes a face. Ally returns it. As
they go, Fish, Renee, and The Twins step up.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (2)

39

RENEE
(re Fish)
He's mine.
(re Twins)
They're yours..

ALLY
Let's go.

As they go--

FISH
(to Renee)
I'm new on your planet. Take me to
your bosom.

ANGLE VONDA

Singing.

ANGLE THE DANCE FLOOR

Fish and Renee, Billy and Georgia, Elaine and Cage and
finally... Ally and The Twins. A fun group.

VOICEOVER
They say it's all in the attitude.
And mine has changed. And I can
tell... this time it's gonna last.
Maybe even a week.

OFF them, her, having fun, we finally:

FADE OUT.

THE END