



NOTE: Like the Felicity pilot, this episode plays through the first act without a teaser. Also, opening titles will play over scene 6, rather than in a separate sequence as they normally would.

◆ ACT ONE

1. INT. SHOWERS AT GYM – MORNING

Mason and Pete are coming out of the showers, where Mason completes a Kennedy-esque monologue about the function of government and democracy. It's not naïve, just optimistic in the way only a young person can be. Pete is already more cynical. Mason asks, *Where were you when your belief in democracy was crushed?* I think I was snorkling. I was eight, maybe.

1A. INT. MEN'S LOCKER ROOM – CONTINUOUS

While they're getting changed, Pete clues Mason in a third guy, who runs *this* office and did *that* and is line to do *this*. Funny, he doesn't look so powerful naked. It's all about seeing that opportunity and gunning for it.

2. INT. GYM PARKING GARAGE – DAY

Finley convinces the parking attendant to watch her overstuffed car. Her entire life is in there, and she doesn't want it stolen while she's inside.

3. INT. GYM FRONT DESK – DAY

Finley asks if Mason Scott is checked in. Hearing a yes, she forges on in, ignoring the desk clerk who tries to stop her.

4. INT. MEN'S LOCKER ROOM – DAY

Finley weaves through the half-naked men, who regard her with disbelief. Trying to move past one particular guy, she feels she has to explain: "I'm a comparison shopper."

Finley finds Mason – her brother – and Pete, whom she's never met. Finley is escaping from graduate school. She had a revelation just last night – well, actually,

it's been a long time coming, weeks and months, maybe my whole life – but just last night she realized that all this preparation, all this planning has kept her from actually living her life. She's like a butterfly trapped in the chrysalis. If she doesn't break free now, she'll die.

Oh, and she wants to stay with Mason.

5. EXT. FRONT OF GYM – DAY

They finish their conversation outside, Mason's hair still wet. Finley pleads her case, but Mason is sick of being her fall-back plan. In danger of being late for work, he finally relents, convinced she'll change her mind and go back to grad school within the week. He gives her the keys to his apartment.

6. INT/EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. MONTAGE – DAY

We follow Mason on his way to work. There's a palpable energy, an optimism. Everything about D.C. is drawn on an epic scale, white marble monuments and massive reflecting ponds, but against that backdrop we see a city that's vibrant and alive: crowds on the Metro, limousines blocking the streets, protesters at the Capitol steps. To Mason, it's all still exciting. He hasn't become jaded.

7. INT. CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE COMPLEX – DAY

The security check-in, an annoyance to everyone else, is still secretly cool to Mason, who has one of the coveted hard-card passes (interns get the crappy paper ones). At every step in D.C., there's a gate you have to go through.

8. INT. SENATOR'S OFFICE – DAY

Mason has an entry-level-but-promising job with a prominent Senator, who blows through the office like a hurricane twice-daily, each time leaving the villagers shaken. Mason has never actually spoken to him.

Mason does a lot of shit work, answering constituent mail and the like, but he's no longer the lowest man on the totem pole. There are college interns who are essentially human paperweights. The office is run by the uptight Neil (25), who has exactly the job Mason wants a year from now. Neil comes off at first as an obsequious prick, but it's just because he's so afraid of fucking up.

9. INT. SENATOR'S OFFICE – LATER

With the Senator in session, Neil heads out on an errand. He's no gone two minutes when the call comes in that the Senator needs a folder from the office A.S.A-fucking-P. Since Neil is gone, the job falls to Mason, who leaps at the chance.

10. INT. UNDERGROUND TRAIN STATION – DAY

Mason sprints down the steps, catching the train to the Capitol.

11. INT. TRAIN – DAY

He paces nervously, trying to get the train to move faster.

12. INT. CAPITOL – DAY

He checks the hallways, looking for the right conference room.

13. INT. CONFERENCE ROOM – DAY

Mason finds the Senator, handing off the folder just in time. He hangs around and watches, no one telling him he has to leave right away. It's a meeting of the Senate Appropriations committee, just about to start, and included in the quorum is younger senator MacInnes (who we're setting up for episode 3). Mason knows the answer to a very specific question ("Botswana"), which momentarily impresses his Senator.

Mason is paged to come back to the office, but he exits triumphant, having caught the Senator's eye.

◆ ACT TWO

1. INT. SENATOR'S OFFICE – THAT SAME DAY

Mason returns from the Capitol to find Neil pissed at him. Even though there was no time, Mason should have paged Neil, consulted him, etc. If Mason had screwed up, it was Neil who would have taken the fall. Or at least that's what Neil says. It's not hard to read the subtext: Neil doesn't want Mason to shine too brightly.

He makes Mason take the lunch order, really an intern's job. It's a total fuck you.

2. EXT. CAPITOL STEPS – DAY

Pete meets Sarah during lunch, while supervising an animal rights rally – he works for the group. Pete fakes believing in their agenda. Are those leather shoes? No, imitation. It's amazing what they can do with plastics these days.

She recognizes him first – they met in high school, during the national debate team championships in Ann Arbor. She just moved down from NYC to work at a cable news channel, and is looking for an apartment.

Pete ends their conversation on *a hey, we should get a drink sometime* note, but Sarah points out that's what you say when you never expect to see somebody again.

4. SENATOR'S OFFICE – DAY

Mason returns with the lunch order, finding Neil hanging close to the Senator, literally blocking his view.

5. INT. BAR – NIGHT

He made you get lunch? Drinking and playing darts, Pete hears Mason's tale of woe. Finley asks why he doesn't just get a better job, not understanding how hard it was to get this one, and what a prestigious shitty job it is.

Pete replays his Sarah conversation to Mason, who asks if he slept with her. *Over lunch? Back in high school. I don't know. What do you mean? I can't remember. I mean, I have a generally positive impression of her, but c'mon. It was senior year in high school. I was rolling four deep.*

Throughout the scene, there's a noticeable attraction/repulsion between Finley and Pete. They come from different worlds, but they're a lot alike: both wily, both looking out for themselves.

6. INT. CRAPPY APARTMENT – THE NEXT DAY

Standing in the drip of water that is supposed to be the shower, Finley finds has issues with the apartment. Frankly, it sucks. The shower is broken; there are roaches; you have bars on your windows. She had no idea Mason was living in third-world conditions. *We should be living in Georgetown, closer to the center of action.* Mason explains that they couldn't possibly afford Georgetown, and what the hell is she saying – she doesn't live here.

If she doesn't like the apartment, she should go back to grad school. But clearly, Finley has found herself a mission.

7. INT. / EXT. VARIOUS GEORGETOWN / MONTAGE – DAY

Finley investigates getting a townhouse in Georgetown, and is frustrated at every turn. Even if there were houses available, they could never afford it. One agent finally levels with her: *Honey, unless you know somebody or blow somebody, you are not*

living in this zip code. She's momentarily rebuffed, but we can see the wheels spinning in her mind.

8. INT. ANIMAL RIGHTS LOBBYING OFFICE – DAY

Pete has to write the press release about the demonstration, inflating the number of people there.

9. INT. SENATOR'S OFFICE – DAY

Back at the senator's office, Mason makes peace with Neil, who was getting frustrated by Mason's overzealousness. Neil also tells him about his secret screaming place, six floors down in the parking garage. When you get too stressed, you can go down there and yell your lungs out, no one will ever hear.

10. EXT. STREET PAYPHONE – DAY

Still trying to get a house, Finley calls her father's secretary in New York, getting an address for the Sorensens, friends of the Scott family.

11. INT. GEORGETOWN TOWNHOUSE – DAY

Finley arrives at the Sorensen's amazing townhouse with a giant bouquet of flowers, finding the family in the process of packing up. They've just been named ambassadors to Lithuania. They had planned on just having their maid look after the townhouse – Mrs. Sorensen is very persnickety and anal – but Finley lays on the charm. She also outlines the myriad of potential problems that can befall a house left unoccupied: burglars, broken pipes and worse.

12. INT. CRAPPY APARTMENT – NIGHT

Mason returns home to find Pete hauling out boxes – Finley got the townhouse. They'll be house-sitting. All they have to cover is utilities and property taxes (which are not insignificant). There's an empty room to rent out for the money. Pete says he knows a girl who is looking for a place (Sarah).

Mason is pissed that all of this was decided for him; this apartment may be crappy, but it's his. Finley counters that he's just too proud to accept a great opportunity when it's presented. In the new place, he'll be closer to work and the contacts he needs to get ahead. Pete adds in his vote: Mason you're an idiot. Mason relents.

13. INT. TOWNHOUSE – NIGHT

The townhouse is amazing, especially impressive for Pete, who grew up in military housing in Arizona. The location, the furniture, everything – it's perfect.

A Great Dane walks into the living room, regards them. Her name is Lulu, and she's the biggest dog in television, basically a small horse. Finley explains that the Sorensens will send for her; they just have to get settled first. In the meantime, they just have to watch her.

◆ ACT THREE

1. INT. CNN-LIKE OFFICES – DAY

Pete tracks down Sarah at the cable network. We get to see a glimpse of her at work – she's lowest on the totem pole, scrambling to book a camera or get editing time. Pete tells her about the townhouse and invites her to move in. She explains that she's actually looking for a place for her and her boyfriend Lewis – that's not a problem, is it? Lying, Pete says no. Happy to have him.

2. INT. ANIMAL RIGHTS RECEPTION – DAY

Mason brings Neil to a cocktail party Pete's group is throwing – they're raiding it for the food. Mason can't remember the last time he ate a meal that didn't come in bite-sized pieces.

Pete has to entertain some Wealthy Old Woman, trying to get her to donate money. He's like a salesman trying to close the deal.

3. INT. TOWNHOUSE – DAY

Sarah arrives to check out the townhouse with LEWIS, an overworked Supreme Court clerk. Sarah and Finley don't exactly hit it off; Sarah thinks Finley is a spoiled rich girl, while Finley thinks Sarah is pushy and abrasive. But Finley likes Lewis, so she consents to their moving in.

4. EXT. DC / DRIVING – NIGHT

Mason and Neil drive the Senator's Mercedes across town – the boss changed his mind and went home with friends. Driving across the city is a very cool ride: a great car, great tunes and no worries.

5. INT. TOWNHOUSE – NIGHT

Mason and Sarah meet that night in the kitchen at 3 a.m., swapping stories about “the moment” – that first time you realize you’re living a grown-up life. They have an immediate chemistry. And no, Sarah and Pete never slept together. But she doesn’t want him to know that yet.

6. INT. PETE’S OFFICE – DAY

Pete finally gets the Wealthy Old Woman to donate money: \$5 million. He’s the star of the office.

7. INT. SENATOR’S OFFICE – DAY

The next day at work, Mason inadvertently reveals one of the Senator’s secrets – something like mistaking the Senator’s girlfriend for his wife and sending them both to lunch. Neil fires him outright. *I’m not psychic*, Mason argues. *I can’t be expected to know every secret and every lie*. Neil agrees. But guess what? You don’t have as far to fall.

8. EXT. CAPITOL – DAY

Leaving the Capitol, Mason is asked by some lost tourists if he works here – echoing his earlier conversation with Sarah. *No. I don’t*. He has to turn in his pass to Security.

◆ ACT FOUR

1. EXT. D.C. – DAY

Mason spends his afternoon wandering around DC monuments, an outsider once again.

2. INT. TOWNHOUSE – NIGHT

He commiserates with his roommates, each of whom weighs in with an opinion. Lewis has the best advice: get the Senator to give you a recommendation, so you can at least get another job more easily.

3. INT. SENATOR’S OFFICE – NIGHT

Mason goes back to the office that night, but finds Neil was himself fired by the Senator. They've both gotten a raw deal, sacrificial lambs to protect a lie.

4. INT. ELEVATOR – NIGHT

Reaching for the “Lobby” button, Mason suddenly has an idea where Neil may have gone...

5. INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING GARAGE – NIGHT

Mason finds Neil at his secret spot, but he's not yelling. Instead, he's smashing the shit out of the Senator's Mercedes. Mason declines to take his own swings.

6. INT. TOWNHOUSE – NIGHT

Back at the townhouse, Pete solicits Finley's advice on what to wear to an orgy. (“Something memorable, so you can find it afterwards.”)

7. INT. BAR – NIGHT

Neil tells Mason he's leaving DC. He can't start at the bottom again. You get one shot to build up momentum and that's it. There's a three-year window where you have to go from being an assistant to having an assistant, and if you don't make it in that time, you just gotta quit and move on.

8. INT. UPSCALE HOTEL ROOM – NIGHT

We find out from the Old Woman's family that she's deranged, and her assets have been frozen. She goes around from group to group promising to give money, simply so she can be treated like a queen.

9. EXT. STEPS OF SENATOR'S HOUSE – NIGHT

Mason heads to the Senator's house that night, pleading his case for a recommendation quite eloquently at the door. But the Senator has no idea who he is; he was just a body behind a desk.

Mason apologizes for the interruption, but as he's leaving, the Senator calls out to him, asking how old he is. (Twenty-two.) The Senator nods, a wry smile. *Everything you see here, my career, everything I have – I'd give it all up to be you right now.*

We leave Mason standing alone on the streets on the streets of DC, unemployed but never more optimistic.